

P RTHOLE

Presidio Yacht Club / Travis Marina

Commodore's Potpourri

By Steve Peters, Co-Commodore

NO NEW PERMIT FOR BOATS REQUIRED. Washington, DC – In a remarkable display of bipartisan support for recreational boating, both the House and Senate, on July 22, 2008, passed legislation S. 2776, “The Clean Boating Act of 2008” which will permanently restore a long-standing exemption for recreational boats from permitting requirements under the Clean Water Act. The legislation was sent to and signed by President Bush. The Act will restore the exemption for 18 million recreational boats across the nation to be exempt from having to comply with onerous federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) permitting requirements for vessel discharge. RBOC, Boat US and NNMA have worked diligently to pursue passage of this legislation.

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Message from the Marina Manager

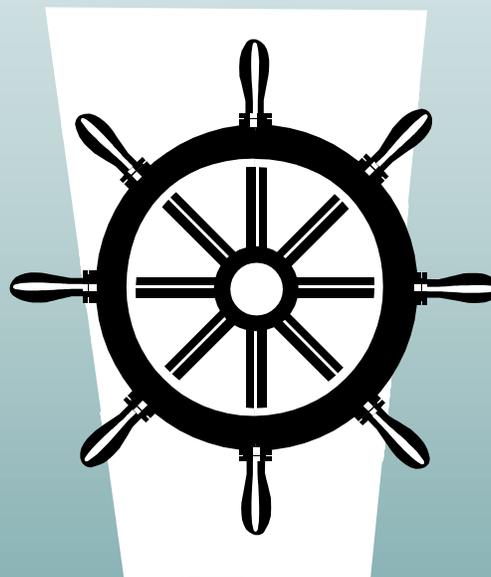
By Louis Canotas

Greetings from Horseshoe Cove, home of the PYC: the best kept secret on the Bay. It's the middle of January and it's sunny and 60 degrees out there...what gives with the weather? Regardless, now is a great time to come down and take a sail. The breeze is a lot less intense than during the summer and the bay is beautiful. Wash down that boat and get out there!

Meanwhile, things are looking up. As I mentioned last issue, The NPS has granted us a year extension through the end of 2010. We will be working on them to keep us here as a dynamic part of the waterfront for the foreseeable future.

I want to extend a big thank-you to those PYC members who patronize the club on Fridays and Saturdays. During the evenings, we have had bands who play for the door. They ask for \$5 from members who listen and dance. Thanks to all who have given the bands the asked for \$5 cover charge. It all goes to the band and helps keep this place a fun, exciting place to visit.

I feel more optimistic about our future now than I have in a long time. Anyone want to call me and chit chat about the future, please do...you know the number. ♦



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Pacific Inter-Club Yacht Association's (PICYA) leadership conference is February 21, 2009 at Pittsburg Yacht Club. Cost is \$25.00 per person which includes materials, continental breakfast and lunch. This is a great opportunity to receive first hand information on Bay Area yachting and many of the legislations and actions that affect our boating community. A list of speakers and timetable is available on their website. While getting specific PYC information on line, check out www.picya.org for a broader outlook.

The US Coast Guard issued a press release reminding the maritime community that older Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs) that broadcast analog signals on the 121.5 or 243 MHz frequencies will not be monitored by the COSPAS/SARSAT satellites as of 1 February 2009. Mariners should promptly replace the old EPIRBs with newer ones that transmit digital signals on the 406 MHz frequency.

There have been lively debates in the past among members regarding the validity of PYC's membership in Yacht Clubs of America (YCA). YCA is an organization started in 1963 as the first National Association of Yacht Clubs "to serve the advancement of yachting". The benefits of membership are as follows: Reciprocity to over 300,000 yacht clubs in the country who are also YCA members, the YCA's reciprocity guide; Listing in, and access to, YCA's website in the "Member's Only" section; YCA quarterly newsletter (one copy sent to the club); YCA membership certificate; Listing in the Register of American Yacht clubs and a Reciprocal Courtesy Card – mailed upon request. This one year membership is \$400. PYC was a member, once again, in 2008. To my knowledge no one needed their services. Now is the time for members to weigh in on whether this is an organization PYC can justify belonging to. Your opinion can be sent to Steve Peters: selavy01@msn.com.

According to Lewis Thomas in his etymological book "ET CETERA, ET CETERA" (Little, Brown 1990) "The doublet for NOISE is NAUSEA, NAUTICAL. There is ambiguity here, even a touch of wit, especially when you read the modern physicist's definition of noise: 'any disturbance, especially a random and persistent disturbance, that obscures the clarity or quality of a signal,' as indirect and delicate a description of seasickness as you could ask for." ♦

Featured Websites:

◆ Many PYC members may not be aware our club is a member of the Yachting Clubs of America (YCA), which allows members reciprocal privileges among its' 300,000+ participating yacht clubs. Go to www.ycaol.com to discover more.

◆ The Recreational Boaters of California (RBOC) is an organization that interacts with the government to protect and enhance enjoyment of recreational boating. Go to www.rbo.org to find out more about current issues that may impact your boating experience.

◆ With the good boating weather just around the corner it is time to start thinking about preparing your boat for a safe season. Check out www.boatmaine.us/checklist-maker.aspx for various checklists you can make to ensure you are ready to get out on the water.



VICE News

By Jason Funk

GOOGLE GROUP

As we announced before, we have created a group on the Google Group system to help us get information out to the members. Invites to join the group went out by e-mail about a week ago. We now have 62 members in the group. There are still 120 invites outstanding. I estimate we have about fifty more members for whom we do not have an e-mail address for. If you have not received an invite, just send me an e-mail at trap1@wolfkraft.net telling me who you are and I'll send one to you.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers! We need volunteers! The bridge needs help to make the club a success. We need two or more volunteers to act as the Race Committee. These people will be responsible for handling the club's races that occur once a month starting in March. We need several volunteers to form the group that will decorate and sail a boat as our entry in the annual Opening Day on the Bay parade in April. We need a volunteer who will help organize and lead the fleet on the club cruises to neighboring yacht clubs. We need a volunteer with some creativity and some editing skills to take-over as editor of the Porthole, this fine quarterly newsletter. We need a volunteer to take-over as coordinator of the Volunteer Skipper program. This person would be responsible for soliciting one of the qualified skippers when the club boats are rented by folks who have not been checked out on the boats. If you are interested in helping in any of these tasks, please let me or one of the other commodores know.

RACING

Are you interested in sailboat racing, but don't have a sailboat? All you have to do is show up to one of our club races! Most of the time there are sailboat owners in search of an extra hand to help with the rigging during a race. Just be upstairs in the clubhouse on race day before the 11:00 AM skippers' meeting. Bring with you the kind of gear that you would need to have to be out on the bay on any boat, that is: warm clothing, a hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, some water and munchies, and a pair of gloves. The club has plenty of life-vests, so one can be provided if you don't have one of your own. If you have a sailboat and want to have some fun, join one of our races. The races usually run from two to three hours. The first race is on March 22nd!

PICYA

As many of you know, our club is a member of the Pacific Inter Club Yacht Association. On the 3rd of last November, The PICYA had its annual awards meeting. We were represented by Manny Mier and Peter Van Der Werff. Our club was one of several One Star Award winners in the Club of the Year portion of the presentations. This award recognizes our club's public events and participation in PICYA events (of which Opening Day on the Bay is one).

50TH ANNIVERSARY

The Presidio Yacht Club turns 50 this year and we are going to celebrate! The plan is to have a special dinner with presentations to commemorate our golden anniversary. The celebration will be held in May. Manny Mier has volunteered to chair the group to organize and stage the event, but he cannot do it alone. If you are interested in helping with this very important occasion please let myself or Manny know.

Fair Winds! ♦

Rear Commodore Report

By Mark Tishler

We had a pretty fair turnout for the November "Change of Watch" Dinner. Dinner was prepared by Louis and Caitlin Canotas. They cooked up a delicious stuffed loin of pork, with squash soup, roasted potatoes, wine, desert, coffee, and cognac. I asked Lou for his recipe for the stuffed pork, and I will include it at the end of this article – it was superb.

For those of you who missed out on the unbelievable barrage of emails regarding the purchase of a new coffee pot suffice to say that I now have a new understanding of the word "bureaucracy". But after much heated debate, we now have a new coffee pot and lots of ground coffee in the cupboard. Now, if I can just remember to keep sugar and artificial sweetener on hand and remind the chefs to purchase half-and-half when they do their grocery shopping we might just be able to have coffee with our desert from now on.

In December, we had the annual Children's Christmas Party. There were approximately thirty adults with thirty children in attendance, almost entirely from Travis AFB. Pat Mier did a great job helping the children assemble gingerbread houses. Following this, we had a very nutritious lunch consisting of hot dogs, potato chips, potato salad, baked beans, cookies, and soda pop. Santa's arrival was dampened a little by a sudden cloudburst, but no one even seemed to notice. After Santa took all of the children's requests and he left to return to the North Pole, Brian the balloon guy entertained the children by making every imaginable animal or toy out of balloons. Many thanks to those who volunteered to help out on this event, but I do imagine that you all felt the same as me – that those smiles on the kids faces was thanks enough.

We decided to have a January workday dinner this year. This was because we had decided to forgo the Presidio Yacht Club New Year's Eve Party - although I do understand that Manny Mier had a very successful private party at the club.

The board has also decided to do away with the monthly "First Friday" lecture series and have short presentations before the workday dinners from now on. This just seemed like a "no brainer" because attendance at the "First Friday" events was sparse

and a lot of the members are already at the club for workday anyway. This way those who want to attend the presentation, but not the dinner may do so and conversely those who want to attend the dinner and skip the lecture can just come a little later.



Roz Savage

The guest speaker for this dinner was Roz Savage. She spoke about her historic voyage as the first woman to row solo from California to Hawaii and about her activities to raise awareness about the environment through her adventures. We had a tremendous response for this first presentation with more than eighty people packing the room for the event and more than seventy staying for dinner. Bob and his crew prepared a delicious "Santa Maria" Barbeque for us. The beef tri-tip was excellent and the "Santa Maria" beans were delicious. Bravo Zulu to Bob and his crew. I will include the recipe for Bob's tri-tip rub and "Santa Maria" beans in the next issue of the Porthole.

February will bring the annual "PYC Crab Feed" and I understand that this event sells out every year, so make your reservations as early as possible – sign up on the bulletin board at the

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club, email, call, or send a carrier pigeon to me (or maybe a smoke signal) marktishler@aim.com or (707) 888-0861.

We will also have a Superbowl Sunday potluck at the club for those of you who want to come down and watch the game.

In March we will celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a dinner prepared by Don and Carla Kavanaugh, and in the Beauchamps have agreed to prepare the April dinner again for us. I know that we are all appreciative to those who volunteer to prepare these dinners. It does require a lot of time for preparation, but can also be a lot of fun.

In May we will celebrate the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Presidio Yacht Club and anyone wanting to volunteer to help in any way is encouraged to contact Manny Mier at mpmsail@sbcglobal.net or (415) 383-5632.



Rear Commodore Mark Tishler

I have a few ideas for some upcoming dinners (a Chinese Food Dinner, Pizza night, PYC Movie Night) and if you have something that you want to try, please give me a call. We still have June, August, and September available.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Rear Commodore. ◆



New Years Eve Party was Held After all!

By Manny Mier

A great evening was planned, coordinated, and executed to ring in 2009. After hearing that the council did not want to put on a party due to cost, the Miers stepped up to the plate and hosted a NYE party. They followed the traditional format of Cocktail hour, SIT DOWN DINNER, Dancing and Champagne toast at midnight. There were 50 festive and happy attendees who felt their fee of \$35.00 per person was indeed quite a bargain. No money was lost and the club has agreed to again continue a long standing tradition at PYC, the New Years Eve party! ◆

Team Sandpiper Update Part XI

By Tom and Amy Larson, USCG Retired, SV Sandpiper/Oakland, Ca.

Ahoy PYC from the Mid-Atlantic! In the last 'Porthole' issue Sandpiper was anchored off 'The Rock' of Gibraltar waiting for weather to quit storming so we could start our Atlantic Crossing. Since then we have sailed over 3400 nautical miles and have just a mere 180 nautical miles till we drop the hook off the white sandy beaches of Barbados in the Caribbean.

We had a difficult time getting out of Gibraltar because the weather was very intense always blowing storms from the direction we needed to go. The week before we arrived to Gibraltar they had the worst storm they have had in 40 years causing much damage to the town, closing all the marinas due to storm damage, and causing 2 ships to go up on the rocks.

We had one clear day while we were waiting at anchor so we hopped across the Straits of Gibraltar to Ceuta/Spain, that is on the north coast of Africa, where we tied up in a marina for the week while more storms blew over. Once the worst of the storms cleared we motored 30 miles to the west and spent 3 'interesting' nights in Tangier/Morocco moored alongside a drug smuggling boat that had broken down.

Tangier is an interesting stop that many boats take a pass on and we were glad we stopped as there was so much to see, very friendly people and great inexpensive shopping in the Casaba. We heard from our drug smuggling buddy next to us that he had found a market that sold live animals and you can get any animal you ever wanted from monkeys to tigers. He was quite excited the morning we were leaving because he was going to pick up a monkey he had just bought to ride around on his shoulder.

Once the forecast was looking good we cleared the Straits of Gibraltar and hooked a left sailing south 575 miles down the Moroccan coastline to the Canary Islands. Most this passage was a mix of mostly sailing and a little motoring due to the changing winds while dodging ships and fishing boats. Finally arriving in the Canary Islands to drop the hook under a bright full moon.

Our goal in the Canaries was to wait until the Atlantic Crossing Rally departed Las Palmas so we could go into the cheap marina there and provision. The ARC Rally is an annual event with over 200 boats from all over the world that all leave together to cross the Atlantic arriving in St Lucia in the Caribbean. We arrived in Las Palmas/Grand Canary Island the day before they left and was able to witness their departure, lots of very fancy boats and well-dressed crews.

We were then able to secure a slip in the municipal marina that is quite inexpensive while we worked on a few projects and loaded up the Piper with as much beer and food as we could find room for.



We caught a bunch of these little guys that we threw back to get bigger...

Once the winds were looking good we headed out to start our Atlantic Crossing of over 2500 miles to the Caribbean. Things went great for the first few days, then the winds started getting stronger every day until we were sailing in 20-foot seas and 40-knot sustained winds, the worst conditions we have been in since we left the PYC in 2005.

The Piper was handling it like a champ, but the crew was getting wet and tired from all the violent motion, our guidebook said that this was supposed to be the 'Milk Run'. The first thing to break was the

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electric autopilot, so we engaged the Sayes Rig wind vane that we use just for this predicament and decided to press on.

As the weather deteriorated we were worried about seawater getting into the generator and engine via the exhaust that exits on Sandpipers sides because we were rolling so bad and being smacked very hard on this side by large waves. We ran both engines twice a day hoping this would prevent any water from building up in the hoses. But as feared, seawater got pushed into the generator engines crankcase thru the exhaust causing it to blow out its seals pouring oil all over the engine room.

The next morning the same thing happened to the main engine when it filled up with water due to the high seas and would not turn over because it was so full of water. Since we were on a southerly course looking for the trade winds we decided to divert to the Cape Verde Islands to make repairs. During all the bouncing around I was able to get all the water out of the main engine and with several oil changes was able to get it running the day before we arrived to Cape Verde.

Mindelo/Cape Verde



We had thought that we would have to sail into anchorage at night and this was not a pleasant option. Turns out Cape Verde was a great stop which we enjoyed very much as the people were super friendly and there were all kinds of small restaurants and bars all over the quaint town. We got everything repaired ourselves our first day at anchor and then made our plans for our second attempt to cross the Atlantic. Downtown Cape Verde we found two cutoff valves at a hardware store that we installed to Sandpiper's engine and generators exhaust to prevent water from ever entering the engines again.

The day before Christmas the trade winds had filled in so we headed out, as I am typing this we are on day sixteen of our crossing. The weather has been great with the strongest winds being 20 knots, most days 10-15 knots right off the stern, perfect sailing! We did have 48hrs where we went thru a very mild low pressure system that caused the winds to make a complete 360 during that 2 days and we did have to motor for 3 hours, but other than that it has been a straight downwind run. A little bit of drama a few days ago when the bolt that holds the lower shrouds to the mast sheered in half causing the mast to flex around like crazy till we could rig some straps around the spreaders to hold the mast tight.

We are looking forward to being in the Caribbean and plan on arriving to Barbados on Sunday Morning Jan 11th, from there our plans are stops at the Windward Islands of St. Lucia, Bequia, Carriacou, and Grenada. Once we get our fill of those islands we will head north to Jamaica, west to Grand Cayman and then around the west coast of Cuba to the Florida Keys. We are hoping to get a berth in one of the three military marinas on Florida's east coast for hurricane season 2009 or farther up the East Coast.

Catch more of us on the PYC's website, or visit us at sandpiper38.blogspot.com where you can track Sandpiper's progress, check out our many photos/videos and read our postings from stops along the way. ♦



Workday Crew

Port Captain Notes

By Jack Gordon

Workday 01/10 was a magnificent sunny, summer day with a big tide (7.2). We fixed a badly twisted finger (Louis & I are sharing credit for whose idea fixed it). The dinner had a huge attendance and was well set up through the indefatigable Mark Tishler (actually set up twice). We scraped the old paint shed and got it set for painting. Some dock adjustments were made that will help. There were 17 people signed in for workday and 14 did good jobs. ♦

FOR SALE: The World Famous S/V Sandpiper is FOR SALE (summer 2009) and available for delivery anywhere on the U.S.'s East and Gulf Coasts. Sandpiper is truly a one of a kind boat that has kept us safe while sailing around the world these last four years. We have been very pleased with her performance and have not seen another 35ft sailboat that compares. We think she truly is a one of a kind. We have seen everything we wanted to by sea and are now looking forward to our next adventures on land. For more information please email us, Tom and Amy, at wdc5572@sailmail.com.



PYC Calendar of Events

Cruise outs, more presentations, and other events to be added and announced later. Always subject to change. The most current calendar will be posted on the club's website, www.presidioyachtclub.org.

FEBRUARY

1 Super Bowl Chili Cook-off
14 Workday and Crab Feed

MARCH

14 Workday and St Patrick's Day Dinner
22 Warm-up Race

APRIL

11 Workday and Dinner
19 First Race
26 PICYA Opening Day on the Bay

MAY

9 Workday and Dinner
17 Second Race

JUNE

13 Workday and Dinner
14 Third Race

JULY

4 Fourth of July BBQ and Boat Rides
(starting at 10:30 AM)
11 Workday and Dinner
19 Fourth Race

AUGUST

8 Workday and Dinner
16 Fifth Race

SEPTEMBER

12 Workday and Dinner
20 Sixth Race

OCTOBER

10 Fleet Week, Open Membership Meeting
11 Fleet Week
18 Lady Skipper Race

NOVEMBER

14 Workday, Dinner, and Change of Watch

DECEMBER

12 Workday
13 Children's Christmas Party

Welcome New Members!



Hans Jagow
Ewan MacDonald
Ron Peterson
Pamela Power
Joseph Rogers
John Staples
Nathan Stroschein

Have you moved or changed your email?

Please update us at

presidioyachtclub@hotmail.com

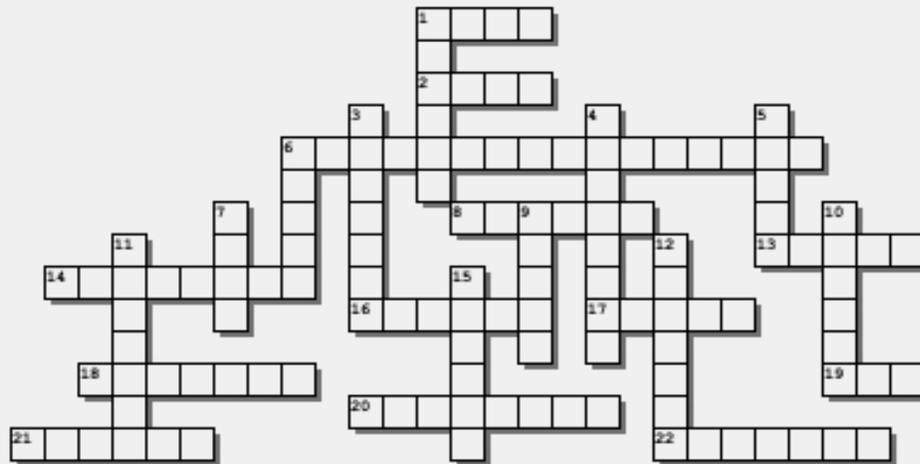


Travis Marina Presents...Live Music:

Jan 24 - The Tickets Band \$7
Jan 30 - Eugene Huggins \$5
Jan 31 - The Factor Band \$7
Feb 06 - New Rising Sons \$7
Feb 07 - Dr. Mojo \$5
Feb 13 - The Sorentinos \$7
Feb 14 - Volker Strifler Band \$10
Feb 20 - Doc Kraft \$7
Feb 28 - singles night band TBA

Contact: travissailing@sbcglobal.net.

Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 - cabin or cockpit floor
- 2 - the forward or after tilt of a mast
- 6 - Team Sandpiper activity
- 8 - kink
- 13 - a current's velocity
- 14 - scale of wind forces
- 16 - national flag flown on a boat

- 17 - behind

- 18 - international navigation rules
- 19 - aim one side or another of the course
- 20 - a jib
- 21 - a reefing line
- 22 - a boat's rail at the edge of the deck

Down

- 1 - side stay
- 3 - large reinforced eye in a sail
- 4 - a gust of wind down a hill
- 5 - to measure depth
- 6 - mariner's map
- 7 - short steep waves
- 9 - intersection between topsides and boat bottom
- 10 - a line or cord holding halyard away from mast
- 11 - Bermudian rig
- 12 - the course
- 15 - mizzen

Email mike.n.jen@hotmail.com for solution to crossword puzzle.

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