



The
Commodore
Reports


ANN WEINZIERL

'TIS THE season for the Wearin' o' the Green. Can you believe it's March already? This month is full of activities and party opportunities at the yacht club. But first, a bit of news. Guy Frank's resignation was accepted at the last board meeting. Dave Tucker agreed to accept my appointment as Vice Commodore. He was readily accepted by the Board and ratified at the general membership meeting with grand ovation. Immediately after ratification he gave his report and inducted nine new members. This month he gets to practice some more as I will be in Canada skiing. So be *really* nice to him...we don't want to chase him away. I'm sure the problems and complaints can wait until I return.

Now did I say something about party opportunities? Hopefully, everyone that cruised to the Golden Gate Yacht Club on the Leap Year Cruise-out has recovered because things are just starting to warm up. The first weekend of the month is the general membership meeting and I know at least one person will be holding down the bar after his first meeting. The second weekend is another cruise-out opportunity, this time to Angel Island. I'll leave the details to the Millers. They have a bunch of fun planned.

March 20th is our St. Paddy's Day party. The first event of the day is a race...see Britta for details. Then Jim LaMar is fixing a traditional St. Paddy's Day feast, Richmond Yacht Club is cruising in, and I've hired a band. The band plays a variety of music and the lead singer does a number of costume changes. I promise it will be entertaining! You won't want to miss this one. If you are staying on your boat...don't forget your Ibuprophen...we have plenty of Bloody Mary mix at the club.

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The Whale's Tale

BALLENA BAY YACHT CLUB • ALAMEDA, CALIFORNIA



John Stashik

The Tyler Island swing bridge opens for a powerboat cruising on Georgiana Slough near the Delta community of Isleton, also known as the "Crawdad Capital of the World."

Jack & Jill becalmed on V-day; St. Pat's race to be held March 20

BY BRITTA FJELSTROM

THE RACING season got off to a slow start. The Jack & Jill race took place on Valentine's Day. Unfortunately, the wind gods were not cooperating with the 11 boats that participated in this female-skipped race. After the noon start the boats made their way toward Treasure Island on a diminishing ebb and with very little wind. *Shockwave*, skippered by Judie Braaten, seemed to make the most headway immediately heading toward the rock wall and managed to hold the lead throughout the race. However, after two to three hours and several DNFs, the race was abandoned due to lack of wind.



Lowell Crow

Bob Cartwright's *Windy Pah Tahoe*, skippered by Lori Rock, in the Jack & Jill race.

I want to thank all those who participated and especially to those three boats who stuck in there until the end: *Shockwave* (Judie Braaten) *Imagine* (Diane Miller) and *Rumple* (Lillian). Another round of applause to my race committee: Les and Jeanette Clark, Lowell Crow, and Burt Masters. Lowell and Burt were zooming around the race course taking pictures

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Social Committee Notes

BY KIM CROW

SO MUCH has happened since publication of the last "Tale." I'll fill you in on just some highlights. **Lester Clark's** January 17th burgundy beef dinner was a resounding success with over 40 people served. The crab feed on January 31st was also a big success with 64 people wielding their wooden clubs to break the shells of 64 crabs. **Ron Fudala** was instrumental in getting the crabs for us and also in preparing a side dish of pasta. Together with bread and salad, it was a real deal for only \$20. There were 30 leftover crabs that were sold later in the week to members who got together for a "Sopranos" marathon at the clubhouse. Maybe there is a tie-in with a certain Italian procedure having to do with clubs and knees. That must have been quite a night.

February 1st was our first brunch of the year and that afternoon was the Super Bowl Sunday Chili Cook-off. The winner was **Bob Metzger**, with **Judie Braaten** and **Rhonda Temple** tied for second. **Ron Fudala** came in third. **Commodore Annie** made crab cakes from some of the leftover crab. Unfortunately, everyone missed the Janet Jackson/Justin Timberlake dominatrix bodice-ripping caper, as half time was "tasting" time. Bummer!

February 7 was a general membership meeting/dinner with **Sigi** at the helm again. He treated us to Caesar salad with fresh made dressing and croutons, entrecote au poivre with natural au jus (New York strip roasted whole with crushed peppers), sauce Bearnaise, broccoli stuffed tomatoes topped with grated parmesan, and twice baked potatoes. Wow!

On to the Valentine's Day dinner. It started off well enough. The decorations were elegant with red cloths, heart shaped white doilies, Dove heart shaped chocolates and vases of beautiful red and pink tulip arrangements

at each table. A basket of chocolates, a chocolate rose and a cutesy bear holding heart shaped balloons adorned **David Alexander's** lace-bedecked cashier table. Lovely.

Then came the special hors d'oeuvres of the evening. **Leslie Shiller** and **Barbara Masters** had worked most of Saturday on the advance preparation. Although Leslie couldn't make it to the dinner, Barbara and **Burt Masters** did the final assembly for the aperitif segment. There was chicken salad on tenderly cooked artichoke leaves; chicken curry pate on sliced baguette; lox on baguette slices with a dollop of cognac, caraway, dill mayonnaise; and broiled bruschetta with artichoke hearts and cheese. Needless to say, a very elegant start for the evening.

Master griller **Jim LaMar** cooked the steaks and salmon to perfection by 7 o'clock but alas, the potatoes (each lovingly wrapped in foil) weren't. Even though they'd been in the oven long enough (I thought), some were still hard. What to do, what to do? Well, **Burt, Barbara, Linda Chin** and I went into action and started flinging hot aluminum foil off the potatoes and throwing them in the microwave. Where's the camera when you need it? The Three Stooges have nothing on us.

We finally served them after everyone had already gotten their steak and salad and then we found out that we'd run out of meat, *and* a particularly large piece of salmon had ended up on the floor. Horrors! St. Valentine was obviously not looking down upon us that night. Luckily, the only people who didn't get meat were the main hors d'oeuvre preparer, the main dinner organizer and her loyal sidekick. At least the potatoes, special spinach salad and "chocolate roses" cake and ice cream were good and plentiful. Everyone was so nice and under-

standing to us neophytes who aren't used to cooking in bulk. We really appreciated the positive comments on the decorations and salad, etc.

The night that will go down in infamy as the meat/potato caper brings to mind how important it is for you all to sign up at least a day in advance for the meals, as that's when the cooks do their shopping.

But enough about that. On to other adventures in cooking for Saturday night dinners at the club.

On March 6th **Sigi** will return to cater another gourmet dinner. Then, March 7th, **Jim LaMar, Becky Frame, Jeanette Clark** and **Commodore Annie Weinzierl** will prepare another fabulous brunch.

March 20 is **Jim LaMar's** St. Patrick's Day dinner and also the Richmond Yacht Club cruise-in. March 27 **Jeff Cannon** will be our master chef. That brings us up to April and the general membership meeting/dinner catered by **Sigi** again on the 3rd.

As an addendum: I was talking to one of the members recently who said that in the past many of the members would bring hors d'oeuvres to share with everyone at the dinners. What a lovely idea! How about it, BBYC? Show us your culinary skills. *Be* the wind beneath Ballena Bay Yacht Club's wings.

Cruise-out schedule

- 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

New members, a new 'Vice' and an April membership drive

BY JUDIE BRAATEN

BY NOW, most of you have heard that our Vice Commodore, Guy Frank, has resigned, and a new Vice Commodore, David Tucker, has been appointed, accepted and ratified. Dave brings a great deal of experience to the job, as he was Port Captain for two years, stepped up to the plate as Cruise-out Chair, and has a wonderful cache of knowledge gleaned through his boating experiences and area connections. We know he'll do a wonderful job, and you can no doubt look forward to some great articles from him as he settles in to his new position!



David Alexander

Recently joining the club are (from top) Stephen Dale; Patrick Rentsch and Ed Spears.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to welcome our new members. **Ken and Michelle Eckert, Stephen and Terri Dale, Diamera Bach, Patrick Rentsch, Edward Spears, Bob Evans and Rhonda Temple, and Linda Fenn and David Offerman** have all recently joined our yacht club family and we're glad to have them! If you get a chance, step up and introduce yourself, and help them to feel right at home. We look forward to seeing them on the cruise-outs, at club functions, and generally enjoying the club and each other's company.

Membership drive

Don't forget about our membership drive April 14-18 at the Pacific Sail Expo. We are looking for volunteers to help out at the boat show, and to help plan and organize. If you're interested in assisting, sign up sheets have been posted. Contact Dave Tucker or Judie Braaten at the club for more information.



David Alexander

New members from the top: Ken Eckert with son Cullen; Paul and Linda Merschdorf; David Offerman and Linda Fenn.

RACING REPORT

► Continued from page 1

and video of this float fest. If you didn't get a chance to see the video, contact me and I can get you a copy. Due to the great turnout and the competitors' disappointment in having to abandon the race, I will reschedule the Jack & Jill race so we can do it all again.

So while you're preparing yourself and your boat for the Jack & Jill (Take Two) join us for the second annual St. Patrick's Day race on March 20. This

will be a buoy race, so you can stay somewhat close to home. The Ballena Bay Blarney will start at noon; come for the race and stay for the party. Prizes will be awarded for first, second, and third place. There will be also be a special award for the boat which displays the most "Irish spirit." So load your boat up with shamrocks and leprechauns and spend a day on the race course. You can sign up at the club, or contact me at race@bbyc.org.

Racing Schedule

March 20	St. Patrick's Day Race
April 24	Spring Race
May 22	Angel Island Race
July 10	Round the Rock Race (Whale's Chase #1)
August 14	Whale's Chase #2
September 11	Whale's Chase #3
September 18	SBYRA Race
October 2	Whale's Chase #4

New bar menu; social responsibility

YOU MAY have noticed a few changes around the club and the bar. I am in the process of making the bar a little more user friendly and providing better quality liquid refreshments. We have added some new

Rear Commodore



BOB METZGER

beers such as Fat Tire, a microbrew style amber ale; Stella Artoise, a beer made in Belgium and considered one of the finest in the world; Tecate, from Mexico; and Miller Genuine Draft, a popular domestic brand.

Soon you will see new wines. Our supplier noted that this club consumes more wine than any club in the Bay Area. I am bringing in a line of fine wines that will totally replace our current inventory. The house wine will be Kenwood Yulopa, made exclusively for the restaurant/bar industry and regarded as one of the finest wines available from Napa Valley. We will have Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Zinfandel. Our top shelf red wines will be Fetzer 5 Rivers Ranch Merlot and R.H. Philips Toasted Head Cabernet Sauvignon. White wines will change as well and will feature Sandoval Chardonnay, Sutter Home White Zinfandel, and R.H. Philips Sauvignon Blanc.

We are adding a few wines that will be available by the bottle only, such as Napa Valley's Clos Pegas Merlot, and Penfold's Bin 407, one of the top red wines produced in Australia. Prices will be the same with some exceptions.

For those who enjoy mixed drinks, we are looking into installing a gun system that will deliver four different mixed drinks, such as Margaritas, Mai Tais, Black Russians, Hurricanes, or our monthly specials, all at the push of a button.

We all enjoy coming to the club and using its many facilities. It is a nice

place to get together with our yachting friends, relax, chat, have a few drinks, and sometimes eat dinner.

We have grown and improved over the years with the help of volunteers and donated gifts from many members. Because of this, Ballena Bay Yacht Club has become one of the best clubs in the PICYA.

Sometimes we lose sight of what this club is for, and where it is going in the future. We have been able to keep our dues at a low rate because we are a volunteer club, with many members who share their talents with the club by organizing, cooking, cleaning, and providing other necessary chores to make our events enjoyable and profitable.

Social responsibility

Lately we have become complacent in planning and executing our events. We have forgotten about the undesirable side of our events, and even our personal visits to the club.

I am referring to everyone's *social responsibility* to members and the club in general. I am sure there have been many times each of us has come to the club and found the floor littered with remnants of our last party, or the tables littered with crumbs and spilled drinks. Maybe you have seen a news-

paper strewn over a few tables or on the bar, making our environment unpleasant to relax in. Or you have even ventured into the galley only to find the sinks and counter tops cluttered with dirty dishes and cookware.

We all have the responsibility to clean up after ourselves, and our events. It is each and every member's responsibility to ensure that when they leave the club, it is just as clean as when they arrived, so other club members can fully enjoy the club.

This is *social responsibility*! I know many members think we hire a person that will clean up for us, and they think it is permissible to leave a mess. That is not true! Yes, we hire a lady who comes in late at night to vacuum and clean a few areas for us. Lately we have been abusing her and making her do more than she was originally asked. She is very expensive, and if our event makes a profit, it is quickly spent, plus more, to have her clean up our mess. If we wish to continue into the future with rising costs for keeping this club open, and the ability to provide our club members with the expected quality of life within the club, we need to remember our *social responsibility* and clean our own untidiness ourselves. When you plan an event, please be sure to include the last part: clean up! Take the time to place your dishes in the dishwasher, and run a load, or two. Take your glasses back to the bar for cleaning. Throw away your newspaper; wipe your table when you are finished. Leave the club as clean and orderly as it was when you arrived. Your help will make this club more enjoyable for everyone, and we will have the funds to make our next event even better.

Recently members have arrived late at night to find no one at the club, the doors are propped open, and the appearance someone is inside. If you



John Stashik

Rear Commodore Bob Metzger

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Kudos to Susan, Greg

The club would like to give a special thank you to Susan Lorraine for donating a monitor for the club computer. With her generosity, we can now offer internet access to club members.

Greg Hatfield has graciously offered to set up the system. Members will be able to surf the web and check e-mail. Sorry, but we cannot offer printing capabilities. The computer should be up and running by the time this newsletter is printed.

Once again, a big thanks to both Susan and Greg!

A request from the Treasurer

BY JEANETTE CLARK

TO HELP us with the bookkeeping, we ask that you please write the date on all of your bar chits, and please *print* your first *and* last name, clearly, when filling out a chit. ("Bob 1," "Bob 2," "Bob 3," etc., just doesn't work too well!)

Additionally, we will be sending out 90-day reminders on all past due accounts (this includes dues and bar chits). If you receive such a notice, please contact Treasurer Jeanette Clark immediately. Unless prior arrangements are made with the Treasurer, all accounts that are delinquent 120 days will be posted on the "suspension" list at the club on the board. This also means that all privileges for club use will be suspended until accounts are current or arrangements have been made.

Please don't let this happen to you! We value each and every member and don't want to see a single name on this list, but our By-laws are clear regarding past due accounts.

Cruise Committee report: initial cruise-out to Clipper Cove

BY TOM AND DIANE MILLER

BOY, DID BBYC Shake the Bugs out at Clipper Cove during our first 2004 cruise-out January 24-25. Twelve boats rafted up with Dan Mulvey in *Fall Asea* anchored nearby. Warm weather and blue skies made a perfect weekend to be on the water.



Tom Miller

A scavenger hunt for "things you don't want on board" when boating was a great hit. A list was given to each participant to find on their boat within a 30-minute time period. These items were: an outdated flare, a dead "D" battery, an empty fuel can, a burned out light bulb, a dead air horn, an empty fire extinguisher and an old tide book. Glenn and Arlene Huber of *Windhook* won first place, having five of the seven items, and Gale and Mary Plummer of *Worknot* won second place, with four of the seven items.

REAR COMMODORE

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are the last to leave, please ensure the coffee is off, outdoor gas heaters are off, all lights are off, and all doors closed and locked.

Our club has always enjoyed the honor system of doing business. As in any venture that operates this way, there are a few that abuse the system, making others pay for their indiscretion. Our inventory shows that there has been some theft. Our observations noted there are some people who come into the club after 2 a.m., use the bar, and some have taken their drinks with them when they leave the club. This is strictly against the law, and the boundaries of our liquor

Everyone had fun hunting for these things on their boat. It's amazing how many of us have some on board and don't know it.

All gathered for appetizers and cocktails on each other's boat. We were hopping boat-to-boat to munch out, talk and drink. This was lots of fun. An evening BBQ was enjoyed and the partying went on until the wee hours of the morning for some.

Thanks to the folks on *Lady J* for a terrific breakfast prepared and served to all. That was a nice treat. Then the Margaritas began. The blender didn't seem to stop. A great way to get rid of the "morning after" feeling, for sure. Everyone enjoyed sitting in the sun and talking—a nice weekend for our cruise-out.

Plan on welcoming Spring with our cruise-out on March 13-14 to Angel Island—the largest island in San Francisco Bay. There are bike rentals and tram tours available on weekends, and the cafe will be open. A dinghy to get ashore is a must. The sign up sheet is at the club. You'll have a great time and enjoy boating with others.

license. This activity cannot be allowed to continue; it will jeopardize the club and its future. To prevent this attack on our club and liquor laws, we are installing locked doors on the liquor cabinets, and soon there will be bar hours, the opening time to be established after discussion with club members. It is not the way we want to do business, but we need to protect our club and our privileges from those who would put us in jeopardy.

Many members volunteer and work hard to make this club what it is today. Thanks to all those members who take time from their busy schedules to make this club one of the best in the Bay Area!

MARCH & APRIL 2004

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Mar. 1	2	3 Board meeting 7 p.m.	4	5	6 Membership meeting; dinner 7 p.m.
7 Brunch 9-11 a.m.	8	9	10	11 SSA meets 6:30 p.m.	12	13 Cruise-out to Angel Island thru Sunday No dinner at BBYC
14	15	16	17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY	18	19	20 St. Patrick's race St. Pat's dinner- dance; band 7 p.m. Richmond YC cruise-in "Tale" deadline
21	22	23 North Sails seminar on sail care 7 p.m.	24	25	26	27 Alameda YC cruise-in Dinner 7 p.m.
28	29	30	31 Board meeting 7 p.m.	Apr. 1	2	3 Membership meeting, dinner, CD release party; 7 p.m.
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Dinner 7 p.m.
11	12	13	14 Pacific Sail Expo at Jack London Sq. (thru the 18th)	15	16	17 Dinner 7 p.m.

Tip of the Month

This boating tip from Marty Chin

Bees, known for their delectable honey, can make your life a little less sticky, with the use of a little bee's wax. Bee's wax, the tool of choice for ancient mariners since the time of Christopher Columbus, is an excellent choice for lubricating stubborn and sticky drawer slides and hatch rails. Bee's wax can be purchased in bar form, similar to a bar of soap. When rubbed on wooden drawer slides (rails) and burnished with a piece of leather, it will make the silverware drawer slide as if it is greased.

Warning: don't forget you waxed the silverware drawer, or forks from the galley may find their way into the V-berth!

If you have a tip to contribute, we would love to hear from you. Send your tip to: copyeditor@bbyc.org. Happy and safe boating.



Tom Miller

Enjoying the Clipper Cove cruise-out in January, from left to right: Lester Clark, Glenn Huber, Ann Weinzierl, Fran McAbee, Diane Miller and Arlene Huber.

Help wanted at boat show membership drive

Volunteers are needed to staff the club's booth at Pacific Sail Expo, April 14-18. We share the booth with Ballena Isle Marina. Contact Judie Braaten at (510) 337-0488 or e-mail publicity@bbyc.org for more information or to assist.

Upcoming cruise-ins:
 March 20-21
 Richmond Yacht Club
 March 27-28
 Alameda Yacht Club

ON LINE: www.bbyc.org
 Ballena Bay Yacht Club
 1150 Ballena Boulevard
 Alameda, CA 94501

