



The Commodore Reports

ANN WEINZIERL

APRIL IS upon us...the official start of the yachting season. Some of us at Ballena never take a break. Winter cruising is some of the best. I've heard a rumor that the BBYC January raft-up was featured on the cover of the *Yachtsman* with a caption that said something about people enjoying winter cruising. I still haven't seen a copy. If anyone has it please share! Tom and Diane Miller are, from here on out, officially in charge of cruising weather. We've had beautiful sunny weekends for all three cruise-outs so far. Who would have ever thought it would have been so hot in *March* at Angel Island? Several people ended up swimming! And it was because they wanted to...not because I tossed them overboard.

This is another busy month for the club. April 3rd is the general membership meeting. After the meeting there's a jazz CD release party. I'm not sure how many bands will be playing but there are several. The CD release party is being put on by a friend of a club member and is a private function and all BBYC members are invited to attend at no cost. Please wear your badge...this will be your admission. It's going to be a busy night with lots of new faces.

Easter weekend is our bunny hop to Benicia. So dust off those bunny ears! Tom and Diane have the sign up list on the wall. This maybe a good time to secure a July 4th reservation for the trip to and from the Delta with harbormaster Bruce. The following week is the Pacific Sail Expo at Jack London Square. Make sure you stop by the Ballena booth, say hello, and catch up on all the latest yachting news. The Saturday of the boat show weekend is a dinner night at the club with Sausalito Yacht Club cruising in

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The Whale's Tale

BALLENA BAY YACHT CLUB • ALAMEDA, CALIFORNIA



Lowell Crow

The Ballena Bay Yacht Club fleet invaded Ayala Cove at Angel Island with an impressive raft-up on the March 13-14 cruise-out.

Volunteers needed to staff club booth at Pacific Sail Expo

BY JUDIE BRAATEN

IT'S NEARLY time once again for the Pacific Sail Expo at Jack London Square, April 14-18, which has the distinction of being the largest sailboat show on the west coast, and we plan on being a part of it! Last year, we shared a booth with the marina and gained a lot of exposure for our little club. This year, we're once again going to share a booth with the marina, and hopefully make even *more* friends and attract *more* new members. After all, who wouldn't want to be in a club with a fun-loving crowd like us?

We are looking for volunteers to help man the booth, meet and greet new people and, as a bonus, who want some time to wander around and see the sights. The boat show has special events for all ages of sailors, free seminars (over eighty of them, from what I understand), and of course, sailboats ranging from eight to 82 feet in length. For a couple of hours or so of your time, *you* can enjoy this at no cost! Admission is free to volunteers; how-

► See Volunteers, page 4

Photos wanted for boat show

BY JUDIE BRAATEN

WE ARE working on a PowerPoint presentation for the Pacific Sail Expo to promote our wonderful club. We are in need of photos of club members, with and without their boats, and club activities to showcase what a fun bunch of people we are. If you have a photo, or photos, you'd like to submit, we'd love to see them!

► See Photos, page 4

Social Committee Notes

BY KIM CROW

AHOY, AGAIN, fellow sailors encompassed in the whirlpool that is the social scene at BBYC. So much has gone on in the galley since the last issue of *The Whale's Tale*.

Sigi was out of the country and unable to cater the March 6th dinner, so **Tinker Dave** took the helm and prepared a turkey, rice and mushroom concoction for the membership meeting and dinner. Thanks so much, Dave.

The next morning, a brunch was prepared by **Commodore Annie Weinzierl, Les and Jeanette Clark, Jim LaMar** and **Becky Frame**.

March 20 will go down in BBYC history, I'm sure, as one of the most fun St. Paddy's Day dinner parties ever. Eighty-five hungry, mostly green-attired people showed up for corned beef and cabbage, carrots and potatoes, bread, three kinds of ice cream, a big "Happy St. Paddy's Day BBYC" cake and three large ice cream cakes. The Irish coffees were flowing, and there were two cruise-ins that weekend—from Oyster Point and Richmond yacht clubs. Many of them arrived at the club shortly after noon and partied on into the dinner hour and beyond. Jim LaMar almost single-handedly cooked the whole meal to perfection. The meat was tender and juicy, the carrots and potatoes just right and the cabbage not too crisp and not too mushy—a fabulous meal. Many elves were there to help set up the tables and decorate, peel and clean cabbage, make coffee, take your money, serve, clean up, etc., including **Burt and Barbara Masters, Leslie Shiller, Bob Peterson** and **Monica Ley, David Alexander, Linda Chin, Marge** and **Grant Gladman, David Chapman** and **Sally Tonningesen**. A special Irish toast to them: *May you have warm words on a cold evening, a full moon on a dark night, and the road downhill all the way to your front door.*

What made this evening especially fun was the band that night: **Second Date**. They played all kinds of music from '60s stuff to something akin to grunge rock (I think). The lead singer, **Anne Marie**, was great. She had about four or five costume changes, each



Lowell Crow

Port Captain Terry O'Prey cavorting with **Anne Marie**, lead singer of **Second Date**.

one more outrageous than the last. One looked like something from a Liberace wardrobe sale and one was all black patent leather. She looked fabulous and was not only funny and quirky, but a wonderful singer. If she ever comes to entertain at our club again, don't miss her. Lots of dancing went on and she really knew how to play the crowd.

March 27th **Jeff Cannon** signed on to have **Puglia Night** in which he and his **Julie** prepared **Cavatelli** pasta with meat sauce, green salad, sliced

sourdough french bread with gourmet olive dipping oils and ice cream dessert with Italian cookies.

That brings us up to April. **Sigi** will definitely be back for the membership meeting and dinner April 3rd with his usual outstanding menu: California fresh garden salad with Sigi's vinaigrette dressing, chicken breast Wellington, rice pilaf with wild mushrooms, sweet peas and glazed carrots, and Basque country bread. All this for your dining pleasure for a mere \$15.

Sunday, April 4, **Lester, Jeanette, Becky Frame, Jim LaMar** and **Commodore Annie** will heave to and create another brunch. April 10 is a cruise-out to Benicia so no meal is planned, and April 17 is a special catered Mexican dinner *and* karaoke night. That weekend Sausalito Yacht Club will cruise-in.

New member **Pat Rentsch** has volunteered to make dinner for us on April 24. Pat says he loves to cook and is planning a real gourmet meal: marinated flank steak, a chicken dish, herb roasted potato medley, Biryani rice and mixed green salad. Wow!

That brings us up to May 1 when **Sigi** will wield that magical whisk again for our membership meeting and dinner.

I didn't get an opportunity to include this in the March issue of *The Whale's Tale*, but thought it would be better served here, especially since we entertained the two yacht clubs on St. Paddy's Day. New members **Arman and Mary Stephens** were sitting alone at a table on **Tinker Dave's** Bushmill steak night back in February. **Bob and Frances Metzger** and **Kim and Lowell Crow** joined them. The Stephens told us that they were members of the Oakland Yacht Club for six years and never met anyone.

Let's continue to show visitors and new members the friendly BBYC spirit. *Be* the wind the club's wings.

Cruise-out schedule

- 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

St. Paddy's race wrap

BY BRITTA FJELSTROM

AFTER having to abandon our first race of the season (Jack and Jill Race) Ballena Bay racers were ready for the second annual St. Patrick's Day Race. Seven boats participated in this six mile course around the BBYC buoys.

With about ten minutes to the start it looked as if we would have a postponement. But by the warning signal at twelve o'clock the wind had filled in allowing us to start right on time. The wind stayed light through the first two legs, but then picked up to a nice breeze making for a great upwind leg to the finish.

We had a boat or two (and you know who you are) sail their own course, leaving the rest of us to wonder if *we* were following the right course. But the wayward boats were all smiles while enjoying their "cruise." I want to thank Dan Mulvey and his crew (Diane and Lowell) for offering his boat and service for the Race Committee, especially since in doing so, I was able to race my boat. They did a great job! Also, a special thanks to Jeff and Annie for being on our photo boat.

THE RESULTS

First Place

Flying Lanzerote (Laslo Bonnyay)

Second Place

Barking Spider (Mike Kearney)

Third Place

Lonesome Dove (Britta Fjelstrom)



Britta Fjelstrom

Lonesome Dove racing on the bay.

BBYC Racing Schedule

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
Sept. 11	Whale's Chase #3
Sept. 18	SBYRA Race
October 2	Whale's Chase #4

PHOTOS

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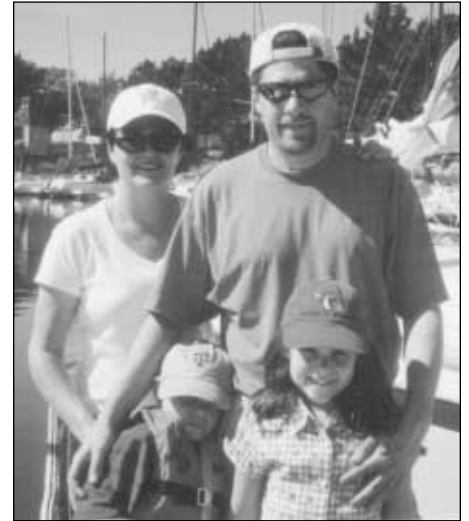
Photos on a CD are preferred, as I have limited space in my e-mail box. Regular photos I can scan are also welcome.

If you'd like to e-mail photos to me, please let me know in advance and e-mail them one at a time so I can transfer them out of my e-mail

immediately and avoid any "bounced" messages. Please include the photographer's name for credit! For more information, call me at (510) 337-0488 or e-mail me at publicity@bbyc.org.

Don't forget to sign-up to help out at the boat show April 14-18! See the article on page 1 for complete information.

New members



David Alexander

New members Michelle and Ken Eckert with Cullen and Mara.

VOLUNTEERS

► Continued from page 1

ever, we may need to share exhibitor passes to keep our costs down.

If you're interested in helping out (and we would *love* it if you would) please sign up at the club for the time slot that works best for you. The more volunteers we have, the less time you'll be assigned to the booth and the more time you'll have to enjoy the show!

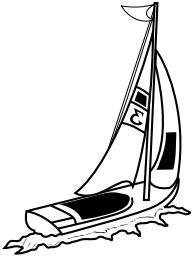
This year, the Pacific Sail Expo show times are:

Wednesday	12 p.m.-7 p.m.
Thurs.-Sat.	10 a.m.-7 p.m.
Sunday	10 a.m.-5 p.m.

If you're the first shift of the day, please plan to arrive a half hour before the boat show opens to make sure the booth is set up and ready to go. If you're the last shift of the day, please plan to stay an extra half hour after the boat show closes to assist "stragglers" and ensure everything is secure for the night.

For more information, please contact me at publicity@bbyc.org, or by calling (510) 337-0488.

Let's get out there and show the world what a wonderful club we are!



Golden Gate Yacht Club cruise-out February 28-29



A rollicking good time was had by all at the funky Buca di Beppo restaurant in San Francisco.



Both photos: Lowell Crow

Here's the BBYC cruise-out group at the bar inside Golden Gate Yacht Club.

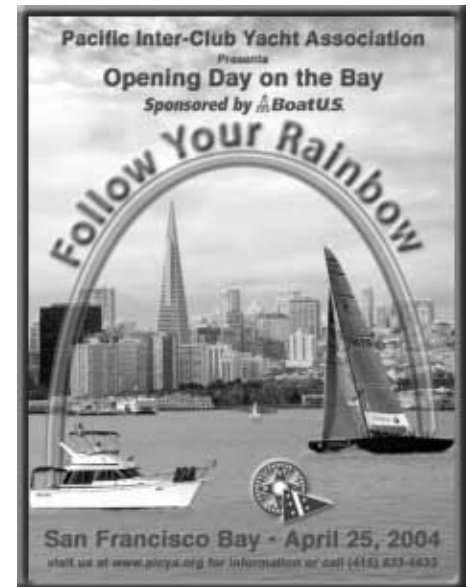
Classic yachts coming April 24

BY BEVERLY PARTRIDGE

CLASSIC YACHTS are coming to BBYC. They will rendezvous here on Saturday, April 24th, and the boats will be open to BBYC members in the afternoon. The Classic Yacht Association (CYA) will have a large group at the club for dinner on Saturday night and will be returning to BBYC after the PICYA Opening Day Parade (classics are positioned close to the head of the parade) for a potluck lunch. If any BBYC members would like to join the potluck, please tell Beverly Partridge what dish you would like to bring to share. Contact her at (510) 865-2574.

If you would like more information about CYA, or to see photos, go to www.classicyacht.org and click on Northern California fleet.

PICYA Opening day April 25



With the theme "Follow Your Rainbow," this year's opening day yacht parade begins at noon off San Francisco between Crissy Field and Pier 39. For additional information, go to www.picya.org on the internet.

**B
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**Bunny Hop
Cruise-out**

April 10-11

Sign up soon!



**E-Z shopping, smart style
at your BBYC Ship's Store**

We have included prices for your convenience in ordering BBYC merchandise items. The merchandise is a fundraiser for the club and we appreciate all of you who are supporting the club by ordering clothing.

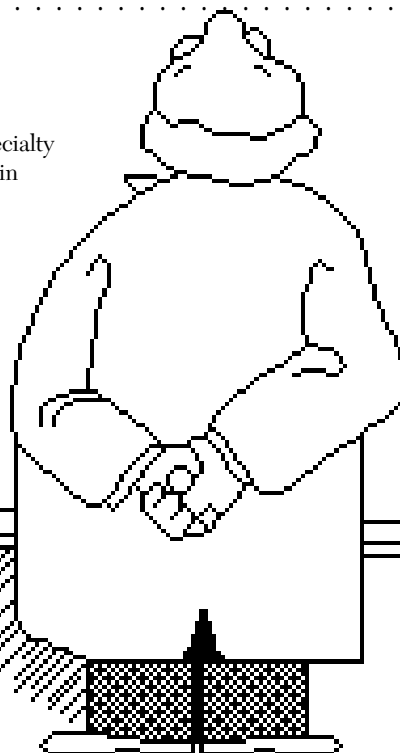
Drop by the club to pick up an order form. Or call me at (510) 719-7153. Thanks!

—FRAN METZGER

SHIP'S STORE PRICE LIST

Burgees	\$15.00
Aprons	22.00
Tote Bags	23.00
CD's	9.00
Shirts	
Fleece	38.00
Denim	38.00
Turtle Neck	38.00
Polo	36.00
Crew Neck	31.00
T-Shirts	17.00
Hats	
Canvas Full Brim	17.00
Ball Caps	15.00

Note: Some specialty items may vary in price and are marked accordingly.



APRIL & MAY 2004

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				Apr. 1	2	3 Membership meeting; CD release party 7 p.m.
4 Brunch 9-11 a.m	5	6	7	8 SSA meets 6:30 p.m.	9	10 Benicia cruise-out (thru Sunday) (No dinner planned)
11	12	13	14 Pacific Sail Expo at Jack London Sq. (thru the 18th)	15	16	17 Sausalito YC cruise-in Crazy karaoke night
18	19	20 West Marine rigging seminar 7 p.m. Deadline: May newsletter	21	22	23	24 Spring Race Classic Yacht Assn. arrives Dinner 7 p.m.
25 PICYA Opening Day on the Bay	26	27	28 Board meeting 7 p.m.	29	30	May 1 Membership meeting, dinner, 7 p.m.
2 Brunch 9-11 a.m	3	4	5	6	7	8 KABOOM! (No dinner planned)
9	10	11	12	13 SSA meets 6:30 p.m.	14	15 Dinner 7 p.m.



St. Patrick's events at the club



PHOTOS BY LOWELL CROW



Oyster Point Yacht Club cruised into BBYC on Saturday, March 20, to enjoy our St. Patrick's celebration.



Anne Marie, lead singer of "Second Date" provided entertainment at the evening's St. Patrick's party.



ON LINE: www.bbyc.org

Ballena Bay Yacht Club
1150 Ballena Boulevard
Alameda, CA 94501

