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Team Sandpiper Update Part II

Tom & Amy Larson, USCG-Ret.

Ahoy! As I write this Team Sandpiper is sailing at 7 knots on our way from Fiji enroute Vanuatu. Amy and I still cannot believe that we left the PYC exactly one year ago heading under the GG Bridge in the cold fog at 3am on our way to warmer ports. If you have not had the chance to read the 1st part of our story Jen has posted it on the PYC website, presidioyachtclub.org under 'News', so check it out!

As our last writing we had just arrived in the Marquesas after a 28-day crossing from Zihuatanejo, Mexico arriving in Hiva Oa, Marquesas on the 26th of April. Being in French Polynesia took some getting used to as everyone speaks French and it's extremely expensive as everything is taxed by the French government. Once

Sandpiper cont. on pg. 3...



At Close Reach

Marci Stern, Commodore

Did you make it to the PYC the weekend of October 7, 2006 to celebrate Fleet Week? Great! Then you know what a fantastic time we had! For those of you who couldn't, I'm so sorry. The weather was perfect on land and sea and the energy around Horseshoe Cove from Mike's place to the breakwater was super-charged.

What better way to enjoy the festivities of Fleet Week than sharing the day with about 50 service personnel and their families from Travis. From the parade of ships to the Air Show, we had great viewing from our breakwater and Mike's place. For those wishing to be on the water, we had enough volunteers and boats to accommodate everyone looking to experience the day from the water. I hear they all had a great time! Many thanks to Lowell Olsen, Jack Machun, James Pennington, Roy Stern, Bob Hallin, Rick DeLeon, Jack Gordon, Chris Parkman, and Gary Howell for making it happen.

To top off the day, your club also hosted two cruise ins, one from Ebony YC, the other from Coyote Point YC. Our harbor and dining room were hopping to say the least. Once again past commodore Mary Jane Hutchinson and her band of willing helpers organized and prepared another epicurean evening from appetizers to

dessert. In one word, *Outstanding!* Thank you, Mary Jane and your willing helpers – Hazel Caldwell, Barbara Adams, Steve Peters, D'Vonne Hutchins, Dave Chamberlain and myself.

On November 11, 2006, my official duties as Commodore will end. At times the job has been frustrating, but more often I would say I enjoyed the experience of getting involved, organizing and participating in our clubs' activities. "Participation, that's what it's all about". Roy and I have been members of Presidio Yacht Club for 6 years, 3 of which I've been a member of the bridge. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my husband, Roy, for his support as I strived to make a difference.



We all know Presidio Yacht Club/Travis Marina is a unique place situated on a most wonderful site that would cost millions to replicate. We are truly blessed so I implore you to do your part to preserve what we have.

Visit your club and Mike's Place to support it. Encourage our service personnel to look at our home as their home. I truly believe that's why we are here. And, remember the proverbial saying, "use it or lose it!"

Best wishes to the incoming Bridge and Council for a successful 2007.

Thank you all for the honor and privilege to have served you 3 years. It's been fun. See you at the Club and on the water. ♦

Vice News

Steve Peters, Vice Commodore

This has been said every year: WHERE DID THE YEAR GO? We had a wonderful race season with a good turn out. Hazel was fantastic as Race chairlady. I want to thank her so much for taking on this task when she would have rather been racing herself. I promised Hazel she only had to do it one year so PLEASE we need a small group to run the races in 2007. Doug McVae, who is a Senior Race Committee Judge and an expert on YRA rules of racing will be giving a talk on March 2 at the PYC (First Friday) on current timing and starting procedures for YRA races. This is a perfect opportunity for all racers and wannabes and those interested in running races to get the latest information. This is an important event for our yacht club and we do need your participation.

We had three cruise-outs this year, which met with mixed results. Boating participation was limited but drive-ins were not. The new bridge will address this issue for the coming year and devise a new strategy. Our workday dinners, however, were all fantastic with enthusiastic turnouts from the Club Members. D'Vonne did a wonderful job coordinating events. Special thanks go to our year of Chefs: The Bauchamps - "April in Paris"; The Penningtons - "Too many to list"; Mary Jane - "Crab Feed", "Fleet Week" & "Change of Watch"; Bob Thompson - "Santa Maria BBQ"; and all of you who gave time and dishes for special events.

There are so many people behind the scenes, that work for us at different tasks. Jennifer Schripsema, as always, is running our web site, www.presidioyachtclub.org. She may be back soon and her addition to running the daily activities of PYC would be invaluable. Phyllis and Jeff Keeton, who run the Sailing Academy are to be thanked for their tireless efforts in getting people on the water in a safe and prudent manner. Henriette Gordon continues to manage our budget. My thanks to you all! ♦

The Rear View

D'Vonne Hutchins, Rear Commodore

We celebrated Fleet Week this year with a dinner presented by Mary Jane Hutchinson. Travis Marina presented breakfast on both Saturday and Sunday and several boats went out for viewing. The Blue Angels were easy to see from anywhere at the Marina! I am very pleased that we were able to tie into the activities of "The City". I hope we continue to do so. What better way to participate in Fleet Week, than from our own beautiful base!!!

The year is flying by faster than I could have imagined. We have had some wonderful dinners, with good food and great camaraderie. The dinners remaining for the 2006 year will be the Change of Watch and the Holiday Party (Children's Christmas Party), both of which are coming together nicely. The sign-up sheet for Change of Watch are on the bulletin board. And a 2007 activity calendar is being confirmed and will be mailed with the Jan/Feb Porthole. A New Year's Eve party is planned, and will be presented without regard to attendance or less-than-hurricane weather. If it is a small party, it will be quite intimate. So you can plan on it!!!

Rear View continued on page 3...



Do Your Holiday Shopping at the PYC

Give what every PYC mariner wants for the Holidays: Something you can only get at the PYC!

The PYC Chandlery has logo Sweatshirts \$23.40 - \$28.60, Polo Shirt: \$19.50, Long-sleeved Denim Shirt \$26.00 and Personalized Luggage Tag: \$7.00. We also have tumblers, baseball caps, lapel pins and burgees. Many items can be personalized.

Contact Treasurer Henriette Gordon to purchase your items: hjg2706@sbcglobal.net or 415.664.8263.

Rear View continued from page 2...

I want to thank everyone for their help, guidance and good cheer this past year. I was truly at a loss when I began, as I was a new member! It has been very busy, but I have been privileged to meet and work with some very wonderful people. This is a great club! Thank you all for your assistance, support, work, guidance and information. I look forward to the next year and I encourage you all to keep the activity calendar in mind. Please call, email or sign up for the dinners, when they are presented. Please cooperate with your new Rear Commodore. It very difficult to plan a sit down dinner when you have no idea how many people might show up. The strategies we used to predict attendance were quite creative! Special thanks to Mary Jane and Henriette in this regard!!! Again, it has been a pleasure serving you as your Rear Commodore. Best wishes to my successor! ♦

Port Captain's Report

Jack Gordon

It's been a busy time since September. Fleet Week was a big success with two yacht clubs in the harbor. Most prominent was the Ebony Yacht Club whose seven boats anchored and rafted up in fine style. We were so crowded it was a trick to sail in and out. The Blue Angels and Red Bull teams put on a remarkable show. For the following week, the Ericsson Boat club brought in two boats and four people.

On October workday, we converted and installed another finger from foam to tub floatation, and we put a tub under the long end finger on the breakwater dock in situ, which is always difficult. Next workday, plan to place tubs under one of our longer fingers, paint the staircase, and put some nonskid paint on the North/South dock ramp. Other tasks TBD.

This is not work, it is fun, we get to play with power tools and be in, out, and on, the water, what kid of any age can resist that combination. ♦

PLEASE STAY IN TOUCH!

As your life takes you to new places, please keep us updated with your new



Sandpiper cont. from pg. 1...

you check in to French Polynesia you have exactly 90 days before you have to check out, so we tried to stop at as many islands as possible but moving on to keep on schedule. Ninety days sounds like a long time, but the next thing you know its time to leave. We got to visit Hive Oa, Tahuata, Fatu Hiva, Ua Pou, & Nuka Hiva. The Marquesas are rugged islands with steep cliffs and valleys full of wild pigs and goats. There are no surrounding reefs in the Marquesas and the islands go straight up from the ocean.

After leaving the Marquesas

we sailed West to Tuamotu Islands stopping in Manihi & Rangiroa. The Tuamotu's are called the Dangerous Archipelago as they are the largest group of coral atolls in the world and there are plenty of exciting reef crossings in strong currents to keep you awake. We got to do a lot of exploring and most of these islands are just above sea level making them hard to see until you are a few miles away.

We left the Tuamotu's heading west again and arrived in Tahiti where we spent 2 weeks catching up in being in the big city again and restocking the boat. Tahiti is a very large island and can be spotted more that 70 miles away, but it's not really the island getaway it's sold to be. The main city in Tahiti is Papeete and there is plenty of traffic and pollution. We spent our time just out of town at the Tahiti Yacht Club were they gave us reciprocal privileges and let us use their facilities while we were there. It was good to get caught up on laundry as to do one load in the marquesas is \$15.00 and you still have to dry them yourself! We were also able to receive our mail at the Tahiti Yacht Club which gave us a chance to catch up on bills.

We then sailed 15 miles across the channel to Moorea
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Sandpiper cont. from pg. 3...

which has to be one of our favorite stops in French Polynesia. The water is crystal clear and the local people in Moorea are super friendly. We stayed in Moorea for 2 weeks then moved on to Huahine, Raiatea, Tahaa and finally Bora Bora where we moored in front of the Bora Bora Yacht club. There are so called 'yacht clubs' at most of these outer islands, but the are really just restaurant /hotels that try to get the boating community to stop in and spend some money, mostly for charter boats that abound these waters.

After clearing out of French Polynesia we had a 1000 mile westerly sail to the tiny island county of Nuie that is nothing more that a small circular cliff island in the middle of nowhere. There are mooring balls provided by the Nuie Yacht Club that they maintain as it is too deep to anchor against the cliffs. Another neat feature of Nuie is that there are no beaches to bring your dinghy ashore so you have to crane your dingy out of the water at the concrete wharf in front of town. The Nuie Yacht Club was blown away in a typhoon some years back and they no longer have a building, but you can reach the commodore at his house on the VFH and he is very accommodating to all visiting sailboats setting up BBQ's and get-togethers.

From there we sailed on to the Vava'u Group in Tonga where we spent 2 weeks sailing all the islands

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We Miss You

Jack Machun, Fleet Captain

The Presidio Yacht Club has about 250 members. You wouldn't think so by the number of members that we see around the club every weekend. I think the advantages of making the club your weekend entertainment headquarters may have escaped many of you.

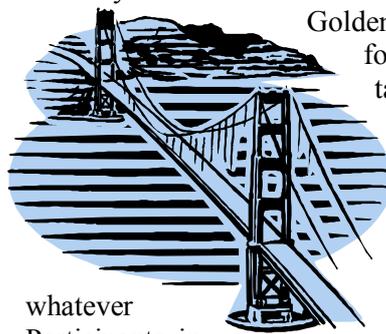
The club is not just for people that hang around at the bar schmoozing about boating, it is in the center of a lot of activity. Aside from the great view, which actually is reason enough to come to the club, there are tons of things to do with your family and friends.

Just a ten minute drive from the club is Rodeo Beach with spectacular surf and surfboarders. Nearby is the Marine Mammal Center where visitors are welcome to come and see the mammals that are recovering from illness or trauma. The volunteer staff will be glad to explain the operation. Your kids will love it.

Speaking of kids, just a couple hundred yards from the club is the award winning Bay Area Discovery Museum. This is a hands-on museum for small kids, teaching them about the marine environment and its importance to our area. They also have periodic special programs for the youngsters. Check it out: 415.339.3900.

Into hiking or biking? The GGNRA surrounding the club has all kinds of hiking and biking trails that fit every skill or energy level.

How about parking your car at the club, ride your bike to Sausalito, get on the ferry to San Francisco and ride your bike back to the club by way of the Golden Gate Bridge? After that you will be ready for a great burger and a drink to relax while taking in the view.



whatever
Participants in
beverage. In the evening Workday Dinner is a great bargain for a great meal. You can even participate by cooking the evening meal or by being one of the kitchen help.

And don't forget Workday and Workday Dinner on the second Saturday of every month. This is a great way to meet other club members. During the day Jack Gordon, our Port Captain, will keep you busy doing needs to be done to keep the place shipshape. Workday activity get 50% off lunch and a

For those who live a great distance away, there are several low-cost options for remaining overnight in the area. The least expensive option is staying on one of the rental boats overnight at no cost. Just talk to Gary Howell for a reservation. The accommodations are like camping out. You need to bring your sleeping bag, towels and toiletries. Leave the camp cleaner than you found it. This is convenient for those who attend Workday Dinner and don't want to drive home in the dark.

Another option is the GGNRA Hostels. For dormitory accommodations it is \$20/person. A private room costs \$60. For Reservations: 415.331.2777. At Hamilton Field in Novato, the Coast Guard has visitors quarters. The charge is a sliding scale from \$25 to \$50 depending on military rank. You must be active duty military or retired military to qualify. For reservations 415.506.3130

If you are just into schmoozing, that's OK too. Just come and hang out. Y'all come, Y'hear?! ♦

November & December Events

November 11
0830-1230
Workday

Come help with dock and building maintenance. Half-priced burgers & drink for all workers.

November 11
Change of Watch

Induction of new officers of the club. Stay for a special dinner.

November 24
Basic Coastal Cruising
Sailing Lessons

Start date of class BCC05-06. Contact Sail Training Coordinator Phyllis Burns-Keeton at pburns@dhs.ca.gov or 916-220-9599 / 916-220-9598 for more information.

December 9
0830-1230
Workday

Come help with dock and building maintenance. Half-priced burgers & drink for all workers. No Workday dinner scheduled.

December 10
Children's Holiday Party

Bring the kids to see Santa and join in for other fun. More details to come.

December 31
New Year's Eve Gala

Be the envy of all and come ring in the New Year at one of the most beautiful places in the country. Contact D'Vonne Hutchins for more info: dvon48@winfirst.com.

Billing News from Travis

Marcia Stern

Recently I spoke to Dottie in Travis accounting and she asked me to pass a message to the members regarding billing issues, i.e. credit cards, increased slip fees.

Slip fees have increased by 50¢/foot. Length is based on slip length and not on boat length.

Travis accounting is working closely with Randolph AFB in Texas to centralize all billing. According to Gary, all cash and check payments will be replaced with credit card billing. They are hoping the billing centralization will be in place by March 2007. At that time, charges to your account will be coming out of Texas. Until then, members still paying by check must have their check to Travis accounting before the 1st of each month. For example, billing for November, the check must be received no later than the 1st, otherwise, you will incur late fees. If you have any further issues regarding your account, please direct them to Gary Howell, Travis Marina Manager, 415.332.2319. ♦

Towing Insurance

Henriette Gordon, Treasurer

All members of the Presidio Yacht Club who have their boats insured with BoatUS for towing are entitled to a 50% reduction on the rates. Normally, \$25. reduced to \$12.50. You must use our BoatUS group number: GA83983Y. ♦

Sandpiper cont. from pg. 4...

and hanging out at the Tonga Yacht Club. Tonga is a really great place to hang out at as the town of Neiafu is all about visiting sailboats. Every business gets on the VHF in the morning and tells you what's going on for the day.

We pried ourselves away from Tonga and continued West to Fiji. I had no idea how large an area Fiji was until we arrived and the two main islands are huge! We spend 2 weeks here and there are plenty of hidden reefs and shoals with no markers, not a place to be moving around at night. We spent our last week in Fiji at the Musket Cove Yacht Club that is really a hard place to leave. They have a 3 dollar bar on a small sand island where every night they provide the BBQs and all the wood you can burn. All you have to do is bring the meat and they even do the dishes.

Sandpipers current plans are to spend 2 weeks in Vanuatu, then join the Port2Port rally sponsored by the Port Bundaberg Yacht Club at the end of October from Port Vila to Bundaberg Australia where we plan to head south down to Sydney for 5 months to hide out for hurricane season. Well I better go as there might be a ship bearing down on us and I have the watch, catch more of us on the PYC's website, presidioyachtclub.org or at sandpiper38.blogspot.com. ♦

Sail Training 2007

Learn to sail at Travis Marina or get ASA certified at the next level next year. The 2007 Travis Marina Sail Training Schedule is out. Check out www.presidioyachtclub.org for more details, or email Phyllis Burns-Keeton at pburns@dhs.ca.gov. Class sizes are limited. Dates are subject to change at the Sail Master's discretion.

Basic Keelboat

BKB01-07 – April 14, 15, 21 & 22
 BKB02-07 – April 28 & 29, May 5 & 6
 BKB03-07 – May 12, 13, 19 & 20
 BKB04-07 – June 17, 18, 24 & 25
 BKB05-07 – July 28 & 29, Aug. 4 & 5
 BKB06-07 – August 11, 12, 18 & 19
 BKB07-07 – September 8, 9, 15 & 16
 BKB08-07 – September 22, 23, 29 & 30

Basic Coastal Cruising

BCC01-07 – March 31 and April 1 & 7
 BCC02-07 – June 9, 10 & 16
 BCC03-07 – August 25 & 26, Sept. 1
 BCC04-07 – October 6, 7 & 13

Bareboat Cruising

BBC01-07 – March 23, 24 & 25
 BBC02-07 – October 19, 20 & 21



Welcome New PYC Members!

James & Joan Bueto
Michael Campbell
Michael Elliott
Nels Gunnarsen
Howard Holzapfel
& Beth McDermott
Scott & Justine Wilmore

Editor's Log

Jennifer Schripsema

Recently, Henriette Gordon resigned from Porthole Editor for the club. In addition to her continued duty as the club's Treasurer, Henriette served as the club's newsletter editor since 2000. As I am quickly learning, the editor is another one of those behind-the-scene volunteer jobs at the PYC that involves a lot more work than it appears on the surface. On behalf of the Presidio Yacht Club, we **Thank you, Henriette** for all your many years of dedicated behind-the-scenes service, including getting the Porthole organized and mailed out to all members every other month, year after year! ♦

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