

The Whale's Tale

Ballena Bay Yacht Club

Alameda, CA

Volume 2008, Issue 12

December 2008



The Commodore's Report

Alison Robertson



Happy Holidays! It just doesn't seem possible that the year is almost over! November typically starts to wind down, this year however, this past month seemed as busy as ever.

Between our election night/ General Membership dinner, Saturday night dinners, the Commodore's Ball, the South Beach cruise-out and Thanksgiving Orphans Dinner the month flew by. The Commodore's Ball committee did an excellent job! The Club was tastefully decorated, thanks to **Dee Furley**; the music was very good, thanks to **Debbie Scotten**; the food nicely prepared by the caterer and well served by the Sea Scouts. **Bonnie Jensen** took some great photos with decorating help from **JC Miller**. A lot of people pulled together to make the evening very special. Thank you! And speaking of pulling together, I would again like to thank this year's board members for all their hard work and dedication this year. It takes teamwork to keep our club going. Our board members are:

Jeff Fuller, Staff Commodore

Jeff Gear, Vice Commodore



Who are these people? A festive Halloween party orchestrated by Debbie Scotten.

- Dave Hall (Tinker)**, Rear Commodore
- Lowell Crow, Lou Ann Roth and Todd LeCorre**, Directors
- Cheryl Pyle**, Treasurer
- Caroline Oestreicher**, Secretary
- Debbie Scotten**, Social Chair
- Don Boyce**, Port Captain
- Dan Watson**, Race Chair
- Harold Miller & Ray Jensen**, Webmasters
- Gwyn Smith**, Newsletter Editor
- Kim Crow**, Merchandising
- Jeff Fuller**, Cruise-out Chair
- David Alexander**, Historian (and Money Collector)
- Dan Begonia and Daryl Santuray**, PICYA delegates

Thank you! The busy month continued the following weekend and we had eleven boats signed up for the South Beach cruise-out.

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The Vice Commodore's Report

Jeff Gear

Plotting the Course

Greetings! As the season winds down after another great year of dinners, parties, cruise-ins, cruise-outs, seminars, classes and other club activities, I'd like to thank everyone who has graciously volunteered their time and effort to make these events truly memorable for both our members and our honored guests. As you know, our club is completely

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The Cruise-out Report

Jeff Fuller

Cruise News

Hello all. The cruises are cruising along. We went to South Beach November 22-23, with 10 boats attending. I promoted this cruise-out as a chance for early Christmas shopping. Evidently the Crow's didn't think that was enough to do in the City, so they set us up to see Beach Blanket Babylon. Also they reserved space for us to eat at a great Italian restaurant in North Beach, Trattoria Contadina. Thanks **Kim and Lowell** for your help.

To start the New Year right we will cruise-out to Clipper Cove. This is a raft up cruise-out. Many people like to dinghy over to Treasure Island and have a drink at The Treasure Island Yacht Club, then explore the

island. (I may even bring my Walker Bay 10 and show you sailors how to really sail.) **Dan Leinger**, who is an employee of Alamar, as well as one of our members, reminded me that Alamar has up to a week of free stay per year at other Alamar Marinas. Treasure Island is an Alamar Marina, so if you have to have a plug, there may be some spaces available. Ballena Bay Yacht Club is invading Clipper Cove January 10-11. Please sign up for the Clipper Cove cruise-out by emailing or calling me, or signing up at the club.

In '09 I will try to plan a cruise out per month. I will begin setting up the cruise-outs soon, so if you have any good ideas for destinations please let me know.

The Social Report

Debbie Scotten

Here we are at the final month of 2008. Many thanks to the members who participated in our events and dinners throughout the year. I truly appreciate those of you who regularly contributed behind the scenes to ensure we had table settings ready, money collected, tables bussed and anything else that was needed.

December will be starting off with the BOD meeting on December 3rd. Saturday December 6 will be the BBYC annual Christmas Boutique headed by our Merchandise Chair, **Kim Crow**, and then "Soup Night"

featuring Turkey Soup prepared by **Lowell Crow**. We also need cornbread to go along with our soup so let Lowell or myself know if you can help us out. The 6th will also be the 32nd Annual Lighted Boat Parade themed, "An Old Fashioned Christmas". For details, go to www.lightedyachtparade.com.

December 13th will be the BBYC Tree Decorating Party during Happy Hour, followed by a Chicken Spaghetti dinner prepared by our Rear Commodore, **Dave (Tinker) Hall**.

December 20th is our Gift Exchange and Christmas Party Potluck. Everyone bring a gift valued at no more than \$20 and a dish to be shared, then be ready for some fun. After the party we'll sit around the Fireside Lounge, and sing Christmas carols. (Continued on page 4)

The Commodore's Ball



The Commodore's Report

(continued from page 1)

After sailing over a group of us met up for a great Italian dinner in North Beach and then went to see Beach Blanket Babylon. It was a wonderful night full of friendship and fun.

December starts with the Christmas boutique, soup night and the lighted boat parade on the 6th. The Ballena Isle Marina party will be at the club on December 7th. We then have our Saturday night dinners leading up to the New Year's Eve Party. New Years Day is "Around the Island" day. This is always a lot of fun, so please join us in visiting the other Alameda Yacht Clubs to wish them well and see in the New Year. On a final note, I would like to welcome in next year's board members:

Jeff Gear

Commodore

Caroline Oestreicher

Vice Commodore

Dave Hall (Tinker)

Rear Commodore

Lowell Crow, Lou Ann Roth and Scott Shelby, Directors

Dave Hansen

Treasurer

Wanda Viviano

Secretary

Kim Crow

Port Captain

Ray Jensen

Webmaster

Gwyn Smith

Newsletter Editor

Merchandising

Kim Crow

Cruise-out Chair

Jeff Fuller

I wish all the board the best of luck in the coming year. I would also like to extend a special thank you to **Jeff Fuller** for not only taking on the Cruise-out chair position and getting our cruises back on their feet again, but also for being a great source of support and advice. Thank you Jeff.

Don't Miss Ballena Bay Yacht Club's Annual Christmas Boutique

Saturday December 6, 2-5 p.m.
Ballena Bay Yacht Club

There will be lots of items to choose from to complete your Christmas list. We have clothing, accessories, household gifts, jewelry, wine glasses and much, much more.

FREE STUFF!
REFRESHMENTS!

The Vice-Commodore's Report *(continued from page 1)*

volunteer-based and we rely solely on the contributions of members and non-members alike to help plan and execute these events throughout the year.

As I prepare to take the helm of the USS BBYC in 2009, we're still looking for a few able-bodied crewmates to come aboard and help run the ship, plot courses for new and exciting destinations and to make sure we stay off the rocks! So, if you've been wondering "How can I become more active with the club?" (and I'm sure ALL of you have been thinking this), I've got just the solution:

Why don't you sign up for the... Social committee!

At the core of our club, probably the single-most common event that brings us together in fellowship are the weekly Saturday dinners and the volunteer cooks (I'd prefer to call them chefs!) who devote their culinary skills to ensure that a good meal is had by all.

We're looking for a select group of individuals who can help plan these weekly dinners and work together to assist these chefs in their efforts. As a member of the Social Committee, you're not expected to cook these meals, but to simply provide your guidance and organizational skills to help coordinate these meals to the benefit of all our members!

Communications Committee!

Calling all Photoshop experts! We're looking for individuals who can assist in the creation of digital and print collateral to help advertise the many events, seminars, field trips and other activities that BBYC sponsors each year. Not only will your work be prominently displayed on the BBYC website, but your artistic

creations will be distributed to club members, fellow yacht clubs and other organizations that have an interest in our activities. I'll even throw in a new box of Crayolas (64-pack) if you sign up!

Race Committee!

Are you interested in learning how a sailing race is planned and executed? Want to know how race courses are determined according to wind and tide conditions? Ever wondered what the various racing visual flags and audible signals mean? Have you lost sleep at night figuring out how to calculate race standings according to time-on-time and time-on-distance results?

If you answered "Yes" to any of these questions, you should become a member of the BBYC race committee! This is an excellent way for beginning and advanced sailors to participate in the exciting world of yacht racing while also learning and perfecting the fine art of boat handling, sail trim, race tactics and navigational skills in a low-key environment.

Pacific Inter-Club Yacht Association (PICYA) Delegates!

The PICYA is a San Francisco-based organization designed to promote inter-club communication, yachting activities and social interactions amongst the various 100+ Northern California participating yacht clubs.

We're looking for members who are interested in representing BBYC at the monthly PICYA meetings and reporting back information that may be of interest to our club members. This is a great way to network with fellow yacht club organizations and to gain insights into the overall activities of the general yacht club population. Oh, by the way, did I mention that you get a free meal, compliments of BBYC, at these

monthly meetings?

If you're interested in becoming a crewmate on the good ship BBYC and helping out with any of the above positions, don't hesitate to contact me via phone at 510-207-8701 or via email at vicecommodore@bbyc.org.

Finally, in keeping with the event theme, don't forget to sharpen your pencils and put the following two events down on your calendars:

Around The Island January 1st, New Years Day

Start off the New Year in the company of your fellow friends and sailors by visiting all the yacht clubs (6) in Alameda. Each club will be open and will have small treats in store for all visitors. BBYC will be serving up hot soup and tasty hot dogs and hamburgers for your New Year taste buds!

Crab Feed January 17th

Put your bibs on and be prepared to feast on crab, crab and more crab! A very popular event, this one fills up fast so mark your calendar today!

Thanks again for a great year and I'm looking forward to an even better 2009!

The Social Report *(continued from page 2)*

If you play an instrument, bring it along.

At this time, there is no Dinner planned for December 27th, however the club and lounge will be open.

Wednesday, December 31st will be our Rockin' New Year's Eve Party. For the party we ask that everyone bring an appetizer and be ready to party all night long, ringing in the New Year with great food, fun and friends.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all!

DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Board of Directors Meeting	4	5	6 Boutique/ Soup night/ Lighted Boat Parade
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 Dinner 7:00 pm
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 Dinner 7:00 pm
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Dinner 7:00 pm
28	29	30 Board of Directors Meeting	31 New Year's Eve Party			

JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Around the Island	2	3 Membership Meeting/Dinner 7:00 pm
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Dinner 7:00 pm Clipper Cove Cruise-out
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Crab Feed 7:00 pm
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 Dinner 7:00 pm
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 Dinner 7:00 pm

The Rear Commodore's Report

Dave "Tinker" Hall

Well, it's December and another year is coming to a close. For the most part is has been an enjoyable and prosperous year. We will make our earnings forecasts, and then some.

A couple of little nits about the bar. I have given up using the garnish trays, because nobody ever looks. So I will keep lemons and limes in the reefer. Cherries and olives are in the small reefer at the end of and under the bar. So if you need a lime slice, take one out of the reefer, cut as much as you want and PUT IT BACK. The put it back is very important. If fruit is left on the cutting board we

get fruit flies, a real nuisance. They get into everything including liquor bottles. I have had to pour some out on occasion.

I am not paid to clean the bar every night; actually I am not paid at all. If I have to close and clean up the bar every night it will be available a lot less than now. It is an Honor Bar and a volunteer club, so don't leave a mess for others.

Off my soapbox, it has been a good year and I look forward to being your Rear Commodore for another year.

Happy Holidays and good cheer to all.

The Merchandise Report

Kim Crow

It's time for our annual Christmas Boutique, Saturday, December 6, from 2-5 pm. You can enjoy free refreshments as you shop our selection of cool nautical stuff, fantastic embroidered clothing and accessories, wine glasses and household items; and Karen Nepstad will be there again with her beautiful handmade jewelry. There will be a "free" table, as well as several discounted items. If you have to order something, it will be guaranteed to arrive in plenty of time for Christmas giving.

Stop by and shop before soup night and the Lighted Boat Parade!



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