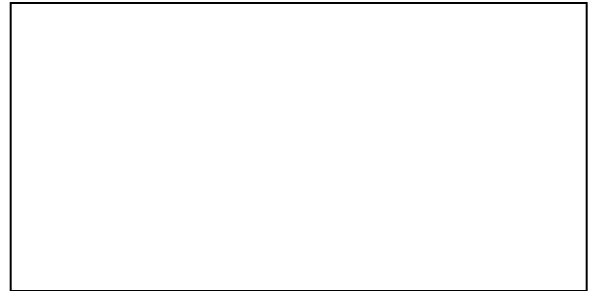




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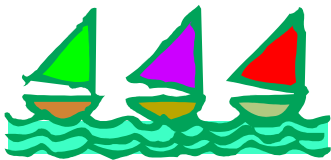


The Marina Bay Yacht Club Signal is an official publication of the Marina Bay Yacht Club, located at the Marina Bay Yacht Harbor in Richmond, California.

A signed article in the Signal contains the thoughts and opinions of the writer only, and are not a statement of MBYC policy or procedure and publication does not constitute an endorsement by the Yacht Club membership or by the MBYC Board of Directors.. Articles and letters to editor can be submitted to:

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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.



Barry Eldridge

Commodore's Log

Hi Sailors...

Board Meeting:

During the October meeting, we spent time discussing our present lease, the low membership and where we go from here. I told Board Members about my experience going through channels to meet with harbor management, with John Cotton, their President. I called Jim Walter, Harbor Manager, asking him to pass this on (to Bill Rhoten, Vice President of Bay Harbor). However after six weeks it was apparent the bottleneck was Bill Rhoten, so I called John Cotton's office directly and left a message. He returned my call within a couple of hours. I explained our situation; whereby we have to dip into savings to pay the rent for the last half of the year, and that we could make it if they lowered the rent to \$300 a month. He "gaspd" and said he would get back to me.

A week later, John called me back for a conference call with Bill Rhoten. He told me his partners weren't thrilled about lowering the rent to \$300 a month and that they needed to review their options... but I didn't hear a counter offer. I reminded them that losing the club would be unfortunate loss for the marina, as our club provided a unique public relations venue for over a hundred visitors a year... they responded with an unintelligible "mumble."

Then, for some obscure reason, Mr. Cotton asked me to meet with bill Rhoten the following Monday to discuss the club's plans for increasing membership... as if this was a new subject. I said I had a conflict and couldn't meet at that time... no other time was suggested.

Our Rear Commodore, Lew Berg called Jim Walter at the Marina on Monday, on another matter and Bill Rhoten was there. Bill then proceeded to tell Lew that Bay Harbor really wanted the Yacht Club to stay, however he didn't suggest a lower rent. The Board asked if I would write John Cotton, to bring him up to date on where we are and where we are going. This has been done.

The West Wall: Again, no news! I think the wall is being held up by the neighbor's Cedar branches.

Membership Dinner: During our dinner on Saturday, the funk was evident to me by a low turnout of our membership. We filled one table and I was bummed because of all the hard work Rear Commodore, Katie Kirk provided to create a wonderful Oktoberfest-Halloween event.

About a half hour before dinner, Ol' fickle one, Neptune, intervened. About four marina couples walked in the door after spending the day on the bay... They said they saw our decorations and were curious to know what we were up to. We invited them to stick around and they joined us at the bar and dinner... and everyone had a good time. Some left with membership forms. Now, if we advertised this event one wonders if others would have popped in... Oh Well!

Continuing On: The Ala Wai Marina in Waikiki was (is) in poor shape. So after a month or two, we moved Second Chance to the San Island Marina... which, tho in better shape, was in the flight path of the airport and a longer haul to a day of sailing. For those not be familiar with the Peterson 44, the aft cabin has an ample berth. However, the overhead is about 2 feet above the bed. The first night

Continued on page 3



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New Membership Applications

No new membership applications at this time.

New Members

No new members at this time.



....Continued from page 1

at Sand Island was peaceful until the commuter from Honolulu to the Far East took off at 4 a.m. The roar was sudden and deafening... causing me to sit up quickly and wacking my head. It took awhile, but after a week or so, I would stir as the aircraft took off and slowly put my fingers in my ears. When the noise was gone I would lower my arms and slip back into oblivion. Soon, I had no memory of the daily event.

That Spring, we planned a sail to Maui. We made up a menu for four, for a week, then borrowed an ocean going canoe for exploring, which we strapped to the Port side of the boat. We left the marina about 5 p.m. and set our course to Molokai, under sail within the hour. Dinner was underway as it was getting dark... about two hours later, a hardy feast of beef stew, garlic bread and salad, along with an ample supply of cold beer and stories. The temperature was about 85 degrees, so we were comfortable in shorts and tee shirts as we watched the sun do it's stuff across the evening sky. The trade winds were steady, over a soft rolling sea.

About 9:30: Oahu was a glowing lump on the horizon... and to the south, we could just see our beacon of the night... Molokai. As many of you experienced, Phosphorus in the wake can be fascinating... like little Christmas lights, blinking on and off as the water planed behind us... mesmerizing. Around 10:30: We had organized watches and toasted Neptune with the proverbial bottle of wine. The stars were magical and each of us had a star story, some historical and others hysterical as we "whispered" along at seven knots across a mild sea. Midnight, 12:00: It's apparent that no one was going to bed, opting instead to dozing under the stars and taking turns at the helm.

Dawn the Next Day: Just off Molokai, we changed course to Kauai and Manele Bay, where we planned to have breakfast. Fresh from night of cat naps, we crossed the Molokai Channel facing ten foot swales, which we quartered as we shot across, sipping coffee and remarking on a magical evening past.

About 7 a.m., we pulled into Manele Bay to an empty slip, which we secured before heading up

the hill to breakfast, a recent project site; the Manele Bay Resort Hotel.

I like Kauai for its unique physical character; the steep rocky hills and lava fields are owned by the State of Hawaii, and all land suitable for farming is owned by Castle and Cook and they farm pineapples. Years ago, high school kids from Oahu, used to spend their summers working the fields, a financial necessity in times before and during the war. The kids stayed in dorms and ate at a factory mess hall and I'm told they were a hard working, well behaved bunch composed of many cultures.

The arable lands are on a plateau, some 200 feet above sea level, mesa like with steep cliffs down to the sea. The Islands village is Kauai Town, a ramshackle of little cottages, where the plantation managers still live. These neat little houses step up the hill, surrounded by ancient, Norfolk Island Pines... many with a caliper up to 3 feet thick. There's a small hotel that serves local food, with a small bar. Last call is around nine p.m., so as one might imagine, happy hour moves along at a fast pace. Apparently, this was their way of keeping the locals from drinking too much and killing each other...

Once, while I was there working, I missed my flight on this small plane that travels back and forth to Oahu, and so I needed a place to stay. I called the hotel for a room and they were filled, so I rented one of the cottages. That was a mistake! Housekeeping made up some old box springs... with sheets, a pillow and blanket and there was no mattress in sight. What a night... and the bar was closed of course. I couldn't help wondering if it was because I was a Haole and that folks were laughing somewhere... Naw!

On some Islands, car rental folks have specific areas where they don't want you to take their cars, because the roads are terrible or dangerous, and sometimes because the cars get trashed by locals having a bad day. On Kauai, the "off limits" area is over the mountains to the north side of the island. Of course, that's all I needed to perk the interest of our crew, so off we went.

The drive across was tough and slow, as the roads

Continued on page 4

....Continued from page 3

were full of potholes, narrow and sometimes non-existent, or unpaved. After an hour, we made it across and were back down to sea level, where we found a few ramshackle homes and a lava field beach as far as we could see, and groves of Kiawe... a thorny, small leaf native that thrives on abuse, but produces a wood that's great to cook over.

As we turned away from this modest attempt at civilization, the road changed from pothole city to a track of compacted sand and gravel that wound back and forth between the thick Kiawe and lava outcroppings. It was like stepping back in time, fascinating, it could be a 100 years ago the land seemed so primitive... and the exciting part was; we didn't know what we would find.

An hour later the road ended at these concrete piers that stepped up the hill, overgrown with...? Right! Kiawe, and this bracken fern that covered the hills like a blanket. Later, I asked around and apparently, some enterprising Haole's, just after the war, chose this site to build a pineapple mill. Unfortunately, they they built this on "taboo" lands. Apparently, this was a Heou (sp), which is a rock stage and grounds used by the old Hawaiians for ceremonial purposes. The mill became an operational mess, with people getting hurt and machinery breaking down. Eventually, they had to close the mill because they couldn't find anyone to work there. The site has been avoided by visitors ever since. The funky houses we saw earlier looked like they may have borrowed materials from this site.

Driving back the way we came, we saw this turn-off, a path towards the water, where we were confronted by this large door of driftwood, about 12 feet high, set in front of a grove of old, yes... Kiawe trees. This had no walls or other signs of a structure. By now we were spooked by what we didn't know and hesitated before getting out of the car. We walked gingerly up to the door. This was chained shut, which didn't make sense as one could just walk around it. We looked behind the door to a large room, or a terrace of neatly placed stones, flat stones under the Kiawe, and in the center was this rock table in this soft green light... OK, we've seen what we needed to see, shook our heads and

hopped back into the car... looking over our shoulders we headed back across the island.

Back at Manele Bay, we found the boat was covered with pineapple bugs, these little black flying beetles, and they were into everything. It took us over an hour to get them off the boat, only to find later, that these little ugly buggers were also attracted to light. No one said anything until the next day... and we left early. Out in the channel and on our way to Maui... Someone observed that we didn't see any beetles until we got back to the boat... and wondered why? Then, suggested that maybe the beetles were sent to punish us for trespassing onto taboo lands and everyone laughed... well, sort of.

To be Continued...

Calling ALL Chili Lovers!

November 11 is the MBYC Chili Cook-Off

Bring your favorite Chili Dish and participate in this year's MBYC Chili Cook Off! The California Cruising Clippers will be participating with their own Chili entries!

Bring enough Chili to feed 5 people by 5:30 PM to MBYC. At 6 PM all dinner attendees will be sampling and grading each Chili Dish entry. Grade cards go into the ballot box. All chili grading closes at 7 PM, grade cards will be tallied and the "Best of Show" will be determined. A Chili Cook Off winner will be called by the end of dinner at 8 PM. Recipe exchange is optional after dinner.

MBYC bar opens at 5:30 PM. Dinner tickets are only \$10.00, so make your dinner reservation early, to Katie Kirk. Side dishes supplied by the club are Crackers, Corn Bread, Salad and Desert.

Let Katie Kirk know by 11/9, next Thursday, that you will be a contestant in the Cook Off. To make it a successful show of MBYC Cooks we have to have at least **8 Chili entries!**

It should be a gas!

Katie Kirk

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Fleet Captain's Report

The October 7-8th cruise-out was to the Alameda YC. It was their annual Pirate's Party. The members of MBYC who attended were: Lou Berg, Roy and Robin Edwards on WILDCAT, Charley Williams and his family on MAHALO MAKANI, and Paul and Earlene on LA DOLCE VITA. The trip was uneventful. It was a beautiful day on the bay. Flat, calm, not hardly a ripple, no sailing this time.

MAHALO MAKANI and WILDCAT were in slips at Fortman Marina while LA DOLCE VITA was at Grand Island Marina. As we were docking the 1st mate jumped to the dock to keep the boat close while the Captain was to secure the stern. As he is tying to the cleat he hears a SPLASH. Lo and behold he neglected to have the line secured to the boat. We managed to get it close enough to re-board and put the line on the cleat and try again.

Cheryl Franklin the Port Captain shuttled us and the Oyster Pt. guests to the Alameda YC. Most of us dressed in costume for the occasion.

AYC did an outstanding job on dinner, drinks, music and free cab rides back to Grand Island Marina. All MBYC members had a good time. When don't we have a good time?

AYC provided us with a great breakfast Sunday morning. Paul and I enjoyed the walk over and back to Grand Island Marina. Another beautiful day on the bay.

The October 21-22nd cruise-out was to Coyote Pt. YC. LA DOLCE VITA left Pt. San Pablo about 8:45 AM on Saturday for our trip to the South Bay. Our grandson Caleb was our very helpful "pint size" crew. At one point the captain engaged the auto pilot. We call him "Mr. Otto". Caleb wanted to know where he was because he couldn't see him. Nonno had to explain that it was not a person, but a machine.

Those joining us on this trip were: Dave and Sue Jacoby on ENCHANTE' with Ed and Barbara their neighbors as crew, Tom and Kathleen Wolinski on GRACE, Dennis Gade and Marty Griffin on

DOLCE VITA, and Barry Eldridge and Judy Murray on PIXY TRAILS.

Winds were very light so we did not sail this time either. Tom and Kathleen managed to get sailing time under their belts. Caleb left us in the afternoon to spend the rest of the weekend with his Auntie Lisa and cousin Chance. On Sunday they were meeting up with our daughter Shari and ride the Sierra Railroad Train out of Oakdale to the Pumpkin Patch.

Cocktails were enjoyed on LA DOLCE VITA by all. The club dinner was a 5 star meal. Excellent big steak and all that goes with and really yummy dessert.

On Sunday morning Paul and I and Barry and Judy walked to Dominic's at Poplar Creek for breakfast. It was a beautiful day through the park and along the shoreline. This was the biggest cruise-out of the year with 12 people. We left CPYC about 11:30 AM to enjoy the trip back to our marinas. Thanks to everyone for a great time.

The next cruise-out is to Sausalito for their Lobster Dinner. I have made many attempts to contact them again and have not gotten any response. Will keep you updated.

Happy Boating,
Earlene Lagier
Fleet Captain, MBYC



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

November

- 11 MBYC **Chili Cook-Off**

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

December

- 2 Board Meeting & Dinner
Holiday dinner - HOST NEEDED

NOTE: Please make reservations for each Yacht Club dinner you would like to attend.
E-mail: ViceCommodore@MarinaBayYC.com