



The Commodore Reports

JEFF FULLER

THE FIRST THING you will notice is the mailed newsletter is back. We want you to participate in our events and the Board decided if you knew about them you were more likely to come. This is an additional expense that we think is worth the cost. The Web is great, but many people still rely on the printed page. Our Web site is still going strong, too.

This is *your* club so I want to keep you in the loop. Our expenses keep on going up, especially the rent. We have money in reserve but we need to keep our spending even with what we take in. Therefore, we are watching what we spend.

For instance, our cleaning lady Bea, who is like family to us, will be working three days a week instead of five. What does that mean to you? If you come to the club during mid-week please make sure you tidy up after yourself. You should do this anyway. This is a volunteer club. "Your Mom doesn't work here anymore."

You may have noticed that we raised the dues to \$165 per quarter. We needed to do that to keep up with expenses. Still, the cost is reasonable for the club you are a member of. It is still about what you pay for cable television per month.

We are cutting costs in some areas to make up for the increase. Our basic beverage costs are going down. Also, check out our new house wines. We will attempt to keep the dinner costs low. We want you to use and enjoy the club. It will now cost you less to do that.

An enticement: we want and need new members. We still have the initiation fee waived and there's something in it for you. If you bring someone in and sign them up you will get a \$50 dinner credit. If you are ambitious you

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The Whale's Tale

BALLENA BAY YACHT CLUB • ALAMEDA, CALIFORNIA



John Stashik

Boaters are not the only ones who enjoy some quality time on San Francisco Bay.

Shop 'til you drop with merchandise galore at the BBYC Ship's Store

BY KIM CROW

"HI! MY NAME is Kim, and I'll be your new Merchandise Chairperson! May I tell you about our specials?" No, you're not at a yuppie bar, you're sitting there reading *The Whale's Tale*—as you should be—and contemplating the purchase of some new clothing.

For those of you who didn't make it to the club on New Year's Day for the Around the Island extravaganza, there was tremendous interest in our clothes and general merchandise. I wouldn't want any of you to miss out on being up to the minute as well as on the cutting edge in the apparel department.

Our fleece-lined jackets were big sellers. We have several sizes for you to try on at the clubhouse. The blue denim shirts inspired a lot of interest, as did the navy fleece-lined, 1/4 zip sweatshirt. You can get anything with you or your boat's name embroidered on it as well as a cool burgee or emblem.

Shirley Housley, who owns the Embroidery Factory (where all these goodies come from), along with her

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**Complete
BBYC 2005
Racing Schedule**

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THE WHALE'S TALE

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The Whale's Tale

Published monthly by the Ballena Bay Yacht Club. **Deadline for articles is on the twentieth of the month preceding the date of publication.** Articles accepted for publication may have to be edited.

Please save articles for submission as plain text (no formatting) and send by e-mail to editor@bbbyc.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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will never have to pay for dinner again on Saturday night! Just make sure your name is on the number one sponsor line. The applications are located inside the clubhouse by the beer keg. Check with your Vice, Linda Fenn, if you need more details.

We had some terrific dinners last month. I am letting our Social Chairs give you all the details in their article. But *thank you* cooks! We need you. That is a volunteer activity we need. If you know how to cook, please volunteer. You will get help with shopping and preparing. Contact our great Social Chairs, Susan Siegert or Kathy Smith, to learn more. Also, one more thing; when you sign up for dinners, please do so early. Your Social Committee needs to know how many people to buy and cook for. You can sign up in person or call the club when someone is there to sign up for you.

Our Cruise Chair, Dave Tucker, has scheduled some excellent cruise-outs. If you haven't tried a cruise-out give it a try. Most people love them and you get to know the members better. There are basically two types: (1) where we all raft up together and share good times; and (2) the ones where we enjoy each others' company dockside visiting another yacht club.

The year's first two are raft-ups. The first cruise-out was to Clipper Cove and Treasure Island on the last weekend of January. (As I am writing this article it has not happened yet.) We have another raft-up at Angel Island scheduled the weekend of March 26. It is a one way race that ends up at Angel Island in a cruise-out. I'll be there; please sign up. I asked Ward if I could enter the race but he said: "Hollywood," a 22-foot boat with two engines would not be allowed to race."

If you want to cruise-out to Petaluma on Memorial Day weekend contact Dave early. There are only so many spots available on that busy weekend. Ditto if you plan on stopping off to or from the Delta over the busy Fourth of July weekend. Dave has set up berths July 1 at Benicia and July 5 at Vallejo.

As you can see our board is busy keeping your club busy with activities. Come enjoy your BBYC Yacht Club.

—Jeff

New members

PHOTOS BY DAVID ALEXANDER



Cathy Coyte



Deidre Dixon

Social Committee Notes

BY SUSAN SIEGERT

THE NEW YEAR'S DAY Around the Island cruise was a great success. **Jim LaMar** made the day by keeping the BBQ hot and the grilled meat moving. One of our new members, **Cathy Coyte**, worked the dining room like she knew the place and **Margie Wiles** and so many others helped in the kitchen.

On January 8th, we had a membership dinner and meeting with **Don and Kathy Smith** hosting a fabulous meal of prime rib, with all dinner money donated to the club. They had a lot of helpers and we appreciate their hard work.

Now wasn't one of your New Year's commitments not to miss a party? It's time to work at your commitment to party! Start by attending all of BBYC's dinners, parties, cruise-outs and cruise-ins. Remember, there will be no dinners planned on cruise-out weekends.

February 5th is a general membership meeting and a dinner. We have fun at these meetings so make sure to put them on your calendar.

Sunday, February 6th, is Superbowl Sunday. It will feature a chili cook-off during the half-time festivities. This has become an annual event and usually draws between 5-7 entries. If you would like to compete please call me at (925) 260-6540.

February 12 is the Valentine's party there will be a band and great dinner of tri-tip and salmon, cooked by **Kim and Lowell Crow**.

February 19 features a cruise-in from Tiburon and a dinner. February 26 is our annual crab feed.

Now a quick note about March. March 5th is a general meeting with a Cajun dinner and dance lesson. March 19th is the St. Patrick's party. More information on these in the next newsletter.

Calling all club gourmets!

BY SUZAN LORRAINE

DO YOU dream of cooking up a storm in a Ballena Bay Yacht Club gourmet kitchen? It could happen!

Yes, all you Emerils, Julia Childs, Iron Chefs and macaroni and cheese aficionados...with the support of all the cooks, all the diners, and all the craftsmen (and women) at BBYC, we can build ourselves a much improved kitchen.



At the January membership meeting, Suzan Lorraine volunteered to facilitate an effort that includes pledges—we already have \$300!—donations, and good old fashioned carpentry, plumbing and electrical work. The concept is the same as the fireplace project was; let's get this done without tapping the club funds at all.

If you are interested in participating in this project, contact me at suzannerd@yahoo.com or telephone (925) 429-1184. If you'd like to make a pledge or donation or contribute an idea, please write it down and put it in the envelope on the bulletin board at the club.

The first phase of the project includes:

- a full analysis to determine exactly what needs fixing or replacing;
- developing a priority list;
- creating a rough design or two;
- researching appliances;
- developing a budget;
- presenting plans to the Board.

Just think about what a wonderful contribution this will be!

Worth a mention

Jimmy Buffett and his band appear April 16 at the HP Pavilion. He seems to have a large following at the club. Call (408) 287-9200 for information.

RACING MATTERS

By Ward Fulcher, Racing Chair

February 6 First PMS Race. Start is at noon, after BBYC Sunday brunch. Entry is \$10 for the race, or \$25 for the series of three races. Signup sheets, course descriptions—and *me* to take your money—will be available at the club on Sunday morning. Skippers' meeting at 10 a.m., but I'll be available earlier to answer any questions. Remember, the PMS is *the* series to do if you've never even raced before, and we operate on the solid principle that the only dumb questions are the ones we didn't ask. Get comfortable, be safe and have fun!

February 12 Whale's Chase #1—In honor of impending Valentine's Day, the Jack and Jill Race (actually, Jill and Jack). From BBYC, around Treasure Island and back—you choose which way. Jill's the driver here, fellas, with one Jack as crew. (I've been called "one jackass crew" myself, come to think of it.) Skippers' meeting at 10 a.m., start at noon. \$10 for the race; \$30 for the series of four Whale's Chase races. Remember: Valentine's dinner at the club following the race!

February 26 The YRA is holding its Race Management Seminar in Berkeley all day. I'll be taking it, and anyone interested in becoming a Certified Race Officer or simply being more active on Race Committee is encouraged to participate. Contact race@bbyc.org or call me at (510) 522-0274 for the skinny.

March 6 Second PMS Race (same drill as February 6). Come on, you know you want to do it! Beginner's Very Basic Racing and Crewing Seminar at 9 a.m. before the skippers' meeting.

I'll be adding more info soon. As always, please call or write with questions and suggestions.

New Year's Eve at Ballena Bay

PHOTOS BY LOWELL CROW



Linda Fenn and David Offerman



Dan Mulvey



Lori Rock and Bob Cartwright



Andrea Reardon and Mary Stephens



Brent Reardon and Armand Stephens



Jerry Barnes and Beth Friedman

BBYC Race Schedule 2005

February	6	Noon	PMS (Post Midwinter Series)
	12	Noon	Whale's Chase #1—Jack and Jill
March	6	Noon	PMS
	26-27	TBA	Whale's Chase #2—Angel Island Race and cruise-out
April	3	Noon	PMS (last of Season)
	8	6 p.m.	Griller (Friday night race, then grill what you bring)
	22	6 p.m.	Griller
May	13	6 p.m.	Griller
	27	6 p.m.	Griller (tentative)
June	10	6 p.m.	Griller
	25	Noon	Whale's Chase #3—Around the Buoy
	24	6 p.m.	Griller
July	8	6 p.m.	Griller
	22	6 p.m.	Griller
August	12	6 p.m.	Griller
	26	6 p.m.	Griller

September	9	6 p.m.	Griller
	10-11		J-24 one-design, hosted by BBYC
	23	6 p.m.	Griller
	24	Noon	Whale's Chase #4—Around the Rock
October	14	6 p.m.	Griller
	15		South Bay Yacht Racing Assoc. #7, hosted by BBYC
	28	6 p.m.	Griller (last of season)

NOTES:

- PMS and Griller series are open to anyone who wants to enjoy casual racing, honing their boat-handling skills or try out new crew, or whatever. We strongly encourage participation by those who have never raced but wish to check it out in a very relaxed environment. You do not need to be a BBYC member, and you do not need a PHRF rating to participate (although we can't actually score you without it). Entry fees will be modest and prizes mostly whimsical, with frequent participation rewarded. Protests will be discouraged.
- "Basics of Racing" Clinic(s) will be held in February or March, and Mentoring, CrewAlong and On-Boat Spectating programs are envisioned.
- See the "Race" section of www.bbyc.org for details and updates, or contact race@bbyc.org.

FEBRUARY & MARCH 2005

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		Feb. 1	2 Board meeting 7 p.m.	3	4	5 Membership meeting, dinner 7 p.m.
6 Brunch 9 a.m. PMS Racing, noon Superbowl chili cook-off (halftime)	7	8	9	10 Single Sailors Assoc. meets 6:30 p.m.	11	12 Jack & Jill Race Dinner, Valentine's party, 7 p.m.
13	14 VALENTINE'S DAY	15	16	17	18	19 Tiburon YC cruise-in (thru Monday) Dinner 7 p.m.
20 Deadline for March newsletter	21 PRESIDENTS' DAY	22	23	24	25	26 YRA Race Meeting; see page 3 for details Crab feed
27	28	Mar. 1	2 Board meeting 7 p.m.	3	4	5 Membership meeting, dinner 7 p.m.
6 Brunch 9 a.m. PMS Racing, noon	7	8	9	10 Single Sailors Assoc. meets 6:30 p.m.	11	12 Dinner 7 p.m.
13	14	15	16	17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY	18	19 St. Patrick's party

SHIP'S STORE

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husband Les, invited me to tour her factory this week, and what a fun time that was. I found all kinds of clothing items that would pique the interest of many of you at BBYC, and I purchased several of them. I got three new catalogues that will be available for perusing at the clubhouse. Look for the ones with "2005" written on them.

They just started purchasing rugby shirts, and the one on page 2 of the new Barbarian, Inc., Rugby Wear catalogue would be perfect with our burgee embroidered on it. The shirts are \$62 plus tax. I saw these shirts in person and they are gorgeous. We would have to order six if you're interested, so let me know.

Shirley also told me that if you have something new that you want embroidered, she would do that, too, for a



Kim Crow

Embroidery Factory owner Shirley Housley and employee Arlene with one of their new rugby shirts. At right, some of the many cool things available at our clubhouse for purchase.

mere \$10. It would have to be new though and never worn. She suggested that would be a particularly good idea if you get a turtleneck to go under some of her items. Wouldn't a burgee look great on the neck? Or maybe one of our burgee pins; only \$5.

She can attach polo shirt-type collars onto sweatshirts, if you want, and also does rhinestones, stars, etc.

Shirley has a great eye for colors that go with your particular burgee, etc., and knows just where to place the embroidery.

Stop by the club and look at the catalogues. If I'm not there, just give me a call and tell me what you want to buy. You can reach me at (925) 820-3948

Happy shopping!