



The Commodore Reports

ANN WEINZIERL

IT'S THE FUNNY season and the elections are upon us. At least at BBYC they are a bit more civil. Did anyone even *know* there are elections going on at the club? Saturday, November 6th, is Election Day. The ballots will be available from noon until about 8 p.m. when the last polling call is made before they are counted. Although the nominations are closed write-ins are allowed. There's a great slate of candidates that have stepped forward and agreed to handle club business next year. I salute them all as I "run for the hills"...literally...the first of the ski slopes have opened and I'm ready to temporarily trade the City by the Bay for Tahoe and points beyond.

Speaking of skiing, I've been in touch with Bev Partridge and she's making her Incline Village home available for us to lease again this year. I'm gathering up names of interested individuals and we will have a sign-up meeting in early December. The lease runs from January 1st through March 31st and participation is for the entire period. If you are interested in using the house on a guest or "space available" basis, let me know. I'm putting together a list of interested people for that as well. The best way to get on the list is to e-mail me at: commodore@bbyc.org.

One of the most important issues in keeping the club vibrant and viable is our membership. Our membership tends to wax and wane with the constant in-flow and out-flow of berthers in the marina. Since Ballena Isle Marina is one of the priciest in the bay that is not surprising. We need to be continually diligent in making sure we offer membership opportunity to our new neighbors in the marina. With that in mind, the board has

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The Whale's Tale

BALLENA BAY YACHT CLUB • ALAMEDA, CALIFORNIA



Lowell Crow

Sarah Sutton, Sylvia Nelson and Kathy Rees preparing south of the border salad to go with the tequila lime chicken with mango salsa on September 25th.

Something new in club racing: get ready for Post Midwinter Series

BY WARD FULCHER, RACE CHAIR

AH, AUTUMN when a racer's fancy turns to thoughts of haulouts and saving that deposit for the sailmaker to get the Winter discount on a new suit...crew may have to make their own sandwiches next season, except I used Max's to get 'em hooked. Considering that's the main expense of sailing in our club races, you've gotta figure it's a cheap hobby, so BBYC is set to help you shed holiday tonnage (without shedding wallet-age) in our new Post Midwinter Series.

PMS racing will take place on our local three-buoy course after brunch the first Sunday of February, March and April. If it's raining or blowy we go (within reason) and if there's no wind we'll just drift and—well—eat.

Seriously, it'll be a great way to get your boat out at least once a month during the "slow" season and keep all the moving parts moving—nothing seems to run a boat down faster than not being used, and we'll remember all those little "to-dos" that got lost in



Lowell Crow

Sarah Sutton, working as master chef on September 25th, and Ward Fulcher.

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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@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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approved a new offer to existing members. Anyone that brings in a new membership, application is the signer on the *first* line, and that application is approved...gets a \$50 credit for dinner at the club. So go out there and recruit your docks! Our membership is about the same as it was last year this time but with the recent rent increase we need to continue to increase our membership or increase dues.

One of the best things about belonging to a yacht club is cruising. This month on the weekend between the election and the Commodore's Ball, November 13th, Benicia Yacht Club is cruising-in. If you are in town that weekend please stop by and welcome our friends from Benicia.

The Commodore's Ball is all set for November 20th. We will be celebrating our 35th Anniversary. The caterer is serving beef or salmon. This event must be RSVP'd and pre-paid. Make sure you get yours in ASAP. I've received threats from abroad that several past and/or cruising members may be in attendance. That's all the hint you are going to get...you'll have to show up to know whom. After all...it is our 35th Anniversary. What would an anniversary party be without at least one or two or three blasts from the past?

There are several other events coming up you may want to note on your calendars: November 25 Annual Orphan's Thanksgiving Dinner. Someone last year asked me if we brought in children and served them at the club. I laughed and said "well kind of." The orphans are any club member, friend, family, and/or neighbor that would like to come to the club for Thanksgiving dinner. The club buys the turkey and members sign-up to bring the side dishes. It is a lot of fun and usually has a large turn out. I think we had 40 people last year.

December 3rd is my company's annual Christmas party. The company rents the club and pays for a band. The band is Second Date. You may have heard them play before. It is the band with the lead singer that does several costume changes. You are all welcome to hang in the bar, enjoy the band, and celebrate the holidays with us. Also, Tinker has threatened to make his egg nog soon!

December 18th...the Annual Gift Exchange...this is fun! Be nice with the gag gifts this year...or else! December 19th...annual marina Christmas party...*ho ho ho*—free drinks on Almar! I expect to see every pirate on deck by high noon! *Arrggghhh!*



David Alexander

New members

New members Nancy and Ed Branco

Social Committee Notes

*Be glad there's one place in the world
Where everybody knows your name,
And they're always glad you came;
You want to go where people know,
People are all the same;
You want to go where everybody knows your name.*

—From the theme song from “Cheers”

BY KIM CROW

AS I REFLECT on this past year as social co-chair along with **Shelly Cramer**, that song came into my head. When I took on the position of co-chair, I didn't realize how many benefits were involved, the most important being the camaraderie and downright friendliness of so many of our members. It truly is a place where everyone knows your name. I urge each of you to think about how you could contribute to the club (after all, it is an all volunteer club) in some small or big way. And then, you know what? Everyone will know your name, too.

But, let's go back to September 25th when **Sarah Sutton** and **Ward Fulcher** cooked for Salsa Night. Their menu included pork loin, chicken salad, stir-fry peppers, onions and garlic, and cheese cake. The salsa part was a little salsa dancing thrown into the mix. Thanks, Sarah and Ward.



Kim Crow

“Hey, no cuts.” David Tucker and Shelly Cramer in the queue for Commodore Annie's Oktoberfest meal.

October 2nd had **Tinker Dave** in the kitchen again preparing (for 50 people) his famous Bushmill Steak (rib-eye cut), 1940 Caesar Salad, roasted potatoes in garlic oil, stir-fried veggies, rolls, apple and cranberry crisp, ice cream and cheese cake. Tinker said that he talked **Tom Miller** into cooking—Tom's final act before leaving for points south with wife **Diane**.

October 3 was another of our delicious Sunday brunches. October 16th had **Commodore Annie** in the kitchen again (and for three days) preparing a fabulous Oktoberfest meal. She had some hard working assistants in **Fran McAbee**, **Allison Roberts**, **Linda Chin** and **Shelly Cramer**. Her menu included pork and sauerkraut, red cabbage, hot German potato salad, green salad, creamed spinach, corn bread, ambrosia, apple strudel (she made 30!), German chocolate cake and ice cream. Thank heavens we had almost 100 people, and still there were leftovers enough to feed 20 people (at \$7 a pop) the following Monday for Monday night football and/or baseball at the club.

It was good to see **Bob Peterson** and **Monica Ley** again that night. Bob was really hustling behind the bar. Also, members **Mary and Armen Stephens** cruised-in with the San Jose Sailing Club, so we enjoyed catching up with them. Armen said he'd help with the cruise-ins next year. Thanks, Armen.

Spinnaker Yacht Club and San Jose Sailing Club cruised-in for this fabulous event and I even heard that the Spinnaker Past Commodore said,



David Alexander

Diane and Tom Miller bid us farewell before they began a cruise to San Diego and beyond.

“I've eaten in many German restaurants and this was the best German food I've ever eaten.” Yea, Annie!

October 23 was a cruise-out to Angel Island, so no meal was planned. October 30 was the Halloween party with **Jim LaMar's** famous tacos.

Now we're up to November. New chef **Bob Carr** will be cooking for the general membership meeting/dinner on November 6. He's planning on cioppino (for seafood lovers) along with lasagna (one meat and one veggie), plus salad and apple crisp for dessert. This is also election night, so you won't want to miss that.

The next day, November 7th, there will be another Sunday brunch. November 13th will find another new chef, **Nancy Branco**, in the kitchen. Check at the clubhouse for posted menus for these meals.

November 20th is the Commodore's Ball. **Linda Fenn** is the chairwoman of this catered affair, which includes dancing. Black tie optional. The theme is the 35th anniversary of BBYC. I'm gathering memorabilia, pictures, etc., from years past to display. If any of you have anything you'd like to share, please bring it along, or, better yet, let me know now so that I can organize it ahead of time as part of the decorations. I will, of course, return everything as

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David Alexander

New members Stephanie and John Popham.



David Alexander

Rear Commodore Jerry Barnes.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

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received. **Leslie Shiller** and **Sarah Sutton** have volunteered to help with the decorations. These classy gals will do a beautiful job for this lovely event that gives us all a chance to show our appreciation for all **Commodore Annie's** done for BBYC. Look for your invitation in the mail, dust off your party clothes, and plan to have a great time and some great food, too.

The following Thursday, November 25th, is Thanksgiving. How about all the family-less (at that time) getting together for a turkey dinner?

Since the following Saturday is part of the four-day Thanksgiving weekend, there is no meal planned for that evening, November 27th, and there will be no brunch on the 28th.

So, there you have it up until December. What a busy social club we have.

In closing, I would just like to urge each of you to consider taking on the task of helping your new 2005 officers in whatever way you are able to. You can sign up for just one day a year, offering any assistance necessary for that day. You can sign up to be a cook, or just a potato peeler or table setter. You can sign up to help with the cruise ins or cruise outs. There are multitudinous ways that you can volunteer at the club, because...

*Sometimes you want to go
Where everybody knows your name,
And they're always glad you came.*

Cheers!

RACING NEWS

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the holiday shuffle. If you've never raced, there's no better chance to try it out and see how casual PMS (and later, Friday night) racing can be, or to start breaking in crew for more serious racing.

As always, your suggestions are important; I just make this race chair stuff up as I go so collar me in the bar during Monday Night Football, give me a jingle, e-mail me at race@bbyc.org, or wrap a note around a rock and throw it through my window.

Upcoming topics: racing as "cruising with a focus," mentoring, where we can all poach crew if we're short, Interclub Series, and basic racing and crewing seminars.

Commodore's Ball

NOVEMBER 20

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2004

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--------------------|--------|---------|------------------------------|--|--------|---|
| | Nov. 1 | 2 | 3 Board meeting 7 p.m. | 4 | 5 | 6 Election, membership meeting, dinner 7 p.m. |
| 7 Brunch 9 a.m. | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 VETERANS DAY Single Sailors Assoc. 7:30 p.m. | 12 | 13 Benicia YC cruise-in Dinner 7 p.m. |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 Commodore's Ball Deadline for December newsletter |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 THANKSGIVING DAY Orphan's dinner | 26 | 27 No dinner planned |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | Dec. 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 Dinner 7 p.m. Lighted Boat Parade |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 Dinner 7 p.m. |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 Dinner 7 p.m. Christmas gift exchange |

Get holiday gifts at the Ship's Store

BY JEFF FULLER

THE SEASONS are a changing. We have your winter clothing. Coming in the next week or two are more long sleeve denim shirts in many sizes along with the warm jackets that everyone loves.

Christmas is coming sooner than we think. Your friends and family want BBYC. I bought my ten year old nephew a polo shirt with our logo and his name on it. My brother in law informs me that it his favorite shirt. He lives in Murray, Kentucky, and has never seen BBYC. To order customized merchandise for Christmas please do so before Thanksgiving. Call me at (510) 851-6382 or e-mail me at jeffmarine@aol.com.

In December I will have, in stock, interesting merchandise great for gifts.

Joining this month



Kim Crow

Steve Sorgatz and Kris Houck will be inducted at the next board meeting on November 3rd as new members. At right, Arlene Huber.



Kim Crow

Oktoberfest cooks: Allison Roberts, Commodore Annie, Fran McAbee and Linda Chin.