



THE SIGNAL

MARINA BAY YACHT CLUB

Richmond, California

Vol. XVIII, No. 8

August 2003

COMMODORE'S LOG



Dear Members,

Ardelle Cirino, our Rear Commodore, organized our first Open House for the year on Sunday, June 22. With help from Paul and Earlene Lagier, Erwin Gove and Kasey Green we had the club open, received guests and enjoyed lunch. We attracted some new berthers at Marina Bay who appeared to be excited about our Club and even spoke with members of another club in the area who really like MBYC's cruise-outs and social events.

While the clubhouse was open other members dropped in, some had lunch, while some just socialized. What this indicates to me is that members will use the club if it is open. This is the first step to being a full time club.

I want to recognize Ardelle, who has taken on even more responsibility in making the events at MBYC happen. When Kat Decker had to step down from being Port Captain due to personal and work changes, Ardelle was first to volunteer to keep things going. We need more members like Ardelle. But Ardelle can't continue to handle both her Rear Commodore duties (mainly membership) and the duties of a Port Captain. We need a volunteer to become our new Port Captain. If you can serve, call me or Vice Commodore Eric Anderson. Come to the next board meeting and see what you can do to help the club.

Eric Anderson, our new Vice Commodore, is actively working on the issue of managing the club. He is also the chair of the clubhouse committee.

Kat Decker and I spoke at the June dinner and she commented on her pride in the changes to the clubhouse during her watch. Kat was instrumental in coordinating all this change – the dishwasher, the stove and the carpeting. I am grateful for Kat's diligence and service to MBYC. I hope that, as things settle down a bit in her life, that she is able to serve the club again in the future.

I reported to the Board of Directors my meeting with the management of the Marina. They are very interested in our Yacht Club being successful. We recognize that there are mutual benefits to be gained by a strong club and full marina. Expect to hear more of how we will partner with them in the future.

On a final note, our finances indicate that MBYC will be in trouble if we cannot step up to the plate and make this a full-time club with sufficient members to support our cost structure. You can help our club by electing to receive the Signal by e-mail rather than by US Mail. This will save us the cost of printing and postage, and usually gets the newsletter to you more quickly. Notify the Signal editor (see pg. 2) if you can choose this option.

Mike Green
Commodore

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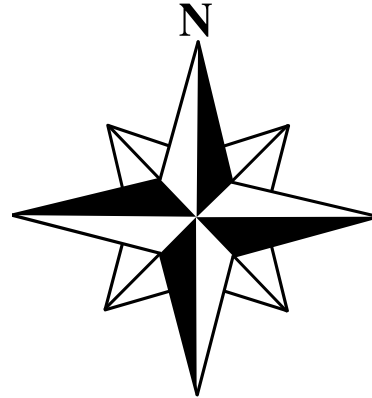
Clubhouse: The Boathouse
2580 Spinnaker Way, Richmond CA

MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS

At the Board meeting held on July 19, 2003, Tom Macfarland of San Francisco was elected to membership in Marina Bay Yacht Club:

Welcome to the Club!



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

- Stuart and Melissa Meighan of Pinole, who sail the Catalina 36 *Pleiades*. Sponsors are Jim Taylor and Eric Anderson.
- Charley and Jeff Williams of Redding, who sail the Catalina 28 *Dreamer's Remedy*. Sponsors are Eric Anderson and Jim Taylor.

THE LIZARD'S LOUNGE

Here it is... Another month gone by. I have to say a whole lot has happened this past few weeks. Several adventures, a bunch of fun, and good food!

Where to start? I guess I'll start back at the Sequoia Yacht Club cruise-out. This was the one that you didn't attend. I know, it was the 4th of July. Some went up the Delta. For warm? Some went to see fireworks? Some had BBQ with friends? Well... we did all the above. That is, Don and Jan on *Ripple* and the Lizard Guy on *Lizard II*. That's the total Marina Bay Yacht Club cruisers. Last year I had zero show up at this yacht club and only myself at another cruise-out. That was last year's story. Ya, you read about it then.

The cruise down was stunning. Nice breeze on the Bay and very warm in the South Bay. Just like the Delta only you could see more than levee banks. Lotsa relaxation on a 29-mile sail. When tied to the Sequoia YC dock we joined them for refreshments and radio operated sailboat races. I think Don came in last. This is really a great club. Great people! Some friends from San Leandro Yacht Club, *36 Double "D"*, cruised in and rafted to *Ripple*. We had a fun BBQ at the club followed by the Redwood City fireworks show. The fireworks were set off on Redwood creek right over our heads. We laid on *Lizard II* and watched the show over our heads. Wow!

Saturday was exploration day. We inflated the dinks and spent the day cruising the sloughs and marinas. We saw lots of wildlife, both animal and human. Fun! Fun! Fun in nice warm weather! Saturday evening was spent racing radio sailboats. Don brought his along and sank it within a few minutes. See, the wind had come up a bit and there was this knock down, then another. You get the picture. The club served lots of meatballs, sausage, crackers, bread, chips and dips during this time of day. A really fun destination. I recommend you all get down here the next time we go. Good job Jan!

The Sunday trip back was a bit of a slog. Wind came up early on the nose. Motored to San Mateo Bridge and could reach off and sail. Big ebb chop, but OK with a reefed main. *Ripple* had trouble with the main and I tacked over and followed them north. By the time we were north of Treasure Island I was able to shake the reef and sail in 10 knots of wind. This is great! Ten knots and warm. It soon was 30 knots again from the Southeast! No matter, a great downwind sail. As I approached Pt. Potrero Reach it was really windy and I decided to furl the sails outside the channel due to excessive traffic with all trying to get back into port. I rolled the headsail and turned into the wind and tried to start the engine. All I get is silence!

Silence! Do you know that feeling you get when alone in traffic in 30 knots of wind and the sound from your engine is silence? Yes you do.... you are a sailor too. I headed up, wrestled the main down, tied it to the boom, and turned the boat toward the channel. I was doing 4.5 knots over the ground with bare poles! That's a lot of wind! I sailed into the slip with just a handkerchief size of sail on the headsail. Don and Jan were there to catch me. I'm getting good at sailing into the slip these days. The end of another adventure.

The following weekend I crewed on *Silverheels II* with Peter Turner for a relaxing time at China Camp. Was a great downwind run during another warm day on the Bay. After anchoring we went ashore for shrimp cocktail and to check out a junk the Park Service is building there. What a project! All out of redwood and they make the nails at the blacksmith station. The bending of the planks is done over open fires on the beach. If you can, go check it out. I think the launching is sometime in October. I hope to be there for that.

We then headed out in the dink to explore and check out the birds and wildlife. Instead we ended up rescuing a couple on a Hobie Cat. Pete suggested how to get the sail down and we then towed them to shore. With the cat safely ashore we returned to *Silverheels II* for dinner. When on *Silverheels II* you always think about dinner. Pete is a very good cook. The wind came up strong again and we couldn't keep the grill lit. Pete ended up pan-frying a tri tip and it turned out really good. Why can't I do that?

Later in the evening, around 2200, we felt a thump on the hull. Me being sensitive to things hitting the boat, I was topside in a jiffy. I saw nothing and returned down below. Everything was just fine. We soon went to sleep listening to the wind and ripples slapping the boat. Now, while at anchor I can never sleep through the night. I have to check the anchor and make sure all is well. My internal anchor alarm went off at 0200 and I did my anchor check. Nothing looked right! In a moment I realized we were in the middle of San Pablo Bay. Half way to Vallejo! "Hey Pete! Pete! We're dragging anchor! We're in the middle of the friggin' Bay!" Peter comes on deck. I'm taking down the awning. He checks the anchor and finds the rode has parted 20 feet forward of the bow. He can't figure it out. No matter now. "Let's motor back to the slip." At 0215 we're heading back to Brickyard Cove. So lucky we stayed out of the shipping lane and the mud! We determined that someone motored through the anchorage and hit our rode leaving only a couple strands holding us to the anchor. The noise heard and felt earlier

was the last strands giving way in the wind. Another adventure!

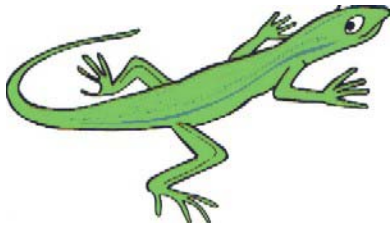
I want to mention, this past weekend Eric and Marilyn Anderson hosted the Tuscan Food and Wine Fest at the Club. What a gastronomic adventure. By far the best I've been to at the Club. Good job Eric and Marilyn. You're welcome to do it any time. Thank you.

Tomorrow I'm headed to Ventura to join Bill Strong as crew on *Maui Blanc*. We're going to bring her up to Richmond. I'm sure this will be another adventure. I'll tell you about it when we get back.

Am I going to see you at Pillar Point over Labor Day weekend? I'll arrive there from Monterey Bay with several other MBYC boats. If you're going or want to go to Monterey Bay the week before Labor Day let me know and I'll keep an eye out to see if I can find you. My e-mail is llawson@highstream.net.

See ya out and about. Sail safe.

Lizard Guy



JULY 3rd FIREWORKS

The City of Richmond has their annual fireworks display at the marina every July 3rd. Knowing it was short notice, Fleet Captain Jan Wigle sent e-mail to let everyone know.

Fourteen MBYC members and guests enjoyed an informal barbecue / potluck dinner followed by fireworks. The deck is a great place to watch the show. Perhaps the Club will consider making this an annual event at the Clubhouse.

The evening was the first time I had an opportunity to use the new stove and dishwasher. I can personally testify they make food preparation and cleanup a real breeze.

Congratulations to Jim and Eleanor Butchart, who were with us and celebrating their 25th anniversary.

-----Jim Taylor
Past Commodore

CRUISE NEWS

NATARAJA

Seward, Alaska
60 07 N 149 26 W

We are finally in Alaska! It was another long, light-wind passage. We couldn't seem to shake the Pacific High; that thing stayed with us all the way north. But I guess you could say we had it pretty easy. Normally the trip north is associated with heavy weather. We added a third reef point to our main and bought a storm jib in anticipation of getting pasted. The winds were light with the exception of two 10-12 hour periods of winds in excess of 30 knots. Not bad at all. The temperature dropped dramatically once we crossed 37 north and left us wondering about our sanity. We had snow flurries one day and frozen rain another. The farther north we came, the longer the days got. Night watch wasn't so bad when it stopped getting dark. While at sea we saw many albatross. As we got closer to land the terns and puffins started to appear. We were treated to a Dall dolphin escort along the Kenai Peninsula. The Dalls are black and white and look like small Orcas. Even though our trip along the coast was at night, it was light enough to clearly see our first glacier. Bear Glacier appeared off our port side.



Land Ho!

Once inside the harbor, we looked for any empty slip and the only one was a 75-footer. There were no lines, power cord, or hose, so we snagged it. It was about 0200 local time, and figured we'd be fine till morning. The harbor is quite crowded. Lots of sailboats, more than I expected, and many small fishing boats, tour boats, charter boats, and a good number of commercial fishing boats. Definitely a busy place. We were able to secure a spot on the transient dock. The spaces are first come, first served,

so it's dog eat dog. All you have to do is wait for someone to leave, and the spot is yours. The town of Seward was established in 1903 and is busy with tourist traffic. The cruise ships pass through regularly, the train starts from here, the ferry comes in, and there is even a small airport for charter flights. There are thousands of RV's, campers, and tents, too. But, even with all the tourist traffic, it is still "small town America".

The locals are genuinely friendly and very helpful, and everyone on the transient dock knows we came from Hawaii. We've met just about all of them because they stop by to say hello and ask about our trip. Word travels fast. The first couple days after we got here, it was chilly, cloudy, and misty. It left us, once again, questioning our sanity; what were we thinking!/? But then the skies cleared and the sun came out. It has been absolutely beautiful, and yes, warm, too.

Eric has quite a bit of family in the state, and we traveled inland to Palmer to visit. We had a great time seeing everyone and enjoyed a big family BBQ. While inland, we visited an old gold mine, played in snow, went to Talkeetna, and saw Mt. Denali. Seward is the place for the 4th of July. You haven't lived until you've experienced the 4th in Seward. No one knows how to put on a celebration like a small town. The big event is a race up Mt. Marathon. The first race was run in 1909 to settle a bet that it couldn't be done in less than an hour. The time on the first race was one hour, twenty minutes. The race has been held every year since then, and it gets bigger every year. We hiked the trail on the 3rd and we are here to tell you, this is no easy feat. This was one brutal, uphill trail. It had rained the day before and we were on our hands and knees in parts, pulling ourselves up with roots and branches. Several times we found ourselves sliding backwards. The trailhead is at an altitude of 30 feet, the highest point is 3,022 feet. The average angle of the trail is 38 degrees, with the steepest being 60! Roundtrip distance is 3.1 miles. The trail begins as a single track through the trees, which gives way to brush, then you break out into shale. We made it about 2/3 of the way up, stopped for lunch, then headed down. It's a loop trail, and the downhill part takes you through a chute of shale rock, then a creek with small waterfalls, then back onto the slippery mud & roots. We made short work of the trip down! There were over 800 runners who did this race, and we felt their pain. The fastest time was 47 minutes and change. Most finished covered in mud and dust, and some with blood running down their legs. It was unreal. The next big event was the outhouse races. You ain't seen nothing until you've seen two outhouses race down the street. There was also a parade, a slippery salmon toss,

nail driving competitions, and lots of yummy food. Then at 11:59 pm, we had fireworks. It's rather interesting watching fireworks at dusk. It just isn't the same. But, these people know how to have fun!

The most bizarre thing though, has got to be the sun. It never really sets, it just seems to circle the mountains. It doesn't go down behind them, it passes along behind the peaks, and pops out the other side. Everyone, ourselves included, seem to be solar powered. You just never get sleepy.

There are a lot of things to see and do here in Seward. The Harding Ice Field is part of the Kenai Fjords National Park and covers more than half of the park's 607,805 acres. Exit Glacier is one of the park's features and we were able to walk fairly close to it. It is really quite a beautiful shade of blue. We saw traces of the moose while in the park, but didn't see any. We have seen several while driving along the highway, though. I was glad to see that the brown bear don't frequent this area.



The runoff from the glacier contains "glacier flour" or silt, which makes it nearly impossible for fish to live in the rivers and streams in the immediate area of the glaciers. The long days provide enough light and warmth for the greenery and flowers to flourish. I am amazed at how lush it is here. The harbor is home to many sea gulls and ravens. The ravens are big, mean birds, and will rip into anything left in the back of a truck, looking for food. Eric has memories of being attacked by them while coming out of the grocery store in the winter. We have seen a number of bald eagles, too. One morning, a sea otter surfaced next to the boat with a crab on his belly. We are looking forward to exploring all the anchorages in this area and Prince William Sound, then sailing across to Sitka and the Inside Passage.

-----Emmy & Eric, s/v *Nataraja*

FLEETING THOUGHTS

Sequoia Yacht Club (July 4-6) turned out to be a great destination! We left the slip at 0950, and, with the aid of a friendly ebb and flood, made it in about four-and-a-half hours.

Once we were past Hunters Point, the weather really warmed up. We kept a sharp lookout for nude sailors, but alas, saw none.

The people at Sequoia were super friendly. The Port Captain, Dan Doud, even came out in a shore boat and led us into the unfamiliar harbor and helped us tie up at the guest dock (no charge). A few minutes later, Larry "Lizard" Lawson joined us. We were also joined by friends from San Leandro Yacht Club on their boat, 36 *Double D's*. (Their names are Dale and Dena, and the boat is an Islander 36. It's not what you're thinking.) Speaking of funny boat names, there was a boat at the docks named *Small Flying Patio Furniture*. I wonder what *that* is about.

The Sequoia clubhouse is a very nice facility: not fancy, just really comfortable and roomy. Part of their deck, which overlooks the docks, is covered with an awning. From this location, several SYC members conducted a "Grand Old Regatta" of R/C micro Lasers. What fun! To top the evening off, there was a spectacular fireworks display.



Big Boat Series at Sequoia

The next day, Larry, Don, and I took the dinghies and checked out the various "floating mansions" at Docktown and went up Smith Slough part way around Bair Island. It was nice to have a "lay day" before heading back home. We visited some more with friendly people up at the clubhouse, and they even gave us a dozen Krispy

Kreme donuts with which to fortify ourselves for the trip home.



Ripple & Lizard at the guest dock

Our "sail" home was less than auspicious. We had wind on the nose for quite a way; then, when we finally were able to get a decent reach, our mainsail jammed halfway up the mast. We couldn't get it up, and we couldn't get it down. Don tied up the remaining sail as best he could, but we motored back with the darn thing flapping like crazy. (I took down our flags so as not to embarrass the club. Besides, I thought they were going to shred themselves.) I climbed up the mast steps when we reached relatively flat water south of the Bay Bridge, but without a safety harness, I was afraid I would lose my grip so I gave up on that.

It turned out that the halyard had become entangled with the topping lift in one of our mast steps. Once we were in the slip, it was easy enough to fix, (the Lizard Guy went up the steps) but--man!--what a stressful way to come in.

Future cruise-outs include a casual anchor-out in China Camp led by our esteemed leader Commodore Mike Green on August 9/10. We will have the traditional cruise to Half Moon Bay over Labor Day weekend, August 30-September 1. And don't forget to sign up for the Golden Gate Yacht Club (and Tango Mango) on November 8/9.

Jan Wigle
Fleet Captain

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Marina Bay Yacht Club

Upcoming Events

August 2003

Cruise Out to Half Moon Bay

Aug. 30 - Sept. 1, 2003

See details in the Fleet Captain's column
or Contact:

Jan Wible: 209-527-7775
fleetcaptain@marinabayyc.com



We need a Port Captain

Help

If you are interested, please contact the
Commodore. (Contact info. on page 2)

There are many of us that can show you

Board Meeting and Dinner Saturday

August 16, 2003

Pizza Party

Board Meeting 4:00 p.m.

Bar Open approx: 5:30 p.m.

Dinner 7:00 p.m.



.Cost: \$10.00 p.p.

Kids <13 = free

Hosted By

Donna Dunn &

Ardelle Cirino

RSVP

Ardelle Cirino (510) 816-3059
PortCaptain@MarinaBayYC.com

Mark Your Calendar!!!

On September 20th the City of Richmond will be sponsoring The Festival by the Bay event. **MBYC will be holding another Open House on the same day.**

(BETWEEN NOON AND 4 PM) As this is during the day, before our regular meeting dinner, we will not be having a BBQ. We will however have finger foods. If anyone would be willing to bring food for this event, please contact me. (Ardelle Cirino see page 2)

Please set some time aside to come help us meet and greet folks that may stop by. We need your support to grow our club. (Complete Details in September Signal)

SAFETY FORUM

“Boat Smart”-August 2003

Are you and your family prepared for a safe boating season? Does every family member know how to return to pick up anyone (perhaps the skipper) who has fallen overboard? Are you an experienced sailor/boater who would like to refresh his or her knowledge?

The Marin Power and Sail Squadron is offering a tuition-free U.S. Coast Guard approved safe boating class-“Boat Smart”- in four evening sessions at our facility, the Kell Center, 789 North Hamilton Parkway (former Hamilton Air Force Base), Novato, on August 12,13,19,20,2003; 7-9PM each night. The instructors are Squadron members who are experienced sailors/ boaters and teachers.

Some of the topics covered: USCG Required Safety Equipment, Rules of the Road, Aids to Navigation, Boat Types, Boat Handling, Docking, Anchoring, Using a Marine Radio, Medical Emergencies, Selecting a Boat, Boat Trailing , and much more.

There is a charge of \$30.00 for the textbook, which may be shared by two people. Additional books are \$20.00 each. The textbook is also an excellent reference book to keep aboard your boat. The charges include a final examination and certificate of successful completion, which may entitle you to a discount on your boat insurance. Call Pete at (415) 883-3652 for information, reservations, and directions.

-----Jim Taylor

BURGEES

The Club has a new stock of burgees for those that need a replacement. The burgees are slightly larger than the old ones and made to last a very long time. The price is \$ 25.00. Contact Secretary Jim Taylor to find how to obtain one.



TUSCANY, MARINA BAY

For many years, I have said, “Never a bad meal at Marina Bay Yacht Club”. Saturday July 19, 2003 is a date to remember. Through the efforts of Vice Commodore Eric Anderson, the members of MBYC were treated to a “World Class” dining event.

First we enjoyed a tasting of wines, to be featured on our new wine list, and hors d'oeuvres. The California and Oregon wines were very tasty, will complement other great meals at the Club, and good enough to drink on their own.

This was followed by an exceptional “sit down” Tuscan style dinner. Most dishes were prepared over an open wood fire. Eric’s son-in-law, Greg, works at the St Francis Hotel in San Francisco. He introduced each course and wine pairing. The Italian wines were those most of us would not look for when buying wine. It was an adventure to enjoy the Old World wines with the different dishes.

We had the pleasure of enjoying four types of Italian wine, including the vinsanto with dessert. The wines are available through Eric and you are encouraged to contact him.

Thank you Eric, Marilyn, Gretchen, Greg, Amy, Tim, and Itzik for your exemplary efforts and hosting such a gastronomic delight.

-----Jim Taylor



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)
- 17 Board Meeting
Chicken Cacciatore Dinner (Gove)
- 24-26 Cruise-out to South Beach Harbor

JUNE

- 7-8 Cruise-out to Sausalito YC
- 14 Board Meeting
Tri-Tip Dinner (Johnson)
- 22 Open House (Cirino)

JULY

- 5-6 Cruise-out to Sequoia Yacht Club
- 19 Board Meeting
Dinner with wine tasting (Anderson)

AUGUST

- 16 Board Meeting (1600)
Dinner: Details on flyer pg 7
(1800/1900)
- 30-31 Cruise-out to Half Moon Bay---

SEPTEMBER

- 1 ---Cruise-out to Half Moon Bay (cont'd)
- 20 Board Meeting
Dinner Mike & Kasey Green
Open House Details in September Signal
Richmond Marina "Festival by the Bay"

OCTOBER

- 11-12 Cruise-out
- 18 Board Meeting
General Membership Meeting
Octoberfest Dinner (Duvall & Flores)

NOVEMBER

- 8-9 Cruise-out to Golden Gate Yacht Club
- 15 Board Meeting
Chili Cookoff Dinner

DECEMBER

- 13 Board Meeting
Holiday Dinner
- Cruise-out & Raft--- Ayala Cove

NOTE: Please make reservations for all Yacht Club dinners you would like to attend. E-mail PortCaptain@MarinaBayYC.com or phone Ardelle at (510) 816-3059.

MARINA BAY YACHT CLUB

SIGNAL



Wigle

LIZARD II

Larry “the lizard guy” Lawson heading home from
the July Cruise-out to Sequoia Yacht Club



Marina Bay Yacht Club

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