BURGEES

As you may know, the Presidio Yacht Club, over its nearly 60 years of existence, has collected some 287 (and counting) burgees from other yacht clubs around the world. These you may find hanging from wires in the Travis Marina Bar. There is also a book listing them both alphabetically and in order of appearance. (There is also a list on our web site.) Each has a tale to tell, if only we could communicate with the member who got it and donated it to the Presidio Yacht Club. Unfortunately, apart from an Ouija board, there is no way of retrieving those tales.

Of the collection, 32 are “Unknown”. Anyone who can identify any of these, please do so.

Of those we do know, some exotic places and tales accompany them. For example, the latest edition comes from the Detroit Yacht Club. The thought “Detroit? Hah! A Dump!” comes immediately to mind. Au contraire! The Detroit Yacht Club is 150 years old and is housed at the tip of Grand Isle where the Detroit River meets Lake St. Claire. Its clubhouse, built in the 1920’s in the grand style of Douglas Fairbanks Moorish, is a truly grand locale.

Another club, the Alameda Naval Air Station Yacht Club, housed in a quonset hut on the edge of the Bay, is no more. Ditto the Caliente Island Yacht Club, in the Delta, a casualty of the “Great Recession”, went bankrupt. The Bayview Boat Club, located on the Bay just south of the Warriors Arena in San Francisco, still exists and is well known as a “drinking club with a boating problem”. It is well worth a visit.

Of the exotic places, the Royal Capetown Yacht Club, with a view of the notorious Robben Island Prison, comes to mind, as does the Republic of Singapore Yacht Club (formerly the Royal Singapore Yacht Club), early a colonial club, that had big plans to become a casino resort only to fall victim to the economic melt down of the 1990’s.

Probably the remotest yacht club ever visited is the Prudhoe Bay Yacht Club. Yes, Alaska. The Prudhoe Bay Yacht Club never had a burgee and only held a regatta once per year, on the 4th of July, when various teams of oil field workers would race jury-rigged boats across one of the glacial lakes dotting the oilfield. July 4th was the one day per year when booze consumption was legal. There was a trophy for the winner.

- James W. Earhart
SAILOR'S RESTAURANTS

During a recent visit down to Monterey Bay, I was walking along their marina and enjoying its great view. I was thinking to myself how the Monterey Bay must be fun to sail in. But, I as I was sightseeing I realized that the sailors in Monterey are very limited in the places they can visit during a day sail or even over night. Those of us in the San Francisco Bay, on the other hand, are blessed with a long list of options. Of those options are the many restaurants we can visit by sailing up to them. There are a number of restaurants in the Bay with their own docks and several more within walking distance of docks. Below is my attempt to list them.

Restaurants with docks:

Sam's Anchor Cafe (Room for several boats but very shallow close to the restaurant),
Trident (Room for one boat; reservations are required),
Pasta Pelican (Room for several along the west side),
Quinn's Lighthouse (Room for several along the south side),
Anh Restaurant (Room for one large or two small boats; first come, first serve with additional free docking at the marina), and
Brotzeit Lokal (Call for docking arrangements).

Docks with restaurants nearby:

Travis Marina (Of course!),
Ayala Cove (Angel Island Cafe),
Pier 1 1/2 (Several),
Pier 39 (Several),
South Beach Harbor (South Beach Yacht Club and many others),
Clipper Cove (Mersea and several wineries),
Berkeley (Skates),
Emeryville (Trader Vic's and Hong Kong East Ocean Seafood),
Ballena Bay (Pier 29 and Abigail's Moroccan Cuisine),
Marina Bay Yacht Harbor (Assemble, Bubbaloo, and Anh),
Jack London Square (Scott's, Kincad's, and several others),
And there are several marinas along Sausalito's shore that provide access to many more great restaurants.

There are also several yacht clubs that have their own docks. Many are open during the weekends and some are open certain weekdays. Always check their web site and call for permission to dock. Sometimes there are special events, such as member dinners or club races, that take all the available space.

San Francisco,
Corinthian,
Saint Francis,
Golden Gate,
Berkeley,
Richmond,
Point San Pablo,
Coyote Point,
Oakland,
Encinal, and
Aeolian (via a shallow narrow channel).

Several more yacht clubs are near marinas and can be visited rather easily.

Of course, this is hardly an exhaustive list and there is more if you head up toward the Carquinez Straight and the Delta.

- Jason Funk
CLUB EVENTS

13 Apr - April in Paris Dinner
14 Apr - 2nd Club Race
28 Apr - PICYA Opening Day on the Bay
11 May - Club Dinner
12 May - 3rd Club Race
8 Jun - Club Dinner

9 Jun - 4th Race
4 Jul - Fourth of July Barbecue
14 Jul - 5th Race
10 Aug - Club Dinner
11 Aug - 6th Race
8 Sep - Lady Skipper's Race

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