

# P<sup>ORTHOLE</sup>

Presidio Yacht Club / Travis Marina

Second Quarter 2011

## Words from the Editor

The sail racing season has started! Originally we had a warm-up race scheduled for March, but the weather forecast was for doom and gloom and almost all of the regular skipper had already decided not to sail, so the warm-up race was rescheduled for April. I was at the club on the originally scheduled day. In the morning it rained hard, but right at Noon, the normal race start time, the clouds parted and the sun appeared. No matter, the later date we chose for the race was even better! The pictures below were taken by John Cashman of our fleet leaving the cove after the start of the warm-up race. I want to encourage our members in the military to take advantage of the racing season. Almost every skipper can use another crew member and it's a great way to experience sailing.

Vice Commodore James Pennington organized a cruise-out to the Corinthian Yacht Club in March. Again the weather forecast was for doom and gloom and out of prudence James decided to warn all skippers off sailing in. Again, in the morning it rained, but in the afternoon the clouds parted and the sun came out. Two of our skippers braved the weather and sailed to Corinthian anyway, Mark Tishler on "Willin'" and Jack Gill on "Azure-Te". So, we did end up having a cruise-out. Many more club members, including myself, land cruised in. Mark hosted "docktails" on his boat and then we shared a magnificent dinner in the club house. Thanks to the Corinthian for hosting us. James has several more great cruise-outs scheduled throughout the year.

I forgot to mention this last quarter: every year the Pacific Inter-Club Yacht Association grants points to every club based on its participation in various Bay Area sailing activities. Based on the number of points each club is rated zero to five stars. It is not something the officers of our club obsess over but we do like to participate. Most years we earn one star. This past year we were more involved and earned enough points to be rated a two star club, the first time in several years. Hopefully, with the support of our members, we can earn two stars again this year!

May First is Opening Day on the Bay. Every year the Bay Area celebrates the "official" opening of the sailing season with a parade of decorated boats. Every year the Presidio Yacht Club joins the parade with a least one boat - sometimes two - decorated to theme. This year, Vice Commodore James Pennington



is in charge of arranging the parade. But, one man cannot do the job alone. We need volunteers to help him. If you are interested in helping with some arts and crafts on a sailboat, please contact him as soon as possible.

Jason Funk

### **Commodore's Report**

While you were all enjoying a great meal of corned beef and cabbage, I was newly arrived in Paris to attend my son's defense of his PhD dissertation at the University of Utrecht. Before leaving for Utrecht, Donna and I stayed at his "apartment". We had a real education about starving students living in tiny Parisian Garrets. PhD was awarded; partied after. Saw a few things in Paris; came home. Brought a \$5,000 sweatshirt for me: \$54 for the sweatshirt and \$4946 in other expenses.

Some loose ends around the PYC and the Travis Marina:

Replacement for Warrior - which has been "totaled" in auto parlance, not sure what a marine surveyor calls it. A brand new replacement (32') is on the way, but Travis has not issued a purchase order yet.

PYC races: we now know why we had a balmy, spring-like January - so that we could have winter in March. Hope "boating weather" comes before the May 1st Opening Day.

America's Cup Planning: it looks like admission to Fort Baker will be "controlled" during race events. How Travis personnel and members of the PYC will gain access during these times is a very large issue to be determined.

Travis Marina getting an extended lease on the property is still an unknown.

A budget for California: There is a distinct probability that the Department of Boating and Waterways may be gutted. If this happens, it will have a major impact on the boating public.

But it's Spring time and a boater's fancy turns to boating - and I forget what a young man's fancy turns to.

James Earhart

### **Vice Commodore's Report**

Getting into the groove as the Vice Commodore is not as easy as some would make it out to be. For socially retarded men like me, the last couple of months have been a real challenge. As I have said before, when I told my friends that as the Vice my duties would essentially be acting as the "social coordinator", there was a dead silence and then laughter.

Last month we had our first cruise-out. We went to the Corinthian Yacht Club for cocktails, dinner, and a brunch. To my surprise, Jack Gill and Mark Tishler sailed their boats across the water to join us.

When I showed up no one was at the bar, but I saw the boats and went to investigate only to find that the Tishlers, their brother and his wife, Jason, and Jack Gill, had set out, "docktails" fit for a king. The shrimp were like little lobsters. The cheese and a few bottles of very excellent wine just kept coming.

We headed up for dinner and joined 13 other people



for a wonderful dinner. John Cashman, Barbara Larson with some of her close friends, and some new members joined us. All told, we had a crowded table and toasted Jack Machum and the other dedicated souls of our club. The next day for brunch was the best. If you ever have a free Sunday, check out the Sunday Brunch for visiting yacht club members with reciprocity for only \$21. Right down to the smoked salmon and Eggs Benedict. They had it all.

Our first race, which was just a shake-out and does not count, had 6 boats. The rain floods mixed with the right tide, gave our skippers a 7 and 8 knot run back to the club. They were hauling. Jon and Jean Rolien took the day. If anyone wants to join in with a boat, as either a new skipper, or crew, come on by and we will try to get you on a boat. I hate to see a skipper single hand a boat. As skillful as it is, I think sailing is an experience meant to be shared.

The sailing season is upon us and I have a few tips:

Tip #1, Oil Filter Replacement: In preparation for Spring Boating 2011, shaking out the spiders and bird nests from your boom cover, this is a great find that can save you money.

Many of the the engine patents for Yanmar and other diesel engine manufacturers have expired. Makers of oil, air, and fuel filters, such as Fram, have started making quality knockoffs.

I recently priced out an OEM oil filter at West Marine. They did not have it stock, but in their great mode of customer service, were kind enough to look it up. The clerk noticed that there was a cross reference in their book to the Fram oil filters. I took the number to Kragen-O'Reilly. They had the oil filter on the shelf. They cross referenced the air filters which they had in their warehouse. In Short, The OEM Yanmar cost \$11.99. The Fram cost \$11.86 for two. Literally 2 for the price of one. Air filters are a similar value. I did read some online reviews that debunked the Fram oil filters. They stated they were unreliable, but the statements were largely unfounded. I have tried them and they work great.

Tip #2, Synthetic Engine Oil: Oil changes should be handled with care. I considered adding a synthetic, but first went to a close friend who is an senior engineer for Chevron and asked for his input. It seems Chevron has developed what I will call a semi-synthetic that rivals the regular ones. It is called "Delo 100 Diesel Oil". West Marine and auto stores sell it.

This is West Marine's ad for it, "Recommended for use in older 2 and 4 stroke marine diesel engines, Chevron Delo 100 motor oils utilize the latest technology to provide excellent performance in older engines using either normal, high, or low sulfur fuels. The SAE 30 and 40 grades are specifically designed for 2-stroke diesel engines requiring highly effective control of wear and deposits. Delo 100 oils comply with Detroit Diesel Corporation 2-stroke engine requirements, including the 0.85 ash maximum for series 149 engines and API Service Categories CF-2, CD II".

Tip #3, Dock Walkers' Free Oil Absorbent Pads: Anyone visiting the Strictly Sail Pacific Boat Expo April 14 at Jack London Square should visit the Dock Walkers at the Cal Boating and Waterway's booth. Last year we handed out several hundred free kits including an oil absorbent pad as well as a map for recycle and pump out points around the bay.

James Pennington



## Port Captain's Report

Our long tenured Port Captain, Jack Gordon, is enjoying the good life in Virginia and cruising the Caribbean, but workday continues and here is an update.

Our main objective lately has been to rebuild one finger a month. We are replacing old Styrofoam floats with durable tubs, reinforcing the sides and replacing the yokes and decking as needed. In conjunction with this project important repairs are being made on the docks along with general preventive maintenance. We have materials on order to widen the North end dock to make cruise-ins more convenient and allow for larger boats to dock. Our pilings are old and break. These are being replaced with heavy duty plastic sleeves, re-bar, and chemical reinforcement. This work is being done on a timely basis, weather permitting.

We have installed four safety ladders for easy access to the docks in case anyone falls over. North/South dock has one on each end and one in the middle. The Breakwater dock has one a third of the way down from the East, below the gangway. All fire extinguishers are being inspected monthly. All slips have been prominently renumbered in red and all old numbers eliminated.

The debris in Horseshoe Bay is an ongoing problem since so much floats in from the North Bay and finds its way to us. Every effort is being made to have the largest obstacles gathered in one area, picked up, and removed. The upstairs bar and grill is in transition as well. New carpeting has been installed along with a new, larger hardwood dance floor, new furniture, and our own sound system. All in all, I think our Port Captain emeritus would be quite pleased.

Steve Peters

### CALENDAR

#### APRIL

3 Warm-up Race  
9 Workday and Dinner  
17 First Race  
22-24 Cruise-out to Encinal Yacht Club

#### MAY

1 PICYA Opening Day on the Bay  
14 Workday and Dinner  
15 Second Race  
28-30 Memorial Weekend at Petaluma YC

#### JUNE

11 Workday and Dinner  
18 Summer Sailstice at Treasure Island  
19 Third Race

#### JULY

4 Fourth of July BBQ and Boat Rides  
17 Fourth Race  
23-24 Cruise out to Angel Island

#### AUGUST

13 Workday and Dinner  
21 Fifth Race

#### SEPTEMBER

10 Workday and Dinner  
12 PICYA Delegates' Dinner  
17 Cruise-out to Treasure Island YC  
18 Sixth Race

#### OCTOBER

8 Workday, General Membership Meeting,  
and Dinner  
16 Lady Skipper Race

#### NOVEMBER

12 Workday, Change of Watch, and Dinner

#### DECEMBER

10 Workday and Christmas Dinner  
31 New Year's Eve Party



## NEW MEMBERS

Greg Ford  
Darren Sprunk  
David Rose  
Michael Pretzer  
Ernest Guitierrez  
Warren Roll  
Douglas Dresnek

Welcome aboard!

## Trip Report

*Former Port Captain Jack Gordon and Henriette just got back from cruising the Sea of Cortez (La Paz) with some friends. Here is their trip report:*

The Sea of Cortez: recommend it as a do once type trip.

1. Moorings stocked the boat beautifully at a cost of about \$3/person/day. Steak, lobster, fish, scallops, produce, juice, et cetera. Good quality and plenty.
2. Winds were light as expected, 43 ft catamaran is the boat of choice. Boat behaved well other than an instrumentation problem with one reading 3.4 knots when the GPS was reading 6.5 - not a current/tide difference. With dual engines you can turn that thing on a dime.
3. Saw whales the first day, not again. Got to swim with young sea lions and seals. Kindergarten for them at Los Islotes (about 20 NM north of La Paz). This was a big deal for the swimmers. They came right up and bumped face masks.
4. Caught a northwest residue storm for three days. Shallow water makes very bumpy seas. No risk but uncomfortable sailing. Mostly motored as we wanted to go north.
5. Terrain is initially desert beautiful. After three days, boring.
6. No water, no people, and no restaurants. Actually ran out of 200 gallons of water with 24 hours to go. We made the ice last so the rum and coke was fine. (4 cans of coke and 1/2 bottle of rum left at end.)
7. Biggest unpleasant surprise: water was cold - not San Francisco Bay cold but not warm either. Swimmers came out a lovely pink.
8. Other unpleasant surprise was wind variability. Expected light but did not expect wind to box the compass. Other than 3 days of residue NW storm, wind was from east in early morning, then north, then zero, then west or south. Made it hard to go anywhere.
9. Met a number of cruisers who liked the Sea but all agreed you need plenty of time to go around and see wildlife as they don't keep a close schedule.
10. last day went to breakfast at a extremely wealthy resort. (George Clooney owns a place there.) Breakfast was outstanding, service overwhelming, place beautiful - just under \$80 US for two.
11. Fishing pretty good for those who fish. Had two catches and a number of strikes.

Jack Gordon

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