



Commodore's Report



GREG WHITE

WITH THE days getting longer as the season progresses, and the weather getting nicer with the coming of summer, it's time to once again reflect upon why we are here.

What makes a yacht club? Is it the building? The location? The bar? The immediate access to water? Okay, the water may be a key factor. Yacht clubs are found all over the country. What makes each of them so special is the *people*. The interaction that comes from similar interests united in a common goal—to have fun in a boating atmosphere!

This does not mean we must spend all of our time on our boats, or that we can only have *fun* on our boats...it means we are bound together by a shared interest in boats—something we all love or we wouldn't be here. Let's face it, we're not a company out to make a profit by becoming the next great area restaurant. We are never going to get rich by supplying food and drink to the masses of consumers in the Bay Area. We don't build boats, nor do we teach sailing for profit. Our one greatest commodity is the *fun* we have with each other, and our general nature to want to share this fun with others! Our wealth is in the friendships we have made and build upon each day. It is the friendships and the fun that sustain us—keeping us happy and healthy—in our day to day lives.

In the last month, we've had some wonderful events, such as the *Titanic* theme party, which not only commemorated a significant moment in history, but helped some of us forget briefly that it was also tax season! The costumes people wore were incredible, and laughter and fun, along with the live music, helped to make the evening grand. Special thanks to Danny Reynolds who supplied six tickets to the San Francisco Giants

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The Whale's Tale

BALLENA BAY YACHT CLUB • ALAMEDA, CALIFORNIA



David Alexander

Some of the well dressed "passengers" aboard the BBYC *Titanic*, April 12th at the club.

Eight New Bartenders Pour Through Exam; Handy Members Pitch In on Club Fixups

THE BOARD adopted this year's budget at our April meeting, and it doesn't propose any increase in dues. In order to make ends meet, however, we will need to earn about \$9,500 more from the bar. Hopefully, this goal can be met through your continued patronage and a few price adjustments.

To equalize the profit margin on our well drinks, we'll be switching the well scotch to Ballentine and serving only Jim Beam as the well bourbon. Our house cab and chardonnay will be RH Phillips, which outclassed all the others in our recent wine tasting, but we will continue to have the BV available for \$4 a glass.

Rear Commodore



BETH FRIEDMAN

As liquor prices continue to escalate, there will be changes to some of the "back bar" prices as well.

We have an "honor bar" that works well for us, but it does require the cooperation of all members. It is important that the no more than \$15 in ones and fives be left in the register at the bar. We have a lockbox near the entry to the bar and excess money

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BBYC RACING

Friday Beer Cans

May 16

June 20

July 18

August 15

SBYRA Race

Saturday, May 17

Jack & Jill Race

Saturday, May 31

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The Whale's Tale

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Please save articles for submission as plain text (no formatting) and send by e-mail to editor@bbyc.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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baseball games, which were given out as prizes for best costume! For those six lucky recipients, the night was even more magical. We were fortunate to share this event with the Sausalito Yacht Club, which had cruised in that evening, donned period apparel, and joined in the festivities.

If you missed out on the *Titanic* party, we have several more upcoming events for you to and enjoy. Sunday, May 4, we will be having brunch at the club. This monthly event has been well attended with rave reviews! We have also been invited to a Cinco de Mayo party by the Single Sailors Association at the Alameda Yacht Club at Fortman Marina. Single Sailors have been great supporters this year, so let's get out there and support them. Sign-up sheets are posted at the club. Always a popular event, the KFOG KaBoom! is scheduled for May 10th. Great food, fun and fireworks accompanied by music makes for a wonderful social occasion. Also, let's not forget about the SBYRA race and dinner on the 17th, or the Jack & Jill race and dinner on the 31st.

We're here to have *fun!* And we exist to share in that fun! So get out there, support your club and *have some fun.*

Friday Beer Can Races Begin this Month; Jack & Jill Return for Better Weather May 31

BY BRITTA FJELSTROM

WITH THE days getting longer and the wind getting stronger, it's time to start perfecting your sailing skills (not to mention your right-of-way rules) by racing! There are many opportunities to race in a friendly competitive atmosphere. The Ballena Bay beer can series starts May 16th. These Friday night races are the perfect way to start your weekend. All types of sailboats and skill levels are welcome.

May 17 marks the SBYRA Series #2 race hosted by Ballena Bay Yacht Club. If you would like to participate in the race, contact the SBYRA at <http://home.attbi.com/~sbyra/>. If racing is not your thing, maybe you

would enjoy being part of the Race Committee. I need a few volunteers to help with timing, flags, guns, horns, etc. No experience is necessary and I would be happy to "show you the ropes." Race Committee offers an amazing perspective of sailboat racing and it can be quite exciting, especially if the committee boat is favored.

On May 31, back after a three month postponement, is the popular Jack & Jill Race. This is a double-handed male/female race around Treasure Island. So grab your significant other (or someone you wish was your significant other) and get ready for a fun-filled day of racing. Sign up for any race at the club, or e-mail me at race@bbyc.org.

Goodbye Jack, Hello Bill, at May 29th Party

Ballena Isle Marina will host a "Farewell-Hello Party" from 4 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 29th, at the club. We'll be saying farewell to Jack Bollander, our Harbormaster, and his wife Dorothy, who has kept the marina office ticking. They will be retiring and heading east to Nevada. We will miss them both. We will have the opportunity to say hello to our new Harbormaster, Bill Chase, who is transferring up here from the Almar Marina at Ventura North.

REAR COMMODORE

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should be put in there for safekeeping. The last member in the club needs to lockup securely when they leave.

Eight members joined Wendie Nelson, Tom Miller and me for bartender training on March 22nd. A great time was had by all—especially when we got to the field testing segment! You'll see some new faces behind the bar now, so please be patient. Since it gets a little confusing when several people are behind the bar, the chain may be up when we have an assigned bartender. When no bartender is assigned, members can continue to go behind the bar and pour their own drinks. Please remember that our drinks are priced out using a one and a half ounce shot, that drinks using well liquor and juice (Screwdrivers, Tequila Sunrise, Painkillers, etc.) are \$3, and that Bloody Marys and Margaritas are \$3.50. The Social Committee is authorized to provide a free dinner to the chef and selected galley slaves, but the bar isn't authorized to provide free drinks to anyone.

George Lohmeier and his crew, Jim Gallagher and Dave Tucker, did an outstanding job on the new handrails on the patio. Thanks so much! Thanks also to Jim LaMar for replacing the faucet in the galley and welding our bronze sailboat back together, and to Roman Rivas for moving the lockbox at the bar to a more secure position. Kudos to Jeff Fuller and Guy Frank for keeping the humidor well-stocked with fine cigars, and to those intrepid bartenders who make our evenings so much more enjoyable. We're very lucky to have so many members willing to donate their time and skills to make the club even better!

Menus

For updated information visit
www.bbyc.org

Social Committee Notes

BY DAVID ALEXANDER

APRIL STARTED out as a rough month for the Social Committee. We had no host for the April 5th meeting night, so we hosted it ourselves. **George Lohmier** and **Becky Ser-rage** delivered the food while **Jeanette Clark** and yours truly, **David Alexander**, set up the dining room. Our master chef **Jim LaMar** got the fire going for a mixed grill.

The next morning Jim was cooking again. He helped the Sunday brunch hosts **Linda and Marty Chin** serve 43 people from our club plus the Single Sailors Association. George and Becky joined the crew at 7 a.m. to have breakfast ready by 9 o'clock. It was a busy morning!

April 12th was our *Titanic* party, the month's theme event. We had 55 folks join us for fresh crab. **Jim LaMar** grilled fresh oysters as hors d'oeuvres. The stars of the night were **Mario Garcia** (owner of the Lighthouse Restaurant) and **Guy Frank**. They served fantastic crab and pasta with garlic butter. I have been to may crab feeds at the club since 1985 and this was the best one yet! Thank you very much.

We had a major rain storm but our guests from Sausalito Yacht Club cruised across the bay or drove to BBYC. The weather impacted attendance but we had a good time. **Bob and Gail Stivers** cooked a mixed grill of beef, chicken and sausage with assistance from **Jim LaMar**. As you will note elsewhere in this issue some of our guests that night dressed in 1912 era costume. During dinner we heard from the Captain (a guest from SYC), the ship's Marine Architect (**Les Clark**) and the lookout (**Mike Keelen**). I want to thank all who participated in this special event. The Jim Franz Trio got us on the dance floor after dinner.

The crab feed on April 19th was almost cancelled for lack of signups but we changed our minds. We had more than 40 folks join us for fresh crab provided for us by **Mario Garcia** (owner of the Lighthouse Restaurant) and **Mike Keelen** with several others. We had a cruise-out to Coyote Point on March 26th so we had no planned dinner at the club. That doesn't mean that we didn't have one. It just wasn't planned.

May is even more problematic than was April. The club's calendar was changed a bit to accommodate the KaBoom! fireworks display on the San Francisco waterfront. So on May 3rd there is a cruise-out and a business meeting and there will be a dinner. We will probably do a barbeque with steak and chicken hosted by the Social Committee.

The KaBoom! fireworks display is on the night of May 10th and most of our active members will be out on the bay to watch the display. There will be no dinner that evening. We will have dinner on May 17th, but the menu isn't set yet. (Don't you love surprises?) May 24th is Memorial Day weekend with a cruise-out so there will not be a planned dinner at the club that night. But *you* could put one together!

I also want to add a special thank you to **Tom Huestis**. Tom had not been inducted yet as a new member in March when he offered to put on a dinner as dinner for that night had been cancelled. He cooked a pork and sauerkraut dinner for 25 of us nearly by himself. That was a wonderful example of "spur of the moment" adaption. This exemplifies the spirit of our club. We can make it happen.

Let's eat again real soon.

Boat Smart. Boat Safe.

Scene at the Club



Julie Fillippini, iceberg decorator and member of Single Sailors Association stands next to her creation and the doomed *Titanic*.



Lowell and Kim Crow and Barbara and Burt Masters were among the members attending the *Titanic* party.

Photos: David Alexander

It was a dark and stormy night...literally on April 12 at the Ballena Bay Yacht Club and historically in the middle of the Atlantic aboard the *Titanic* on April 15, 1912. The most stalwart amongst us braved the elements and went to a swell *Titanic* party, just as 90 years ago a few stalwart survived the sinking of the *Titanic*, not the least of whom was the "Unsinkable" Molly Brown. She not only didn't sink, she showed up at our party with her cabin boy. They were very deservedly two of the winners of the Best Costume award. There were many great costumes—mostly women with all the finery of the day—beautiful gowns, gloves, shawls, large hats, and jewelry, jewelry, jewelry, in the over-accessorized style of the day.

What a swell party Dave Alexander put on Saturday night—the cat's meow. We just wanted to thank him and the many cooks and helpers behind the scenes that helped make this a night to remember, not unlike the original *Titanic* "party" back in 1912. The mixed grill of chicken, pork and sausage was done just right and delicious, as were the carrots and potatoes. The salad was tasty as always and the desserts were a wonderful array of confections. Dave even put together a script depicting the final moments of the *Titanic*, brilliantly executed by conscripts. The decorations included an "iceberg" with a small *Titanic*-like ship, and paper/foam plates with the centers cut out taped up on the windows to resemble portholes. A couple of the members went outside to see if they looked anymore like portholes from the outside than they did from the inside. They joked that, "No, they look like paper plates with holes in them." We all had a good laugh.

The three-piece band was fantastic, *and* we found out that the drummer used to play with Duke Ellington. Wow! They played songs that were popular in the early 1900s, and many of us cut a rug on the dance floor.

We thoroughly enjoyed visiting with Sausalito Yacht Club members. What friendly, upbeat folks. Of course, the highlight of their visit was their invitation to tour the Captain's huge boat, complete with sun room, two bedrooms, a living room, and kitchen with full size refrigerator. It was beautiful and the hosts were so gracious.

Wonderful people.

A very fun night.

— Kim Crow

Five New Members Approved in April

AT OUR April 5th meeting we inducted five new members. They are Tom Huestis, Diane and Gary Thompson, and Dennis and Karen Webb. Please look for them at the club and welcome

Vice Commodore



LESTER CLARK

them aboard. Also posted on the board are four more "pending" members and they will be approved and inducted at this month's meeting.

The fireplace project is progressing. The gas line was located by PG&E. Tom Miller and I met with PG&E and apparently our next step is to get some independent bids for running a trench from the existing gas line to the northwest corner of our building. The gas line stub is located in the parking lot in front of the clubhouse building. I met with Jack Bolander and he has expressed interest in running the gas line and may share the cost with us. Our pledges for this project so far is approximately \$3,300 and climbing. We are currently getting bids for the trenching.

MAY & JUNE 2003

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				May 1	2	3 Membership Meeting, Dinner 7 p.m.
4 Brunch 9-11 a.m.	5	6	7	8 Single Sailors Assoc. 6:30 p.m.	9 Potluck Dinner, Dancing 7 p.m.	10 KFOG KaBoom! No dinner planned
11	12	13	14	15	16 Beer Can Race	17 SBYRA Race Dinner 7 p.m.
18	19	20 Newsletter deadline for June issue	21 CPR and First Aid Class 6-10 p.m.	22	23 Potluck Dinner, Dancing 7 p.m.	24 Cruise-out to Angel Island (thru Monday) No dinner planned
25	26 MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY	27	28	29 Marina Farewell-Hello Party 4-7 p.m.	30	31 Jack & Jill Race Dinner 7 p.m.
June 1 Brunch 9-11 a.m.	2	3	4 Board Meeting 7 p.m.	5	6	7 Membership Meeting, Dinner 7 p.m.
8 Rockin' for Relay 4-8 p.m.	9	10	11	12 Single Sailors Assoc. 6:30 p.m.	13 Potluck Dinner, Dancing 7 p.m.	14 Dinner 7 p.m.

New Members



David Alexander

Vice Commodore Les Clark welcomes Ward and Dawn Fulcher, Tom Heustis, Karen and Dennis Webb.

CPR, First Aid Class Offered on May 21

On Wednesday, May 21st, a CPR and First Aid class will be held at the club from 6 until 10 p.m. Cost is \$35 for CPR only, or \$45 for both CPR and First Aid. Contact Leilani Lee at (510) 501-2195 for information and reservations.

Janet Lenore Band to Rock for Relay, June 8

Come Rockin' for Relay! on Sunday, June 8th. Two of the teams participating in the American Cancer Society's *Relay for Life* will hold a fundraiser at BBYC. The Janet Lenore Band will provide music for dancing from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. for a minimum donation of \$5 per person with dinner available for an additional donation. Net proceeds will go to Relay for Life.

Cruisë-outs
 David Tucker, Cruise Chair
 Angel Island May 24-26
 Berkeley YC June 21-22
 Delta Cruise, Hilton fireworks July 1-6
 San Francisco Yacht Club July 26-27
 Half Moon Bay YC Aug. 30-Sept. 1
 Sequoia YC Sept. 27-28



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