

JULY, AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2008

P RTHOLE

Presidio Yacht Club / Travis Marina

Commodore's Log

By D'Vonne Hutchins

I want to thank all of you who have wished me well and sent gifts and flowers while I was in the hospital. I was beginning to think I would never get home! I am home now, resting and getting back to my new normal. Our club schedule looks great and I am eager to participate again as much as I can. I certainly recommend the 4th of July Celebrations and will see you there. The cruise-outs and dinners that your Cruise Chairman and Bridge have worked so hard to put together for you will be so much fun. I am not sure that we can get me aboard a boat very soon, but I am envisioning cargo slings, hefty dock hand to push and catch, rope ladders and stairs. But, alas, all have failed the test of practicality!

I am so proud of our Bridge and continue to encourage all to join us in our activities. We have so much fun, and with the recent changes to the building, it just looks and feels better to be there. With the new wood floors in the dining room, we might even slip in a little dancing now and then!!! I especially encourage new members to join us.

I encourage the Bridge to wear their pins and hang their flags so that new members may find us more easily.

Please remember to check our beautiful web site regularly for calendared events, race results and just good information. I hope to see you at the Clubhouse! ♦

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PYC Website:

www.presidioyachtclub.org

PYC Email:

presidioyachtclub@hotmail.com

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travissailing@sbcglobal.net

July 4th Events!

Free Boat Rides on San Francisco Bay, 12 noon to 3 PM

Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Kielbasa, Chicken, Beans, Potato Salad, Pie, and Watermelon from 11:30 AM to 4 PM

Price \$5.00/person, Free to Active Duty, 1/2 price for Active Duty dependents

Beverages from Travis Marina Grill (separate charge)

San Francisco Fireworks at dark (approximately 8:40 PM) from breakwater OR at 5pm follow Don & Carla Kavanaugh over in your boat to Aquatic Park to anchor out and watch the fireworks from a different angle.

Floyd Hutchins Band @ Mike's Place, following fireworks (separate charge)

Dress in layers, can be warm & sunny, but more likely foggy and cool!!!

Marina Manager's Message

By Louis Canotas

Breezy, hazy, cool....everything that a June day on Horseshoe Cove should be. Folks are walking by on the deck, some are even coming upstairs for a drink or a bite to eat. Things are getting busier down at this neck of the woods.

Recently was the big hoopla opening / dedication for the Inn at Pt. Cavallo, the big luxury hotel...oops, I mean convention center located just across the parade grounds here at Ft. Baker. In National Park Service speak the word 'Hotel' doesn't exist. Instead, let's be sure that the 80 million dollar sellout, I mean 60 year lease, of public land to a private entity: Passport Resorts,

isn't referred to as a hotel. Rather, let's refer to it as an eco friendly 'convention center' complete with high priced rooms, high priced bar, high priced restaurant and impressive political connections. The opening day ceremony this weekend was attended by Lynn Woolsey, Nancy Pelosi and other political notables.

Equally notable was the entire lack of representation by the Air Force at said ceremony. To cap it off, the maps distributed by the Park Service neglected to label our little corner of the cove as either Travis Marina or Presidio Yacht Club. Instead, we have been relegated to the label 'historic boat house.' An unintentional oversight perhaps....? Yuh, right.

Call me bitter, call me pessimistic. I'll cop to both. However, let me say that plenty of effort is expended around these parts on minutiae. I humbly submit that such an expenditure of energy would be far better put to our continued survival.

Anyways, that's where things stand. When I tell you I love this place, I'm not joking. Perhaps we will have a long and idyllic future here at the cove, working in harmony with the NPS and Passport Resorts. And then again, maybe not. ♦



See and Be Seen in Your PYC Gear!

(Beer Sold Separately.)



- ◆ Long-sleeved, zipper front fleece jackets, \$40.00
- ◆ Vests for men, women and children, \$37.50, \$28.00, \$12.00
- ◆ Fleece head band, \$9.50
- ◆ Sweatshirts, \$28.50 -w/hood, \$30.00
- ◆ Long-sleeved denim shirts, \$26.00
- ◆ Short-sleeved polo shirt, \$20.00
- ◆ Fleece pull-on cap, \$15.00
- ◆ Baseball caps, \$20.00
- ◆ Bucket hats, \$12.00
- ◆ Tote bag, large, \$22.50
- ◆ Apron, \$12.00
- ◆ Plastic 12oz tumblers, Set of 4, \$5.00

Contact Henriette Gordon hjg2706@sbcglobal.net.

FROM THE REAR

By John Cashman, Rear Commodore

Wow, has it been three months since I was appointed to this position? How time flies.

Well, the 'South of the Border' dinner sort of went south. But, your esteemed President of the Council, Jack Machun (better known as "Iron Chef Jack") stepped up and, with a most able crew, cooked and served a remarkable lamb dinner: Tossed green salad, slices of lamb, heavy on the garlic, mint jelly, fresh asparagus and au gratin potatoes. And the meal ended with a chocolate sheet cake and coffee. I think we found the cord to the coffee urn. We are still straightening up the PYC pantry and cupboards.

On Saturday June 14, we were treated to an outstanding Santa Maria BBQ, produced and directed by Bob Thompson, our part-time bartender: BBQ tri-tip and chicken, green salad, red wine and a wonderful dessert. Those of you not in attendance missed a good one.

Our guest that evening was Lorie Haney a volunteer with the California Coastal Commission. She spoke of the necessity of clean and green boating and then passed out some kits with a lot of information on how to achieve those goals.

Plans for the 4th of July call for a BBQ, as we did last year. Our members are so scattered we are not certain how many will show up but there are always hungry and thirsty visitors, not only to the Discovery Museum, but also those drawn to watch the 4th of July fireworks.

As to the remaining dinners before the Change of Watch in November, we still need volunteers for the August 9 dinner.

The Earharts have kindly volunteered to cook for the September 13 dinner. I believe they are planning goulash. I asked if they planned to have any gypsy girls serving. I don't think I got an answer. We shall see.

And, the October 11 dinner will be cooked and served by relatively new members, Mark and Susan Tishler. I understand the menu is Italian. A good Chianti comes to mind, to assist in digestion of course.

And, as with the past three dinners, we shall have a

crew to wash, dry and put away the crockery, cutlery and pots and pans, so the cooks and servers may relax and enjoy the fruits of their labors.

Two points to cover before I close –

First, despite two emails announcing each of the past three dinners, and requesting a call or email to RSVP, the response has, frankly, been underwhelming. In April we had 42 confirmed. 5 were no-shows. We fed 51.

One late arrival is alleged to have said "Hey, what's one more guest." That one additional guest resulted in some of the kitchen crew being shorted on rations. This is not acceptable.

However, in June, we had 36 sign up and we fed 28. We had food left over from both the May and June dinners. The members at the dinners purchased some of the leftovers thereby relieving us of excess food and helping to defray the costs of the dinners.

Various ideas have been put forth to help reconcile RSVPs with actual attendance. Charge members who show up without a reservation an additional \$5.00 or \$10.00? Set up tables for 40, seat those who have reservations first, and then seat those without reservations last? And decline to set up an additional table to handle any overflow?

I don't know the answer or the solution. I do know we are not running an Open Mess. Dinner is by invitation. It is only civil to accept that invitation with an RSVP, and then to show up or have the courtesy to call and cancel.

Second, I am seeing the same faces at dinners. They are more than welcome, as they are the core around which our Club functions and operates. But, I encourage those members to call one or two of the newer members to encourage them to attend our dinners.

And, if we could have a volunteer for the August dinner please? The menu is open. Whatever suits your fancy. And, as mentioned above, you no longer have to do the dishes.

Be nice to your crew and turn on the iron jib when you are returning to the Club through Raccoon Straits on a flood tide. ♦

LET'S GO CRUISIN'

By Don & Carla Kavanaugh

Well, the cruisin' season started off on a sour note as we had to cancel the Petaluma cruise because of lack of participation. Oh well—maybe next year.

4th of July

Next on the agenda will be a casual anchor out at Aquatic Park on July 4th to watch the fireworks from a different angle. No sign ups needed, but let Carla and I know in advance if you are interested in joining us. We plan on leaving the Harbor around 1700 hrs after activities at the club, for the cruise across the bay to Aquatic Park. I plan on taking my inflatable for a shore in on Saturday morn for breakfast in the city. I could ferry others. Should be fun!

Giants Cruise- 22, 23, 24 August

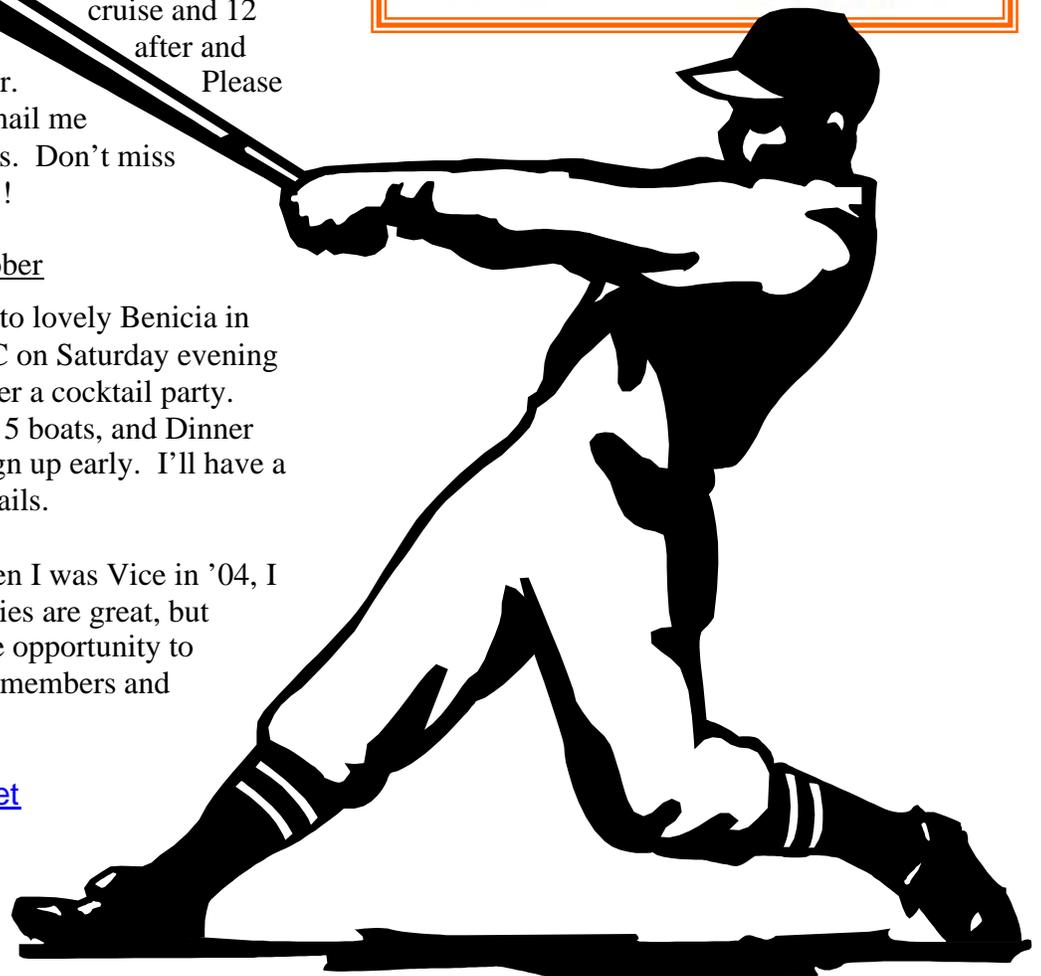
Let's get on board for a Great time at Pac Bell Park and Giants baseball! See information to the right. Looks like we already have about 5 boats signed up for the cruise and 12 for the game and activities after and during the June workday dinner. Please sign up at the club or call or email me soon so we can purchase tickets. Don't miss this one---or--- you'll be sorry!!

Benicia Cruise-24, 25, 26 October

Set your calendars for a cruise to lovely Benicia in October. Dinner at Benicia YC on Saturday evening and Friday evening in town after a cocktail party. I've made slip reservations for 5 boats, and Dinner reservations for 20, soooo – sign up early. I'll have a flier out at a later date with details.

When I had this job before when I was Vice in '04, I always said that all club activities are great, but **Cruisin'** is where you have the opportunity to really get to know your fellow members and build lasting relationships. ♦

Email: divndon@comcast.net



Port Captain's Notes

By Jack Gordon

We continue to make progress. We had volunteers from Travis recently and they and the workday party made a lot of painting progress. We have a big building! There are now only two lower windows which need trim paint and small areas on the front and rear of the building. The new dining room floor was universally applauded, next is the upstairs area in front of the bar and the upstairs dance floor.

I am sorry to say the work day was poorly attended, 14 were there. However, Travis can use the additional \$50/boat-no-show-penalty for those with boats in the marina who did not attend. Special kudos to those members who don't have boats in the harbor but come to workday, most notably Ernie Filippo.

We did not attempt to brace up the breakwater dock ramp as the tide was not cooperative (standing in water). The tide will soon be better. Mike repaired the gap in the breakwater dock and Louis & I found a lovely 3' x 12' over 18 ft long for the brace.

See you in the future. ♦

Opening Day Recap By D'Vonne Hutchins



We had two entries this year for the Opening Day on the Bay Parade. We had four people on the design team. The *Intrepid* was decorated to theme with 'Dr. Seuss and Friends'. Jack and Henriette Gordon had *HHS Bliss* decorated with flags and streamers. We did not win any prizes, but the score for having fun on a boat is a 10! We are especially happy to announce that The Cat from the mast which was designed by Mary Jane Hutchinson and assembled by Mary Jane and Hazel Caldwell, will be donated to a grammar school library in the Bodega Bay area. ♦





Featured Websites:

- ◆ The **Festival of Sail**, an event of Tall Ships is scheduled for San Francisco July 23 - July 27, 2008. Let's see if we can get a couple of boats out. The last time some of our boats went out to escort the ships under the bridge, we had a great time. The boats will be coming through the Golden Gate on the 23rd between Noon and 2pm. Check out <http://www.festivalofsail.org/index.asp> for more information and also <http://www.festivalofsail.org/NEWvolunteerSF.asp> for volunteer opportunities.
- ◆ **Fleet Week San Francisco** will be October 9-14 this year. Expected to appear are the Navy's *Blue Angels*, the Canadian Forces *Snowbirds*, U.S. Naval ships and *Team Oracle* aerobatics. Check out <http://fleetweek.us/fleetweek> for complete information.
- ◆ **LORAN**, the land-based Long Range Navigation system having moved to the backseat when the advent of GPS is in the spotlight again as Homeland Security breathes new life into the system with enhanced upgrades. The new eLORAN will be incorporated into systems currently being used by the US Coast Guard. More information can be found at <http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/eLoran/overview.htm>.
- ◆ **Rescue 21** is the important new US Coast Guard emergency communications system that will detect more mayday calls and instantly pinpoint boaters in distress. For more information, log on to <http://www.uscg.mil/rescue21/projectdescription.asp>.
- ◆ PYC Member James Pennington recommends http://tbone.biol.sc.edu/tide/sites_uswest.html, "Which I often use," he says "to check for **tides and currents**, and now has direct links to MapQuest. So if you are not sure of a spot and want to check if the tide and current you are getting is the right one you now can."

Thanks to D'Vonne Hutchins for the first three website ideas. Submit *your* websites ideas to mike.n.jen@hotmail.com.

Rboc/2008/Press Release/EPA Permit 6-18-08, Submitted by Pete Van der Werff, PICYA delegate:

EPA Proposes Boater Permit RBOC Urges Boater Support for Pre-emptive Federal Legislation

Sacramento, June 18, 2008 - the state boater advocacy organization Recreational Boaters of California [RBOC] urges California boaters to contact their representatives in the U.S Senate and House of Representatives and urge their support of the Clean Boating Act of 2008 to prevent a new federal permit proposed by the EPA that will become effective on October 1, 2008.

Boaters should visit www.boatblue.org to take action today in support of S. 2766 and H. R. 5949. This will support the advocacy efforts of Boat U.S. at the federal level.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) just published its Clean Water Act proposal that would impose permit requirements on recreational boaters. Individual boaters would have to follow specific practices required by the federal government to operate their boats and manage their everyday, overboard water discharges.

Boaters would not have clear guidance on how to comply with the new federal requirements, and would be subject to compliance problems, possible citizen lawsuits, as well as possible penalties of \$32,500 per violation per day.

The EPA's proposal would also authorize individual states to implement their own permits. This could result in a plethora of different requirements being established by each state. Recreational boats 80 feet and over would have to meet more complex requirements.

EPA will conduct four public meetings - none in California - for boater comments on the proposed regulation.

Recreational Boaters of California [RBOC] is celebrating its 40th anniversary as the nonprofit governmental advocacy organization that works to protect and enhance the interests of the state's recreational boaters before the legislative and executive branches of state and local government.

RBOC was formed as a statewide organization in 1968 and from that date forward has continued its commitment to promoting the enjoyment, protection, and responsible use of our waterways. ◆

Team Sandpiper Update Part VIII

By Tom and Amy Larson

Ahoy PYC from Kas, Turkey! In the last "Porthole" issue Sandpiper was anchored in Eritrea Africa and we have tacked on quite a few miles since.

After clearing Eritrea's northern border we entered Sudan clearing in at the small town of Suakin. Sudan is very poor and just about everyone in Suakin rides around on donkeys or has a donkey pulling a cart around.

From there we kept heading north along Sudan's coastline doing day trips anchoring every night at remote reefs or small bays. We were doing as much snorkeling as possible as Sudan has very clear water and reefs that are rarely visited.

After clearing Sudan's northern border we did an overnight passage into southern Egypt where we were met with 30 knot headwinds at 3am forcing us to turn into the closest anchorage where we were stuck for the next 7 days along with 7 other boats. During that week the winds stayed at 30 to 40 knots, never letting up as they blew right off the desert, covering Sandpiper in dust.

At 3am on the 7th day we woke up wondering why we did not hear the wind screaming thru the rigging and made our escape to one of our more memorable stops at Dolphin Reef. It's appropriately named Dolphin Reef as every morning of hundreds of dolphins come inside the reef and we were able to swim along with them while they swam around Sandpiper.



We kept Sandpiper moored in a marina while we traveled inland to Luxor where we stayed 3 nights on a Nile River cruise where from our air conditioned room we could lay on a very large bed and watch the Nile go by. We also got to see the Valley of the Kings and Abu Simbel.

After that it was back to Sandpiper and we kept heading north. This next 180 miles that in a downwind run we could make in an overnight trip took us 10 days and was the hardest



From this part of the Red Sea the winds rarely come from the south and we motored whenever the winds went calm as far as we could get before we the winds would pick back up from the north. We stopped at Port Ghalib in Southern Egypt to clear in and from there, when the winds would let us, we motored to Hurghada. Much to our surprise was Egypt's largest tourist resort destination with hotels along every inch of the shoreline and dive charter boats motoring all over the place.

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180 miles we have covered in 3 years! The winds in this last stretch of the Red Sea are relentless and blow 30-40 knots 24 hours a day hardly ever letting up. Whenever the winds let up fewer than 30 knots we pounded into it motoring as hard as Sandpiper could go to the next anchorage.

We finally decided that we could not wait any longer and to suck it up for the last 120 miles of the Red Sea in an overnight passage straight into 20-30 knot winds and pounding seas, we found leaks in Sandpiper that we never knew leaked and had waves going right over us, but we made it! Sandpiper proudly entered the southern end of the Suez Canal and moored in front of the Suez Yacht Club.

After Sandpiper was measured by one of the Canal's officials and after completing a very crazy math formula that they use to come up with the cost of a canal passage that is from the 1800's, we were ready to go. We received our pilot and headed north dodging large ships and boats as we motored along in very calm still waters. Our pilot steered Sandpiper and it was nice to have someone else in charge for a change while we were along for the ride.

After 40 miles we arrived at Ismailia, which is the halfway point for Sandpiper's canal passage, and moored in front of the Ismailia Yacht Club. The 'yacht' clubs in the Suez Canal are not really yacht clubs, but a stopping point for yachts in transit. They are owned by the Suez Canal authorities, and are a place for their workers to come and have tea.

We left Sandpiper for two days and headed into Cairo where we visited the pyramids and spent a day at the Egyptian museum. We also made a stop at the American Embassy to get pages added to our passports as we had no space left to stamp from all the country's we have been thru. Then it was back to the Piper where received our next pilot who drove us out the last 50 miles where as last we entered the Mediterranean and said goodbye to Egypt.

We had hoped once entering the Med that we would have good weather and be able to sail across to Turkey, but once again the winds were where we were going. After 60 miles out from the Suez and in 25 knots of wind, Sandpiper finally gave in. At 5 am with a loud bang Sandpiper's dolphin striker parted causing the bow sprit to bend straight up and the roller furler to bang around the foredeck. Luckily we were able to get the jib rolled back in and the bottom of the roller furler secured to the anchor windless without Sandpiper losing her mast in the high winds/seas.

We then headed downwind to Cyprus where due to the nice people in the marina we were able to repair everything in one day and be back on our way. We now just arrived to Kas, Turkey and are very pleased to be here after a 4 month transit from Thailand covering over 5000 nautical miles.

Our current plans are to put Sandpiper in a marina here in Turkey and fly Space-A back to the states for a visit. This will be our 1st time we have come home after leaving the Presidio Yacht Club almost three years ago. After a visit with family and friends we will come back to get Sandpiper through the Mediterranean.

Catch more of us on the PYC's website, or visit us at <http://sandpiper38.blogspot.com> where you can track Sandpipers progress, see our photos, videos and read our postings from stops along the way. ♦



PYC Calendar of Events

Please check www.presidioyachtclub.org for updates.

July

Fourth of July 7/4 5:00 PM Overnight Cruise Out to Aquatic Park to view fireworks
Fourth Race 7/20

August

First Friday 8/1
Dinner 8/9
Fifth Race 8/17
Baseball Game Cruise Out, South Beach Harbor 22,23,24 (1:00 PM, Giants & San Diego)

September

Dinner 9/13
Sixth Race 9/21

October

Fleet Week 10/9-10/14
Dinner 10/11
Ladies Day Race 10/19
Cruise Out 24,25,26 Benicia Yacht Club

November

Change of Watch 11/8

December

Children's Christmas Party 12/14
New Year's Eve Gala 12/31



Travis Marina Presents...Live Music:

- 7/4 Eugene Huggins
- 7/5 New Rising Sons
- 7/11 Pat Echols & Dead Set
- 7/12 Norm Bautista Band
- 7/18 Michael Skinner & Final Touch
- 7/19 Michael Skinner & Final Touch
- 7/25 Tia Carrol
- 8/1 Blue Runners
- 8/2 Pulsators
- 8/9 New Rising Sons

Contact: travissailing@sbcglobal.net.

CLASSIFIEDS

Help Wanted

Newsletter Editor and Website Curator

Please contact Jennifer Schripsema at mike.n.jen@hotmail.com to get involved.

Crew Needed

Submit your ad for crew in the next issue by September 15th to mike.n.jen@hotmail.com.

Boats for Sale

Submit your ad for your boat in the next issue by September 15th to mike.n.jen@hotmail.com.

Misc. Boating Items

Submit your ad for your boat items in the next issue by September 15th to mike.n.jen@hotmail.com.

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