

P RTHOLE

Presidio Yacht Club / Travis Marina



Third Quarter 2015

Cover photo: Kestrel and Kestrel on parade [Annie Springer]



Coxless Crew in the San Francisco Bay [Col Dietrich]

News at the Club

CLUB DINNERS

A special thanks goes out to our member chefs! Every dinner has been delicious. In April Marika Edler cooked for us, in May Greg Demetrulias, and in June Roy Pitts. Please, thank them when you see them around the Club. They did an awesome job.

OPENING DAY PARADE

Manny Mier and Roy Pitts represented the Club in the parade on Opening Day. See the picture on the cover. Interesting coincidence: both boats are named Kestrel. Better still, because of the two boats, the Club scored first place in the undecorated category. Our Commodore, Annie Springer, was also representing the Club on the Pacific Intra-Club Yachting Association committee boat.

COXLESS CREW

The Coxless Crew are on their way. These four ladies spoke before our April dinner and have set out to row across the Pacific to Australia with stops in Hawaii and Samoa. They launched

CALENDAR

July		October	
4	FOURTH OF JULY BBQ. 11 AM	10	WORKDAY. 9 AM - 1 PM.
19	BAXTER-JUDSON FOURTH RACE. 11 AM.		GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING. 6 PM. WORKDAY SUPPER. 7 PM.
August		18	LADY SKIPPER'S RACE. 11 AM.
8	WORKDAY. 9 AM - 1 PM. CLUB DINNER. 7 PM.	November	
16	BAXTER-JUDSON FIFTH RACE. 11 AM	14	WORKDAY. 9 AM - 1 PM. AWARDS AND CHANGE OF WATCH. 6 PM. CLUB DINNER. 7 PM.
September		December	
12	WORKDAY. 9 AM - 1 PM. CLUB DINNER. 7 PM.	5	CHRISTMAS DINNER. 7 PM.
13	BAXTER-JUDSON SIXTH RACE. 11 AM.	12	WORKDAY. 9 AM - 1 PM.
		31	NEW YEAR'S EVE.

This is what we have planned, but the calendar is always subject to change. Visit the web site for the most current calendar.

from our Club on April 20th, but had a rough start. They spent over a week paralleling the coast making no headway toward Hawaii. Then both of their solar chargers packed up. That created a potential safety issue (as well as not being about to follow their journey) so they diverted to Santa Barbara for repairs. After about a week back on land they set out again. They are now nearly half way to Hawaii, so progress has been good.

MORE ROWERS

A few weeks after the Coxless Crew launched, 53 year old Canadian John Beeden, also launched out of Horseshoe Bay. He is attempting to row solo from San Francisco to Australia non-stop! I assume he will get resupplied along the way.

Another person, American Sonya Baumstein was attempting to row cross the Pacific, but ended her solo attempt a few days ago due to bad weather. She sent out an emergency signal 250 miles east of Japan and was picked up by a freighter. She was attempting to row non-stop from Japan to San Francisco. It is too bad she did not make it. She might have finished her journey at our club!

By the way, another person is also rowing the oceans. Sarah Outen of the United Kingdom left the east coast of the United States and is rowing across the Atlantic to London.

I guess rowing the oceans is all the rage now!

LEASE

Our long term future is a constant concern here and for almost the last two decades the Air Force has been holding on year by year. Well, we have received word that we have yet one

more year! The Park Service has told Travis AFB that they can hold on to the marina at least until the end of 2016.

MILITARY CRUISES

Our Club members have been supporting the Outdoor Recreation activities for military members lately. Our members graciously volunteered to give boat rides during a Marina Day in May and this month took several Travis AFB youngster on a ride to Angel Island. Thank you to the skippers: Roy Pitts, Steve Hocking, Steve Mahaley, and Mark Hall.

BOAT US



If you did not already know, the Presidio Yacht Club is associated with BoatUS through their Cooperating Group Program. This entitles club members to a discount on BoatUS membership. Club members must use the GA# source code

GA83983Y to receive their discount when joining or renewing their BoatUS membership. For more information contact BoatUS Member Service at 800-395-2628 or "CoopGroups@BoatUS.com".

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Manny Mier, Jon Rolien, Mark Tishler, and Judy Sarro are on this year's Nomination Committee. They will be looking for candidates for the bridge - Commodore, Vice Commodore, and Rear Commodore - and at least four candidates for the Council. If you would like to nominate someone or volunteer for one of the positions, please send an electronic message to the Club's address and it will be forwarded to the committee.

FOURTH OF JULY

During the Fourth of July the Presidio Yacht Club hosts a barbecue and boat rides. This is an annual event hosted by the members of the Presidio Yacht Club in honor of the American armed forces and is our way of giving thanks for their service. Food service and boat rides start at Noon and run until 4 PM. This event is free to the military, Club members, and their family (spouse and children). Retirees and Veterans are \$5. So, come by and enjoy! There will be a band upstairs in the evening - \$5 cover - and you can see the fireworks from the breakwater. If you would like to help with the barbecue, please come to the Club at 11 AM. We need sailing crew and dock hands!

- Jason Funk



Cruising the Bay

Lunch at Salute Restaurant in Richmond

Recently I've been wanting to explore some of the restaurants accessible to the San Francisco bay boaters. On Sunday May 31st, my wife Sandra and I decided to go to Richmond Bay Yacht Harbor and see what we could find. I had heard there was a deli/coffee shop there. We sailed/motored over midday (took about 1 ½ hrs), and found a small dock in front of what turned out to be the restaurant (big red roof). Unfortunately, the dock is abandoned and is locked with a padlock, so avoid that. We moved over to the docks next to the harbormaster's office (light blue roof) where we were told we could tie up while

we got lunch.

The restaurant is Italian with a Sunday Champagne brunch available. (Note – they also have happy hour daily from 4-6.) We opted for the menu as neither of us was that hungry. I had a salad with walnuts, feta cheese, and vinaigrette dressing with chicken added and Sandra had the clam chowder which came with their homemade focaccia bread. Both of us enjoyed the meal, thought the price was fair (about \$30), and had a great time.

Note – We never found the deli/coffee shop – maybe that'll be another trip.

- Pete Petersen

History

The Presidio Yacht Club/Travis Marina occupies the building erected in the late 1930's to service the defenses of San Francisco Bay - specifically the minefields and submarine nets that would be deployed as war in the Pacific became imminent. These facilities were erected on land already controlled by the U.S. Army's Coast Artillery. The Coast Artillery operated the forts named above plus other batteries around the Golden Gate and the submarine net repair facility on the Tiburon Peninsula.



Salute Restaurant [Pete Petersen]

Looking at the remains of these installations one wonders how they came to be, and what they ever accomplished. The easy answer, from a 21st or even a late 20th Century perspective, is “not much.” But that answer has the benefit of hindsight.

Until the development of Steel warships - starting with the Monitor and Merrimac in 1862 - coastal fortifications were an effective bar to wooden warships, especially since they could heat their cannon shot wreaking havoc on the approaching warships. As steel warships developed, they started becoming more heavily armored, and more heavily armed, culminating in the 16” guns of the last of the battleships. To be effective, coastal artillery needed to upgrade: reinforced concrete replaced masonry and large caliber fixed guns replaced field guns and mortars. This process, in the U.S., started in the 1880’s and culminated, after the Spanish American War (1898), with the establishment of the Coast Artillery as a separate branch of the Army in 1901.

The Coast Artillery, according to my father (WWII and Korea) was the Army’s “Country Club.” Their facilities were near urban centers, and there was little to no field duty. Quarters - especially for the officers - were lavish and shooting the big guns, even during wartime, was a rare occurrence. For an officer of independent means it was a great life. The buildings surrounding the parade ground at Fort Baker reflect the country club atmosphere. The officer’s quarters, now part of Cavalo Point Inn, are huge and stately. Even the enlisted barracks behind the officers quarters were plush - wood burning fireplaces in the orderly rooms, for instance. The administrative buildings, now also home to the Cavalo Point Inn, were posh. Even the guardhouse looks comfortable.

World War I pretty much bypassed the Coast Artillery. Most of the soldiers called up to serve in the Coast Artillery were deployed to France to man railway artillery - the allies’ response to German guns such as “Big Bertha.” With the great draw-down of the Army following “the War to end all Wars,” the Coast Artillery at the Golden Gate fell on hard times. Battery Yates, near the PYC, and the other “inshore” batteries were decommissioned as obsolete. The support facilities near the mine pier at Horseshoe Bay were allowed to fall into disrepair, and were razed at the start of construction of the Golden Gate Bridge. Most of the active Coast Artillery was deployed abroad - the Philippines, Panama, and Puerto Rico.

The great era of the Golden Gate Coast Artillery was yet to come, starting with the growing belligerence of Japan in the late 1930’s. But that is another story.

- Jim Earhart

Racing

Whether as skippers or crew, Club members have already been strong representatives for Presidio Yacht Club this racing season! We share with you some of the highlights from both our Sunday Club racing in the Baxter-Judson series as well as great results in

WELCOME ABOARD
NEW MEMBERS!!!

Katrina Wagner
Christopher Bishop
Steve Adachi
Dave Brooks
Jose Pena

races across the bay.

In the Baxter-Judson Series...

With three races in the Baxter-Judson series competed, we see Phoenix skippered by Jon Rolien and Road Runner skippered by Steve Hocking tied in the standings for first, with Willin' skippered by Mark Tishler in third. Other PYC skippers in this series are Will Smith, Lisa Theodoratus, Matt Duerst, Jason Funk, and Lorraine Weiss.

In the Great Vallejo Race...

Steve Hocking, Marika Edler and crew that includes many PYC members (Lisa, Judy, Roy, and Markus) has also been making waves with their big boat, the Beneteau 45 First Ohana. They took second place in their division for both races in the GVR on May 3 and May 4. Perhaps the winds were favorable for Presidio Yacht Club members that weekend, as I was the crew for a doublehanded effort on the Cal 20 Can o'Whoopass skippered by Richard van Ehrenkrook of the San Francisco Yacht Club, and we took first in our division both days, despite coming home drenched and slightly hypothermic after an upwind bash in a choppy tide.

In the BAMA Doublehanded Farallones race...

Members Steve Hocking and Markus Ehart took first place on Ohana in their division, PHRF 49 - 81, sharing some beautiful photos of their run home in the moonlight.

In the Sausalito Women's Skipper Regatta...

Just to show that Steve isn't the only one getting the gun on Ohana, and showing her skippering skills in the spinnaker class, Marika Edler took first place in SYC's Women's Skipper. PYC members Lorraine Weiss of Sweet Lorraine and Heather Richard of Carodon also competed in the non-spinnaker division. Heather won the all female division with a 3 months old baby strapped to her chest and her pre-teen daughter driving!

In the Sausalito Yacht Club Sunset Series...

Ohana is also doing well, currently in



USAF Boat Crossing the Starting Line [Jennifer Hinkel]

third place. Ohana includes PYC members Shannon Elms, Anya Bandt, Lisa Theodoratus, Judy Sarro, and Markus Erhart.

In Corinthian Yacht Club's Friday Night Series...

James Dilworth is racing his Santana 22 Pip and Greg Demetrulias is skipper of his big Beneteau Argo with both working to break into the top three of their respective divisions.

And finally, in the Master Mariners Regatta...

With the help of some stellar crew, I managed to get Mistress II across the finish line of the Master Mariners Regatta. She was the second of three Farallone Clippers to finish. Despite bailing with buckets as we made it around the second half of the course, we were ecstatic to finish and are looking forward to flying the PYC burgee on this historic yacht as we finish the refurbishment and stretch her legs more this season.

- Jennifer Hinkel

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