



The Commodore Reports

ANN WEINZIERL

GREETINGS. I hope all of you have survived the holidays and are ready for a fun filled year at the yacht club! It's going to be a tough act to follow Greg White, Les Clark and their Bridge. But this year's Bridge is excited about the upcoming season and they have put together a number of events that will keep us entertained and give everyone plenty to talk about. It's going to be a busy year.

I'm going to request the board approve a new committee this year. I would like to appoint Les Clark to chair a Historical Committee. Last year marked our club's 35th Anniversary. We founded, and ran for six years, what is now known as the Pacific Cup. For those of you that do not know, the Pacific Cup is a sailboat race from San Francisco to Hawaii. It originally was intended to be a cruisers race—not a high tech race of expensive racing shells with professional skippers and paid crew. The task I would like the new Historical Committee to perform is pulling together some of the memorabilia from the early race days and put together a shadow box display complete with a written history that we can proudly hang on the wall. Also, I would like to get our photos organized, captioned, and put in albums so they can be made accessible for everyone to enjoy.

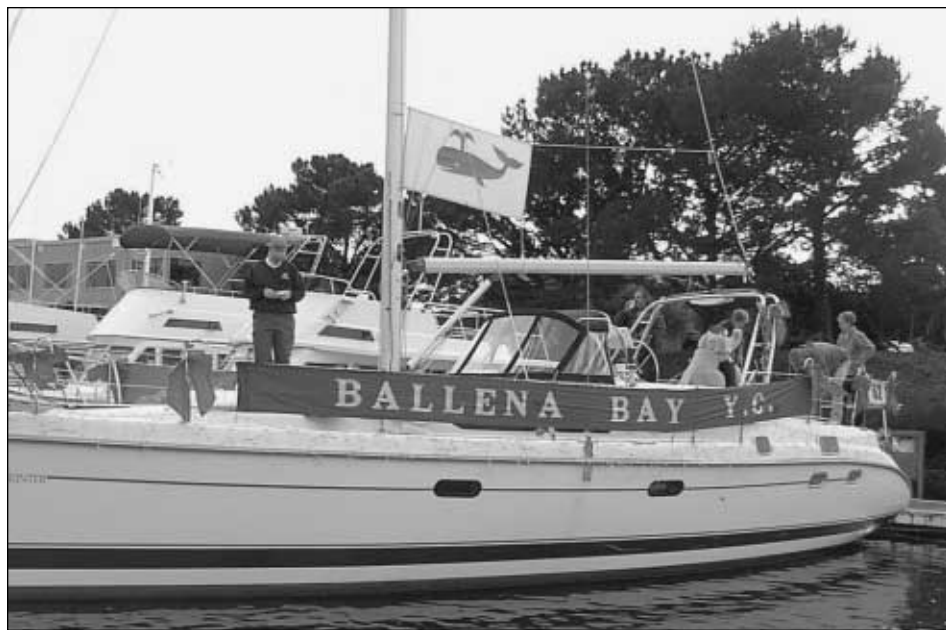
I would like to request a few By-laws changes from you, the general membership. The first is to change the current requirement for needing to request an absentee ballot three weeks in advance of an election to 24 hours before an election.

The second is to add another voting board position. We currently have 10 voting Board members. It's always better to have an odd number of Board

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The Whale's Tale

BALLENA BAY YACHT CLUB • ALAMEDA, CALIFORNIA



Lowell Crow

Fall Asea decked out for the Lighted Boat Parade. Story and another photo on page 5.

BBYC Guy's whirlwind tour of duty from Rear to Vice Commodore

WOW! WHAT A YEAR! Especially these last few months when I have been honored to step in for Beth Friedman as BBYC's Rear Commodore. Learning on the fly what it takes to run the house, the bar, rent the facilities and attend to all the other "little things" that go with being Rear Commodore has really been a challenge. A task I could not have undertaken without the tremendous help of so many of you.

Looking ahead to a great year

BY JUDIE BRAATEN

NOW THAT the holiday hangovers are over and things are getting back to normal (depending, of course, upon your definition of "normal") it's time to look ahead and plan for a wonderful year. We have a new board and all of the officers are ready to get to work for you!

Looking for something to do? Feast your eyes on the calendar for upcoming events to tickle your fancy! And we do have a lot of wonderful things

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Vice Commodore

★★

GUY FRANK

Stepping to the plate is what a volunteer club is all about. So at the risk of missing some of you who have so selflessly donated incredible time and effort, I want to thank the following. Beth for striving to establish a smooth transition during trying times. George and Becky Lohmeier for helping with so much of the purchasing during the early stages and in teaching us some of the dos and don'ts of buying goodies for our events. Dave Alexander 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.

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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members. This new flag officer would be the Fleet Captain and his/her responsibility would be that of organizing the cruise-outs. This year I am asking the Board to approve Tom and Diane Miller as the cruise-out chairs and they would be filling that position on the Board, once approved.

The third change is to make one of the existing Board member-at-large positions another flag officer position: Safety Officer. The PICYA has been encouraging member clubs to incorporate this position in organizations since 9-11. I would like to ask that the current seat held by Jeff Fuller (Hollywood) be granted that distinction. Jeff is with the Coast Guard Auxiliary and performs safety inspections for us annually already.

Another change that is coming to the club this year will be internet access to members. We are in the process of replacing our existing computer thanks to a generous contribution by Greg Hatfield. The old computer will be brought out into the club area so that members and visiting cruisers can check their e-mail and search the web.

I don't want to spoil everyone's announcements about his or her plans for a fun filled year. Please read their columns. But I do want to say that the Knarr Fleet has approached me to schedule a South Bay regatta in June. They will be confirming if it is going to happen January 8th. I've decided we are going to show our St. Francis, Corinthian, and SFYC racers how we party on this side of the bay. Be on the lookout for more info.

Movers and shakers



John Stashik

Gathered for a group photo are most members of the 2004 Bridge and committee chairs. Left to right in the front row are Leslie Frank, Guy Frank, Ann Weinzierl and Judie Braaten. Standing are Kim Crow, Terry O'Prey, Shelly Cramer, Jeff Fuller, Britta Fjelstrom, Mary Plummer, Jeanette Clark, Lester Clark and Jim LaMar.

Social Committee Notes

BY KIM CROW

ME? SOCIAL Committee chairman? "Only if I can co-chair," I said, thinking that would never happen. Well, Annie, ever resourceful, found a ready and willing co-chair: Shelly Cramer. So...your new Social



Social co-chairs Kim Crow and Shelly Cramer.

Committee chair people are Shelly Cramer and Kim Crow. Becky Frame has also joined the committee and Jeanette Clark has volunteered to help with table set-ups. We are looking for more committee members. Are you interested?

Before I go any farther on this year's plans, I would like to thank the outgoing members of the 2003 Social Committee who have all graciously offered their support to us neophytes.

We should also take a brief moment to just think how indebted we all are to the people who regularly plan and prepare meals, buy food, and set up the dining room for the rest of us at the club. Where would we be without them? This year we will be counting on lots of you to step in help prepare a meal or set up the dining areas.

Special kudos go to **Marty and Linda Chinn** and **Jim LaMar** for doing the monthly Sunday brunches and to **George Lohmeier, Becky Serrage** and **Annie Weinzierl** for

buying and preparing food for many a scrumptious dinner.

David Alexander, outgoing Social chair, did a fantastic job even though he admittedly doesn't cook. The *Titanic* and Jimmy Buffett parties were so much fun. And **Jim LaMar** really knows how to decorate for Halloween, not to mention put on a mean taco fiesta. Jim is also the resident barbecuer extraordinaire. Thanks also, to **Barbara Masters** who chaired the Commodore's Ball committee single handedly (literally, only; she had some help). It was lovely; great food, great music, lots of dancing.

The two cruise-outs we went on were great fun also; especially the one at the San Francisco Yacht Club where we were awakened fairly

early in the morning by clapping and laughing and splashing right next to our boat. Thinking we were missing out on something big, we hurried out to see a triathlon going on with people coming out of the water from the swimming part to the running part before the bike part. What a treat!

ments when they cruised into BBYC. They had a "great time with some fun people." Way to go BBYC!

Ballena Bay Yacht Club is an all-volunteer organization and, as such, is dependent on all its members to keep it afloat (no pun intended). We need Social Committee members and we need chefs that will volunteer their time and cooking skills for the Saturday night dinners. There will also be an apprentice program for those of you who are timid and would like to work with an experienced chef before you take on a meal of your own. So, step up to the helm and try your sails (pun intended). Be an apprentice, be a helper, be on the Social Committee, attend bartending classes, bartend, cruise-out, etc. *Be* the wind beneath our sails.

To volunteer for either the apprentice program or to prepare a meal, please contact Shelly at (510) 521-6477 (social_cramer@bbyc.org) or me at (925) 820-3948 (social_crow@bbyc.org). There will also be a sign-up sheet in the clubhouse. You will have lots of help, too. This is a great way to get to know people *and* maybe pick up some cooking tips.

**"...a 'great time with some fun people.'
Way to go BBYC!"**

Then some of us walked all the way around Belvedere Island and saw some beautiful estates—definitely a high-ticket area. It made for great hobnobbing and shopping in downtown Tiburon. I urge everyone to take part in the cruise-outs as you never know where they'll take you and you get to know about some of the other clubs and their members.

The cruise-ins were fun, too. I urge you all to welcome other club members on their cruise-outs so that they'll all echo Sausalito Yacht Club's senti-

Now, let's look at January 2004. There is no dinner planned for January 3rd, as we'll all be recovering from New Year's Eve and the Round the Island cruise on New Year's Day.

The first general membership meeting and dinner of 2004 is January 10. There will also be a dinner on January 17 featuring beef burgundy by **Les Clark** and a crab feed on the 31st. January 24 is a cruise out to Treasure Island's Clipper Cove, so there will be no dinner that night. Super-

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First look at 2004 cruise-out schedule

BY TOM & DIANE MILLER
CRUISE-OUT CHAIRS

WE WOULD like to give a special thank you to Dave Tucker for all his great work in organizing the 2003 cruise-outs. Everyone had a fantastic time as we visited many different marinas or anchored out as a club. The awards given at the end of the season were fun to compete for.

We hope to continue these fun and games in the 2004 cruise-out season. This is new to us and we are open to suggestions and help in making this a fantastic cruise-out happening each month. We've put together the dates and places to cruise to for this next year. Let us know what you think. We plan on having games—yes, games—to compete for prizes at the cruise-outs, some great potluck dinners, and hopefully many infamous cocktail hours that could go on for days. Cruising and having fun with friends is a great thing. See you on the water.

January 24-25

Shake the bugs out at Clipper Cove

February 28-29

Leap year cruise to Sausalito or Tiburon

March 13-14

Spring begins; cruise to Angel Island

April 9-11

Easter bunny hop to Benicia

May 8

KABOOM!

May 28-31

Memorial Day weekend up the Petaluma River

June 12-13

June happenin' to San Rafael

July 2-4

Fourth of July party to the Delta

August 7-8

Burning up in Redwood City—
Sequoia Yacht Club or Coyote Point

September 3-6

Labor Day weekend at Half Moon Bay

October 9-10

Fall in San Francisco: either
Golden Gate YC or SFYC

For the record

"A Passage to Hawaii" in last month's newsletter stated that *Mischief's* EPIRB had a range of 350 miles. That is incorrect. *Mischief* is equipped with a satellite EPIRB which has no range limit, and can be picked up from any point in the world.

Fishing tournaments and theme parties planned for visiting clubs to BBYC

BY TERRY O'PREY, PORT CAPTAIN

AHOY THERE! This is your Port Captain and co-chair of the Power Squadron, Terry O'Prey, with my first announcement in *The Whale's Tale*. As many of you know, our club is a popular spot for other yacht clubs to cruise to. It is popular for a variety of reasons, one of which is that our club is full of wonderful, friendly people like you, who know how to have a good time. Last time I checked, affordable drinks and fuel helped too. I should also mention our Almar Marina Harbormaster, Bill Chase, has graciously decided to continue offering 2-for-1 berthing to our cruise-in guests. Stay two nights for the price of one. Thank you Bill and Almar!

Now back to live action! I am currently in the process of preparing a communication to other yacht clubs, which will discuss the benefits of cruising to Ballena Bay Yacht Club and some of the events we are planning to host during potential cruise-ins. There will be a series of fishing tournaments scheduled in conjunction with cruise-ins as well as a possible tuna tournament during the Half Moon Bay cruise-out over Labor Day.

We are also looking into the possibility of a Monte Carlo party, as well as some other theme parties to spice up the cruise-in experience. I am open for suggestions on different theme parties. As you know, we already have the Jimmy Buffett party and Halloween.

My goal as Port Captain is to generate revenue for our club and provide our members with quality events that will leave you holding your breath for the next one. My ideas for events to conduct during cruise-ins are in the preliminary stages, so I welcome any feedback or suggestions you might have to enhance our cruise-in attraction to other yacht clubs. Thanks, and I look forward to seeing you at the club.

P.S.: Our other co-chair of the Power Squadron, Justin Walsh, has been busy starting a new business venture. I'd like to wish him luck and let you know he will be adding to my column in the months to come.

LOOKING AHEAD

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planned. Do you have an upcoming event you'd like to let others know about? Drop us a line and let us know! It's a safe bet someone else will have similar interests. See something intriguing on the calendar? Come out and join in the fun!

Volunteers are always needed and welcome. Contact the Social Committee for more information, or to find out how to get involved in upcoming events, or just simply show up and lend a hand. (Contact phone numbers are on page 2.) Don't forget the monthly membership meetings, complete with dinner, where you'll find out what's going on and what's coming

up. It's a great way to socialize and meet other members you haven't met, yet, and to get reacquainted with those you have met before.

Have you gone on a special boating trip? Write an article and tell us about it! Planning for a vacation on the water? We want to hear it! *The Whale's Tale* is a great place to share boating experiences and stories!

This is going to be a wonderful year. Support your officers as they are supporting you. Help out, get involved, join in and make lasting friendships. This is your club and we need *you* to make this club successful. Join us in celebrating the joy of boating!

See you at the club or on the water!

SOCIAL COMMITTEE NOTES

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bowl Sunday is February 1st so plan on the annual BBYC chili cook-off. Polish off that recipe you've been meaning to foist on an unsuspecting public and whip up a batch of the hot and spicy stuff for us to judge.

We will be continuing with the Sunday brunches the first Sunday of each month, with the first one being February 1. We need volunteers to cook and help with that also.

As for a general picture for the rest of the year: Jimmy Buffett will rise again to sing "Margaritaville" on August 21, and Jim LaMar will do taco night on October 30. Other thoughts I have are a karaoke night and a 40's songs night with singing DJs.

How about soup night? Pasta night? Sock hop with hamburgers, hot dogs, jello salad, potato chips, baked beans? A "B" Dock party is always fun. (How about it "B" Dock?) More heavy hors d'oeuvres nights? How about a karaoke night? Also a 25-year Ballena Bay Yacht Club anniversary luau in September might be fun. What do you think? What are your ideas? Look for those sign-up sheets and sign up. *Be the wind beneath Ballena Bay Yacht Club's sails.*

Lighted boat parade



This picture shows last minute preparations on *Fall Asea* by its hard working crew just before departing for the Lighted Boat Parade along the Oakland estuary on December 6th. It was a little on the wet side, but the boats showed up well against the dark, cloud-filled sky. The *Fall Asea* crew and skipper Dan Mulvey got drenched in the process but all had a good time. By the way, this was the only boat in the parade with an active cannon on board! The crew returned to the club to enjoy a soup and chili dinner prepared by Annie Weinzierl.

As it turned out, judging for the parade was done down by Encinal and Oakland yacht clubs instead of the usual Jack London Square site.
— Lowell Crow

VICE COMMODORE

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his *entire* Social Committee who must work hand-in-glove with the Rear, to make each and every one of our functions click. Special thanks go to *all* of you who have helped to "set up" and "take down" and decorate the house, only to set up again (often for multiple events in one day) and to *all* who have stepped behind the bar to keep the drinks and the fun flowing. I also want to thank my Leslie for her support with everything behind the scenes and for stepping to the plate to assist with the Ship's Store. And last, but certainly not least, special thanks to "Admiral" Jeanette and her "deck hand" Lester in helping to keep the funds straight, the house ship-shape and, in general, helping to guide us through stormy seas. I couldn't have done it without all the help.

So far we have made it through the year without tearing the place apart or burning the house down though we have given it a good try during several

of our events. (We still have the New Year's Eve party to go.) We have made some positive changes in the clubhouse and in how the club's resources are utilized.

The new computer has arrived to help keep track of the flow of funds and the whereabouts of all the new members I promise to bring in (as well as us old farts). And, with the team that Commodore Annie has put together, and the energy that Bob Metzger is bringing to the table as the new Rear Commodore, you can bet the house (oops, I promised Annie that I wouldn't do that any more) that it is time to strap on your seat belts (harnesses for you sailboat types) as there is much more in store.

A quick update on projects in progress should include the new, or should I say return to the old traditional look of the clubhouse, burgies and all, as well as continued upgrades to the house's furnishings. Look for additional trophy cases to be installed

on either side of the buffet in the dining room as well as a more visible display of the rich history of our club with memorabilia and photos. By the time this goes to print PG&E should have cleaned up their little "oops" and the gas line and meter should be installed to our building. Within a week of having gas in the bar area (and I don't mean the hot air type) expect a call from me for a work detail to begin the patio expansion project. Phase one will bring warm flames and a glowing ambience to our patio. As soon as we get final approvals the patio itself will be expanded. Finally, expect a warm glow in the bar area, as the fireplace project winds to a conclusion.

All-in-all it has been an exciting year. My stint as Rear Commodore has been truly rewarding and will certainly help me in fulfilling my duties on the new Bridge. Again, many thanks to all for the help, and I look forward to seeing you all down at the clubhouse for a great 2004!

Introduction to PICYA

BY DAN MULVEY,
PICYA DELEGATE

SINCE IT has been awhile since we've had an article about the PICYA and we have a strong contingent of new members, I wanted to introduce the PICYA in both purpose and promotion. The Pacific Inter-Club Yacht Association was founded "to promote inter-club communications, yachting activities and the social interaction relating thereto" as worded in the by-laws. Additionally, it was also intended to provide uniform racing rules at its beginnings in 1896. Since that time, however, the USYRA and the YRA of San Francisco have become the authority for that function. The PICYA is also where the concept of club reciprocity is encouraged and developed. While the PICYA does not regulate and police club reciprocity, it is the forum through which those ideas are developed. Every member club has the potential to develop their own policies for reciprocal club privileges.

Probably the most visible presence of the association on the water is Opening Day on the Bay. The PICYA utilizes a committee boat as the judging platform and is responsible for the promotion of the event. Additionally, the association is still quite active in racing with the Lipton, the Youth, and the CHISPA small boat series as the major events. Off the water, the PICYA is the publisher of the Yachting Yearbook each year.

As recreational boaters, our lobby group is the Recreational Boaters of California (RBOC) to whom the PICYA sends delegates, committee members and financial support through individual club donations. In the coming year, an informational fundraiser for the RBOC is in the early planning stages. Additionally, there are occasional calls-to-action when there is important boating

Brunch crew



David Alexander

Becky Frame, Jeanette Clark, Jim LaMar, Ann Weinzierl and Les Clark keep members well fed at Sunday brunch.



John Stashik

On the water

Relaxing on a recent winter day a few sailors are seen cruising Richmond's Brickyard Cove.

related legislation or administrative changes which can impact us as RB'ers. We'll be trying to keep you apprised of these as they occur.

There are monthly delegate's meetings at various yacht clubs throughout northern California. In fact, we will be hosting one in April of 2005. The delegate's meetings are mostly an

exchange of information and news pertinent to the interclub format, *e.g.*, announcements of special events at the club or on the water. Ballena Bay Yacht Club has three delegates for 2004: staff commodore Les Clark, Joe Webb, and myself. Feel free to approach any of us with questions or issues regarding PICYA matters.

JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2004

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				Jan. 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY Continental breakfast, 8 a.m.; Round the Island; burgers, hot dogs, noon	2	3 No planned dinner
4 No brunch	5	6	7 Board Meeting 7 p.m.	8	9	10 Membership meeting; Dinner 7 p.m.
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Dinner 7 p.m.
18	19 MLK HOLIDAY	20	21	22	23	24 Cruise-out to TI; PICYA Commodore's Ball
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 Dinner 7 p.m.
Feb. 1 Brunch 9-11 a.m Super Bowl Chili Cook-off	2	3	4 Board Meeting 7 p.m.	5	6	7 Membership meeting; Dinner 7 p.m.
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Dinner 7 p.m.

HOLIDAY GIFT EXCHANGE

PHOTOS BY LOWELL CROW

The very festive holiday gift exchange party at the club on Saturday, December 20, had about 40 or so people show up to participate and watch. Guy Frank brought a cute little kitty but, alas, she was not included in the exchange. Commodore Annie Weinzierl took away the coveted "captain's" apron and bed pan hat. Leslie Shiller reluctantly hands over a bottle of amaretto to Jeanette Clark.



Bay Farm Island Tides
New Year's Day
0737 +6.7 ft.
1448 +0.8 ft.

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