

P^{ORTHOLE}

Presidio Yacht Club / Travis Marina



Fourth Quarter 2016

Cover: "Galini" in Richmond Cove

Club News

First a few news tidbits about the Club...

Election

The Club election is concluded. In November, the new Bridge and Council will assume office.

2017 Bridge:

Commodore: Steve Hocking
Vice Commodore: Shannon Elms
Rear Commodore: Jenny Benton

2017 Council Members:

James Earhardt
Edwin Crouse
Margaret Brinkman
Lisa Theodoratus
Marika Edler
Anya Bandt, MD
Pete Petersen
Robin Morales

Future

The future of the Club always seems to be uncertain. For over two decades now the people who run the Golden Gate National Recreation Area have refused to give the United States Air Force a long term lease over the marina. (Their master plan does not include us. See the Fort Baker Plan 1999-2000.) So, for over two decades, the marina, and with it the Club, have been operating year by year. Latest word is the marina is safe until the end of 2017 - another one year extension.

One political figure who has expressed an interest in keeping the Air Force in Horseshoe Cove is Congressman John Garamendi, who is the Representative covering Travis Air Force Base. Another political figure that just might be in our court is Congressman Jared Huffman, who is the Representative over Marin County where we are located. It might be worthwhile to write a letter to either or both of these men and ask for their support in securing a long term lease for the Air Force.

Dinners

All of our dinners over the past several months have been outstanding and it is worth giving special mention to the volunteers who made them possible.

In May, we had a great Mexican Chicken Mole prepared by Angela Delahanty (a friend of Council Member James Pennington). In June, we had Mediterranean Lamb by members Nori Desmas and Joe



An interesting find in one of the buildings at the Richmond Cove Marina.

CALENDAR

November

12 TRAVIS MARINA WORKDAY. 9 AM - 1 PM.
AWARDS AND CHANGE OF WATCH. 6 PM.
CLUB DINNER. 7 PM.

December

10 WORKDAY. 9 AM - 1 PM.
CHRISTMAS CLUB DINNER. 6 PM.
31 NEW YEAR'S EVE.

Mannion. In August, we had authentic delicious Brazilian fare, including Caipirinha drinks, by member Carla Di Castro and her friends. (I remember that one well. I ate enough to reach the "wafer thin mint" stage.) In September, Rear Commodore Shannon Elms catered an awesome Hawaiian feast from Mauna Loa in San Rafael. And for the Oktoberfest, Nori Desmas and Joe Mannion returned to create another outstanding meal along with Bob Daprato and Maria Santiago with help from Joan (Nori's friend), Tom (Shannon's nephew), and Destiny (Shannon's best friend's niece).

Crusin' the Bay

Inspired by Pete Petersen's trip report to the Richmond Bay Yacht Harbor (see Porthole 2015Q3), I and my crew decided to sail out to various Bay destinations in search of some fun and some lunch. (We are pirates; surrender your beer and no one gets hurt!) And also to visit some of the locations that many sailors from our Club may not often sail to. (I assume almost all of us have been to Ayala Cove on Angel Island and Sam's.) Here are four that we visited this summer.

Brickyard Cove Marina

Brickyard Cove is on the way to Richmond; the most direct route, of course, being through Raccoon Straight. The marina there has a small guest dock where you can usually dock at free of charge on a first-come-first-docked basis. (Call beforehand out of courtesy.) (Richmond Yacht Club is also nearby in the western part of the same cove.) The main shipping channel is wide and well marked, but the path into Brickyard Cove to the marina is a bit narrow. Right after entering the cove and taking the starboard turn toward the marina there are some pilings; you will want to put those on your starboard side. After that it is pretty clear as there will be boats on both sides. I have been told that Brickyard Cove is the "Richmond Rivera" and after sailing there I know why. Most of the houses are right on the water and quite grand. Many of the boats docked in the "backyards" of those houses are ones I cannot ever hope to own. For lunch we ate at All's Fare. It is small, unpretentious, inexpensive, family-owned, and very good. They are open only during limited hours so check ahead. After lunch, I and my crew visited the Golden State Model Railroad Museum. If you really enjoy model



Tom and Destiny in the proper attire. [Shannon Elms]

trains, this is the place for you. They have just about every kind you can imagine and most of them are operating.

Berkeley Marina

The easiest way to visit the Berkeley Marina is to visit the Berkeley Yacht Club. They are located to the right immediately after passing the breakwater and entering the marina. They have a guest dock and grant reciprocal privileges. (Again, call beforehand out of courtesy.) For a keelboat, the easiest way in is to find the derelict Berkeley pier and sail parallel to it on the north side. When you approach the breakwater, locals advised me to go around it on the south side. The north side can have shoals. The Berkeley Yacht Club was closed when we were there, but I have visited them before and they do have a nice clubhouse. Because the club was closed, we had lunch at Skates. Skates is very popular and has good food with a great view. There are also a couple of other restaurants there you can eat at plus a park and lots of walking trails. As expected we had to sail all the way upwind to get back home, so it helps if you time your return with an ebb tide.

Jack London Square

Jack London Square is one of those jewels in Oakland that some people may not know about. It is almost always warm and sunny there and there are over a dozen good restaurants. The marina there is run by Almar, a private company, but they have a free guest dock that is first-come-first-docked. Once in the Oakland Estuary it is not unlikely that you will have to motor up and down as the wind is almost always either too light or coming from straight down the estuary in the wrong direction. We tacked back in forth for a little while, but that got boring really fast. Also look out for all the container ship traffic! Oakland is busier than you might think. We had to dodge two ships on our trip including one extremely large one that was being turned around by tugboats in the basin. Of the choices to eat at we chose Lungomare. The food there was very good with a great view of the estuary. We also had a beer at Heinold's First and Last Chance Saloon, supposedly a favorite haunt of Jack London. Another thing



Richmond Cove from All's Fare.

worth visiting there is the U.S.S. Potomac, Roosevelt's Presidential Yacht. They give dockside tours that are well worth it, but check their website for times.

Emeryville Marina

I originally did not think much of going to Emeryville, but it is actually worth a visit. The Emeryville Marina usually charges a small fee to dock. There is another marina there, but Emeryville Marina is the only one with a guest dock. The Emeryville Yacht Club is also there, but they do not have a dock. To get into the marina you have to navigate a very narrow, but well marked channel. When we visited we decided to eat at the famous Trader Vic's. Rumor is if you eat and drink at the bar - not at the tables - and tell them you are the member of a yacht club, they will give you a discount. We did not know this beforehand, so we were not able to test the theory. The marina also has a small park and walking paths. Again, we had to sail all the way upwind to get back home.

Perhaps the best guide to sailing in the San Francisco Bay is a book by Carolyn and Bob Mehaffy called the Cruising Guide to San Francisco Bay.

If you having a sailing adventure you would like to share, please send it to me at "trap1@wolfkraft.net"! I have posted a lot of stories from Club members including our Vice Commodore Steve Hocking on "Ohana", but am always interested in collecting more; especially, if you have some good useful advice to pass on. Or just a really good story!

Pacific Cup

Some of you may have heard about the Pacific Cup Race, but if you haven't, it is held on even years, starts from San Francisco Bay, and dubs itself as "the fun race to Hawaii" alternative to the more



The fearless crew of "Ohana" [Marika Edler]



Kaneohe Bay from "Ohana" [Steve Hocking]

serious TransPac Race that launches out of southern California.

This year, Vice Commodore took his Beneteau 45, "Ohana", on the race and what a race it was. There were good strong winds, but some of that was due to hurricane Darby that decided to come up from the equator to watch the race. Several boats decided not to risk it and turned around, but "Ohana" was able to stay in front of the storm. In the process Steve blew out three of his sails! Steve crossed the finish line near Kaneohe Bay on July 23rd at 8:13 PM after sailing for 11 days and 12 hours finishing fifth in his division. He and the other racers were hosted by the Kaneohe Bay Yacht Club which took very good care of the racers. With Steven were Benjamin Solinsky, Christopher Hyder, Dennis Webb, Peter Hocking, and Dave "Smiley" Watson.

After taking advantage of the location and spending a week vacationing in Hawaii, Steve then had to get back home. So, he acquired another crew and sailed all the way back to San Francisco Bay. The return trip took longer and they had to motor a large part of the way, but they made it.



"Ohana"

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