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Commodore's Log



Barry Eldridge

Cruise Out to Loch Lomond,
Feb. 19 . . .

After checking the paper and verifying the weather on internet, Judy and I reluctantly concluded that Saturday's weather wasn't looking good, but we could reserve our final decision to sail or drive to Loch Lomond--until after we arrived at the boat. That delay didn't work, for the Bay Area was full of swirling clouds and fitful wind. Our plan was to leave about 10 a.m. Slack Tide was around noon and that would give us sufficient time to travel up the Bay. But we futzed about the boat, and soon it was 11:00, so we (sort of) decided to drive -- but we had some time to kill. We drove over to the Club to drop off a couch cover and pattered about with one eye on the bay. Suddenly, there was

break in the clouds, and sunbeams dazzled the water. A breeze picked up. There truly was a Fair Weather God, we thought, as we raced to our boat. So as we turned north into the Main Channel, we hoisted sails and settled back to enjoy the day, and that lasted about 20 minutes. Just north of the San Rafael Bridge, I made a mental note to do something about the leather sailing shoes and funky gloves I was wearing. These were both sopping wet. Apparently, the Fair Weather God doesn't work on Saturdays—but I still had a grin on my face. The wind had died and now we were power sailing. Our new wheel pilot was doing all the work. All I had to do was place one hand on the helm support and set the nautical pose of one contemplating the weather ahead (in case Judy happened to glance my way from the dry cabin below). I was looking forward to the San Rafael Channel, for it's been almost 40 years since I last sailed in on Seaweed, my old pilot house sloop. We made it to Loch

Lomond in good time and rafted up to Mike and Janice Tryon's new boat. Paul and Earlene were tied to the boat launch float, 10 feet and a quarter mile walk away. The afternoon was still young, so everyone piled into the Tryon's boat for wine and snacks. Charles Craig arrived later, rafted up and joined the group. At Saturday evening's Casino Night we had a wonderful time, and the dinner was delicious. I wasn't lucky at gambling when I used real money, but funny-money multiplies on its own. Earlene was a big winner. I hope more members can make the next Cruise Out on March 12 to Pt. San Pablo Y.C. They have some great folks, their food is terrific, and they are just down the channel. Give our Fleet Captain, Paul Lagier, a call.

Fair weather to you all...
Barry Eldridge, Commodore

Cruising News

Calendar

JANUARY--8-9 Sierra Pt. YC
FEBRUARY--19-20 Loch Lomond YC
MARCH--12-13 Pt. San Pablo YC
APRIL--9-10 Oakland YC
MAY--14-15 Ballena Bay YC
JUNE--11-12 Ayala Cove (raft-up) tentative
JULY--2 Vallejo YC JULY 3-10 Delta cruise
AUGUST--20-21 San Leandro YC
SEPTEMBER--10-11 Drakes Bay (Jim Duvall)
OCTOBER--8-9 Half Moon Bay
OCTOBER--29-30 Berkeley YC
NOVEMBER--5-6 or 11-12 Treasure Island YC (tentative)
DECEMBER--3-4 or 10-11 Treasure Island YC (tentative)

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary will be making a presentation to us at the dinner meeting at the dinner on March 12th. They have also offered to inspect as many boats that our members would like to have inspected. Having our yachts inspected by the U.S.C.G. Auxiliary and receiving a sticker usually prevents a random boarding by the young and energetic Coast Guardsmen that patrol San Francisco Bay.

I need to hear who and how many members want their boats inspected by March 5th, 2005.

Thank you,
Lance Warren
Safety Officer

MBYC Logo Shirts

Members can now order embroidered shirts with the MBYC logo. White polo with collar and pocket are available for \$ 25.00. Your Boat name can be added on the right side of the shirt for an additional \$ 5.00. Other colors and styles are available. Contact Jim Taylor, jameswt@sbcglobal.net for details. Place your order now for the new boating season.



Fleet Captain's Log

The March cruise-out is to Pt. San Pablo YC March 12-13. This is a close by YC with a great galley staff. This will be a good cruise-out for those of you who have not gone on a cruise-out before. Pt. San Pablo YC is at the end of the Santa Fe Channel just past KKMI boat yard with long guest docks in front of the club. They prepare special meals for visiting yacht clubs that are very good. I give head chef Ingrid Hogan a price per plate that we are willing to spend and she will give me several options to choose from. I need to know soon how many members will be attending so Ingrid and I can start palanning for the dinner. MBYC cruised there last Nov. and all had a great time. We need to guarantee at least 15 dinners. to make it worthwhile for their club. I hope many members will come and enjoy the unique meal and friendliness of PSPYC. Thank You
Paul Lagier, Fleet Captain

LOCH LOMOND CRUISE-OUT

Four boats braved a rainy Saturday Feb. 19th to cruise over to Loch Lomond YC for their Casino Night/Valentine's Party. Commodore Barry Eldridge and Judy Murray on PIXY TRAILS, Signal Editor Mike Tryon and Janice on WIND LOCK, Port Captain Chuck Craig on MACLUMLEY, and Fleet Captain Paul Lagier and Secretary Earlene on LA DOLCE VITA. Dave and Sue Jacoby and Safety Officer Lance Warren and Treasurer Kathi all drove over for this event. We all had a great evening and enjoyed the wonderful meal and gambling. It was good to see Dave Jacoby out and about after his serious illness. He looks great. He hopes to be back cruising in a month or so.

We were able to stay on the guest dock at no charge as we are PICYA members. We all spent a quiet evening aboard after the party. Sunday morning we all had breakfast at BOBBY'S CAFÉ and then headed for our marinas. This was a fine cruise-out with LLYC hosting us and BEL MARIN KEYS YC. There were 90 people at this event.

Paul Lagier
Fleet Captain

To the Members of MBYC

If any members of MBYC wish to download a copy of the Signal from our web site Marinabayyc.com rather than having a printed and postage paid copy sent to you, please contact Signal Editor@marinabayyc.com. I will remove your name from the mailing list and our club will save those funds.

Michael Tryon Signal Editor

Remember When

We just crossed the Bay of Tehuantepec and Guatemala was a hazy edge on the skyline as we motored south. The Captain/Owner of the 60 Columbia was in too much of a hurry to sail in mild winds and so we motored on and on... it was like being in a dental chair set inside a sauna. The sea was still, the up and down planes of the water looked like a giant fishing net floating on the surface. I imagined another world beneath the net and all anyone had to do was drop through. We motored for several hours then everything changed. Someone spotted sleeping tortoise off the Starboard bow and the conversation quickly changed to Turtle soup, steaks and what a wonderful change that would be from our usual chicken, beef and pork...

We killed the engine, lowered the landing, I stripped to my cutoffs and slipped into the water. Swimming a breast stroke, I came up quietly to what I thought was the back end of a turtle. I reached up with both hands and gripped the sides of the shell and off we went. Fortunately, it was the right call and the tortoise's head popped out the other side, as his flippers started splashing to each side. He was a strong swimmer and all I had to do was tuck my elbows in to keep his head up and lean to one side or the other and this critter took us back to the boat. There was enough room for about three of us on the landing and we quickly realized just how heavy this 3 foot guy or girl was. We wrestled the critter up while keeping away from his beak... it was trying to bite us and it was interesting because it was like biting in slow motion... the beak like a heavy duty can opener... Someone called for a rope while we positioned ourselves as best we could away from the potential bite. Then, while we were momentarily distracted, the ungrateful wretch pushed off with his flipper... back into the water and was gone. Actually, I was very grateful... the idea of butchering this magnificent creature on the deck wasn't appealing. So, OK... this was another example of what a kid's capable of when he prefers not to think.

When we were all back on deck and musing about this adventure, someone noticed a snake floating on the water below us. This was about 30" long, with colored stripes and an eel like tail. The boat had a small library and a book on herpetology and so someone looked this guy up. Apparently, this lovely snake is the first cousin to the Cobra, lives in this latitude and is known to live under the shells of the tortoise, where they live off the insects that land on the shell during big guy's afternoon naps. "Whoa," I got a little shaky and vowed not to go swimming again... everyone laughed at me of course. Then, someone yelled from the Port side and we all rushed over. There laying on the surface were about 30 Hammerhead sharks... waiting for the next dummy to slip into the water.

For the rest of our trip to Panama... everyone chose to pour a bucket of water over their head, as apposed to diving off the spreader in the hot afternoon.

Barry Eldridge

Membership Packets

Membership materials are being sent to all members after receipt of dues. Included will be new membership card(s), a copy of the bylaws, burgee decals, and BoatU.S. Membership applications. As an MBYC member, you can join and renew BoatU.S. at one half the annual rate of \$ 9.50 using group number GA84766Y. Club burgees, for new members, will be presented at the first Club function attended following membership approval. Additionally, an instruction sheet will be included showing how to access the "members only" information on our website. This information area provides names, addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, and boat names for all MBYC members. There are also tools to email one or all members and print a complete Club roster. Keep in mind, this information is for Club use only, and not for redistribution or sale. Please direct any questions or updates to Jim Taylor or Earlene Lagier.

MEAT HOOK AS USED ON "LA DOLCE VITA"

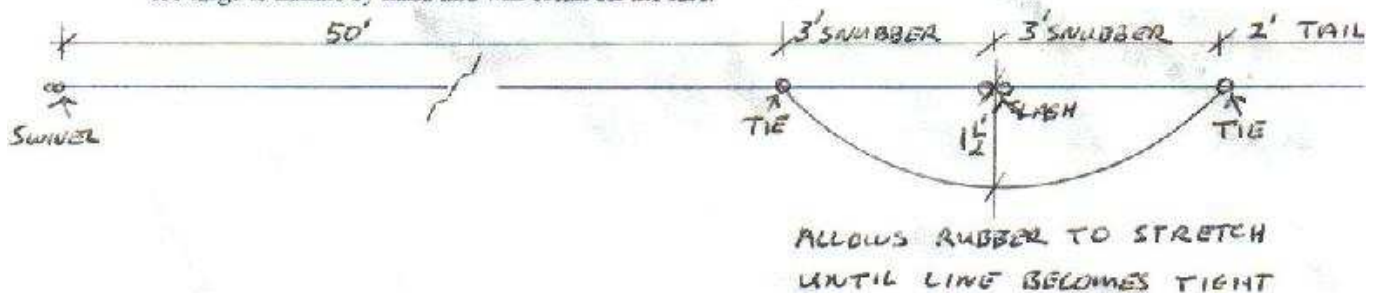
Commodore Barry Eldridge asked me to describe the "Meat Hook" I mentioned in my signal article. Nearly all yachts cruising in tropical waters use some variation of this device to catch fish while cruising under sail or power.

Materials:

- 2-36" rubber truck tarp snubbers
- 1-skein of 1/8" nylon clothesline (60')
- 1-heavy duty fishing swivel
- 1- 8' braided metal cable leader
- 1-large lure (cedar plug or feather)
- 1-5 gallon plastic bucket

Remove S hooks from snubbers, cut off 1' of 1/8" line. Lash 2 snubbers together, lay out the now 6' snubber in straight line and thread the 1/8" line through hole in end of snubber leaving 2' of tail. Tie line to snubber hole, take line to hole at far end of snubber and tie off leaving a loop in line. Tie swivel to end of line. Snap leader to swivel. Tie off the 2' tail to boats stern rail. Place the 5 gallon bucket under the tie off on the rail. Stream out leader and lure. When bringing in coil line into bucket and hang hook on to top edge of bucket. To deploy pick up lure and stream out.

I have found that red and white feathers work best. Do not use after dark as the fish that feed at night are too large to handle by hand and will break off the lure.





Earlene christening LA DOLCE VITA with champagne Feb. 29, 1992.



Marina Bay Yacht Club Fleet at Loch Lomond



Marina Bay Yacht Club Members at Loch Lomond Yacht Club



Marina Bay Yacht Club
Upcoming Events
 March 2005

Vallejo Yacht Club
Cruise-In
 March 11 - 13, 2005
 email PortCaptain@MarinaBayYC.com
 or phone Ardelle 510 816-3069
 For more details.

Cruise Out
to Point San Pablo YC
 March 12 - 13, 2005

Contact Paul Lester for details. (See page 2 for phone number or email:
fleetcaptain@marinabayyc.com

Board Meeting and Saint Patricks Dinner
 Saturday, March 19th, 2005
Corn Beef & Cabbage

Board.. Meeting	4:00 p.m
Bar Open: approx.	5:30 p.m.
Dinner	7:00 p.m

Hosted By:
Barry & Judy Eldridge

Volunteers Needed

If you do not plan to go to Point San Pablo for the cruise-out, we could use some help at the club for the Vallejo Cruise-in. Please email the Port Captain or the Vice Commodore for details.

The Commodore has planned a great weekend of work and fun at the club for the week-end of March 19 & 20. Please contact him (or any Board member) for details. Come help us give the club a facelift.

RSVP: Chuck C. 707 322-2929 or
 email: PortCaptain@MarinaBayYC.com