



The Whale's Tale

Ballena Bay Yacht Club



Alameda, CA



Ballena Isle • Dock G

'At the Helm' by Jeff Fuller, BBYC Commodore

Hi Everyone!

Usually I start off my Commodore's Report with the many activities we have done since the last *Whale's Tale* newsletter. Well this section of my article will be brief—very little happened the last couple of months.

TIME FOR THE BOAT / TIME TO THINK: The most negative ramification of the Coronavirus is, of course, people getting sick and dying. Another negative effect for many is a financial burden.

On the other hand, one of the positives for me is time to do things. Instead of going out on the road to keep up with my business customers, I have more time to do boat and home projects. I enjoy this as my time.

Also, it has given me more time to think. One thing I

miss because of the lockdown is being at our Club, getting to know people over a cruise out, a drink at the bar, or a Club dinner.

Thinking about it further, this social interaction is how we get to know each other and what makes us a Club. When we open up again, I encourage you to come to your Club and enjoy the activities. Enjoy the bar and and linger there a little while to get to know your fellow members.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR BBYC? Speaking of when will we open, of course that is up to the taming of the Coronavirus. Reading the tea leaves I'm hoping we can open by our membership dinner on June 6. I'm also hoping we can cruise out to St. Francis the second weekend of June.

Continued on next page

At the Helm

When we can open the Club will send you an email.

In the meantime, please go to our website BBYC.org and look at the events in the calendar section which are planned in June and through the end of the year.

MAKE IT SIMPLE One thing is happening behind the scenes right now to make things smoother for our members. Treasurer Emily Vought has been reviewing the Square System to improve membership dues processes. With the new Square we will have to auto pay. Sorry about that.

But, Square makes it easier for you in the long run.

volunteer club it makes it easier for our volunteer Treasurer by alleviating the need for her to enter a bunch of checks every month. Square keeps track of who pays and who doesn't and sends reminders to those who missed a payment.

Thanks all for being a member of BBYC when we open up again to enjoy your company at our club, and doing boating activities. So, when this comes to pass, we will all know each other.

Looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting.
Jeff Fuller, BBYC Commodore

The Safety Corner

Yet another problem with LED lights

As I reported in the Feb 2015 issue, LEDs are a great energy saving technology but one of their inherent problems is that they can interfere with a boat's VHF-FM radios. Now another problem has been discovered: time with navigation lights using LEDs.

Navigation lights on motorboats alert other vessels to our presence and navigation lights when sailing at night.

Sail at night and you must show a green light on your starboard bow, a red light on port, and a white light to your stern (underpower sailboat) you also must display a white light over the same arc of 135 degrees and higher than the red and green lights. The arcs around which these lights must show are precisely specified in the Navigation Rules.

Sailboats often have a hard time displaying proper navigation lights outward to the water when heeled as well as when upright. In fact, the Coast Guard has different regulations for navigation lights on power boats and sailboats on powerboats. They must be visible even if the boat is heeled 75 degrees while on a powerboat the lights must be visible even when the boat is heeled 25 degrees!

Old fashioned incandescent light bulbs emit light in all directions. LEDs are blocks of silicon that emit light in just one narrow beam. That means that navigation lights with LEDs on sailboats may not shine as broadly as required.

The Coast Guard warns:

between the two different [heeling visibility

requirements. Navigation lights that claim compliance with the Navigation Rules do not meet the vertical visibility requirements for a power driven vessel; however, they may not comply with the vertical visibility standards for sailing vessels. Manufacturer labeling may not indicate that the lights are designed for use only on power vessels. Full text: tinyurl.com/LEDNavigationLights

So, if you have LED lights on your boat, Marine or wherever if the light is approved for sailboats. I have an evasive answer.

Call the clerk about the two different standards for navigation lights and ask him to call you back when he has an answer.

Suppose you already have LED navigation lights. How can you check them for proper visibility? Simply use your Mark I eyeballs! When your boat is at the dock, check your navigation lights (including your masthead light)

they're visible at a sharp angle! Remember they have to shine down as well as up, so

standing next to them you can climb a stepladder

How much? I suspect everyone can guess: a 45 degree angle looks like. Well, 25 degrees is a bit over half that, so split the 45 angle in half and make sure the light is visible!

Good luck and please email me with information about any specific light problems that you have.

Lu Abel, BBYC Member
luabel@gmail.com

BBYC member
Nick Stellato
shown delivering groceries to senior live aboards at Ballena Isle in early April.

Photo by Rosalbe Benevides

Sea Scouts & BBYC Advance the Future of Skilled Seamanship



Twice a year, at the BBYC Crab Feed and Commodore's Ball, a youth group serves up the food as we dig in. The events are popular. But who are the uniformed servers, and how do they use the tips we give them?

Get to know our local Sea Scouts Makai, Ship 700. These high-school age boys come from across the East Bay to learn the skills and joys of boating by power and by sail. BBYC events let them connect with us, and help them fund their boats, monthly cruises, and seamanship training from Apprentice to Quartermaster.

Eight years ago, our local Sea Scouts earned the distinction of the Makai being named The National Flagship.

"This was being the number one ship in advancement and activities for all Sea Scout ships nationwide," explains Mike Muetz, a Sea Scout leader and BBYC Director. "This was a real special award for us. That summer the Makai cruised from Alameda to San Diego to attend the award ceremony."

The Makai, berthed at Ballena's H dock, was built as a torpedo retriever in 1968.

They are always improving it. Muetz says tips from the 2019 BBYC Crab Feed helped them replace all 24 injectors on the engines, which reduced fuel consumption.

Their other vessel is the Sequoia, a 1980 Dufour 45' Ketch kept on F dock.

The crew has weekly meetings, work parties on the boats, regattas in the spring, and fundraisers.

The main event is the summer cruise. The crew decides where they want to go—Santa Cruz and the Delta have been favorites. They have gone to the Channel Islands, Avalon, and San Pedro, where they caught a bus to Disneyland.

Muetz says, "This year we start a new relationship with the US Coast Guard Auxiliary as they have adopted Sea Scouting as one of their programs."

He adds, "The support given to the crew during the Commodore's Ball and the Crab Feed is really appreciated. Thank you, Ballena Bay Yacht Club."

PHOTOS Top left: The Sea Scout 65' powerboat Makai and their 45' sailboat Sequoia at Westgate Landing near Lodi, during the Sea Scouts' 2017 Summer Cruise. **Top right:** Sea Scout Zax Lieske balanced melted butter containers at the 2020 BBYC Crab Feed. **Below:** The Sea Scouts started their April 2020 meeting via Zoom with the Pledge of Allegiance, as they do at all meetings. **Right:** Sea Scouts learn to use gummy suits at the annual 'Safety at Sea' held at the Yerba Buena Coast Guard base.



BBYC Activities to Come

Dear BBYC Mariners: In line with Public Health orders, the club was closed and many Club activities postponed. See below for events that remain scheduled at Whale's Tale publishing time. **Please watch for updates via email or at BBYC.org**

Cruise Outs

June 12-14 to the St. Francis Yacht Club in San Francisco

July 3-6 to the Benicia Yacht Club

Learn more from BBYC Cruise-Out Chair Mike Jennings mvoutofbounds@gmail.com

Grillers Race Fridays

July 10 & 24, August 7 & 21, wrapping up September 4

Learn more in the Notice of Races at www.jibeset.net/BBYC000.php or contact BBYC Race Chair Gary Helms at garyhelms44@gmail.com

Plus: Member Dinners 1st Saturdays, Socials, Cruise Ins & More

We'll Meet Again! So, Please Invite Others to Join BBYC

Hello BBYC members. These certainly have been unusual and uncertain times in our history. My hope is you are doing well, keeping busy and even getting things done that you've never had time for.

As Vice Commodore, I'm in charge of membership. Even though we've been away from the Club there are things I'd like to share with you. We will get back to normal, and BBYC membership will be very important.

Here are a few advantages of being a member of BBYC:

- As a member of the **Yachting Club of America**, BBYC is listed in the Register of American Yacht Clubs, the oldest, existing yacht club register in America. This extends to BBYC members **reciprocity with more than 700 notable yacht clubs** in the continental United States, Hawaii, Alaska, and the American Virgin Islands.
- **Pacific Inter-Club Yacht Association** membership comes with joining the BBYC; that affords **reciprocity** to more than 100 yacht clubs in California.
- BBYC is the only yacht club on Alameda with **direct access to the Bay**.
- A **racing program** — part of the 'Griller' tradition.
- A full **bar, dining room** and new well-equipped **kitchen**.
- Members-only **Happy Hour Discounts**.
- A safe place to **gather with other people** with the same interests.

These are only some of the advantages of BBYC membership.

MEMBERSHIP IS THE HEART OF THE CLUB: We are a volunteer club. Everything we do is on a volunteer basis. No one is paid to serve. It is important that as things go back to normal, we get involved in the club.

Invite your friends to join BBYC. New members will help us to keep our club successful and fun.

We are all waiting for when we can gather again. Have dinner together, share stories together, get back on the water. BBYC will be a good safe place to start. Stay safe and well. We will be back together again.

— **Bonnie Jensen, BBYC Vice Commodore**

PS: In the next Whale's Tale newsletter I will welcome our new members so when we do reopen, you and I and all the current BCYC members can greet them in person.

BALLENA BAY YACHT CLUB

(510) 523-2292 • 1150 Ballena Blvd.

Alameda, CA

BBYC.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Commodore Jeff Fuller
jeffmarine123@gmail.com

Treasurer Emily Vought
treasurer@bbyc.org

Vice Commodore Bonnie Jensen
Acting Rear Commodores
Jim Abell & Tom Burns
Secretary Peta Sanderson
Port Captain Dan Abrams
Staff Commodore Marti Burchell
Directors David Hayward & Mike Muetz

CHAIRS

Race Chair Gary Helms
Garyhelms44@gmail.com

Cruise Out Chair Mike Jennings
mvoutofbounds@gmail.com

Acting Rental Chair Jeff Fuller
jeffmarine123@gmail.com

Merchandise Chair Rosalba Benavides
rosalbavallejo54@gmail.com

Webmaster Joseph Hassan
webmaster@bbyc.org

Newsletter Editor Alice Sunshine
newsletter@bbyc.org

BBYC MEMBERS! Please share photos of you, your crew & boat at BBYC activities for a future Whale's Tale. Thx!

VOLUNTEER FOR YOUR CLUB

When we join the all-volunteer-run BBYC, we each promise to give at least five hours a year to help make the fun happen.

Those who don't volunteer agree to give \$100 a year extra to help finance the club.

There are lots of ways to participate including tending bar, cook a meal, or organize an event

Contact board Director Jim Abell if you are interested in tending bar at an event
jabell747@gmail.com

Contact Commodore Jeff Fuller about other volunteer opportunities
jeffmarine123@gmail.com