

P^{ORTHOLE}

Presidio Yacht Club / Travis Marina



First Quarter 2015

The presence of the US. Army at the Presidio, and the ability of the Army to back the civil government ensured that California remained on the Union side - albeit a distant spectator - during the Civil War (1861-1865). It is notable that many of the leaders on both sides in that war were posted in California prior to the war. Future generals Grant and Sherman were both very unhappily posted in California - both resigned from the regular army as a result. Albert Sidney Johnston, the Confederate general killed during the Shiloh Battle against the Armies led by Grant and Sherman had been the commander of both Grant and Sherman in the Department of California.

All of this activity preceded the establishment of Fort Baker, home to the Travis Marina and the Presidio Yacht Club. What led to its establishment was, however, a result of an obscure naval engagement that took place off Fort Monroe, the Chesapeake Bay sister to Fort Point in 1862, the conflict between the ironclad ships CSS Virginia and USS Monitor. This first battle between "iron" ships made obsolete not only wooden warships but also masonry forts such as Fort Point.

The history of Fort Baker awaits another telling.

- James Earhart

| CALENDAR | |
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| February | August |
| 14 WORKDAY. 9 AM - 1 PM. CRAB FEED. 7 PM. | 8 WORKDAY. 9 AM - 1 PM. CLUB DINNER. 7 PM. |
| March | 16 BAXTER-JUDSON FIFTH RACE. 11 AM. |
| 14 WORKDAY. 9 AM - 1 PM. CLUB DINNER. 7 PM. | September |
| 15 WARM-UP RACE. 11 AM. | 12 WORKDAY. 9 AM - 1 PM. CLUB DINNER. 7 PM. |
| April | 13 BAXTER-JUDSON SIXTH RACE. 11 AM. |
| 11 WORKDAY. 9 AM - 1 PM. CLUB DINNER. 7 PM. | October |
| 19 BAXTER-JUDSON FIRST RACE. 11 AM. | 10 WORKDAY. 9 AM - 1 PM. GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING. 6 PM. WORKDAY SUPPER. 7 PM. |
| 26 OPENING DAY ON THE BAY. | 18 LADY SKIPPER'S RACE. 11 AM. |
| May | November |
| 9 WORKDAY. 9 AM - 1 PM. CLUB DINNER. 7 PM. | 14 WORKDAY. 9 AM - 1 PM. AWARDS AND CHANGE OF WATCH. 6 PM. CLUB DINNER. 7 PM. |
| 17 BAXTER-JUDSON SECOND RACE. 11 AM. | December |
| June | 5 CHRISTMAS DINNER. 7 PM. |
| 13 WORKDAY. 9 AM - 1 PM. CLUB DINNER. 7 PM. | 12 WORKDAY. 9 AM - 1 PM. |
| 21 BAXTER-JUDSON THIRD RACE. 11 AM | 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE. |
| July | Cruise-outs and Crazy Eights racing dates will be added later. |
| 4 FOURTH OF JULY BBQ. 11 AM | This is what we have planned, but the calendar is always subject to change. Visit the web site for the most current calendar. |
| 19 BAXTER-JUDSON FOURTH RACE. 11 AM. | |

Eight Bells

We have sad news; former Commodore Dan Mahoney has passed away at age 87, in Arlington Virginia on November 11. He fought a courageous battle this past year against cancer. He was a decorated retired Army Lieutenant Colonel and was stationed at the San Francisco Presidio from 1963 until he retired in 1969. He and his wife, Jean Marie, raised their children in Fairfax, California. He enjoyed a long and happy life and actively pursued hang gliding, flying, and sailing the San Francisco Bay and the Caribbean. He was a valuable member for many years and a frequently at the club for lunch on Saturday until he moved away last spring. He was one of the members that worked very hard at keeping the Presidio Yacht Club open when the Park Service first tried to take over our facility. He was active in racing and was one of the key "workers" in building the handicap ramp and helped build most of the facilities we now enjoy. He was a long time treasurer for PYC. May he rest in peace.

- Manny Mier and the Marin Independent Journal

President's Report

First, I want to say "thank you" to all of our volunteer chefs last quarter. Marika Edler cooked a great Oktoberfest themed dinner in October. In November, the Beauchamps did their usual outstanding job and cooked a magnificent seafood stew for the Change of Watch dinner. Dan Postash cooked the December Christmas Dinner with soup and roast beef. The soup came from the Mendocino Soup Company. I thought it was quite good so I asked Dan about it. Turns out the Mendocino Soup Company is actually Dan's company. He started the venture a couple of years ago and his business is growing, so look for Mendocino Soup when you go shopping.

We had another fantastic New Year's Eve dinner. James Pennington volunteered to cook again and this year he out did himself. The meal was second to none. The band that was originally planning to play were unable due to an illness, but another group was hastily formed to take their place. They created a fifteen piece big band swing dance band and they were great. At midnight, several of us walked down to the breakwater and watched the fireworks.

At the end of November we had a cruise out to the San Francisco Yacht Club. Two boats made the trip, my "Galini" and new member Craig Dahl's "Journey", with six crew members including our new Commodore. Eleven more people land cruised to the club making a total of seventeen. The San Francisco Yacht Club served us a fantastic brunch and the rain that was falling most of the day held off during the cruise. The picture on the cover was taken by Pete Petersen, one of our Council members, on the day of our cruise-out.



A few of our sail cruisers at the San Francisco Yacht Club. [Sandra Clifford]

I want to remind everyone to pay their dues! We have confirmed with Travis that the National Park Service will let us remain to the end of this year, so we still have at least one full good year in us. You have several ways to pay this year. By now, you should have received a reminder through Constant Contact. If you have a PayPal account, you can pay your dues through that service. But you do not need a PayPal account to renew, you can also pay with your credit card through the Club's PayPal account. If you do not want to pay through PayPal, you can download the renewal form and send in your credit card information or a check via mail. (Please, do not send the form to us via electronic mail; it may not be secure.) If you did not receive a reminder, please let us know right away. You can download the renewal forms from our web site any time.

On Saturday, February 14th, at 7 PM the Club will have its first dinner of the new year. It will be a Valentine's Day Crab Feed Dinner cooked by Steve Hocking and Marika Edler. Price will be \$45 for members, \$50 for non-members. Per the Club Bylaws, all reservations must be pre-paid; either with a credit card through the Club's PayPal account or by check mailed to the Club post office box. The menu will be crab and champagne with soup, salad, and desert. After dinner, there will be live music upstairs with the Doc Kraft Dance Band. The cover is \$8 for

non-members, \$5 for members, paid at the door.

- Jason Funk

Sailing Exchange

Perhaps you've heard about timeshare exchanges. How about sailing exchanges?

I wanted to show Steve my country in a very unique way: through a sailing exchange. Georges-Eric and his crew from Belgium came to sail on our boat in August and in September it was our turn. Georges picked us up and spent a whole day instructing us in the fine art of maneuvering through the locks and bridges spanning the rivers and canals. After mastering the lassoing of the bullocks at every lock and every bridge (we had to wait for the locks and bridges to open but never more than ten minutes or so) Steve and I were on our way. Georges had suggested we go to Amsterdam via the North Sea and then come back through the inland waterways. That's where our umbrella saw its only action – the sea was flat and calm, no wind, and broiling sun! Scheveningen/The Hague was our first stop. We never made any mooring arrangements – there are yacht harbors everywhere either for free or very inexpensive. We hopped on a streetcar to the train station and took a train to Gouda, my birthplace. Transportation is fantastic in Holland and everything is totally accessible. I showed Steve around this lovely old city, which we intended to visit with the boat later on in our trip.

In Amsterdam, we moored right downtown, walking everywhere or taking a streetcar. We visited the museums, took a commercial boat trip through the narrow canals with fixed bridges, walked around the Red Light district, and visited the coffee shops. Steve was very impressed with the beauty of the tall Dutch women, zooming by on their bicycles and with the way all this busy traffic somehow sorted itself out. The bikes, cars, pedestrians, and streetcars all mix on these narrow streets. Great sidewalk café watching. From Amsterdam we sailed on to IJsselmeer, an inland whose shores are dotted with old fishing villages. We saw many flat bottomed sailing vessels, still in great shape. I remembered a little town with a medieval castle and on a hunch we just sailed there. We were moored right next to the moat of the castle.

After that we finally started on our so called Standing Mast Route with our first stop being Haarlem, Vermeer's city. We were able to moor right downtown and walk to the beautiful market place. The bridge operator asked us how far into town we wanted to go and at each bridge he jumped on his bike to go and open next bridge for us. About 7 in all. The next morning the same thing. We meandered through bucolic vistas with cattle, sheep, and windmills on either side of the waterway. Steve kept an eye on the depth meter but we never got stuck. We marveled at highway and railroad bridges opening up just for us. As we traversed the polders (low lying areas that had been pumped dry) we literally could only see the rooftops of the farms next to the dike in which the canal was located.

Crossing the big rivers posed some problems. The barges have quite a speed on them and the river traffic goes both ways, so if one wants to cross over to the other side, you have to look for

a big hole and go fast. We managed the whole trip without any mishaps and returned to the Dintelmonde harbor right on time. Georges picked us up, brought us back to my sister, we said our goodbyes, and promised to keep in touch. All in all a most wonderful experience which we highly recommend to other sailors who don't have the time to sail to foreign destinations.

- Markia Edler

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