

January-February 2020



# The Whale's Tale

Ballena Bay Yacht Club  Alameda, CA

*"At the Helm" Commodore's Report*

## Plans in place for a strong & active BBYC this year

Hello Members of Ballena Bay Yacht Club,

Greetings as we start another engaging year of boating, telling boating tales, and socializing—mostly with food and drink. It's already shaping up to be a good year for the BBYC, so let me share what's been happening.



**SEND PHOTOS!** This is our first BBYC newsletter in 2020. I want to thank Alice Sunshine our new Newsletter Editor for taking on the task of publishing our newsletter. Alice especially wants your pictures. You can submit your pictures to [newsletter@bbyc.org](mailto:newsletter@bbyc.org)

**WE HAD A BALL.** At our Commodore's Ball in November we had a great time, thanks to Bonnie Jensen our new Vice Commodore, who made the event great.

*Continued on the next page*

*What's Happening?*  
See Calendar on Back

*Invite friends to Join BBYC*  
Learn how on page 3

*Check out*  
[www.BBYC.org](http://www.BBYC.org)



## BBYC is off to a big new year of fun, food & boats by San Francisco Bay

BBYC rang in the New Year with more than 100 people attending our 'Around the Island' event on January 1!

We kicked it off early with coffee and pastries, then fired up the grill in the afternoon, feeding at least 88 people hamburgers and hot dogs.

The big hit of the day was Jim Abell's meal-in-a-glass Bloody Mary, with bacon, shrimp, tomato, cucumber, olive and celery as garnish.

BBYC members really stepped up. Rosalba Benavides and Jim helped behind the bar, and Kim Crow kept the food line in order while Gina Checchi managed the herculean task of the kitchen. John Parsons grilled while his adorable dog, Dude, supervised.

Jeff Fuller was, as always, a great host to us all, being a floater to answer questions that kept volunteers going and attendees happy. John Rogers and Robin Stolk helped manage the early crowd and provided

morale support as we rolled into the day. Thanks to every-one that made the day a great success.

Our first rental of the year happens on January 18 to celebrate Katy Burns' birthday. There will be a raucous live band and Mediterranean food that evening. It's certainly not to be missed.

Tickets are available at [bbyc.org/ purchase-event-tickets](http://bbyc.org/purchase-event-tickets) and we do need volunteers—let us know if you can help at [social@bbyc.org](mailto:social@bbyc.org)

We'll close out **our January events** with another can't be missed annual tradition, **the Crab Feed** on January 25 starting at 6 pm. Jeff has once again done his magic to bring us an all you can eat crustacean celebration for only \$55. It will be a cracking good time.

**—Jennifer Moffeit-Vacher**  
**BBYC Social Chair**

*Photo above: January 1 boaters enter the Bay from San Leandro Estuary, headed for the BBYC.*

...Commodore's Report continued

One thing I mentioned in my speech at the Ball was that we need to communicate better. This newsletter is one way we're going to do that. We'll get a newsletter to you every two months communicating what happened and what will happen at your club.

**CHECK OUT WHAT'S COMING UP.** Please go to [BBYC.org](http://BBYC.org) to see all the events we have planned so far. I have a commitment to you to make sure the calendar is kept up to date. Also to help communicate better, we will have a Membership Dinner on the Saturday after each Board meeting.

**WHAT DO WE REALLY WANT?** Our member Shayne Valcher is a mediator for large companies. Shayne gets people on the same page about goals. Shayne approached me about getting our members together to discuss what we all want in our club. The goal of the meeting is for our members to come up with a shared vision for our club, to understand what BBYC members want our club to be. We will have this meeting February 8 at 10 am. You are invited to the discussion.

**IT TAKES RESOURCES.** Club Nautique has been a wonderful partner, offering their members an associate membership with us for a few years now. Unfortunately for us, they no longer offer this perk for free to their members. It's still available to those that want to pay for it. This will cause significantly less money to come into our club. It has been about a dozen years since we last raised our dues. Your board decided to raise dues \$10 for regular and senior members starting March 1. This means regular memberships will be \$70 per month and senior members will be \$60 per month starting March 1.

Our officers are excited to offer many activities at the club. Many great dinners, excellent cruise outs and exciting racing events. Please plan to come and enjoy your club during 2020.

— Jeff Fuller, BBYC Commodore



Jan. 1  
Around the  
Island Day  
@BBYC



The top photo shows the **first boatload of sailors** going 'Round the Island to stop at the BBYC for a morning pick-me-up.

Above, **BBYC Social Chair Jenn Moffeit-Vachar** checks on ingredients for each Bloody Mary, as shown happily in photo on left by **BBYC Director Jim Abell**.

Also above, **BBYC member Rick Erickson** with crew Barbara and Vickie ready their boat Veronica Leigh to set out around Alameda.

Above-left is a view of Ballena Bay Marina from the BBYC Club House on January 1, 2020.

## Reserve your spot early for engaging 2020 Cruise Outs



*Cruise-Out "Champ of the Year"  
to be named at end of season*

Hello! Last year's cruise-out season was amazing, and we hope this year's will be even better!

In 2020, we plan on returning to some of the most popular clubs visited last year, as well as exploring new locations to have new adventures.

So far, we have reservations at:

- **Encinal Yacht Club, March 13-15**
- **St Francis Yacht Club, June 12-14**
- **Benicia Yacht Club, July 3-6**

As many of you may be aware, these locations are somewhat limited in how many boats they can accommodate. To ensure we can include as many members as possible, please let me know if you will participate as I would like to reserve individual spaces early.

**Requested Action: Please email me directly to reserve a spot for any of these cruise outs**

At each cruise out, we plan a variety of activities and events to participate in as a group. These will include exploring the area, experiencing cultural and community events, as well as participating in various competitive, nautically-oriented games.

At the end of the season, an official "cruise-out champion" will be recognized based on cumulative points earned during the season! The official rules and scoring system will be published once they have been finalized by the Cruise-Out Committee. Rest assured that the honoree will receive unimaginable rights and privileges pertaining there-to!\*

Throughout the season I'll continue to announce additional cruise outs as plans are finalized. Please let me know if you have suggestions for locations, cruise-out activities, or if you just have questions.

I hope you all had a great New Year and I look forward to seeing you all on the water!

*Sincerely, Mike Jennings, BBYC Cruise Out Manager*  
[mvOutOfBounds@gmail.com](mailto:mvOutOfBounds@gmail.com)

*\*said privileges will likely be an unflattering pic on the wall and a free beer purchased by yours truly.*

## FRIDAY NIGHT GRILLERS & RACES BEGIN APRIL 3

Watch for more details to come on racing every other Friday night into the fall, followed by a grill for you hungry skippers and crew.

To sign up to race, get more details, or to volunteer to help conduct a race, contact BBYC Race Chair Gary Helms at [garyhelms44@gmail.com](mailto:garyhelms44@gmail.com)

### *Vice Commodore's Report*

## With everyone's participation BBYC will continue to be a fun place!

As this new year starts and I take the position of Vice Commodore, I want to wish all members and associate members of BBYC a very Happy New Year.

As a volunteer club, it is up to all of us—all BBYC members—to do our part to make the club successful. That includes talking to people and encouraging membership. For BBYC to continue to succeed, we need to increase our membership.

**Both you and the club as a whole benefit when you  
HELP A NEW MEMBER JOIN THE BBYC**  
Go to [BBYC.org/home](http://BBYC.org/home) and scroll down to find the membership application.

Here is what I mean: **When you as a current member bring in a new prospective member**, fill out a membership application, collect the proper fees, sign your own name on the sponsor line 1, and then tack the application on the bulletin board at the club house, when that new member is accepted by our Board, **you will receive a month's free membership.**

*If each current BBYC member brought in only one new member this year, that would greatly improve our club's success.*

I am planning open-house parties and other events and you can invite prospective members to attend with you. Let's help more people in our sailing community get to know the BBYC.

New members also get a benefit right away—a free membership dinner which will be on the first Saturday of each month. Current members are encouraged to attend Member Dinners where you can meet and greet our new members.

I know with everyone's participation BBYC will continue to be a fun place.

Again. Happy New Year!

— **Bonnie Jensen**  
BBYC Vice Commodore

CHECK OUT THESE GREAT EVENTS IN JANUARY

January 18 Saturday

**Join BBYC member Katy Burns to celebrate her birthday!**

Dance to Shake-it Booty Band, enjoy catered Mediterranean food. With [ticket purchase](#), you'll get two free drink tickets for the bar, dinner, and live music

January 25 Saturday / Doors open 5 pm / Dinner 7 pm

**BBYC Crab Feed Extravaganza!!**

A great social time with lots o' crab, so show up hungry

Purchase tickets for these events at [BBYC.org/purchase-event-tickets](http://BBYC.org/purchase-event-tickets)

AND MORE COMING RIGHT UP

January 30 Thursday @ 7-9 pm  
**BBYC monthly Board Meeting**

February 1 Saturday @ 6-9 pm  
**BBYC monthly Member Dinner**

Member dinners happen every month for BBYC members to meet other members. Don't cook after a Saturday on the water. Hear what's going on lately with the BBYC.

February 2 Sunday  
**Super Bowl Party**

**Kickoff @ 3:30 pm CA time**  
Join other BBYC members in front of our club's Big Screens for the Big Game.

February 14 Friday @ 6-9 pm:  
**Sweetheart Party**

March 5 Thursday @ 7-9 pm  
**BBYC monthly Board Meeting**

March 7 Saturday @ 6-9 pm:  
**BBYC monthly Member Dinner**

March 13-15: **First 2020 BBYC Cruise Out to Encinal Yacht Club**

The 2020 cruise outs begin with a visit to our neighboring club on the other side of Alameda on the Oakland Estuary. For info, email [mvoutofbounds@gmail.com](mailto:mvoutofbounds@gmail.com)

March 21 Saturday @ 6-10 pm:  
**St. Patrick's Day Party**

Toss back a pint and celebrate with the lads & lasses at BBYC.

See more events at [BBYC.org/EVENTS/photo](http://BBYC.org/EVENTS/photo)

Later in The Season: Cruise to Nearby Clubs, Dock Overnight

June 12-14 Cruise Out to the St. Francis YC in San Francisco

July 3-6 Cruise Out to the Benicia Yacht Club

Contact Cruise-Out Chair Mike Jennings [mvoutofbounds@gmail.com](mailto:mvoutofbounds@gmail.com)

Learn more about cruises and races at [bbyc.org/on-the-water-2](http://bbyc.org/on-the-water-2)

**BBYC MEMBERS!** Many of the events on the Calendar provide opportunities for BBYC members to complete five hours of volunteer time helping the club. Email [social@bbyc.org](mailto:social@bbyc.org)

**CLUB RENTED DATES:** The BBYC's Sunset Room will be rented for use by other organizations in the evenings on Tuesday Feb 11, Thursday Feb 13, and Thursday March 12. The BBYC Bar Area will remain open to BBYC members. The BBYC Club House will be rented in its entirety on Saturday Feb 15 for a wedding reception and on Wednesday Feb 26 for a private company event from 8 am to 6 pm.

We can help monitor problems with certain LED lights on boats

Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs) are, in my humble opinion, one of the great inventions of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Old fashioned incandescent light bulbs make light by using electricity to heat a thin piece of wire, known as a filament, hot enough to glow white. The filament gets so hot you can burn yourself grasping an illuminated bulb. This simply wastes electricity—the electricity isn't making light, it's making heat.

A diode is an electrical device that permits electricity to flow through it in one direction but not in the opposite direction. Commonplace examples are the diodes in your car's alternator that make the alternating-current (AC) electricity into the direct current (DC) that can charge your car's battery.

When current flows through them, they emit light, and only light. This makes them seven to 10 times more efficient in electricity usage versus incandescent bulbs for the same amount of light. **What a great thing for boats, especially sailboats!**

The Coast Guard has, however, issued a warning to recreational boaters that some LEDs designed to work with your 12-volt lights may cause interference with your VHF radio and its friends such as AIS.

How to determine if any LED lights aboard your boat are emitting radio interference? Simple!

- Turn off all the lights (cabin, deck, navigation, etc.) on your boat.
- Turn on your VHF radio to an unused channel (for example, channel 6 or 9). If you have a handheld radio, follow the same procedure with that.
- At a comfortable volume, turn down the Squelch control on the radio until you hear the hiss of background noise.
- Gently turn up the Squelch until the noise just disappears.

Now turn on your boat's lights one-by-one. If you suddenly hear a rush of noise on your radio, that LED is emitting radio interference. You should replace it.

The Coast Guard requests that you share information on the lamp or light (make, model, where purchased) to them. The Coast Guard's official notice can be found at [TinyURL.com/LEDsonboats](http://TinyURL.com/LEDsonboats). —Lu Abel, BBYC member

Ballena Bay Yacht Club • BBYC.org  
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Jim Abell, Dan Abrams, Marti Burchell, Jeff Fuller, David Hayward, Michael Jennings, Bonnie Jensen, Jenn Moffeit-Vacher, Mike Muetz, Peta Sanderson, Emily Vought