



## Commodore's Report



GREG WHITE

FINALLY, spring has sprung and we were now heading into summer. It's time to secure all those boat projects and head out onto the bay. And, what better way to do that, than by joining us in one of our upcoming cruise-outs! Our cruise director, Dave Tucker, has scheduled several cruises this summer that promise to be loads of fun. If you haven't yet participated in one of our cruises, now is the time to get underway. Dave's keeping track of cruise-out participants and tells me that prizes will be awarded to those who receive his coveted Gold Stars for participation.

It's also a good time to come on out to the club and join us for dinner. You may not have heard, but we've had some outstanding dinners lately; steak, chicken and crab come to mind. This is a good time to meet all our new members and show what a friendly club we are and get a bargain dinner in the process.

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## Membership Drive, Safety Day: June 14

BY JEFF FULLER

VICE COMMODORE Les Clark has declared June 14th to be our membership drive day. It also will be Boat Safety Day at the club.

Free vessel safety checks will be conducted by members of the U.S.

Coast Guard Auxiliary beginning at 9:00 a.m. To sign up, telephone me at 510-864-0706. My e-mail address is jeffmarine@aol.com. You may also sign up at the club.

Also, the Alameda Fire Extinguisher Company will be set up in the parking lot during the morning for those that need their services.

# The Whale's Tale

BALLENA BAY YACHT CLUB • ALAMEDA, CALIFORNIA



John Stashik

If the Caltrans ferry *J Mack* was not tethered to shore by a cable, the little vessel would likely drift far downstream on Steamboat Slough. Currents in the Delta waterways were quite strong when this photo was taken on May 11th.

## Bay Area Weather Peculiarities Add Challenge to Annual Vallejo Race

The racing season officially began with the completion of the Vallejo Race. This race begins near Treasure Island and ends at the Vallejo Yacht Club. Serious and non-serious racers mix it up together for this fun-filled season opener. This year, captains and crew members spent a lot of time putting foul weather gear on and taking it off while Mother Nature was trying to make up her mind. All in all it was a great day to be out on the water, and the Vallejo Yacht Club treated us to a big party with live bands and good food. Despite being almost hard aground while trying to leave the Ballena Bay, two boats represented the Ballena Bay Yacht Club. Here is a story from John Melton recapping his experience. —Britta Fjelstrom

### BBYC RACING

#### Friday Beer Cans

June 20  
July 18  
August 15

#### Whale's Chase Series

June 28  
July 12 (Round the Rock)  
August 9  
September 13

BY JOHN MELTON

THERE WERE approximately 150 boats registered for the race to Vallejo on Saturday, May 3. From Ballena Bay, Britta Fjelstrom on *Lonesome Dove*, and John Melton on *Freedom Won*, made the trip. Weather wise, we had everything but snow and

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## The Whale's Tale

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Please save articles for submission as plain text (no formatting) and send by e-mail to [editor@bbyc.org](mailto:editor@bbyc.org).

Photographs are always welcome and can be left at the club in *The Whale's Tale* box. Digital photos should be e-mailed to the above addresses. Digital photos should have a minimum resolution of 212 pixels per inch at full size. *Always* provide a caption and photo credit information.

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## Commodore's Report

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Keep in mind that we are always in need of volunteer cooks, so if you have a dish you'd like to try out please contact our social director, Dave Alexander, and sign up. It's lots of fun.

When you do come by the club check out the new patio heaters. It may be summer but we're still next to San Francisco Bay and the nights can get a little cool. Our thanks go out to Marty Chin who donated the heaters. They'll be a welcome addition; thanks Marty.

We have races scheduled, dinners to eat, cruises to go on and new friends to meet. Come on out and join us. Let's have some fun! I'll see you at the club.

## Racing Report: SBYRA Hosted May 17; Whale's Chase Series Begins This Month

BY BRITTA FJELSTROM

BALLENA BAY hosted the second SBYRA race on May 17. The weather was perfect as the sailors rounded the buoys on their nine mile course. Representing Ballena Bay Yacht Club was Jeff Rempel, on *Rumple*, a Hunter Vision 32, and Ward Fulcher, on *Sugar Magnolia*, a Hunter 29.5. Unofficially, *Sugar Magnolia* placed second and *Rumple* placed fourth in Division B.

Congratulations to both Jeff and Ward and their respective crew members for participating in the race. For more information about the SBYRA, check out their web site at: <http://home.attbi.com/~sbyra/>.

I would like to give special thanks to my exceptional race committee who ran a professional-style race and managed to do it without me! Thanks to Jeff Fuller and Hollywood, his friend Steve Hall, Lowell and Kim Crow, and Travis.

### Whale's Chase Series

Coming up this month is the first race of the Whale's Chase Series. This series of four races begins with Whale's Chase #1 on June 28. Come test your skills in the summer wind. Prizes will be awarded to the first, second and third place finishers, as well as the overall series winners. For more information contact me at [race@bbyc.org](mailto:race@bbyc.org).

## Zampa Watch

All deck sections for the new Alfred Zampa Memorial Bridge across Carquinez Strait have been raised into position. Work continues on the ramps that will connect the span to Interstate 80 and local roads. The bridge will open this fall.



John Stashik

## Rockin' for Relay On June 8th

BY BETH FRIEDMAN

**I**N PAST years, BBYC has had a team participating in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. Relay is a team event that raises funds to fight cancer. The Relay teams commit to keep at least one member walking the

### Rear Commodore



BETH FRIEDMAN

track at Encinal High School for twenty-four hours on Saturday and Sunday, June 21st and 22nd. Since this year many of our walkers will be cruising-out to the Berkeley Yacht Club on the Relay dates, BBYC is supporting Relay by providing our Sunset Room for team captain meetings and providing the site for Rockin' for Relay.

Janet McAllister is the team captain of The A Team, and she also has her own band, the Janet Lenore Band. On Sunday, June 8th, she and her band will be performing at BBYC between 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. Dancing is encouraged! Food for the event will be provided by Soroptimist of Alameda, who will field their Soroptimist Mad Hatters team in the Relay. The suggested donation is \$10 per person, and the net proceeds from Rockin' for Relay will go to the teams, and ultimately, to the American Cancer Society.

Please mark your calendars and plan on joining us for this fun and worthwhile event.



John Stashik

## Social Committee Notes

BY DAVID ALEXANDER

**A**S WE HEAD into June we would like to recognize our volunteers who cooked for us all in May. We only had *one* of those as the others were drafted! We would like to thank **Don Smith** for providing an excellent chicken and beef barbecue on May 17th. He was under a lot of stress as his wife **Kathy** (our co-treasurer) was home, very much under the weather. He was also stressed out by the lack of signups for dinner. As of Friday night we had only one person on the list for dinner, our dear **Bev Partridge**. But the committee counselled Don to plan for 40 people. As I was collecting money for dinner on Saturday night I consulted Becky several times about adding more people to the list. The steaks were very big so we cut them in half after **Jim LaMar** cooked them to perfection. It was a little nerve wracking but we served 44 people that night! And, we had food left over. This leads to our most pressing concern.

We need people to sign up for dinner in advance. We would like to have at least 48 hours notice of your intention to have dinner with us. You can call the club any evening and we can add your name to the dinner list. I also know that since my arrival on the scene in 1984 this has always been a

problem. So we will plan an expandable meal and try to accommodate all of those who are inclined to have dinner with us.

So what's going on this month at BBYC? June 1st is a Sunday, so we will have our monthly brunch, hosted by **Marty and Linda Chin**. The Single Sailors Association will be joining us as this event kicks off their month of activities. We enjoy having them with us.

We have NO volunteer chefs for June but we will have dinners on the 7th, 14th and 28th. No dinner is planned on June 21st due to a cruise-out to Berkeley that weekend. But there could be a spontaneous potluck so stop by if you are in the neighborhood. Also, a heads up about July: there will not be a Sunday brunch on July 6th as it's a holiday weekend and there is a cruise-out as well.

June is wide open for volunteer chefs. The committee will obtain the food and help with the effort of cooking for 40 of our friends. But we need folks to contact us to volunteer. Send me an e-mail: [social@bbyc.org](mailto:social@bbyc.org) or call me at (707) 542-5817. We can make you a star for a night!

Barbecues are simple to put on. Make a salad, buy some dessert, marinate some meat and we can help with the rest. *Let's eat again real soon!*

## Single Sailors Association Speakers

**June 12**—Celia McCarthy, Planner-Historian with the Port of Oakland.

Topic: Port of Oakland Water Projects and the History of the Oakland Estuary.

**July 10**—Margaret Fago, Race Manager, Encinal YC.

Topic: Women Racing: Gracie & George Regatta; Encinal YC Sailing.

**August 14**—Lt. Chris Tribolet, MSO SF Bay, US Coast Guard, Alameda.

Topic: Boating and Marine Safety.

**September 11**—Jay Christofferson, VP Academic Affairs, California Maritime Academy.

Topic: The CMA "6-Pak" Licensing Course.

**Meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. BBYC members are welcome to attend.**

# Clipper Destiny

By Linda Koziol

SOME THINGS were just meant to be. We had been in a subliminal trance since last September's trip to the Riviera. It was there that we were hypnotized as we gazed in awe of a strikingly bold tall ship anchored off the coastline of Monaco. There she lay...a four-masted barkentine. Even with the sails furled, it was any sailor's eye candy. Since we were surrounded by land and sea of the "Rich and Famous," we joked that it might even be a private vessel.

Six months later, we were requesting permission to come aboard the *Star Clipper*, the sister ship to our sighting in the Mediterranean, as it was docked and illuminated under the darkened sky over Cozumel. When we first recognized its stunning silhouette on the ferry from Playa del Carmen, our faces couldn't conceal our heart-throbbing grins proudly beaming that this was "our" ship for the next seven days. Although its capacity was 170 passengers with 72 crew members aboard, we learned that only 90 passengers joined this week's excursion from Mexico to Honduras and Belize. Almost a one-to-one crew-to-passenger coverage for pampering! Offerings of champagne and appetizers on the Tropical Deck rapidly introduced us to life on board, which we would come to love. Let the adventures begin!

It wasn't easy enticing my partner, a sailor, to travel on a cruise vacation while he held negative images of a floating city on water. But the very notion of a rigid agenda was foreign on this cruise. However, like an all-inclusive resort, the *Star Clipper* covered all the amenities of a luxurious classic yacht.

The first evening's sail-away at 10:30 p.m. was hosted by Captain Uli at the bridge. With background music filling the air, we began experiencing the thrill of working on deck as the Captain enlisted volunteers to position the yardarms. Spotlights on all 16 sails magnified their sheer size, billowing in the night breeze, as the Captain set the sails. An added pleasure to the senses was the pounding musical sounds of *Conquest of Paradise*, a rhythmic score from the

movie "1492," while we set sail in anticipation of our first destination, Cayos Cochinos, a Honduran island 272 nautical miles away.

The first day at sea was a day of discovery, as we quickly found our sailors' legs and explored the ship from stem to stern. Between the heightened adventure of our 50-foot climb of the 226-foot mast and the leisurely engine room tour, we also found time to luxuriate in the afternoon sun at the bow's cabled-rope netting extended over 30 feet from the ship's hull. We were mesmerized by the ship's motion as we peered back through the net to witness the vessel's bow gliding through the cobalt blue Caribbean Seas, pushing water gently aside motioning, "Make way for your friends at sea."

The teak decks offered two sea-filled pools for cooling off and the always-open bridge encouraged tales-of-the-sea conversations with the Captain, First Mate and crew. Willing passengers were invited to steer the ship and hold it to a compass course. Instruments outside the chart house displayed wind direction and speed, as well as the ship's speed.

The Captain's Talk on deck presented by Captain Uli was both entertaining and educational. With the visual aid of a whiteboard mounted at his side, he spoke passionately of trade winds, air pressure streams, Cape Horn, Christopher Columbus, and Magellan while drawing crude representations of the earth, its latitudes, and ideal charting courses. Talks of the ship's upcoming Atlantic crossing brought mention of early sailors conquering the Horn. With his heavy German accent, the Captain revealed his "secret box not to be touched by anyone" but himself. He sprinted to the chart house to retrieve this prize possession and removed a small notebook that was filled with names and addresses of previous passengers. His collection of contacts held the intention of one day, in the not too distant future, organizing a sail around the Horn "...without the gourmet delights experienced this week," he warned. The Captain's eyes

## “...not your typical cruise ship.”

grew ecstatic as he enlisted several more passengers on the spot who signed up for this future challenge!

Our Western Caribbean adventure continued 17 kilometers offshore from the mainland Honduras at the Cayos Cachinos (or Hog Islands) comprised of 13 cayes, all of them privately owned. The area was fringed by a reef and has been designated a marine reserve. From there, we set sail towards Roatan Honduras, a distance of 19 nautical miles. We anchored off Coxen Hole, the commercial center of Roatan, later relocating to Tabyana Beach on the western end of the island, for a typical shore day of water sports and sun-soaking activities. That evening, the *Star Clipper* set sails towards Belize City, 120 nautical miles. With the warm sea air brushing against our faces, we were comforted as the ship sailed with the sea as if both were one.

An optional shore excursion was offered for passengers to visit the Mayan ruins in Tikal, Guatemala. Although leaving the ship for a full day was not our preference, the trip to Tikal was not to be overlooked. We traveled by every possible mode of transportation (well, maybe not a train) to get from the *Star Clipper*, positioned off Belize City, to Tikal and it was worth every transfer. As Americans in Tikal, the jungles seemed surreal to us while we scanned the earth below from the “puddle-jumper” plane, and even more Tarzan-like at ground level. The five main temples were awe-inspiring and the ceremonial courtyard eerie yet fascinating.

Back on deck, the Captain decided to forego the next day’s sail to Costa Maya, Mexico, after studying weather charts forecasting rough seas in that region. None of the passengers complained about the opportunity to enjoy

another day at sea while heading for our final destination return to Cozumel. An encore group of passengers consistently chose to steer clear of the prior days’ shore excursions, reflecting on past experiences of privately enjoying the peace and quiet of an abandoned ship, while us first-timers were snorkeling, scuba diving, and island trekking.

Each afternoon’s appetizer feast was accompanied by live entertainment from Csaba, our Hungarian musician who had been traveling with the *Star Clipper* for eight years. The Piano Bar was also home to Csaba, as passen-

gers enjoyed aperitifs before dining on the deck one level below. The week’s dining was casual for breakfast and lunch, with an abundant array of fruits, vegetables, seafood, and desserts served buffet style. When evening arrived, seating preference was not dictated, but the culinary presentations became mandatory delights. Unlim-

ited dinner a la carte options presented quality selections from a variety of scrumptious entrees to appease the hungriest appetites.

This was not your typical cruise ship. The style and elegance of the 360-foot *Star Clipper* was comfortable, yet rugged. The interior ambience integrated soft lighting throughout the common areas, offset with the rugged exterior of a sailing vessel, unlike the clinical starkness of typical mega-cruise liners.

Some things were just meant to be. We were docked at Cozumel for our final night’s stay aboard, and like sailors at port, we were tattooed at the local Carlos ‘n Charlie watering hole. Just ask us to show you ours next time we meet and we’ll ask you, “What’s your Clipper Destiny?”



Linda Koziol

## New Member Goal Appears On Track

AT THE May general membership meeting the following people were inducted in the club. They are Walter Robertson, Mike Harris, Penny Blair, Vincent and Chris Sierras, and George Sibbald. Please join me in welcoming these new members aboard.

### Vice Commodore



LESTER CLARK

As announced at our general membership meeting in May, the total number of regular members was 146 and climbing. We still have a ways to go to meet our membership goals to offset the loss of Club Nautique. However, if we continue taking in new members at the present monthly rate, I feel confident that our goal will be reached by year's end.

I would also like to mention that sharing the booth at the boat show with the Harbormaster was successful. We took in two new members and distributed a whole "bunch" of membership packets. Hopefully, we will receive some action on the packets distributed at the boat show. Special thanks goes to Judy Braaten and Guy Frank for putting the booth together and getting everything organized for this event. Thanks also to Leslie, Burt and Barbara, George and Becky, Annie and Jeff and Roman for their efforts manning the booth and volunteering their time. With their smiles and teamwork, our booth was a fun project that ended with success! If I have forgotten someone here, please accept my apology.



David Alexander

Mike Harris joined the club with Penny Blair (not in photo), along with Walter and Debbie Robertson. Vice Commodore Les Clark is at right.

### Fireplace Update

The efforts for the fireplace continue and we are getting closer to actuality. I am happy to announce that one of our club members, Robert Roque who is a Contractor and P.E., has offered to do the trenching or

boring for the gas line free of charge (at great savings to BBYC). Thank you very much Robert for that most appreciated generous offer. Also, thanks goes to Robert for getting the "ball" rolling on our new outside heaters; way to go!

## Multi-Talented Duo



David Alexander

Bill Chessman with Dave Tucker during a recent Jam Night at the club.

# JUNE & JULY 2003

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
June 1 Brunch 9-11 a.m.	2	3	4 Board Meeting 7 p.m.	5	6	7 Membership Meeting, Dinner 7 p.m.
8 Rockin' for Relay 4-8 p.m.	9	10	11	12 Single Sailors Assoc. 6:30 p.m.	13 Potluck Dinner, Dancing 7 p.m.	14 Membership Drive Day Boat Safety Day Dinner 7 p.m.
15	16	17	18	19	20 Beer Can Race Newsletter deadline for July issue	21 Cruise-out to Berkeley YC No dinner at BBYC
22	23	24	25	26	27 Potluck Dinner, Dancing 7 p.m.	28 Whale's Chase Series Race #1 Dinner 7 p.m.
29	30	July 1 Delta Cruise-out to Mandeville Tip (thru July 6)	2	3	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY	5 No dinner at BBYC
6 No Brunch	7	8	9 Board Meeting 7 p.m.	10	11	12 Whale's Chase Series Race #2 (Round the Rock) Membership Meeting, Dinner 7 p.m.
13	14	15	16	17	18 Beer Can Race	19 Dinner 7 p.m.

## VALLEJO RACE

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a tornado, although I heard later that a funnel cloud was spotted over San Francisco, but did not touch down. The start was delayed for about an hour due to lack of wind. It drizzled enough for my crew to pull out the foul weather gear.

Basically due to the wind direction (when it did come up) the starting line was almost due south of the first mark. Those that stayed to the west of the mark made it past the mark with little problem. Those that found themselves up current of the mark (east) experienced considerable difficulty getting around the mark.

Then, with the majority of the boats to the east of Angel Island flying spinnakers, that all-powerful being upstairs decided to even things up. The wind went to 000 knots and the

sun came out. Spinnakers all around us were hanging like laundry on the back yard clothes line. Everyone then had to strip out of their foul weather gear and look for refreshments, as no one was moving.

After approximately an hour or so, a whisper of wind appeared, and everyone started moving again. By the time we passed the Richmond Bridge, we had 10 to 15 knots of wind that was, at times, shifting 90 degrees. This pretty much carried us to the mouth of the Mare Island Strait.

My crew felt that this was the most exciting part of the race due to the fact that all 150 boats seemed to arrive at this point at the same time. The width of the entrance was approximately 500 yards wide. With the wind direction such that tacking was required down the strait for the two

miles to the finish line, there was an abundance of “deleted expletives,” “starboard” and other expressions of anxiety heard. This part of the race was not for the faint of heart.

The crews for all of the boats then converged on the Vallejo Yacht Club for dinner, drinks and music. After all of the excitement from the day before, the trip back was somewhat anti-climactic, with a steady 20 knots of wind. This was certainly a worthwhile trip, definitely a load of fun.

If anyone else from the club participated in the Vallejo Race, contact me. I would love to hear your experiences.

—Britta Fjelstrom, Race Chair

**Cruis@-outs**  
David Tucker, Cruise Chair  
Berkeley YC June 21-22  
Delta Cruise, Hilton fireworks July 1-6  
San Francisco Yacht Club July 26-27  
Half Moon Bay YC Aug. 30-Sept. 1  
Sequoia YC Sept. 27-28



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