

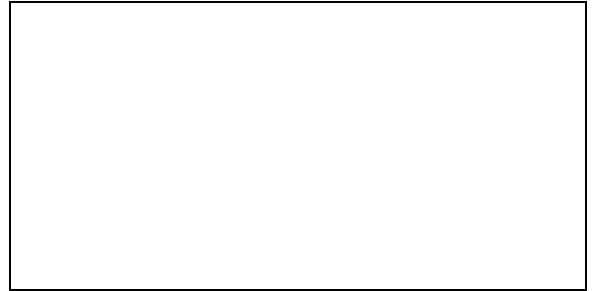


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The Marina Bay Yacht Club Signal is an official publication of the Marina Bay Yacht Club, located at the Marina Bay Yacht Harbor in Richmond, California.

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Join the Fun and Cruise with the Club this summer

Take a Minute to look inside, and find out what is going on. And if you want to put your two-cents worth in, email the editor with comments.

Commodore's Log



Barry Eldridge

Hi Sailors...

Cruisen' to San Leandro. What a nice day for a Cruise Out... except that my years in Hawaii came back and bit me...(tides in Hawaii are negligible) I didn't do my homework and we fought the tide all the way down the bay. Each time that happens I make a mental note to look at tide tables and schedule accordingly... like we did on the way back (read on).

OK, it's Sunday and we're ready to head back home. Wind in the Bay was blowing harder than usual and out of the SW, so we reefed down one, convinced this prudent move would handle anything we might expect.

Being a bit smarter I followed Dave Jacoby's lead and waited for an Ebb at noon. Off we went and as soon as we were abreast of the Alameda Channel, we hit 15 to 18 knot winds. I thought (but only for a moment), that another reef might be a good... but no, the sailor in me prevailed. We'll be fine. "NOT!"

The weather across the slot was unusual (?), 25 to 30 knot winds, 4-foot swells and a mist that made it impossible to see anything a half mile away. We could hear several people freaking out over the radio and the Coast Guard trying valiantly to understand what was being said and where everyone was. The Vessel Assist boats zipped by... it was exciting.

I had the Jib at 50%, the Main and all the way out, the engine working as hard as the little engine could. We couldn't see anything so eyes passed frequently to the GPS. Although the wheel was hard over to maintain course, the unknown forces

wanted us out the Gate and weren't taking no for an answer.

Pixy Trails raced up the bay... OK, we weren't racing, she stumbled... it took us 6 hours to get home from San Leandro (20 minutes by car), and I had an intimate relationship with the backstay all the way there... on both shoulders.

In hind sight, I should have motored each way. Perhaps the tide and current gods were just having fun. Ok, what did I learn? (A) Pixy Trails would not perform well in a typhoon. (B) Sailing in Hawaii is very different than San Francisco Bay... (C) When sailing north out of the South Bay and winds touch 20 knots... and I still has to cross the "slot" I will head for the Lee of Treasure Island, (D) Then I will reef all the way down or drop my sails, (E) I will turn on the steaming and navigation lights, (F) Start the engine on and lastly, (G) We will turn up the jazz (loud).

When we finally entered the Richmond Channel, we decided to reward ourselves with the rest of that bottle of wine, but there wasn't any and besides, winds were a-gale in the Marina as well.

We made it back to Sacramento, where we struggled to end the day in the hot tub with a bit of Jamison's.

Cruise-Out to Ballena Bay: What a difference... the weather was wonderful, sailing superb and I even got some tiling done...

Open House: What a pleasant surprise... about fourteen interested recruits from the marina joined

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New Membership Applications

Paul and Cathleen Dubois, from Calistoga.
Paul has been chartering boats with Club Nautique.

Thomas and Kathleen Wolinski, from Castro Valley. Their Boat: **Grace**, a Beneteau 37, Berth: E-352

Phil Griffin and Jill Pfannenschmidt, from San Francisco. Their Boat: **Bee-gee**, a Chriscraft 34, Berth: D162

Marc and Dee Sykes, from Reno. Their Boat: **Pe-gosus**, J- 35, Berth: D-84

Dennis and Sharon Clennell, from Walnut Creek. Their Boat: **Morning Star**, Sea Ray 36, Berth: E-227

Darryl and Fred McClaine, from Fresno. Their Boat: **G-Man**, Offshore 48, Berth: D-123



New Members

No new members at this time.

....Continued from page 1

us for lunch and we filled the table.

Helping out during this afternoon, were Ward and Elaine Anderson, Dave and Susan Jacoby, Jim Taylor, Katy Kirk, John Sergeant, Judy Murray and Charley Williams. WOW! You folks did a wonderful job talking to people and welcoming them to our club.

As of this writing, we have six new applications, which will increase membership by some 25%... WOW! ...and what a nice afternoon.

Please plan to join us at the August 12th dinner to welcome our new members. This will be the Introduction Meeting, where we will ask them to tell us a little about themselves and, of course, you will have a chance to get to know these folks. I hope most of you can make it.

Judy and I will be hosting dinner on August 12, with our world famous Irish spaghetti, with garlic bread balanced with a Greek Salad. We will be using home grown Sacramento Tomatoes. If you have never had a home grown Sacramento Tomato, you will not want to miss this event.

The September 16 Presentation Dinner, when the new members receive their Burgees, will be hosted by Dave and Susan Jacoby. They're serving their famous, "Old World" Gypsy Chicken. I asked Dave and Susan if they could tell our fortunes, but as of this writing they haven't responded. So let's all show up to see what happens. Remember, please call Katy Kirk @ (925) 899-6995 to make your dinner reservations... it sure makes it easier if we know how many are coming.

Continuing on:

The next day was Saturday, Mark wanted to show me the sights, so we walked around and visited the big drainage ditch, his project of the moment. Apparently, this ditch would not only drain the slums during tropical storms, but would reduce mosquito problems.

We met some of his friends and saw more of the shabby neighborhood. One impression that stayed with me was how neat and clean these humble

houses were inside. No one had gardens like we know them, but once inside their humble home everything was neat and clean as a pin... nothing we imagine when the word "slums" pops up.

Later, while walking with some guys, I heard running behind me and turned in time to save my wallet from being snatched by a young boy who couldn't have been over 9 years old. There were three of us and we circled around this kid to grab him, when he reached behind his back and pulled out a 12-inch butcher knife. Needless to say, we waved him on and he ran off into the squallier. What surprised me was the laughter and knee slapping this incident raised from folks sitting outside their shacks. They thought this was hilarious. It was nice to be appreciated, but I made a mental note to get a smaller wallet, and fast.

We finished up the day at an open restaurant, with beer or two (of course). Later, when we got back to Mark's place, one of his neighbors invited us over for another beer. We sat inside, talked and drank beer while listening to the proverbial, LOUD Puerto Rican music... the tape player looked like a 2nd generation Edison, a plate of tubes and wire, a real conglomeration.

I listened to the guys chatter about their day and Mark interpreted stuff he thought I didn't catch, which I appreciated. After a few more beers, one of the men stood and started dancing by himself and everyone clapped, yelled and laughed until he finished. Then another followed and then Mark started dancing (... I'm looking for the door). The women were somewhere else, of course they were out of sight, and I was glad as these guys looked like it wouldn't take much to get them agitated and I still had vivid memories of the knife event earlier. I decided to be tired and I yawned... and stood to say whatever one says when they leave (I forget), and they all started clapping and laughing at me... I waved them off. But then, the ham in me popped up... Off I went and the only thing missing was the cape and bull. OK, I decided it was fun... not so bad, but it took a lot of beer.

That night was my second night in that ham-

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Great Turnout

... picking up Lunch... with lots of questions and answers



Team!

What a Team



Busy Busy Busy... Elaine Anderson lends a hand in the kitchen



Good Questions over Lunch



Can't tell if he is eating or cooking...



Jim Taylor, Ward Anderson and John Sargeant checking their notes...

....Continued from page 3

mock... this isn't the back yard type, with a stiffener at each end, so one could lay relatively flat, allowing you and several others to socialize, this thing wrapped around you like a rug. There was a top part that covered you up in case it rained, with mosquito netting that dropped down each side. Anyway, sleeping on your side was impossible and so, it was a mummy experience, arms across the chest, all night long. I suppose one gets used to this over time, but I can't say I ever got the "swing of it."

On Sunday, we hopped a bus and headed to the waterfront. Hmm, perhaps back in the days of Cortez this port might have been something, but what we saw was crummy and the worse part was... there weren't any sailboats, Nada! Now I'm told; this isn't a popular cruiser destination because of all the drugs, pirating, lousy provisioning and supply options and virtually no place to tie up... one had to anchor out and if they came in with a dingy, they couldn't leave it there because someone would steal it. So... unless they drove an oil tanker, NUTS! Just what I needed; ANOTHER BIG LESSON... "Know and Trust your Source of Information."

OK... staying with the Barinita with Captain Bligh and sailing (motoring) to Granada was sounding good about now. I found myself wondering where they were and what they were doing... What a colossal waste of time. I stayed around for a another day fussing with my options, i.e. should I go to Bogotá and meeting up with my Australian friends (assuming I could find them), (2) perhaps head into the Caribbean, to the Leeward Islands, Jamaica...? Where, I didn't know squat, or (3) should I return to Panama, or (4) return to California and start all over again?

After fussing with this I decided it was time to get my batteries charged up... I was "bummed." Nothing was happening the way I anticipated. I didn't sail into the Pacific and here I was in Columbia wasting time and resources. So... I decided to return to California and the Bay Area. I knew I could find a berth and head into the Pacific from there, but then, the time on my applications for immigration was rapidly running out.

It wasn't until I looked for a travel agent, or a ticket office that I realized there didn't seem to be any. I almost gave up until I found this open air stall with travel stickers pasted on the wall. I looked at this young kid sitting on a box... this didn't look good, but I didn't have any choice, so I asked where I could get an airline reservation and somehow we communicated. He asked for and I reluctantly handed him my Dinners Card. Then BAM, off he went running down this alley. Whoh! Now what? I waited about an hour, wondering if I'd ever see that Card again and if there was a Western Union or some way to get travel money from home. Then, YES! the kid shows up with a big grin on his face, with some paper for me to sign... He hands me my card and a ticket to Panama (I had to pick up my seabag). My faith in humanity and kids was fully restored.

Quotes of the Month

There's nothing like a little experience to upset a theory

One can pay back the loan of gold, but one dies forever in debt to those who are kind.
Malay Proverb

Good executives never put off until tomorrow what they can get someone else to do today.



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 - Corned 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

- 8 Board Meeting & Dinner
Easter Theme: Pot Luck
Club provides meat - members bring dish Host:
Ardelle Cirino

- 29-30 Cruise out to Sierra Point YC

May

- 13-14 ~~Solano YC Cruise In~~ **Cancelled**

- 20 Board Meeting & Dinner
~~Mexican Theme~~ **Cancelled**

June

- 17 Board Meeting & Dinner
Western BBQ Theme
Host: Barry and Judy

- 24-25 Cruise Out to San Rafael

July

- 1-5 ~~Delta-Hilton~~ **Cancelled**

- 8-9 Cruise Out - San Leandro YC

- 15 **OPEN HOUSE . . .** From Noon to 3 p.m.
MBYC provides a BBQ Lunch

- ~~Board Meeting & Club Dinner~~ **Cancelled**

August

- 12 Board Meeting & Club Dinner - **HOST NEEDED**

- 19-20 Cruise-out to Loch Lomond YC
"Jamaica Me Crazy Night"

September

- 2-4 Cruise-out to China Camp - Rafting up for **BBQ** and stories

- 16 Board Meeting & Dinner - **Gypsy Theme:**
Armenian Chicken. Host: Dave & Sue Jacoby
Cruise In: Aeolian YC

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- Halloween Host: Katy Kirk

- 29-30 Cruise-out to Berkeley YC

November

- 18-19 Cruise Out: Sausalito YC **Lobster Feed**

- TBD Board Meeting & Dinner
HOST NEEDED

December

- 2 Board Meeting & Dinner
Holiday dinner - HOST NEEDED

NOTE: Please make reservations for each Yacht Club dinner you would like to attend.
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