

# The Whale's Tale

Ballena Bay Yacht Club

Alameda, CA

Volume 2009, Issue 10

October, 2009



## The Commodore's Report

Jeff Gear



As the year begins to wind down, it's time to start thinking about everyone's favorite topic: Ballena Bay Yacht Club elections! Yes, that's right, we've got to elect another round of able-bodied yachtsmen and yachtswomen to take the helm of the good ship BBYC.

The following elected positions are available for next year:

- Commodore
- Vice Commodore
- Rear Commodore
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Director

Interested? Feel free to express your interest to any member of the BBYC board and we'll make sure it gets passed on to this year's nominating committee. In addition, we will be accepting nominations from the floor during the October Membership meeting to be held on October 3rd.

The whole process election process culminates in the general election held during the November  
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*The raft-up at Half Moon Bay on Labor Day weekend.*

## The Vice Commodore's Report

Caroline Oestreicher

This is, without a doubt, my favorite time of year here in the Bay Area. I hope everyone is taking advantage of the warm days and crisp evenings. The Texas Single Sailors were here earlier last month. I do believe they had a pretty darn good time. **Ron Fudala** organized a BBQ dinner for them and with help from **Jeff Simson** on the grill, his wife **Karen** in the kitchen, **Scott Shelby** and **Jeff Fuller** at the bar and myself, we showed them what a friendly and talented

club we are! I begged Perry to not let me break into my southern drawl, although I might have said "howdy" more than once. However, I did not put on the Buck Owens CD. That's showing some self-control. They were a charming group and I look forward to hosting them again next year.

So, now it's time to settle into fall and reconnect with your BBYC family. Come to dinner or better yet, do a dinner, have a cocktail or two, enjoy a little music.

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**The Whale's Tale** is 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 e-mail to: *editor@bbyc.org*. Photographs are welcome and should always include a caption and photo credit.

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# The Cruise-out Report

Jeff Fuller

A tradition for us at The Ballena Bay Yacht Club is the annual cruise-out to the Half Moon Bay Yacht Club over Labor Day weekend. I was having too much fun to count all of the boats that made the ocean voyage from Ballena, but I think we had eight or nine.

The seas were calm going down on Saturday with occasional fog. The trip back was a little rougher but still quite comfortable. As always, the club was quite hospitable. Their new building is great. They now have a spacious dining facility with guest showers. For many of us, walking through town and finding bargains at the Twice As Nice warehouse is

the highlight of the cruise. I always buy reading glasses for about \$3 a pair. I almost bought a French door refrigerator but I couldn't figure out how to put it in my boat to get it home.

PS: Thank you everyone for taking the time to put down your anchors in the harbor. Our boats stayed in one place.

Our next scheduled cruise-out is another popular one. We are cruising to San Francisco Yacht Club the weekend of November 21 and 22. This popular destination in Belvedere is truly a world class club. Please plan to attend. Sign up at the club, by email or phone me.



# The Half Moon Bay Cruise-out

Photos by Lowell Crow



## The Port Captain's Report

Kim Crow

Well, we have one more cruise-in for 2009, and that will take place October 7-10 when Stockton Yacht Club visits with a flotilla of 15 boats/30 people. Wow! Unfortunately, they will not be at the club for dinner on Saturday night, but are very excited to visit our club, especially the bar. How about some of you members showing up on Friday, the 9<sup>th</sup>, and giving them a BBYC welcome? Jim Kopshever is the coordinator.

Oxbow Yacht Club cruised in September 17-19, and **Linda Fenn** enthusiastically took my place as Port Captain as I was out of town for a high school reunion. **Monica Ley** was in charge of the dinner that night with assist from Master Griller **Jim LaMar**. I write this before the cruise



in, but know they had a fabulous time. There were nine boats.

I've already received an email from Coyote Point Yacht Club who will be our first cruise in of 2010. They want to visit the weekend of January 23/24 with 10-15 boats and

will be joining us for dinner. How about some of you members who haven't cooked getting together and putting on the dog for them (not literally, of course) and preparing a dinner? Let me know. They're very excited about visiting us again.

# The Merchandise Report

Kim Crow

Well, fall is in the air and pretty soon the holidays will be upon us; and you know what that means. Our annual Christmas Boutique is almost here. We've set the date for December 5 from 2-5 pm. That's also the evening of the Lighted Boat Parade and Soup Night. Alison and Lowell will be preparing scrumptious soups to warm you up either before or after the parade, and I will have many items for you to check out for yourself or for gifts. I'll even have some good sales.

So, come on down to support your club and remember those you love with a special gift from our boutique.

## The Commodore's Report

*(continued from page 1)*

membership meeting where BBYC members will be able to cast their ballots. So, if you haven't already marked your calendar, plan to attend the upcoming membership meeting and participate in this time-honored BBYC tradition.

In other news, I'm happy to report that the Doldrums of August are over and social activities are picking up again. Thanks to all participants and we're looking for a strong finish as we enter into Fall and the upcoming holiday season.

As always, don't forget to volunteer for one of our many events! See you at the club!

## The Half Moon Bay Cruise-Out

Lowell Crow



We were the only BBYC members tied up in the marina while everyone else was rafted up out in the harbor. However, I believe we got the best deal. It was a cacophony of animal sounds and activity at the Pillar Point Harbor marina on Labor Day weekend.

Sea lions (big ones) and seals were continuously feeding on sardines throughout the marina. Sardines were so abundant in the marina that one guy close to our boat caught about 200 sardines (according to his count) in just a few hours. He even had to occasionally stop and rest his wrists from all the casting and reeling-in.

Both nights we spent there were interrupted by sea lions scraping the bottom of our boat which was actually lifted up at one point. Quite a sensation in the middle of the night! I was mistakenly under the impression that these critters would sleep at night, but no. I'm not really complaining because it was all so surreal.

The seals, sea lions, pelicans, gulls and all the other birds were as prolific as the Portuguese language all over the public fishing pier and breakwater surrounding the marina. One morning I was awakened by the sound of barking seals. I went up to the public fishing pier and witnessed a seal-feeding frenzy. Literally hundreds of seals were chasing (or herding) a large school of sardines around the harbor. On key, they would commence feeding in calamitous frenzy. This was a spectacular sight!

The Sunday night bash thrown by Half Moon Bay Yacht Club was terrific. The food was great, the company was great, and the singer with the band was outstanding.

Going to HMB, we had overcast and fog but visibility was relatively good. On the way back, the swells were fairly big as you can see, but there was no fog with good visibility. This is one of the two best cruise-outs of the year. Don't miss it next year.



# OCTOBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Griller's Beer Can Series #14	3 Membership Meeting/Dinner 7:00 pm
4	5	6	7 Stockton YC Cruise-in	8	9	10 Dinner 7:00 pm
11	12	13	14	15	16 Griller's Beer Can Series #15	17 Dinner 7:00 pm
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 Dinner 7:00 pm
25	26	27	28	29	30 Griller's Beer Can Series #16	31 Halloween Party Whale's Chase Race #6

# NOVEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 Membership Meeting/Dinner 7:00 pm
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Commodore's Ball 7:00 pm
15	16	17	18 Mariner's School Testing	19	20	21 Dinner 7:00 pm San Francisco YC Cruise-out
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 Thanksgiving Dinner
29	30					

# The Rear Commodore's Report

Dave "Tinker" Hall

Everyone, it's that little ole winedrinker.

After a very quiet August, September started with a bang. We served a steak dinner to a group of sailors from Texas. A great party group and the second time we have done this. They all had a great time and said they will be back. We can thank them for the TV in the bar, we bought it from the proceeds the last time they were here.

Dinner was well attended on the 19th. Around sixty meals served. So September is shaping up to be one of the best months of the year. Then Oktoberfest and Halloween

this month.

Our new cleaning crew is doing a fantastic job, and members have been great about picking up during the week. Kudos to all who have pitched in.

I changed two of our red wines, basically because Jacobs Creek was no longer available from my chosen distributor. The new wines are Castle Rock Merlot and Aquinas Cabernet, so give them a try. Mmm Mmm good.

September has been busy and it is always great to see members here enjoying their club, soooooo... keep coming to the club, I really like the company.

*Why do ships and aircraft in trouble use 'mayday' as their call for help?*

*This comes from the French word m'aidez, meaning 'help me' and is pronounced 'mayday'.*



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