



# THE SIGNAL

MARINA BAY YACHT CLUB

Richmond, California

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December 2003

## COMMODORE'S LOG



December Log  
11/26/03

Kasey and I took *Freyja* out for a much-needed sail last Sunday. I can always think clearer when the diesel is off and the sails full. I was reflecting on this past year of being Commodore of the club and the people I have had the privilege to come to know and with whom I have served.

I want to take this opportunity, as the last Log that I will write as Commodore, to extend my heartfelt and truly deserved thanks to both the members of the board that have supported over this past year and to identify members who have been outstanding individual contributors.

I want to recognize and thank board members Ardelle Cirino, Jim Butchart, Erwin Gove, George Naill and Jim Taylor. These five are always at the center of effort, doing the work – whether it is putting the events together, purchasing food/supplies, tending the bar, cooking, washing the dishes or cleaning the clubhouse. They come prepared as board members, meaning that they give of their precious personal time before the meetings and then they step up to run the club's at each monthly dinner. Earlier in the year Kat Decker and Phil Coker were largely responsible for getting the clubhouse improvements going. Eric Anderson has been one of the main individual contributors to the club over this past year. His Tuscany dinner over the summer and coordination of

the recent Tony Johnson event are still clear in my memory. He took over the management of the bar when Phil Coker had to back off for work reasons. He also was a major contributor to the purchase and installation of the new kitchen appliances. Bill Butterworth and Stuart Meighan have recently stepped out of the crowd to carry more of the club's duties. Their willingness to serve the club is very appreciated and as newer members who will be on the board next year they will need all of our assistance to give them the context of Marina Bay Yacht Club's history.

Jan Wigle has taken a few of us (too few of us) each month to sometimes exotic, but always fun places as our Fleet Captain. Thanks Jan.

There are members who regularly contribute by doing a dinner each year; their contributions are greatly appreciated. These are members who understand that the club cannot exist without the efforts of its members. If I have left anyone out, it's only due to my failing memory; I ask your forgiveness and understanding.

Thank you to you all. Your contributions are what make this club such a great club. I salute you.  
(Can I have my Past Commodore flag now?)

Mike Green, Commodore

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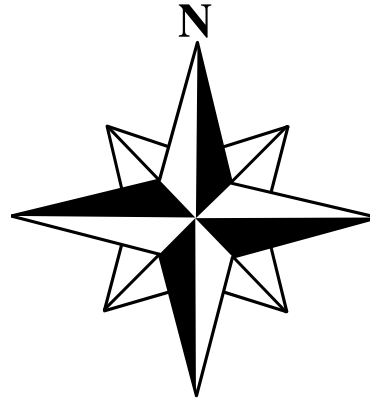
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OOOPS!

From the insurance adjusters'  
Hall of Fame

## CRUISING GUIDE

*The following report relates what we've learned while preparing for and cruising to and in Hawaii and Alaska. It's the result of being cooped up on our boat Nataraja because of rain! ---Emmy Newbould*

### **PREPARING YOURSELF AND YOUR BOAT FOR CRUISING**

Not everyone dreams of cruising. Some folks are perfectly content with weekend outings, and some with just having a boat and sitting in the cockpit at the dock. And that's perfectly ok. Cruising, or even leaving the dock, isn't for everyone. For those of us crazy enough to entertain the idea of blue water sailing, there are things that are necessary to prepare not only your boat, but yourself.

Probably the most important things would be confidence in your boat handling skills and a thorough knowledge of the boat's systems. What equipment is "necessary" is truly a personal preference. We each have different levels of comfort and expectations. Just keep in mind, the more stuff you add, the more stuff you have that can break. The obvious musts would include a working VHF radio, GPS, flares, lifejackets, a good pair of binoculars, a good set of working sails, and a dinghy. The other stuff plays into our personal "comfort" levels. Identifying what is "needed" and what is "wanted" is important. The more weekend outings you do, the easier it is to determine what would make full-time life aboard "more comfortable". We definitely fall under the category of budget cruisers, but we have outfitted our boat to a level that makes us comfortable.

### **BOAT HANDLING SKILLS & SELF SUFFICIENCY**

The ability to sail on and off the anchor or being able to sail onto a mooring may sound like something only a daredevil or showoff would do. But the truth of the matter is, your engine will fail you some day, and there won't be anyone to help you. You will be completely on your own.

A prime example of this is when we were in Vava'u, Tonga. We were picking our way through a reef-strewn area, motor sailing because it was tight. The engine died and wouldn't restart. Eric immediately jibed the boat around, and we headed for safer water. The wind was blowing, and we had good speed. We sailed through a narrow pass through another reef, and into Neiafu. The bottom is pretty foul there, so we radioed ahead to arrange for a mooring. The wind built to 25 knots. We sailed the boat under just the main, through the moored and anchored boats, and brought her to a dead stop right at our mooring.

Another time, we had to sail into our marina in

Hawaii, in the dark, through a reef, where many boats go aground. The wind was very light, and died completely when we arrived inside the harbor. This time we side tied the dinghy, and brought her into the slip. On both of these occasions our anchor was ready for immediate deployment, just in case.

Practice anchoring and get really good at it. Master your ability to choose a spot with a comfort zone in a crowded anchorage. Be considerate to others. Don't be afraid to ask another boat how much scope they have out, and whether or not they are running all rope or a chain and rope combo. There is no greater spectacle than to watch another boat anchor. If possible, determine what type of bottom you'll be anchoring in. Stop forward motion of the boat, drop the hook, cleat it off at the determined amount. Slowly back down, allowing it to dig in. Once you feel the grab, increase the RPM's, pick your spot on shore, and back down hard. Be 100% sure it is set. Dragging sucks; don't let it happen to you.

Having someone go overboard can happen; it can even be the captain. It is critical that everyone on board knows what to do. If you have a life sling on board, know how to deploy it, be sure it is properly rigged and easy to get to. Take it apart, look at it, understand how it works. Practice man overboard maneuvers. I'm not suggesting jumping off the boat in San Francisco Bay, but use your horseshoe. Or, better yet, try it on your next trip up the Delta where the water is warm. Try it while anchored or if it's safe, while underway. It is sad but true, but most women really aren't confident or have the knowledge of how to handle the boat. Guys, it really is a good idea to make sure your significant other can handle the helm in an emergency. There was a man in Mexico who lost his life when he went overboard during rough weather. His wife had no idea what to do; he never had a chance. The boat drifted and finally washed ashore where she was rescued. This could have been avoided. Get the books and read up on recovery methods, and practice. Foul weather gear and boots are like lead weights once they begin to fill with water. Try getting into a swimming pool fully outfitted, and see how it feels.

Self-sufficiency is also important. We've heard it said that cruising is just working on your boat in exotic locations. Knock on wood, we have been very lucky overall in this area. The engine seems to keep us on our toes, but overall it has been great.

The outboard is a major thorn in Eric's side. He has that thing so jury-rigged, I don't think Nissan would recognize it as one of their own. Lately the refrigeration has been acting up and he's worked his magic on it, too. Having the basic engine maintenance and troubleshooting

skills is crucial. Eric's had our engine torn apart while underway more than once. He's replaced the impeller, the water pump, and fuel filters. He's had to trouble-shoot when the engine has died. There is nothing more frustrating than having to prime the engine while underway. Of course, not everyone is mechanically inclined, but it is helpful to have a basic understanding. We have met a number of people who don't have the slightest idea and end up spending a lot of money and waste a lot of time waiting for someone else to fix their stuff. Unfortunately, not all repairmen are honest and some know a sucker when they see one. Telling people they need to do a lot more than is necessary. It is also surprising how many people don't know how to use their equipment. We've spent hours on other people's boats showing them how to use or fix things.

----Emmy Newbould  
(To be continued.)

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### NEW MARKETING COMMITTEE- MEMBERS NEEDED

Based upon direction given during the Annual General Membership meeting in October, the board agreed at their November meeting to establish a new committee whose responsibility is developing and implementing the club marketing plan. Marketing will not supplant the current Membership Committee, but will work with that committee on marketing materials and approach. This committee's responsibilities will also include the oversight of the Club's Store (apparel and other items with MBYC logo).

The board assigned Mike Green to Chair this committee. Michael Pordes and Ardelle Cirino have already agreed to serve on the committee. Mike is asking for volunteers and is especially interested in those people who were vocal with their ideas at the membership meeting about this area. You can send an e-mail to Mike at [Commodore@MarinaBayYC.com](mailto:Commodore@MarinaBayYC.com).

----Mike Green  
Commodore

### THE LIZARD'S LOUNGE

I became a member of Marina Bay Yacht Club in 1996. This was after attending several cruise-out functions as a tag-along boat. Since I have been a member I have made it out on most cruise-out activities. This is what drew me into the "Club"....cruising... Over the years I have become close with many members. In fact, my closest friends are members of MBYC.

I have always been an advocate of sailing and cruising. I have also learned that the vast majority of yacht club members don't always move their boats on a regular basis. There have been cruise-outs from MBYC where 21 or so boats participated, but for the most part it is usually four to seven boats. These consist of the same 10 boats that are active regularly. I have even been to cruises where I was the only show and there have been some with no shows.

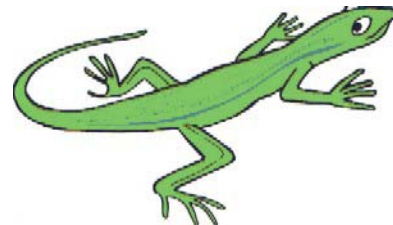
This year I will have made all the cruises set up by Jan Wagle, our fleet captain. She has done a great job for the year. What I have experienced at MBYC has been very positive and fun. We've had good times at the Boathouse, but I'm not about the Boathouse. My thoughts of a yacht club are sailing and boating. Lately it seems to me MBYC is about socializing at the Boathouse, not getting out on the water. I see this because out of 50+ boats it is only the same 10 boats out on a regular basis. Due to this gap between my interests and the Club, I have left for more guilt-free time on the water.

Hopefully there will be more support for the cruise-outs in the future. I know how much effort goes into setting them up. My favorite times have been out cruising with club members. We've had a few parties and lots of fun.

I wish the best for MBYC and hope to see you on the water. Should you find me at anchor somewhere, stop by and have a cold one.

Sail safe and sail often,

Lizard Guy



## FLEETING THOUGHTS

Golden Gate Yacht Club is a busy club! During our cruise-out, there was a meeting of the Kiwi Ex-pat Association (KEA) downstairs in the afternoon, and preparations for the Moët Ball, scheduled for Saturday night, were going on upstairs and in the kitchen. Consequently, we cooked our dinners on board our boats, then reunited in the bar (where the drinks were quite expensive) to observe the tango dancers strutting their stuff in the downstairs room. It was good entertainment. (The shoes were to die for!)

Six boats made the cruise to GGYC: *Silverheels* and *Mimi 'n Me* arrived on Friday; *Ripple*, *Maui Blanc*, *Lizard*, and *La Dolce Vita* all arrived on Saturday. In addition, the Cospers drove to the club so we had twelve members representing Marina Bay.

The wind was blowing quite hard and there was a considerable amount of surge when we were docking, which made things tricky, and later, it rained pretty heavily. However, in true Marina Bay style, we pulled together and had a nice social evening.

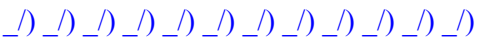
The final cruise-out for 2003 will be to Ayala Cove on December 27. This location has been a tradition for December cruise-outs the last few years. The island is serene in the winter as few tourists make the trip. It's a wonderful opportunity to enjoy what Nature has to offer. Hope to see you there!

Jan Wigle, Fleet Captain



Hislop

Marina Bay YC visits Golden Gate YC



## HOLIDAY DINNER

Saturday, December 13th will be our final dinner of the year. This will be a holiday dinner featuring ham, macaroni and cheese, salad, and yams. I am asking any of you that can to bring appetizers or desserts. There will door prizes.

Also, anyone that can help decorate the club Friday the 12th, please let me know. I will also need a couple of people to help set the tables on Saturday before dinner. Please contact me if you are able to do any of the above. Happy Holidays and Thank You Very Much.

Contact Ardelle: (510) 616-3059 or [PortCaptain@MarinaBayYC.com](mailto:PortCaptain@MarinaBayYC.com).



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## FOR SALE

New England brand ½ inch three-strand 200-foot line  
Brand new---\$75

(West Marine price \$124)

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## NEW STUDY PINPOINTS CAUSES OF BOAT FIRES

(from the PICYA Log)

As the boating season gets into full swing, a new study released by BoatU.S. Marine Insurance indicates that the leading cause of fires aboard vessels are AC & DC wiring problems, engine and transmission overheating, and fuel leaks.

“Unlike a house fire, boaters generally have no where to go but in the water once a fire breaks out, so understanding how fires start, and what can be done to prevent them, is even more important”, said Chuck Fort, Seaworthy associate editor.

The study, which analyzed hundreds of fire claim files over two years and focused on fires originating aboard vessels (marina fires excluded) is highlighted in the July issue of the BoatU.S. publication, Seaworthy, the nation’s only damage avoidance magazine for boat owners and the marine insurance industry.

Leading the pack, “AC & DC wiring/appliances” accounted for a whopping 55% of fires. The report detailed the electrical sources into subcategories such as DC shorts/wiring (30%), DC engine regulator (12%), shore power (4%) and other causes. “Wire chafe is the biggest problem we see”, adds Fort. “Electrical fires can also re-ignite even after an extinguisher has been emptied, so it’s also important to have a main battery switch and/or AC breaker to stop the ignition source.”

The #2 cause, “engine/transmission overheating”, had 24% of the claims. Obstructed intake or exhaust cooling water passages are the main cause for hose or impeller meltdowns, which lead to overheating. Keeping these clear, especially exhaust manifolds and risers, as well as regular replacement of pump impellers, would have prevented most of these fires.

“Fuel leaks”, the #3 cause, came in with 8% of the claims. Typical problem areas are fuel lines, fuel connections on the engine itself, and leaking tanks.

To get a copy of the report, visit <http://www.BoatUS.com/Seaworthy>.

### ERIC AND EMMY PARTY

On Saturday, November 29, the Wigles threw a mid-day party at the Boathouse to honor Eric Willbur and Emmy Neubold, our well-traveled Club members who are on an extended cruise. Members brought snacks, the Cospers brought soup and salad, and the bar was open, as we conversed with Emmy and Eric (and each other).



*Nataraja* is now waiting for them in Ketchikan. They left her to work for a period in Palmyra, Eric as a chef for the Nature Conservancy and Emmy as a volunteer.



The entertainment was provided by them in the form of a slide show on a computer, running through the many wonderful pictures they’ve taken on their extended cruise, and providing commentary and conversation.



Nineteen Club members were there to enjoy the evening.

Emmy and Eric are now returning to *Nataraja* to spend the winter in Ketchikan.

-----Erwin Gove



# MBYC Upcoming Events December 2003



Board Meeting 4:00 pm  
 Bar Opens (approx.) 5:30 pm  
 Dinner 7:00 pm

### Menu

Smoked Ham, macaroni & cheese  
 yams, fruit salad

Appitizers and desserts

Cost pp \$12.00 Kids <13=free

Hosted By: Nestor & Ardelle Cirino

**NOTE:** Please RSVP:

E-mail [PortCaptain@MarinaBayYC.com](mailto:PortCaptain@MarinaBayYC.com)

or phone Ardelle at (510) 816-3059

## Cruise-Out & Raft

### Ayala Cove

December 27-28

Contact Jan Wigle for details or  
 to sign up.

(See Fleet Captain  
 page 2 for contact  
 information.)



### Special Note for Christmas Party

I am counting on some of  
 you to bring appetizers  
 and desserts. Please let  
 me know as soon as you  
 can if you will be able to  
 bring either of these.



Friday the 12th we will  
 decorate the club. Saturday before dinner  
 we will need a couple of people to help set  
 the tables. Please let me know if you can do  
 either of these activities.

.....Ardelle Cirino (Acting Port Captain)

### Installation Dinner

January 17, 2004

We will need someone to host this dinner.  
 Contact Bill Butterworth or myself if you can  
 do this.

Thx.....Ardelle

Special Note from the Rear Commodore and Acting Port Captain:

This has been a great year for new members. Some of the new members that have joined have already become very active in the club, and have signed up to help with events next year.

Next Year, besides our regular meeting dinners, we have already signed up 3 cruise ins. And several other clubs, that have come to Marina Bay this past couple of years have also expressed interest in returning. So it should be pretty busy around the clubhouse this coming year.

Please refer to the Signal throughout the upcoming year for information regarding everything that is going on at the club, and all of the Cruise outs that are planned. I would like to encourage all of you to schedule some time for some of these events and get the most out of your club membership.

And, lastly, if you know anyone that is interested in joining the club, please invite them to the club or a cruise out, and let us get acquainted.

Happy Holidays to everyone, and remember to be safe.....in your home, in your office, on the road, and on the water.

Ardelle Cirino

## 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  
Pizza Party (Cirino)
- 30 MBYC Open House
- 30-31 Martinez YC Cruise-In
- 30-31 Cruise-out to Half Moon Bay---

### SEPTEMBER

- 1 ---Cruise-out to Half Moon Bay
- 6 MBYC Open House
- 13 MBYC Open House  
Dos Rios YC Cruise- In
- 20 Richmond's "Festival by the Bay"  
MBYC Open House  
Board Meeting  
Dinner (Green)
- 27 MBYC Open House

### OCTOBER

- 11-12 Cruise-out to San Rafael Yacht Club
- 18 Board Meeting  
General Membership Meeting  
Octoberfest Dinner (Duvall)

### NOVEMBER

- 1 Tony Johnson presentation
- 8-9 Cruise-out to Golden Gate Yacht Club
- 15 Board Meeting  
Calif. Cruising Clippers cruise-in  
Chili Cookoff Dinner  
& BBQ Ribs (Naill)

### DECEMBER

- 13 Board Meeting (1600)  
Holiday Baked Ham Dinner (Cirino)  
(1800/1900)
- 27-28 Cruise-out & Raft--- Ayala Cove

**NOTE: Please make reservations for each Yacht Club dinner you would like to attend. E-mail [PortCaptain@MarinaBayYC.com](mailto:PortCaptain@MarinaBayYC.com) or phone Ardelle at (510) 816-3059.**

**MARINA BAY YACHT CLUB**

**SIGNAL**



***LA DOLCE VITA***

Lagier Sloop

Paul and Earlene Lagier in the fog, returning from  
Half Moon Bay Last Labor Day



Marina Bay Yacht Club

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