

The Whale's Tale

Ballena Bay Yacht Club



Alameda, CA

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January, 2019

The Commodore Report

Cindy Wagner



As I take the helm of BBYC for 2019, I wish first to thank the outgoing Board, and particularly 2017 and 2018 Commodore Kathryn Rees, for their hard work, and for the good financial base on which the Club currently stands.

I also wish to thank Jeff Fuller and the Nominating Committee for combing our membership to present a talented and enthusiastic 2019 Board—you will get to know their talents and contributions better as I thank them in this space throughout the year.

My goals include continuing and enhancing our fiscal health, for the near and more distant futures, and increasing the emphasis on water-based activities. We're offering lots of cruise-outs and cruise-ins for 2019. Gary Helms has scheduled 11 "Grillers" Friday Night Races, open to all. Our Speakers Committee is expected to provide 10 speakers on marine topics this year for our Dinner Meetings. You will probably see a few changes in the Clubhouse as well, reflecting that we are a marine activities organization and not "just a bar".

Safe Harbor continues to upgrade the Marina, and I'll keep you up to date on this work. Their growth and our growth should be mutual, and we will continue to plan joint activities with them.

As to incoming Board and Committee members, it's inspiring that many of them are fairly new to the Club. Everyone has something to offer, and this will be an exciting year in which I expect to see a lot of change and intend to see this done without undue dislocation.

And, finally, your comments and suggestions are always welcome!

The Vice Commodore Report

Lu Abel

This is my last report as BBYC's Vice Commodore. My watch is over and Deborah Draper is your new Vice Commodore. As a former Board member in a much harder job (Social Chairman), I'm sure Deborah will do a great job. And I will be there 100% to show her the ropes (hey, Deborah, know where to get club keys made?) and help in whatever way I can.

It has always been my pleasure to inform the Club membership of new members and this month is no different. Please join me in welcoming Anton and Laura Ross. They live aboard a Catalina 42 sailboat, *Libertine*, in Marina Village. Anton and Laura were guests at our Holiday Party and were a lively addition to the crowd. I personally look forward to seeing more of them and learning more about them. If you see Laura or Anton (or anyone else you don't recognize) please say hello to them, introduce yourself, and welcome them to BBYC.

I'd like to close this with my thanks to the outgoing Board and to the entire club membership for their support during my tenure as your Vice Commodore. A sincere and deep "Thank You."

You ain't completely rid of me—I expect to be busy supporting Deborah. And I hope to work with Ward Fulcher to revive our dinner speaker program. There are some interesting speakers and topics out there!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan 1: New Year's Day "Around the Island"

Jan. 3: Board of Directors Meeting

Jan. 5: Membership Meeting & Thai Dinner

Jan. 12: Crab Feed

Jan. 26: Boating Seminar sponsored by BIM

<http://www.bbyc.org/calendar.html> or download the BBYC app

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The Social Events Coordinator Report

Talita Franco

Happenin' happenings around BBYC. "First Mate" Talita Franco reporting for duty! I am happy to introduce myself as your Social Events Chair for 2019. I look forward to a year full of entertainment and adventure! And don't forget—this is BBYC's 50th anniversary. Are we ready to celebrate this Golden Anniversary Year?

Let me wish a Happy New Years to everyone! I truly believe that 2019 will be a wonderful year, and we will be able to use our creativity to help our club to be even greater! One of the most exciting things is that during our traditional Members' Monthly Members Dinners on the first Saturday of the month, we will be able to not only enjoy a good meal together, but also learn something new with special seminars that we will be instituting. Everything related to our common passion: Boating! Keep an eye on our calendar and the invitations that will be sent to you by email. Volunteers are always welcome, so contact me and let's get those five volunteer hours scheduled in advance!

• **Buon Natale and Yankee Swap Dinner at BBYC on Dec. 12.** A huge thank you to Bonnie Jensen and Kim Crow. And we even had some homemade lasagna from David Paoletta. Antipasto, lasagna, Caesar salad, garlic bread, and a FABULOUS dessert surprise of raspberry chocolate tart arranged for by Lu and Diane Abel—to die for. And of course, the Yankee Swap led by Kim led to some fierce horse-trading and gift claiming. A great time was had by all!

• **Club Painting and Face Lift.** We beg perseverance through our mess as the club is being painted. This has been a huge effort. Everything off and away from the walls. This means burgees,



Marti and Lauren help decorate the tree.

pictures, plaques, bookshelves, chairs and tables, cabinets, TV, kitchen appliances, pots and pans, crockpots, refrigerator—and on and on. The painting is done, but putting it all back together takes a heavy lift. Hopefully, all will be done and in order by January 1—but if not, be patient, or better yet, come volunteer to help put the club back together.

• **Around the Island—Jan 1.** We need volunteers—host/greeting, bartender, cashier, and clean-up. Takers, please? This is a long-standing tradition among the six yacht clubs "Around the Island" who come by boat or land cruiser. Each of the yacht clubs is open to welcome visitors with their unique food offering—from clam chowder to hamburgers. Years past, BBYC has welcomed 70 to 100 visitors on New Year's Day. This is a 9:00 am to 9:00 pm event—a great opportunity to show the club and invite new members. But volunteers are critical to make this event a success—so talk to whomever you think can help. I know that New Year's Day is an important holiday, but I shortened my own holidays to be here. Grant and I will be
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The Rear Commodore Report

John DeMaria

In order to form a more perfect union, establish justice and ensure domestic tranquility, we bring you tidings of great joy (and a January survey). This survey you might actually like, because it will be used to determine types of adult beverages available behind the bar. A cacophonous collection of various and sundry spirits and elixirs have collected over the years with many taking up space and dying a slow death in the formerly cob-webbed corners of the liquor cabinet. With your help and due diligence to the matter at hand, we will resurrect the bar stock to what members will actually drink. Two simple questions will be asked. 1. What is your favorite thing to drink at the club and 2. If not obvious or commonly known, please list the ingredients thereof, and be specific, because it's for posterity.

We will do our best to accommodate your requests, but if you don't

find it in the bar after the survey, then you were the only one who wanted it, and you are welcome to bring your own for the discounted Member corkage fee of five dollars. For those who do not care enough to participate in the survey, do not be shocked when your favorites are not provided.

On a different note, if you are interested in being a bartender, please make it be known. Training is provided on both bartending skills and Point-of-Sale.

On a sour note, the bottom two shelves on BOTH sides of the refrigerator will be left permanently open for weekend event and member dinner preparation items. Your personal items in the refrigerator must be labeled and dated. Anything not labeled and dated will have to be tossed. Labels and markers will be provided on January 1st by your friendly neighborhood Rear Commodore, John DeMaria.

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cooking, Kim greeting, and Thomasina bartending—but we need more. Coffee and donuts will be offered for breakfast—with Bloody Marys on deck for those partakers. Hamburgers and hot dogs with chips and soda will be available for lunch. The Rose Bowl Parade in the morning followed by the Washington Huskies vs the Ohio State Buckeyes in the Rose Bowl will be on the TVs. Contact me and let's schedule some hours toward your annual volunteer commitment.

• **Members' Monthly Dinner—Jan 5.** Come join us for a delicious Thai Food Dinner—\$15. Let's get together and discuss our boating and club plans for 2019.

• **Annual All You Can Eat Crab Feed—Jan 12.** Put on by Jeff Fuller and Gwyn Smith and served by the Sea Scouts, this will be the freshest, sweetest crab you ever ate. You must reserve and pre-pay for this don't miss dinner that sells out quickly. Yummy! All you can eat for \$45.

• **Ballena Isle Marina sponsored boating seminar at BBYC—January 26, 9:00 am-10:00 am.** Watch your invitations and the BBYC calendar as details become available.

Director's Note

Ward Fulcher
Director and Old Scold

What would a New Year be without resolutions? I have thoughtfully provided two: Common Courtesy and Common Sense. All in one resolution:

Resolution: We resolve to wear our Name Tags, and to provide our guests with same! Does ABC require this? Doesn't matter here—name tag adherence is in our self-interest for two reasons: liability, and membership recruitment. The liability part is dead simple: if we serve alcohol to a non-member or non-guest, we can lose our bar. Our bartenders are all volunteers, and we'll get more

volunteers the easier the job is. Having to embarrass a member, by asking who he or she is, doesn't make the job easier. Neither does asking a guest what they're doing at the bar. Also, for those infrequently visiting members, or those of us whose association of names with faces is less than fully continent, it's a lot more relaxing to have a memory aid when conversing with someone you oughta remember but, well, don't. And we're all here to relax. For those who still groan at the pain of putting on a badge, Salvation is at hand! You can exchange your "pin" badge for

one with a magnetic coupling. I find that they are even easier to put on upside down...

As to guests, we make available stickers to identify the guest as well as the host member, and that will identify our Associate Members from Club Nautique and Tradewinds. This will make it easier for us to better embrace these folks, and to remember to appreciate the support of these groups. After all, membership recruitment/retention is the job of every member of a volunteer organization like BBYC.

Lauren Freed, one of our newer and most active members, has sourced lanyards and clips so that our Club Nautique and Tradewinds Associate Members can wear their cards and avoid sticky-back labels.

The Port Captain Report

David Paoletta

BBYC is actively soliciting cruises for 2019 and the calendar is wide open to clubs wishing to plan a visit to the new and improved Ballena Isle Marina. As of this writing, most clubs are establishing their new boards, possibly tearing-apart and repainting their interiors (well, we are...) and planning for the upcoming season.

I am looking forward to welcoming back some of the stalwarts and opening the doors, and the Bar, to some first-timers in 2019.

This time of year, actual sailing and boating take a back seat to winter vacations, maintenance and sitting by the fire. There's little to no wind, too much fog and enough rainy weekends to keep all but the most determined sailors on the couch watching the NFL. But some of us find our minds wandering to tropical islands and trade-wind adventures—

on the internet, that is. I confess that I subscribe to a couple of YouTube sailing and cruising channels, regularly watch "World on Water" for an adrenaline rush at lunchtime, and even follow a few blogs. Below are some fresh ones to help get us through the soggy winter, courtesy of [Waterborne](#). ([waterbornemag.com](#))

1. The solo sailor: [Yacht Fathom](#)

Thom is sailing around the world solo on his Vancouver 28, *Fathom*. He left in May 2016 and is currently in Madagascar. Thom's exciting tales and spectacular photography make for a lively read.

2. The galley gourmand: [Sailing the Bakery](#).

Emily shares vulnerable reflections on her transition to the liveaboard life, interspersed with foodie photos galore. Emily, her husband Kai, and their daughter Reverie are sailing the world on their

Saga 43 sailboat.

3. The renegade: [Art of Hookie](#).

Allan ("Stormy") quit corporate America at the age of 36 and set sail on his 22-foot sailboat with 14 cents to his name. A self-described "minimalist in maximalist's clothing" he's on a quest to live life to the fullest by living simply aboard his boat. Introspective and poetic, Art of Hookie reads like a journal, a refreshing change from ultra-curated travel blogs.

4. Digital Nomads: [Sailing Kittiwake](#)

Elena and Ryan are in their early thirties and working while they travel by sailboat. Their blog is focused on providing practical advice to young wannabe cruisers. They address topics like how to sail around the world on a budget and work while cruising.

While untying the dock lines and sailing off into the world may not be for all of us, it's fun to follow the adventures of those who did and vicariously share their pleasures and sorrows. Sure beats sailing to weather against the tide on a foggy morning in January! I'll see you out there when the sun is shining again! Happy 2019.

The Race Report

Ward Fulcher, Sub-Co-Vice Race Chair

Save The Griller Dates! Gary Helms, BBYC Race Chair, has announced the 2019 Griller dates. The Grillers are our Friday Night races, combining some pretty serious racers with folks who want to start their weekend early competing on a "just for fun" level. Soup or something else warm and simple will be available at the bar afterwards for a mere pittance. All details are included in the Notice of Race on the BBYC website, but here are the dates: **March 29, April 12 and 26, May 10 and 24, June 7, July 19, August 2, 16 and 30, and September 13.** Save the Griller Dates! (Griller Dates sounds like a pretty good

appetizer...)

We hope to offer a "cruising class" for the Grillers as well, for boats without a PHRF rating (or skip-pers who don't know what a PHRF rating is). The whole idea is to jump-start your weekend on the water—a boat unused is a boat abused!

We may add a couple of the old Whale's Chase weekend races, and BBYC will be hosting or co-hosting three other regattas, as of this writing. Of which more anon, but meanwhile mark your calendar, program your PDA, or saturate your smartphone with these dates! Save the Griller Dates!

2019 Membership Cards Are Here!

BBYC's membership cards for 2019 have arrived. Please see Vice Commodore Deborah Draper or Past Vice Commodore Lu Abel for your card. If neither are around, cards will be at the bar.

The Cruise-out Chair Report

Brian Hunt

Happy New Years everyone and welcome to 2019! My name is Brian Hunt and I'm the new Cruise-out chair. Some of you may know me, and some may not, but I look forward to getting to know you all over the coming year (hopefully at one of our many cruise-outs). Being in charge of our on the water activities is a huge honor and I'm totally up for the challenge.

For the last 2 1/2 years I've lived

aboard my 41' Roughwater "Bella Vista". I've lived in and around California my whole life and look forward to getting to know it in a whole new way.

While I have a list of destinations that I believe you would have a great time at, don't hesitate to reach out if you have any suggestions for places you'd like to cruise to. The more ideas the better! This is sure to be our best cruise out year yet!

The Treasurer Report

Diana DeMaria

In the best New York accent one can muster on a sunny day in Northern California, the goal for 2019 is to "show ya da money". The Point-Of-Sale system launched December 4th is the first step to getting with that program. You will be welcome to view monthly financials posted after Board Meetings at the club, and the Treasurer is going to jump on the Survey bandwagon so you will have a chance to opt in for emailed financial reports, among other things. Changing of the Guard is often ceremonial but this is the year for the club to be more accessible from your devices, give each of you and your guests more value for your buck, and more community for the activities that brought you into the club in the first place. We appreciate your patience with the changes coming with auto-pay, and contact me any time with questions or concerns about this leap into technology for a club with many valuable traditions. Many boaters may reminisce about the 19th century but no one would go back to that kind of counting house except in Dickens. Let's our shillings and sixpence commence!

The Merchandise Report

Kim Crow

Would you like to look as cool as these two sailors do? All you need is a sailor hat like they have and you will; AND I happen to be selling them at our Around the Island event on New Year's Day, January 1st, 2019. If you haven't been to this event, you're in for a real treat. Lots of the Alameda Island yacht club hoppers hit BBYC last year and it's a rollicking good time. Of course, you will need a sailor's hat and maybe you can talk some of the cruisers-in to buy one, too. (Of course they will be tempted when they see how nautically sharp



you look in yours.) Stop by the Merchandise Department—I have a whole box of them. They would make a great gift for your family members and friends for when you take them out on the Bay. Of course, since the Merchandise Department will be open that day, I can sell you all kinds of cool stuff—sweatshirts, jackets, caps, polo shirts, and much more. See you on New Year's Day!