



The Commodore Reports

ANN WEINZIERL

JULY is here...the season for fireworks and BBQ's. There never seems to be lack of either around BBYC. Anyone interested in seeing the Fourth of July fireworks at Mandeville Tip in the Delta? We will be cruising there July 1st-6th. It may very well be the week you never remember but it is lots of fun! July 24th is the Casino Night cruise-in. Come try your luck at the tables or stop by to people watch. It should be entertaining.

The June Knarr Cup Regatta was a huge success. The racers are excited to come back again next year. St. Francis Staff Commodore Grant Settlemier had such a good time he invited us to cruise-in to Tinsley Island. I will be contacting him to coordinate something later in the summer. Knarr Cup coordinator Sean Svendsen sent a very nice thank you letter. It's posted in the club. I would like to personally thank everyone that pulled together to make it happen. It was a group effort...and people turned out and worked hard. Thank you.

I also want to acknowledge our Gold Medallists. During the Memorial Weekend cruise-out to Petaluma there was a dinghy dip race. The rower was blindfolded and the coxswain told him/her which way to go. Two boats at a time raced and the competition was tough. After four different races our own Glenn and Arlene Huber took away the top prize! They brought home the gold for BBYC. I also heard plenty of stories from the Petaluma Staff Commodore about past cruises there by BBYC members. The next time you see Bob Stivers or Bob Martin you'll have to ask them about a bar stool possession incident at PYC. They like us so much up there they used a photo of BBYC members in their brochure!

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The Whale's Tale

BALLENA BAY YACHT CLUB • ALAMEDA, CALIFORNIA



Tom & Diane Miller

This year's BBYC Memorial Day weekend raft up at the Petaluma turning basin.

Hula contest, BBQ and dinghy racing make for great Petaluma cruise-out

BY TOM AND DIANE MILLER

OUR MEMORIAL DAY cruise-out to Petaluma was absolutely fantastic. We had major winds (38+ knots) on Friday which made sailing quite an adventure and definitely a learning experience. Friday night was spent with our members finding refuge around the bay; some at Loch Lomand Marina, others anchored at China Camp or at Port Sonoma. Saturday nine BBYC cruisers enjoyed a fantastic time traveling along the scenic river on our way to the historic town of Petaluma. The weather was warm and the cruising very pleasant.

Upon arrival and side-tying our boats in the turning basin, we moved on to the Petaluma Yacht Club for the festivities. A hula contest had our very own

Jeanette Clark moving her hips in true Hawaiian style. The dancing was a lot of fun to watch. The Polynesian barbecue at the club was enjoyed by some and others walked to eateries nearby for dinner.

Sunday breakfast and great Bloody Marys were had at the yacht club to start our day. Blindfolded dinghy races were on for the afternoon. They were absolutely hilarious to watch. Our BBYC team of Glenn and Arlene

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BBYC Racing

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

Social Committee Notes

BY KIM CROW

WELL, LET'S SEE...where did we leave off? On June 5th (general membership meeting/dinner) the pig roast did take place, and we had a whole bunch of people including many of the Knarr Cup racers. **Annie** was in charge of the porcine roast and after a little bit too much searing on one side and not enough on the other, hauled it out of the pit and cut it up to barbecue. I heard from many of you that it was a great meal. Our favorite band, **Second Date**, performed that night and a good time was had by all. **Anne Marie**, the lead singer for **Second Date**, makes several outrageous costume changes during the evening, so a trail of feathers and sparkle was left in the women's bathroom—fond memories of a very fun evening.

The next morning our brunch cooks were up early making scrambled eggs (or eggs to order), pancakes, French toast, bacon, sausage, biscuits and gravy, juice, coffee, etc., all for a mere eight dollars. **Becky Frame**, **Jim LaMar**, and **Commodore Annie** served a large crowd of people, who all left satisfied. Thanks so much to the three of you.

Don't forget that the first Sunday of every month there is a brunch at the clubhouse. Stop by. You won't be sorry.



Lowell Crow

The boys do karaoke on June 19th. Jeff Fuller, a friend of Terry's and Terry O'Prey.

On June 19, **Patrick Rentsch** cooked for us once again. Remember him from **Chicken Tikka** night, April 24? **San Francisco Yacht Club** cruised in this time. He decided to do Japanese and we were able to find another member, **Phil Frame**, to make sushi with him.

Both Patrick and Phil love all things Japanese, so nirvana was achieved in the kitchen that night

Along with the sushi, chicken yakitori was grilled by Patrick's son **Nicholas**, and **Kathy Rees** stepped in to cook a batch of gyoza. That kitchen was moving and shaking, I can tell you. Added to all that was a cucumber/shrimp salad. **BBYC** was treated to an authentic Japanese dinner that night, and I think we really impressed the **San Francisco Yacht Club** members that attended. I heard many compliments from them on the food and the club. *And*, guess what? Patrick told me at the end of the evening that he's really looking forward to cooking again for us.

Thanks so much to Patrick, Phil, Kathy and Nicholas for all their efforts in making for a most enjoyable evening at **BBYC**.

June 26 found **Kim and Lowell Crow** stepping up to the stove to do Italian, including another olive oil tasting. **Sean Mayes** was to cook that night (as mentioned in the previous issue of *The Whale's Tale*), but was unable to (he felt so bad). He quickly signed up to cook July 17th though.

So that brings us up to July. July 3 there will be no meal since that's the



David Alexander

Dave Tucker sings with the band **Second Date**.

Delta cruise-out weekend. Happy Fourth of July everyone!

July 10, our newlyweds **Al and Claudia Linhares** will be preparing dinner. July 17, as mentioned above, **Sean Mayes** will man the whisk.

I don't know what the menus will be for these nights, but watch for the signup sheets in the clubhouse, which will list the menu, price, etc., and sign up.

July 24th is **Casino Night**, which will feature heavy hors d'oeuvres. These will be furnished by the club.

July 31st is the general membership meeting/dinner and for that we will need a cook. Anyone interested? Let me know.

In last month's newsletter I told you about a fun thing to do on **Mother's Day**. This month, my tip has to do with **Father's Day**. We went to the **Corinthian Yacht Club** for their brunch, and it was fantastic. They not only served the usual omelettes to order, bacon, cheese blintzes and assorted pastries and juices; but prime rib, steamed spinach, garlic mashed potatoes and cobb salad. Together with a glass of champagne and a view to die for, it made for a most delightful repast. And nirvana was once again achieved. See you at the next dinner.



Tom & Diane Miller

Left, Annie and Ed in her "new" Whaler (counted as boat #9 in the cruise-out).

Above, blindfolded dinghy race with Glenn and Arlene in background and Anne and Les with the burgee.

CRUISE NEWS

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Huber won for our club. It was *sooo* comical watching our Commodore Annie and Past Commodore Lester, with our burgee flying in his hand, giving her directions on which way to row while she was blindfolded.

Monday morning there was a mass exodus by all boats. There were at least 70 boats leaving the turning basin and cruising together along the river. This was quite a parade to see. Once back to San Pablo Bay all went their own ways, motoring, sailing or being towed (Anne's "new" Whaler) back to their slips. New memories of a most wonderful time with some great folks will be on our minds when remembering this weekend.

After our Fourth of July cruise-out to the Delta, we're gearing up for "Hot August Nights in Bolinas Bay." This ocean cruise-out on August 7th and 8th will be a first for our club. We plan to raft up if possible or will anchor close to each other (depending on the swell). Bring your dinghy along for the dinghy landing contest. This should be fun to watch and, for sure, to participate in. We're planning to have a bonfire on the beach Saturday night (bring along a presto log or some firewood if you can). People are leaving Friday and Saturday if you want to cruise along with someone. Sign up at the club to enjoy this fun time and we hope gorgeous sunsets.

Dave reports from the Big Easy and tour aboard Corps dredger

BY DAVID ALEXANDER

I SPENT FOUR nights in New Orleans starting on Thursday, May 13th. My hotel was just a block off Bourbon Street in the French Quarter. This was my second visit to New Orleans so I knew my way around the quarter. The Mississippi River is just five blocks west of the quarter and another delight to behold. I enjoyed sitting on a bench and watching seagoing vessels steam pass the city. The riverfront was even more exciting because the US Army Corps of Engineers had one of their dredges in port and it was open for tours.

The hopper dredge *Wheeler* looked huge sitting at the dock in front of a green lawn. Upon boarding the vessel we were directed up to the bridge. I've been on bridges before but it was still neat to be there! I could see that it had a




David Alexander

bow thruster. I spoke with a man there who was recharting the river. How deep do you think the river is in New Orleans? Its actually 112-

feet deep in places. They were charting the river by using a 25-foot boat which measured the depth and recorded its position with differential GPS. As you may know, DGPS is accurate to three feet. That information is transmitted in real time to a computer on board the ship which plots that position on the chart. Its a very fast system.

The dredge *Wheeler* is more than 400 feet long, carries more than 20,000 horsepower for propulsion and dredge pump drives, and can remove up to 100,000 cubic yards of material (about 7,000 dump truck loads) in a single day's work. She is maintained and operated by the New Orleans District of the Corps.

► See Dave's travels, page 6



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JULY & AUGUST 2004

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				July 1 Delta cruise-out (thru the July 6th)	2	3 No planned dinner at club
4 INDEPENDENCE DAY	5	6	7 Board meeting 7 p.m.	8	9	10 Round the Rock Race Membership meeting, Dinner 7 p.m.
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Dinner 7 p.m.
18	19	20 Deadline for August newsletter	21	22	23	24 Casino Night, heavy hors d'oeuvres
25	26	27	28 Board meeting 7 p.m.	29	30	31 Membership meeting, Dinner 7 p.m.
Aug. 1	2	3	4	5	6	7 Cruise-out to Bolin's Bay No planned dinner at club
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Whale's Chase Race Dinner 7 p.m.

Final *Tale* to be mailed to all members; now get your club news fix on line

BY ARLENE HUBER

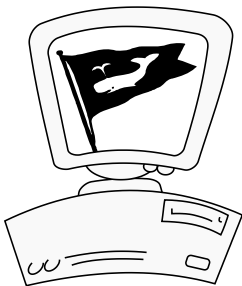
THE BOARD is continually working on ways to trim costs for our club and has identified a way to save hundreds of dollars on printing and postage if our club members will access the newsletter on line. You can be the first to read about the news and events of the club without waiting for snail mail.

The newsletter has always been available on line at www.bbyc.org. However, we are now encouraging all our members to get their news on line. Therefore, this is the last issue that everyone will be receiving by regular mail. Beginning

with the August newsletter, we will not mail a copy to a member that has an e-mail address on file with the club. Instead, we will send you an e-mail notifying you that next issue has been posted to our web site and is available for you to read and print at your leisure.

If you do not have internet access you will continue to receive your copy of *The Whale's Tale* in the mail. If you have access to the internet but prefer to receive *The Whale's Tale* by mail, contact me at ahuber@sbpcpa.net.

Provide your name and state you prefer your newsletter by regular mail. We are hoping to reduce expenses so we'd really appreciate your cooperation on this. If you aren't sure whether the club has your e-mail address, please reconfirm it with me at the same e-mail address listed above.



DAVE'S TRAVELS

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Outside the bridge I met a woman who is the marine biologist assigned to the *Wheeler*. Her job was to monitor the number of giant sea turtles that were accidentally killed by the dredging process. Measures are taken to minimize that number as they have to stop dredging for the season if they reach their limit. On the deck below was another scientist who was making special charts of the river. He showed me an image of three ships buried together in the mud on the bank of the river. Two of them are old steamboats but the third one is believed to be an iron clad vessel from the civil war era. Its gun turret had been removed and it was believed to have been used as a cargo vessel after the war. No excavation work has been done yet, but if it proves to be an authentic iron clad vessel it will be a huge find!

Cruise-out schedule

July 2-4 Fourth of July party to the Delta

August 7-8 Burning up in Bolinas Bay

September 3-6 Labor Day weekend at
Half Moon Bay

October 9-10 Fall in San Francisco