



THE SIGNAL

MARINA BAY YACHT CLUB

Richmond, California

Vol. XVIII, No. 5

May 2003

COMMODORE'S LOG



The Marina Bay Yacht Club became a full-time yacht club (at least on paper) when we negotiated our current lease on the Clubhouse last year. We have exclusive use of the Club House, yet we continue to only use it a couple of days each month.

Along with exclusive use came higher rent costs. We have the Clubhouse; now we need to use it.

At Saturday's April Board Meeting we agreed that each membership will receive a key to the clubhouse at the May dinner/meeting. We are hopeful that by providing access, members will increase their individual use of the clubhouse. Each key will require a \$20.00 cash deposit, refundable upon return of the key. This is a nominal amount that sends a big message: **You are a member and we want you to fully enjoy the benefits of membership.** Likewise, this also says that you, as a club member, are also responsible to all the other members for doing your part to use the club responsibly.

Concurrently we are planning for more club events, as well. George Naill, our new Safety Officer discussed some ideas with members at the dinner on Saturday that would increase our understanding of boating safety and enforcement. Those ideas were well received.

The club is also looking at ways to increase revenue so that we can afford the full-time, exclusive use of the clubhouse. To accomplish this we will need to call upon all members to do their part in volunteering to serve as clubhouse hosts and/or serve on work parties to make the club a better service to the members of the Marina Bay Yacht Club.

I hope that when called upon to volunteer you will say yes!

-----Mike Green
Commodore

PORT CAPTAIN'S REPORT

This month's new addition to the clubhouse is (fanfare) "The Dishwasher". This little beauty will run a load in three minutes instead of two hours. It made quite a difference in the clean up after the dinner last Saturday. The Board, of course, and the Building Committee made this improvement possible, but special thanks should go to Eric Anderson. He took care of purchasing, transporting and installing, which was quite a commitment of time and energy, so if you seem him around, please help me in thanking him.

Another person I would like everyone to know about is Erwin Gove. In the past couple of months he fixed the vacuum cleaner and replaced the faucet on the sink. This week he will be replacing the switch on the garbage disposal. Thanks also to George Naill, who is a great cook and always willing to help, and keeps things on a steady keel in the kitchen.

When thanking people there is always a chance of missing someone, and I am sure I have. So thank you all.

June will mark a change in the entire club, with access to the clubhouse and availability to any member at any time. I am sure there are members with talents and skills who would help keep the clubhouse running smoothly. Please let me know if you can help; Eric, Erwin, Ed Johnson and George might get tired.

-----Kat Decker
Port Captain

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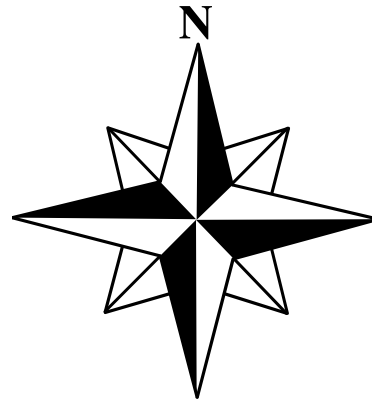
MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS

At the Board meeting held on April 26, 2003 the following people were elected to membership in Marina Bay Yacht Club:

- Michael and Jill Gottlieb of Sausalito.
- William and Gina Butterworth of Richmond (conditional).

Welcome to the Club!



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

- Enya Baker and Jennifer Erickson of Richmond, who sail the Camper-Nicholson 35 *Aventura*.
- Don Dunn and Donna Smith of Carmichael, who sail the Tartan 37 *Just Ducky*. Sponsors are Naill and Wigle.

FLEETING THOUGHTS

Three boats turned out for the Easter weekend cruise to Clipper Cove: *Ripple*, *Lizard*, and *White Bear*. Larry Lawson arrived first on Friday morning. Don and I got there late in the afternoon (after a fast ride across the Bay) and rafted with Larry. The wind was blowing a bit, and we actually dragged a ways. After putting out our bow anchor and Larry's stern hook, and watching our lat/long on the GPS and landmarks on Yerba Buena, we decided that three anchors were probably going to hold us, and we relaxed and enjoyed the rest of the evening including a delicious dinner aboard *Lizard*.

Paul Cosper arrived on Saturday and anchored a little distance away, closer to shore. The weather was a little warmer (less wind) on *White Bear* so we socialized there before dinner.

Sunday morning we awoke to find that the Easter Bunny had made his/her traditional visit to the boats in the Cove. Then, after a light breakfast, the four of us walked around the perimeter path on Treasure Island--what a great view!



Having worked up an appetite, we returned to *Ripple* and had Easter dinner. High tide was approaching so we weighed anchor (all of them!) and headed back home. It was a great weekend as we got to visit not only with our own members, but also with people on other boats in the cove as well. This is part of what cruising-out is all about.

Our June cruise-out will be on June 7-8, to the Sausalito Yacht Club. We will be on mooring balls (bring your dinks), and will have dinner at the yacht club.

-----Jan Wigle, Fleet Captain ~~~_/_)_~_/_)_~~~

GRAY WHALE WATCH

To coincide with the seasonal return of gray whales to San Francisco Bay, the Oceanic Society is continuing its efforts to document grays with their Gray Whale in the Bay project – a five-year study designed to better understand the habitat use of the gray whales in the Bay, and to explore the practical implications for protection of the whales while they visit a very humanized environment.

Observations by you and other members of your organization are critically important to the Gray Whale in the Bay Project. They are relying on the assistance of the public to put more eyes on the Bay. Please call the Gray Whale on the Bay Hotline, 415-409-GRAY (4729) to report any sightings of whales within San Francisco Bay.

To report sightings, please include the following information:

- Your name and contact information
- The date, time of day and duration of time these whales are in the Bay
- The number and size of gray whales in the Bay
- The location and helpful land markers or GPS points of whales
- The behavior and activities of these whales in the Bay

The Gray Whales in the Bay project will not only help them learn more about why the gray whales are entering the Bay, it will help them determine the health of the San Francisco Bay itself. If you have any questions about the Gray Whale in the Bay Project, please do not hesitate to contact Amy McCall directly by phone at 415-441-1106, or via e-mail at mccall@oceanic-society.org. To learn more about this project, please go to their website: <http://www.oceanicsociety.org/pages/rese.html>.

-----Amy McCall
Local Programs Assistant
Oceanic Society

CRUISE NEWS

NATARAJA

The plan was to set sail for Maui on the evening of March 19th. The buoy reports had the winds gusting to 40, so we opted to wait until morning. At 0700 on March 20th, we were clear of the channel and under sail with a double-reefed main and a 100% jib. Winds were about 15, and built to about 20 as we passed Diamond Head. The seas were sloppy, steep, and tight, but not all that uncomfortable. The wind gusts were only about 25, so nothing we couldn't handle, or so we thought. Some background: our hydraulic backstay had begun to leak slightly on our trip back to Honolulu from Fanning Island, and really began to leak on our last trip to Molokai. We sent it in for repairs, but unfortunately it would not make it back to us before our planned trip to Maui & Lanai. No problem, we had wanted to put together an emergency backstay anyway. We had a Harken 6:1 block and tackle on the babystay, which we moved to the backstay. For the babystay, we set up a 4:1 Lewmar block and tackle. As a last resort, we had a second main halyard to act as a backstay.

Ok, back to our story. As we sailed along close-hauled at about five knots, we were saying "well, this isn't so bad, we've been in worse". I went down below and could here the whales' songs reverberating through the hull, and yelled up to Eric "Keep an eye out, I can hear the whales". The songs were almost eerie, but so incredible, awe inspiring, I don't know how to put it. You kinda had to be there....Anyway, we were watching for whales, eagerly anticipating the spouts and splashing, but didn't see anything. Then suddenly, there was a loud POP! What was that?!?!?! We both looked around and there was the backstay flailing in the breeze! Eric said to me "get that on there". I knew exactly what he meant. He took care of the helm, slowed the boat down, fell off and slowly brought the boat downwind, and then rolled up the jib. Meanwhile, I grabbed the backstay sheet and put it on a cleat, then snatched up my rigging knife. I needed to get the backup main halyard undone and moved to the chain plate. In hindsight, it was really rather impressive how it all happened. Eric and I didn't say two words to each other, but we both did what needed to be done and had our back-up rig in place in no time. At this point, we decided it would be prudent to just head back to Ke'ehi since conditions would only deteriorate as we got farther off shore and into the channel between the islands. No sense in doing any more damage. We realized that the wind generator had taken a hit. Boy, were we lucky; miraculously, the backstay had smacked into it breaking

only the nose cone. How it missed the blades is beyond us. The SSB antenna will have to be replaced. It was stretched beyond its limit and actually kept the backstay from breaking completely loose.



We also realized that if it hadn't been for the bimini, one of us most likely would have been hit by that 6:1 block and tackle when it broke loose. Now, that could have hurt and possibly even knocked the victim overboard (we were at least wearing our life jackets). All things considered, we had a pleasant downwind sail back towards Ke'ehi. A whale spouted right off our bow and a mother and calf surfaced just off our port side. I even managed to get some great photos.

As we approached the marina, I went forward to get the dock lines in place and looked up at the mast. Whoa! What the heck? It was at this time that I noticed the portside spreader had broken right at the mast. It was now the lazy side, and was still attached; that's why we hadn't noticed it earlier. Oh great. Now to break this not-so-great news to Eric. Of course he thinks I'm crazy and doesn't believe me. So he goes up to take a look. Oh bummer, it really is broken. Once back in our slip, we moved our spinnaker halyard over to the port side to take up the load and loosened up the port side turnbuckle. Eric then went up the mast to take the broken spreader down. We asked around the yard and were referred to a place that could possibly help us. To make a new one, it would only cost us \$10,000! Seriously, that's what the guy quoted us, because they would need to buy the equipment to do it. Peachy! They of course can't bend aluminum and there is no place on this

island that can. But they could fix what we had by sleeving the old spreader for less than \$200. Now we're talking, although we probably could have had it fixed in any third world country for less than \$20. At least we aren't buying a new mast!

The moral of our story: The shakedown is so important. We are very lucky this happened when it did. It is of course a bummer we didn't make it to Maui and Lanai, but we found out now that our "emergency backstay" wasn't going to work. We are so fortunate we weren't 1,000 miles offshore and found this out. The conditions were not all that extreme when this happened. All it took was punching into one weird wave, and boom! We will be rethinking this and will use a turnbuckle arrangement instead. There is a lot of load on the backstay, much more than you can imagine. We are very lucky that our breaks can be fixed; we could have lost the whole rig.



The broken spreader

That said, we have picked a target date for our departure to the mainland. We hope to be underway to Kauai by May 11th. After a couple of weeks there, we will be checking in to the Pacific Seafarer's net on the ham frequency of 14.313 at 0325 UTC daily. Larry the Lizard, you have to get your General, not just a Tech, so we can talk. Study hard and learn that code! Our progress can be tracked on YOTREPS at www.bitwrangler.com

Emmy & Eric
S/V *Nataraja*

SAFETY FORUM

Safety Officer George Naill suggested in the April Signal that MBYC members submit ideas regarding safety problems, experiences and suggestions to a Safety Forum in the Signal that he will conduct.

The preceding article by Emmy and Eric is a good example of planning ahead, the plan not working out, and good rapid emergency procedures to overcome critical problems.

Bill Strong has bought a boat in Marina del Rey. The Ericson 34 has a few problems. Before he sails it north to the Bay he is having them fixed, rather than waiting 'til he gets here (where it would be more convenient) or fixing a problem on the ocean (where it really wouldn't). Good planning.

I wrote awhile back about a through-hull for a saltwater intake to the head on *Maenad* that was clogged up. I didn't want to dive down to clear it so I tried to ream it from inside the boat. Downstream from the through-hull was a sea-cock (a ball valve which you could run a reamer through when open), then a pipe elbow (which you couldn't), then the hose to the head. So I removed the elbow and reamed away 'til the barnacles (as it turned out) were gone. I put a nipple into the sea-cock and fastened the hose to that. A couple of days later I realized that I should have put the straight-through end of a tee into the sea-cock, the hose onto the side branch, and a pipe plug (or cap) into the other straight-through end. This would allow me to remove the plug and ream without having to remove the hose. I'll make this change the next time I have a bottom job.

-----Erwin Gove



From 'Insurance Claims Hall of Fame'

THE LIZARD'S LOUNGE

Boat chores.... we all have 'em...we all do 'em. Well, I finished the new head project. What a chore that was! Not fun at all. I feel good about it now that it is done and it works just like it's supposed to. Even the macerator pump! I then replaced the old pressure faucet on the head sink with a new hand pump faucet. Why does it always loose the prime? No leaks. Don't get it.

I had a great sail to Clipper Cove on Easter weekend. I was able to not run aground this time, but I drug anchor two times. Always something. This was the first time I drug anchor in Clipper Cove. The time before last that I was there I had five boats on my anchor and no problem. Guess it was just my turn. It really is amazing how Mother Nature and King Neptune do these little things to keep sailors humble and paying attention. All part of the adventure.

Oh yea. The Easter Bunny found us and left an Easter basket on board. I didn't realize the Bunster had a boat.

For those of you who didn't cruise to Clipper Cove (that would be most of you), know that Friday and Saturday were warm and sunny. The Lizard Guy still has weather luck happenin'. Sunday was cooler, but the sail back to Richmond was really good. Can't wait for the next cruise to South Beach for the Mardi Gras celebration in San Francisco. Fun awaits. The Lizard Guy will go so the weather should be good.

I've made a plan. I've made a decision. I'm going to cruise to the Hawaiian Islands in June, 2004. That gives me one year and one month to get ready. Talk about boat chores. There is work to be done, but not too much. Another fuel tank, water tank, and steering system. The water and steering will come through friends and fellow cruisers. Don and Jan Wigle have offered as well as Peter Turner the use of their Monitor steering system. I'll put on the mounting brackets and adapters and borrow the system. Peter also offered me the use of his spare water bladder and life-raft. This will save me very big \$. I just love the help and offers you always seem to get from the cruising community. I can't see any reason this cruise won't happen. I'm really stoked! Warm weather and surf!

Talk about stoked... Bill Strong finally purchased a boat in Marina del Rey. It's an Ericson 34. Great boat. He'll deliver it up here sometime in July. Congrats to Bill and Lore!

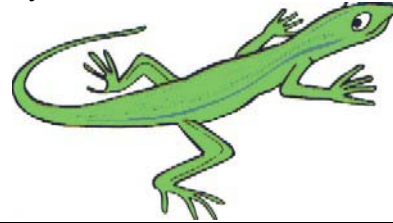
You've noticed it has been a bit cool and wet lately. I'm trying very hard to get the weather to dry out and warm up. It has been hard work and I've only been able to get

the weather luck when I get out to sail. When I make port it seems to cloud up and rain. I'm workin' on it.

How'd ya like the Boat Show? I thought it was fun. Ran into a few friends, had some food, a few cervezas. Yes, the sun did shine and it warmed up. Sat out on the deck at Quinns' Lighthouse to finish the afternoon. I do like the warm.

Get out and about!

Lizard Guy



ODDS AND ENDS

During the third week of June, the Corsair Marine group will be having a national sailing event, based in Marina Bay. The event will be largely housed at the Marina Bay Harbormaster's building, with the boats berthed at "D" dock. Demo sails will also occur there. On Monday they will have a large dinner somewhere in the area. On Saturday June 21st, Corsair owners will take prospective buyers and other interested parties out for demo sails on their boats. That evening they will have dinner (40-60 people) at the MBYC clubhouse, hosted by MBYC. We will need volunteers to help out. More details next month.

Recent member Peter Schultz has settled in Alaska, getting married, and buying a house in Petersburg (where else?) on Durango Narrows. The house is on the water and has a mooring for his boat. He invites anyone traveling to Alaska to stop in for a visit. More details next month.

-----Erwin Gove

Upcoming Events

May 2003



Board Meeting & Dinner
 Saturday, May 17, 2003
Chicken Cacciatora Dinner

Board Meeting: 4:00 p.m.
Bar Opens approx.: 5:30 p.m.
Dinner: 7:00 p.m.
 .Cost: \$13.00 p.p. Kids <13 = free

Hosted By
Erwin Bove & Family



Cinco De Mayo

Saturday

Cocktails & snacks: 5:00 p.m.
 Dinner @ 7:00 p.m.
 Dessert & Coffee after menu:

Mexican Casserole , Tamales
 Salad, Vegetables, Tortillas
 Coffee and Dessert

Cost: \$10.00 (under 13= free)

Hosts: **Nestor & Ardelle Cirino**

RSVP

Port Captain

Katherine Decker (707) 678-4924
 PortCaptain@MarinaBayYC.com



Cruise-Out to
South Beach in San Francisco
 Memorial Weekend,
 May 24 -26 2003

Contact
 Jan Wigle: 209-527-7775 or
 fleetcaptain@marinabayyc.com



We're going to Sausalito

Put this on your calendar for
June 7 - 8, 2003

We'll have dinner at their club
 Stay tuned for more details
 or Contact
 Jan Wigle: 209-527-7775 or
 fleetcaptain@marinabayyc.com

TIME-SHARE WANTED

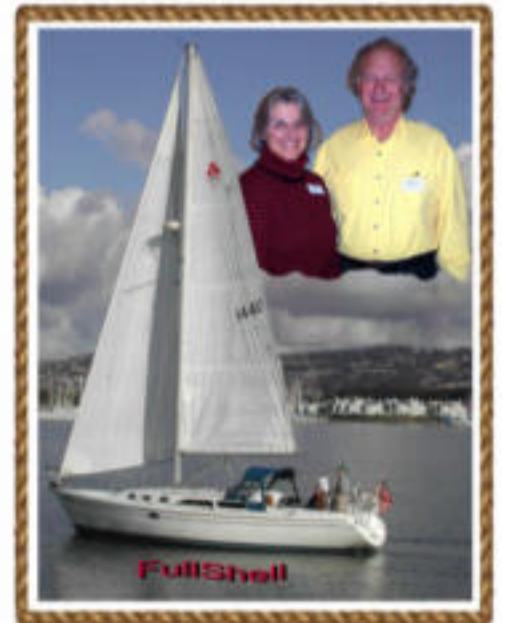
I am a former bay-sailor (Ericson 38) now landlocked in Idaho. I have a lovely mountain cabin 50 miles north of Boise and I'd like to exchange a week's use of the cabin for the use of a 34-38 ft. sailboat. I have excellent personal credentials and coastal sailing experience. I was a corporate pilot for 20 years and am conservative in all respects. Although I was not a member of your club when I lived in Alameda, I always enjoyed docking there.

Perhaps one of your members would be interested in such an exchange---it could even become an annual event. If interested, you can contact me by phone or e-mail.

Jack Learned

Remax of Boise

(208)376-4000 (x3037)



Picture Collages

Contact Ardelle Cirino if you would like to have a collage made of you and your boat.

Phone 510 816-3059
email ardellec1@yahoo.com



MBYC 2003 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY

- 8-9 Cruise-out to China Camp
- 15 Board Meeting
Valentine's Day Mediterranean
Dinner (Cosper)
- 22 Berkeley YC Cruise-in
Dinner (Lagier, Turner, Keppel)

MARCH

- 8-9 Cruise-out to Coyote Pt. YC
- 15 Board Meeting
St. Patrick's Day Dinner (Cirino)

APRIL

- 5 "Women Aboard" Cruise-in
Meeting, Dinner (Kathy Smith)
- 19-20 Cruise-out to Clipper Cove
- 26 Board Meeting , Dinner

MAY

- 3 Cinco de Mayo Dinner
(Cirino) (1700/1900)
- 17 Board Meeting (1600)
Chicken Cacciatore Dinner
(Gove) (1800/1900)
- 24-26 Memorial Weekend Cruise-Out
to South Beach Harbor

JUNE

- 7-8 Cruise-out to Sausalito YC
- 14 Board Meeting
Dinner
- 21 Corsair Marine group dinner

JULY

- 19 Board Meeting
Dinner with wine tasting
- Cruise-out

AUGUST

- 9-10 Cruise-out
- 16 Board Meeting
Dinner
- 30-31 Cruise-out to Half Moon Bay

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Cruise-out to Half Moon Bay (cont'd)
- 20 Board Meeting
Dinner
Richmond Marina "Festival by the Bay"

OCTOBER

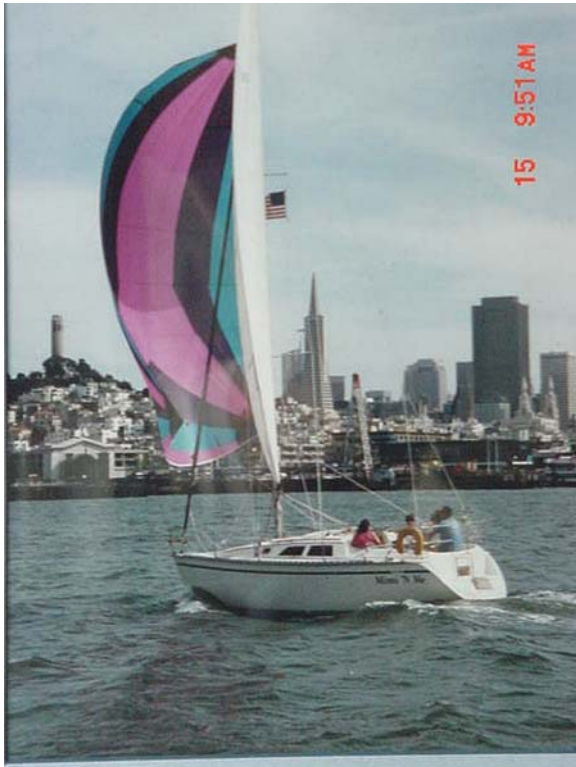
- 11-12 Cruise-out
- 18 Board Meeting
Dinner

NOVEMBER

- 8-9 Cruise-out
- 15 Board Meeting
Dinner

DECEMBER

- 13 Board Meeting
Holiday Dinner
- Cruise-out?



MARINA BAY YACHT CLUB

SIGNAL

MIMI 'N ME

Hunter 30

Captain Jon Keppel, crew and guests
Slip sliding down The Slot



Marina Bay Yacht Club

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