



Marina Bay Yacht Club
2580 Spinnaker Way
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The Marina Bay Yacht Club Signal is an official publication of the Marina Bay Yacht Club, located at the Marina Bay Yacht Harbor in Richmond, California.

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First Class Postage



Barry Eldridge

Commodore's Log

Fellow Club members...

The summer months are rapidly running towards us on a path that's littered with flashing storms and few sunny days. One wonders if spring will pass us by. On a positive note, I want to remind everyone that the last day in April is Opening Day on the Bay... I hope 1st Mate Judy and I see all of you on the water with a big smile on your face.

Early Guests: The Lagiers invited some friends over from the Pt. San Pablo YC for cocktails. Their sunny good natures certainly added to the St. Patrick's Day festivities. Ingrid and Harry Hogan, Darrell and Nancy Struck, and Letty Greitzer, are fun folks and we enjoyed their, all too short a visit. They were invited to join us at the Corned Beef dinner, however they had one of their own to attend. Oh Well... perhaps next time. It's thought that our clubs should do something together one day, what do you think out there?

Club Dinner: Our members and their guests enjoyed the St. Patrick's Day dinner hosted by Judy Murray and assisted by yours truly. Judy baked the Soda Bread and orchestrated the Corned Beef and bill of fair with the skills of fine musician. Earlene Lagier was the closest in guessing the number of gold coins in the rainbow's pot (she was only off by a hundred or so)... but closer than any one else. A much appreciated David and Susan Jacoby pitched in afterwards, a Yeomen's triumph that turned the wrecked Galley into a civilized place once again. Paul Lagier popped in the next

morning to help us tidy up the loose ends... Thank You all!

New Member: Dennis Gade decided that joining our salty bunch was preferable to walking the plank... Welcome Dennis, your good nature is a welcome addition to the Marina Bay Yacht Club. **New, Old...** Not sure how to fix this. Ed Johnson has returned to the club as a Honorary Member with all the trimmings, including the headaches associated with keeping our Web Site healthy. Welcome! Ed, has agreed to be our WebMaster for as long as it takes to achieve a 100 members.

The Proverbial Deck: All we need now is a couple of nice days. The Grape Vine says the old deck is just about gone. Next, the concrete guys and then it's on to other projects.

Board Meeting: We covered a wide variety of subjects from Cruise Ins to Outs and tuned up the line of communications so that the left tac knows where the right one's going. It seems the Oyster Point Port Captain was as windy as ours (we don't have one at present), and their Commodore thought the Cruise-In was the previous weekend and was rained out. Translation: The lousy weather is making us all quite mad.

Other: Then, on the Horizon there's a flash, it's a plane, "no"... it's Ardelle Cirino... setting everything up for the San Rafael Cruise-In on March 25. I have every reason to believe that this will be a successful event.



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New Membership Applications

No new applicants as of this printing



New Members

(No new applications processed)

San Rafeal YC Cruise In, March 25-26 2006



What a great turn out we had for this event. Considering the bad weather, the SRYC proved themselves to be anything but fair weather sailors, as they

brought 8 boats, and a handful more drove in.

MBYC had 8 persons in attendance, for a total of 38 persons for dinner. We had fried chicken instead of the salmon previously scheduled, as preliminary communications with the incoming sailors indicated that this would be preferable.

Unfortunately, neither Barry nor I had our cameras at the event, but even without the pictures you have my word we had a great meal and a fantastic time. SRYC are a group of fun-loving folks... for sure!!

Ardelle Cirino: Host for this event

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Future Dinners: Is anyone out there interested in leading one of the following after dinner discussions?

- o ~~January: Topside maintenance, getting ready for the winter. Done~~
- o ~~February: Engine maintenance, what service chores we should do during winter months. Done~~
- o ~~March: Cabin Maintenance, everything we should consider to winterize the cabin. Canceled~~
- o April: Getting the boat ready for the up and coming season on the Bay.
- o May: Continuing with: Getting the boat ready for the up and coming season on the Bay.
- o June: Getting the most from the GPS system.
- o July: Upgrading our navigation skills.
- o August: The fine art of sailing, trimming sails and maintenance options.
- o September: Coastal cruising skills and equipment you shouldn't be without.
- o October: Getting your boat ready for winter months, above the water line.
- o November: Continue: Getting your boat ready for the winter months, below the water line.
- o December: Enjoying your boat during the winter months.

Continuing: I ran into some fellows from Australia. They traveled overland, down from Canada, hitch hiking and riding buses... what a good natured, rag-tag and classy bunch they were. They carried all their positions in paper bags. We had a lot of fun experiencing the old world around us. These guys could eat anything... Stomachs of Iron they had, and they never got sick. As for me, it was like going forward in 40 knot winds, with one hand on the rail... I made a point to know where the nearest 'banyo' was at all times.

One memory... While walking through this shabby part of town, this enterprising fellow was cooking some kind of meat, using bamboo sticks to hold it together while cooking over a make-shift grill made from a split oil drum. The meat was cheap and that's all the Ausi's needed and chomp away they did... I had to look the other way. Only God and that smiling fellow knew what they were eating. One afternoon, while having a beer at the Yacht Club, I met a chap on leave from the Peace Corps. He had a house in the slums of Cartagena, Columbia, installing a storm drain. He had to get back and finish before the rains hit and invited me down for a visit... Well, not having experienced Columbia, I said I would see him in a month or so. I was committed to helping this fellow take his boat through the Canal! The Canal: To maximize the efficiencies of space, this Transit Advisor had us tuck the boat into the same lock with a big freighter that had about 6" to spare, Port and Starboard... Everyone on our little sailboat was given a line, which we had to continually adjust as the water level rose or fell... Going Up: The water floods in quickly from below, through 18 foot wide tunnels. The swirling water makes the boats pull and pitch, rock and yaw. Although exciting, one

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Commodore Barry welcomes returning member Ed Johnson back to MBYC. He will be returning to his post as webmaster.

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can't resist thinking about how little we are and how easy it would be to be crushed inside this massive conglomeration, but just when you come to terms with this thought, it's over, you're up and the door into the next lock is already opening. We move forward, with guys pulling on the ropes from shore, while the ship in front of us is being pulled by little railway engines. Soon and 52 million gallons of water later, we're some 80 feet above sea level and motoring onto Gatun Lake.

When I thought about the canal, my mind was on canal locks back in New England, designed for barges and small watercraft. Believe me, these guys are nothing like that... these structures are massive. The massive doors seemed about 60 feet high and strong enough to hold millions of gallons of water with a few ships tossed in... and they were built nearly 100 years. I was very impressed.

While motoring across Gatun Lake, the bird watching and jungle noises were fascinating... Imagine San Francisco bay, with lots of smaller islands, no bridges, Kona weather in Honolulu at its worst, the shoreline and islands are covered with a tropical jungle and no high rise buildings in site... it was another world. Years back, when they flooded the lake for big ships (for greater depth), the budget wasn't there (\$3,000,000 or so) to remove the jungle growth, so all this was inundated by the rising water. The dead plant life rose to the top, forming islands of debris, rotting soft wood trees bound together with flowering vines and wild orchids... floating gardens!

The locals were picking fruit from their small boats. While watching the lake activity, I had this mind bender that just didn't compute... motoring across a lake with a tanker in front and a freighter nudging behind. I had to constantly remind myself as to where I was, while jockeying between ships trying to be in first position at the far end of the lake, at the Gatun Locks and from there, into the Atlantic Ocean.

The Captain and I shook hands and wished each other well and I left the boat to nose around the old town of Colon, but I wasn't interested in history then and there was a lot of that. Most of the buildings were brick and dingy.

Kuna Indians, who live much like their ancestors on the San Blas Islands, an archipelago along the Atlantic side of Panama, were selling Mola's. Very clever pieces of art; squares of cloth that women wore stitched into their blouses. These depicted animals and plant life, using tiny stitches and bright bits of cloth... wonderful, and some of the animal characters were very funny. I bought a dozen of so for 50 cents each and these ended up in the bottom of my sea bag. They were also selling necklaces made from American coins..., necklaces composed of about \$20 worth of coins could be purchased for around \$10... apparently they didn't use American coins on the San Blas Islands... go figure.

I managed to get into the Free Zone, on the edge of Colon. This is where one can purchase just about anything, without paying duty. Given that I was going to exotic places I thought I needed a good camera. While walking around, I spotted a French telephone, you know the kind with a little horn you talked into and the funky cradle you placed the hand set into when your done. This reminded me of that old spy movie with Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman... Casablanca. Anyway, I knew my Dad would get a kick out of this.

I caught the train back to Panama City and...
To Continue...



Picture taken at the St. Patricks dinner at MBYC



Marina Bay Yacht Club
Upcoming Events
 March 2006

**Please place this page
 in accessible location
 and Mark your Calendar also**

San Rafeal Yacht Club Cruise In
 Saturday March 25, 2006
Salmon Dinner

(Chicken available upon request)

\$20.00 p.p.

Hosted by : Ardelle Cirino



To sign-up for dinners

RSVP

Ardelle Cirino (510)816-3059 or
 email: ardellec1@yahoo.com

**We need hosts for
 April 15th dinner
 Please contact Ardelle
 if you can do this.**

**Board Meeting and
 Saint Patricks Dinner**

Oyster Point YC Cruise In

Traditional Irish Feast:

Saturday March 18, 2006

Hosts: Judy Murray and Barry Eldridge . Menu- Corn Beef
 finished off with apricots, Salad Cabbage, Boiled potatoes and
 Soda Bread.

Board Meeting 4:00 p.m.

Dinner 7:00 p.m



Cost: \$15.00 p.p.

Kids <13 = free

2006 Meeting Topics

(Tentative)

(February - June)

February: Engine maintenance,
 what service chores we should do
 during winter months.

March: Cabin Maintenance,
 everything we should consider to
 winterize the cabin.

April: Getting the boat ready for the
 up and coming season on the Bay.

May: Continuing with: Getting the
 boat ready for the up and coming
 season on the Bay.

June: Getting the most from the
 GPS system.

Fleet Captain's Report

The March cruise-out to Ayala Cove was moved to MBYC clubhouse due to inclement weather. The dinner was a Potluck with Paul and Earlene providing Beef Stew for all. Sue and Dave Jacoby brought a great salad, Barry and Judy made garlic bread (Judy chopped a ton of garlic) and Chris, Karen, Aaron and Sam Tallerico brought dessert. We had a wonderful time with fire in the fireplace for ambience.

The next cruise-out is scheduled for April 29-30th to Sierra Pt.YC.

Looking forward to seeing you on the next trip.

Earlene Lagier
Fleet Captain
MBYC

A Little Boating Humor



Just When You Think.....



.....Things could not get any worse



MBYC 2006 Calendar of Events

January

- 7-8 Cruise-Out to Point San Pablo
- 21 Board Meeting & Installation dinner

February

- 11 Board Meeting & **Cioppino** Dinner
Berkeley YC Cruise-In
- Program this month** is on boat maintenance:
Getting Conditions in the Engine Compartment
ready for the winter months.
Date for Cruise-Out: TBD

March

- 11-12 Cruise Out: Ayala Cove (Angel Island).
Pot Luck on "La Dolce Vita"
- 18 Board Meeting & Dinner
Traditional St. Patricks Feast: Hosts:
Judy Murray and Barry Eldridge . Menu- Corn
Beef finished off with apricots, Cabbage, Boiled
Potatoes, Salad and Soda Bread.
- 18-19 Oyster Point YC Cruise- In
- 25-26 San Rafael YC Cruise-In

April **NOTE CHANGE OF DATES**

- 8 Board Meeting & Dinner
EASTER Theme: **POT LUCK**
Club provides meat - members bring dish
- 29-30 Cruise Out to Sierra Point YC

May

- 13-14 Cruise Out to Ballena Bay YC-
"Meat Loaf Cook-off"
- 20 Board Meeting & Dinner
Mexican Theme

June

- 10-11 Cruise Out (tentative)
- 17 Board Meeting & Dinner
Western BBQ Theme

July

- 1-5 Delta Hilton Fireworks
- 8 - 9 Cruise Out - San Leandro YC
- 15 Board Meeting & Dinner
Red White & Blue

August

- 12 Board Meeting & Dinner
- 19 -20 Cruise out to Loch Lomond YC
"Jamaica Me Crazy Night "

September

- 2-4 Cruise Out to China Camp
- 16 Board Meeting & Dinner

October

- 7-8 Cruise Out: Alameda YC "Pirates Party"
- 21-22: Cruise Out: Coyote Point YC
- 28 Board & General Membership Meeting
Dinner & Election of Officers

Octoberfest

November

- 18-19 Cruise Out: Sausalito YC Lobster
Feed
- TBD Board Meeting & Dinner

December

- No cruise out in December
- 2 Board Meeting & **Holiday** Dinner

NOTE: Please make reservations for each Yacht Club dinner you would like to attend.
E-mail: ardellec1@yahoo.com or call Ardelle Cirino at (510) 816-3059