

P^{ORTHOLE}

Presidio Yacht Club / Travis Marina

Third Quarter 2012



The Iowa leaves the Bay area

Words from the Editor

May was a very busy month on the Bay.

First, the **U.S.S. Iowa** left the Bay area for its permanent home near Los Angeles. A week later than planned, but still she was quite a show as she was towed past the Club and under the Golden Gate Bridge. Quite a few people turned out to watch her as she passed.

The **seventy-fifth anniversary of the Golden Gate Bridge** was perhaps the biggest event to hit our little club in many many years. The number of people that turned out to watch the fireworks from Fort Baker was incredible. I have never seen so many people in Mike's Place. There were three bartenders working including Louie and they were still overwhelmed.

When it came time for the fireworks, it seemed there were enough boats on the bay that a person could walk from Fort Baker to the Presidio without getting their feet wet. The fireworks display was, of course, fantastic. The view from the breakwater was excellent.

Our races are becoming extremely popular, which is a very good thing. We have more boats in our races this year than we have had in a long time. We are also getting a lot of interested service members from Travis



U.S.S Iowa Turret #1 [Will Smith]



AFB. In fact we are getting more volunteer crew members than we have boats for. So, I'd like to put out a call for skippers with boats to come join the races. The more boats, the more fun. The more crew, the more fun. I know that some boat owners may feel hesitant to race because their boats aren't fast. Well, my boat isn't fast, but I try to start in every race. Why? Because it is fun. Our races have always been more about fun than "points" or "standings". Other clubs have races where the racers never even have to see each other. At our club, we get together before every race and after every race. We're a social club with a racing problem. Of course, it is always a lot of fun to be challenged to push your boat as fast as it can go - just to see how well you can make it perform. It helps make us better sailors! And besides, like I just said, it's a lot of fun.

So, don't be too concerned about how you finish. Just get out here - and have some fun!

The **Fourth of July** barbecue was a success. Thanks go to Commodore James Pennington, Vice Commodore John Cashman, and Rear Commodore Bob Rames who put in a lot of work. Joining them was an incredible team including Bob Sherman, Steve Peters, Roy Pitts, Bill Permar, Ernie Fillipo - Grill Master, Rich Fortman, Roy Stern, Jon Rolien, James Morgan, and Louie's nephew Matt.

Huge thanks go to two couples who volunteered their time and their boats to give rides. Though it was sunny out, the conditions were challenging - the winds under the bridge were clocked at 20 knots with gusts to 30. But the highly capable skippers and crew persevered. Thanks to John and Eileen Fuller on "Lucky Penny II" and Steve and Marika Hocking on "Ohana". (Frank and Joanne Beauchamp had planned to be here, but a mechanical problem prevented them from joining us.)

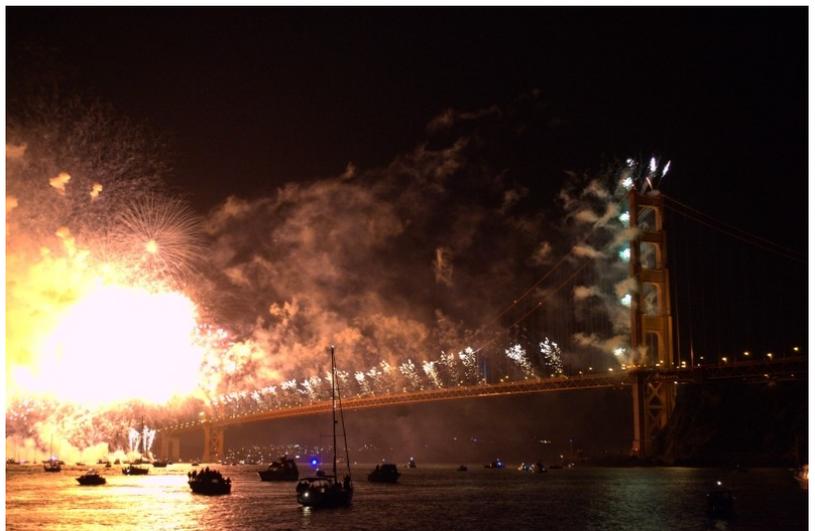
We served a free lunch to almost 100 service members and 30 club members thanks to the support of the 60th Force Support Squadron, who paid for the food. In addition, we served several members of the public. In total almost 220 lunches were cooked and served, which was more than was expected since the holiday fell right in the middle of the week.

The **Commonwealth Club** invites interested sailors to a debate: "The America's Cup: What It Means for San Francisco". It will be on Tuesday, July 31 2012 at 6 PM. Cost is \$20. Speaking will be Mark Buell, Chair, America's Cup Organizing Committee, Tom Ehman, Rules Advisor, AmericaOne, and Mike Martin, America's Cup Project Director, SF Office of Economic and Workforce Development.

Jason Funk

Commodore's Report

The second quarter got the sailing season off to a great start. There has been plenty of participation. Travis is promoting it and young men and women are driving down to go sail racing. The wind has been kicking and should make for an interesting season. I helped to start the 3rd Official Baxter Cup race. Watching the boats roar out of the gate was like watching thoroughbreds race into a new field. It was truly exciting for those on the water and land alike.





Fourth of July [Commodore Pennington]

The first thing I want to address is the Unity that we share as a team. Our club is a all volunteer cub. That means we all work together towards a common goal. It should be noted that we do this through mutual respect and cooperation. This is an important concept for new members, of whom there are about 70 so far, to understand and for existing long time members to be reminded of. Most of the other clubs have huge fees and salaried personnel. What we have, in place of a huge budget, is each other. We should all remember we are volunteers who need to work together. We put in just short of 3,000 hours a year of hard honest work. Sometimes the work gets pretty hard. Be it working all day on a volunteer effort to rebuild the docks, or slaving all day over a prep table. There are lots of opportunities to either make friends or let the work get to you. Remember "A kind word turns away wrath". We all depend on each other.

The second matter is the participation by members. If you are far away, retired, or active duty, but keep your membership up because you want to support the club, my hat is off to you. If you are laid up in a hospital or working 60+ hours a week you are certainly exempt. I would like to respectfully suggest the rest of us make a sincere effort to be at every dinner, volunteer day, and sailing event we can. We need to do this to support the Club and its activities.

As a "heads up", I want to let you all know we are working on a show for support letter in order to get a long term lease. Nothing is set in stone yet. You see, the Travis Sailing Center, is a concession leased from the Park Service. The Park Service has for over 13 years, offered the Air Force only a 1 or 2 year lease. The Park Service offers long term leases, but it has not done so with us. I firmly believe that we are a historic organization with a legacy that is deeply ingrained in the San Francisco Bay community of sailors, military, and the community in general. The way I like to put it is this: if you have ever been to Europe, you see

NEW MEMBERS

Steve and Marika Hocking
 Bill and Gayle Permar
 Rommel Barrientos
 Emily Stucky
 Vivian Miller
 Richard Williamson
 Edward Witts
 David Rivers
 Brad Silver
 Jay Pyles
 Michael Mullen
 David Esparza
 Julian Hobson
 Mikalina Grauel
 Derek Pace
 Lee Ann McClintic
 Charles Butler
 Charles Klinger
 Natasha Frye
 Christopher Grewell
 Jeremy Woolieven
 George Page
 Chris Beres

Welcome aboard!



Fourth of July [Commodore Pennington]



The Race Committee [Gayle Permar]

text of the letter. We will take the names and letter to the Senator and the Park Service and ask for their support of a long term lease.

By next quarter we should have word on America's Cup (AC 34) promotional material and paraphernalia. Right now the BAYCA Council and the AC 34 Committee are trying to come to an agreement on what we can and cannot do with the paraphernalia, such as putting our club name on an AC 34 Jacket. For those of you who are new to the club, we have an affiliation with the America's Cup. We and several other clubs are part of the Bay Area Yacht Club Association or BAYCA. For the AC34 races, so far we have 45 volunteers from our club. If anyone has not notified me or you are a new member this year and would like to help out, please let me know. You don't need to be on the water. There is lots of need for other functions. The BAYCA has volunteer need for communication/PR work, volunteer coordination, and on the water coordination of boating volunteers. If you have a power boat under 26' you could act as a marshaling boat for the AC34 races and its many trial races. If you have a large power boat, join others who are volunteering to take members and military families on the water for the AC34 races. If you have a large sailboat, you can be a stake boat marking the corners of the course. Anyone who wants to know more should send me an e-mail at "CoastalCruiser@Gmail.com". For the record, actively involved in the BAYCA as delegates are: myself, Vice Commodore John Cashman, and Alan Johnson. Also in attendance from time to time are Jason Funk, Co-Commodore Mark Tishler, past Commodore James Earhart, and Rear Commodore Robert Rames.

James Pennington

Vice Commodore's Report

Our "laid back" and somewhat informal races continue to attract quality skippers, not only from our Club but also, now and then, from neighboring clubs. On June 17, Baxter/Judson race #4, we had seven entries, including our Club boat "Wild Blue Yonder". Steve Hocking, a relatively new member, was first on corrected time. Louis

the castles, palaces, aqueducts, museums, and the myriad of other historical sites, or the East Coast and see the colonial history of our forefathers. The legacy we leave behind can tell a story of yachting history and the military contribution to the San Francisco Bay culture both past and present. I have relayed as much to Senator Feinstein's Office. They are in full support of us. But there is an impasse. The Senator's office wants input from Travis. However, Travis cannot get involved in politics. So, it is our intent to show the need. The letter will be passed around at dinners, sail training, sail racing, cruise outs, other affiliated yacht clubs, and probably an on-line site. When the time comes, I hope you can help spread the word among friends and neighbors once we finalize the



Canotas was second. A visitor to our races, Drew Nagel was third on "Infinity". Jon Rolien, Jason Funk, and Mark Tishler rounded out the other finishers.

A word to those who would like to crew on the boats which race. First, be on time! The mandatory skippers meeting starts at 11:00 hours sharp. It is at this meeting that we determine who needs crew and/or can accommodate someone new to sailing. Those who arrive shortly before noon are bound to be disappointed as the skippers and crews have already left for the boats.

Second, bring layers. The ambient temperature at Travis Marina is generally 15 to 20 degrees cooler than at Travis, Add wind chill effect on the water and it gets cold fast. A long-sleeve t-shirt, long-sleeve flannel shirt, sweater, and windproof jacket are not too much. Better to shed to cool off than to get a chill and not be able to warm up.

As I write this we have just finished the 4th of July BBQ and boat rides. We had somewhere between 90 and 100 active duty personnel and their families drive down from Travis. It was a pleasure to meet and greet them. And interesting to learn where some of them have been deployed in recent months. Oman, UAE, and Bagram are three of the deployment areas I heard of.

Please remember all active duty personnel are entitled to free membership in the Presidio Yacht Club. Simply go to our web site, www.presidioyachtclub.org, download the application, fill it out, and mail it to us with a copy of your ID card. We'll see that you get a welcoming letter and a membership card as soon as possible.

The third quarter of 2012 promises to be exciting. We will have races the third Sunday of each month (July 15, August 19, and September 16). Come on down and offer to crew. In addition, the America's Cup World Series comes to San Francisco Bay with the 45 foot catamarans racing over on city front between August 21 and 26 and October 4 through 7.

John Cashman

Eight Bells

Manny Meir reports the passing of former member Bill Braun. The following is an excerpt from his obituary that appeared in various Bay area newspapers.

William Francis (Bill) Braun, Col. (Ret.) passed away on April 19, 2012 at his home in Novato, CA at age 94. Born in New Westminster, British Columbia, Canada on February 20, 1918, he immigrated with his parents at age two to the Puyallup, WA area where his family farmed next to the family of his future wife, Beatrice Mullen. After attending Fife High School, Bill went to the University of Puget Sound but enlisted in the U.S. Army at the beginning of WWII. Seeing his potential, his commanding officers sent him to Officers' Candidate School where he went from sergeant to second lieutenant. He married Beatrice, an army nurse, in 1943. Bill then went to the Philippines and postwar Japan before returning to civilian life and majoring in

CALENDAR

July

14 WORKDAY. 9 AM - 1 PM.
15 FOURTH RACE. 11:00 AM.

August

11 WORKDAY. 9 AM - 1 PM.
WORKDAY DINNER. 7 PM.
19 FIFTH RACE. 11:00 AM.

September

8 WORKDAY. 9 AM - 1 PM.
WORKDAY DINNER. 7 PM.
16 SIXTH RACE. 11:00 AM.

October

13 WORKDAY. 9 AM - 1 PM.
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING. 3 PM.
WORKDAY SUPPER. 4 PM.
21 LADY SKIPPER'S RACE. 11:00 AM.

November

10 WORKDAY. 9 AM - 1 PM.
AWARDS AND CHANGE OF WATCH. 6 PM.
WORKDAY DINNER. 7 PM.

December

8 WORKDAY. 9 AM - 1 PM.
WORKDAY DINNER. 7 PM.
31 NEW YEAR'S EVE.

aeronautical engineering at the University of Washington. A few months short of his advanced degree, he was called back into the army for the Korean War. With three small children and eight years in the service, Capt. Braun decided to make the army his career. He worked on the Nike missile program in El Paso, TX and other missile programs at Sandia Base in Albuquerque, NM. Bill was one of the oldest soldiers to successfully complete jump school at Ft. Benning, GA. Stationed in Heidelberg, Germany, Bill, by then a major, was part of the Inspector General unit. Always interested in flight, he learned to fly glider planes with a German club while there. Later, he learned how to fly helicopters and accumulated many hours of fixed wing flight. Returning to the States, Lt. Col. Braun was stationed at Ft. Campbell, KY with the 101st Airborne, going with that group to Vietnam in 1965 as battalion commander of the 320th artillery division. While there, his gallantry in action earned him a Silver Star among other decorations. Always modest, his family as well as his wife were the last to know about his Silver Star. Stationed at the Pentagon and then returning to Ft. Bliss in El Paso where he was commander of the 1st Advanced Individual Training Brigade, Col. Braun then went a second time to Vietnam. On his return, Col. Braun was stationed at the Presidio in San Francisco and lived on Ft. Baker. During his thirty year military career, he received more than twenty-two medals and awards including the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit with four oak leaf clusters and the Bronze Star. Col. Braun enjoyed sailing and was an active member of the Marin Power Squadron. In his late sixties, he sailed a sailboat from Hawaii to San Francisco with his son and a friend. He continued to have a sailboat at the Presidio Yacht Club for decades where his motto while either sailing or windsurfing was to never get wet.

Member Report

Sometimes, simply hearing or reading of another's interesting experiences, can trigger an opportunity for yourself. Our Presidio friends Jack and Henriette Gordon's travels in France on a river barge did just that for Joanne and me almost 5 years ago. But, to the point, we recently returned from a Navy reunion on the East Coast and while sightseeing in Maine in early May we happened into the town of Rockland, just south of Camden.



June Race at the Club [Gayle Permar]

Spotting masts of schooners in a repair facility, we stopped to investigate. Out of the water and supported was the ship "Grace Bailey". Around her hull were 7-8 ship fitters refurbishing her deck and bottom.

Luckily, the owner of the "Grace Bailey" happened to arrive and after introductions all around and exploiting our Presidio and River View Yacht Club memberships, we were fortunate to get a first rate outline of the fleet's seasonal activity direct from the captain and fleet owner, Ray Williamson.

His fleet consists of the "Grace Bailey" with 81 feet of deck, the "Mercantile" with 80 feet of deck and the "Mistress" with 46 feet. The "Mistress" is the youngest schooner, built in 1960 and restored in 1992. The "Grace Bailey" was first built in 1882 and restored in 1990.

All three ships stay true to classic windjammer tradition, that is, wind power only. A wood galley stove and a creative cook provide wonderful meals, so we were told.

Ray's wife, Ann, cooked on board for many years and has developed, as she says, a "foolproof" catalog of recipes which she has compiled into "Maine Windjammer Cruises Cookbook". During the off season, she teaches kindergarten in a 150 year old schoolhouse.

The William's company, Windjammer Cruises, starts sailing around the middle of May, depending on the weather, and continues through the fall color season in early October. Incidentally, Ray also wrote a history of the fleet, "Keeping the Tradition Alive".

The cruises are tailored to fulfill just about any sailor's "bucket list" and perhaps, even more. Schedules vary as does the length of the cruises. The best way to obtain information is to access their website which is "www.mainewindjammercruises.com" or phone (800) 736-7981 or write to P.O. Box 617, Camden, Maine 04843.

Frank and Joanne Beauchamp

Log of Octavia

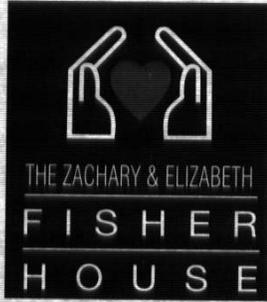
Sorry we haven't written earlier. Derek and I are spending the second night on Octavia after nearly two weeks of travel with all of our worldly goods packed into the Volvo. The only things we were missing from the car were a couple of banjos and Grandma sitting on top. We've spent the last two days at anchor in Banderas Bay but will take Octavia in to the La Cruz Marina for a couple of weeks while we install water maker, solar panels, and generator and find places to stuff all of the 'stuff' we brought down here. Hope you enjoy reading about our travels as much as we enjoyed living them. Love and miss you all.

Derek and Cissy Elliot

[There's a LOT more. Read it at "www.presidioyachtclub.org/octavia_log_3.pdf".]



The U.S.S. Nimitz Enters the Bay on the Fourth



Travis Air Force Base, California

6 April 2012

Dear Presidio Yacht Club Members,

Thank you for your generous donation to the Travis Fisher House. We are grateful for donations, like yours, which permit us to continue our mission of helping military and veteran families.

We are totally dependent on donations for the operating costs of the house. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, to date we have been able to help more than 3,300 military and veteran families with a "home-away-from-home", allowing them to be near a loved one during medical crisis, without charging a fee.

We are excited that we will be able to help even more military and veteran families in the near future since we have been approved for a second house. We appreciate your contribution which will help us toward this goal, and your compassion for our military and veteran families.

*Sincerely,
Fisher House Staff and Guests*

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