

P^ORTHOLE

Presidio Yacht Club / Travis Marina

First Quarter 2013

Editor's Report

RFEI

"The National Park Service at the GGNRA announces a Request for Expression of Interest (RFEI) for the operation of the Historic Boat Shop and Marina within Fort Baker." This was the announcement from the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) last month. It came as a bit of a surprise. The RFEI goes on to say "GGNRA is interested in a partnership to develop a maritime recreation center within the facilities at this site in order to provide a diverse mix of programs and services including, but not strictly limited to, the following: 1. Public educational programs that include maritime themes of boat building and sailing, 2. Public marina with a mix of slips and buoys that accommodates up to 60 boats primarily for day use and community programs, 3. Food and beverage services, 4. Event venue, 5. Small convenience store, and 6. Restrooms". The full text and supporting documents can be found at "<http://www.nps.gov/goga/parkmgmt/rfei.htm>".

I believe it was John Cashman who caught sight of this and alerted the Club. Since then members from the Council and the Bridge have been very busy. It is our desire for the Air Force to continue to operate



Golden Gate Bridge from the Boathouse at Sunset [Lonestar Retrobates]

at Horseshoe Cove as the primary lease holder and form partnerships with a couple other organizations to meet the GGNRA's demands. Of course, the goal of the Club is to remain open at what has been our home for the last 53 years. We have met with a few key employees of the GGNRA who have been very helpful and seem very open minded. But, the requirements in the RFEI are pretty demanding and it is no secret that there are some unsympathetic people out there who have been looking to kick us out for a long time. We have received some very good suggestions from a few members and we are supplying Travis with as many suggestions as we can.

The Expressions of Interest are all due February 15th. After the GGNRA received them, they will analyze them and publish a report. They then have two options. If there is a non-profit or government agency that meets their demands, they will grant a 10 to 20 year lease. On the other hand, if they are not satisfied, they will issue a Request for Proposal (RFP). This would happen sometime around October. Either way, we will find out in the last quarter of this year if we get to stay with the long desired long-term lease.

NEW OFFICERS

We elected a new board and bridge at the General Membership meeting in October. John Cashman is the new Commodore, Robert Rames moved up to Vice Commodore, and David Esparza joins us as Rear Commodore. Board members for this year are Ernie Filippo, Chuck Wright, Mary Jane Hutchinson, Jason Funk, Jack Machun, James Pennington, Steve Peters, Mark Tishler, Jon Rolien, and Roy Stern.

CALENDAR

January

12 WORKDAY. 9 AM - 1 PM.
MEMBER APPRECIATION DINNER. 7 PM.

February

3 FOOTBALL POTLUCK.
9 WORKDAY. 9 AM - 1 PM.
CRAB FEED DINNER. 7 PM.

March

9 WORKDAY. 9 AM - 1 PM.
WORKDAY DINNER. 7 PM.
17 WARM-UP RACE.

April

13 WORKDAY. 9 AM - 1 PM.
WORKDAY DINNER. 7 PM.
21 FIRST RACE.
28 OPENING DAY ON THE BAY.

May

11 WORKDAY. 9 AM - 1 PM.
WORKDAY DINNER. 7 PM.
19 SECOND RACE.

June

8 WORKDAY. 9 AM - 1 PM.
WORKDAY DINNER. 7 PM.
16 THIRD RACE.

July

4 FOURTH OF JULY BARBECUE.
13 WORKDAY. 9 AM - 1 PM.
21 FOURTH RACE.

August

10 WORKDAY. 9 AM - 1 PM.
WORKDAY DINNER. 7 PM.
18 FIFTH RACE.

September

14 WORKDAY. 9 AM - 1 PM.
WORKDAY DINNER. 7 PM.
15 SIXTH RACE

October

12 WORKDAY. 9 AM - 1 PM.
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING. 6 PM.
WORKDAY SUPPER. 7 PM.
20 LADY SKIPPER'S RACE. 11:00 AM.

November

9 WORKDAY. 9 AM - 1 PM.
AWARDS AND CHANGE OF WATCH. 6 PM.
WORKDAY DINNER. 7 PM.

December

14 WORKDAY. 9 AM - 1 PM.
31 NEW YEAR'S EVE.

VOLUNTEERS

Our new Rear Commodore, David Esparza, wants to remind everyone that this is a member run club with no paid staff. He has some ideas from improving to Club dinners, but in order to pull them off he is calling for members to step forward and help him. Please, get in touch with him and lend a hand where you can.

PICYA

From Manny Mier, one of our delegates to the Pacific Inter-Club Yachting Association (PICYA), we have been given an award of a gold star for our participation in bay area sailing events. Being part of the PICYA is one of things we do to make our members part of the local sailing community. Our delegates also received special recognition for representing the Club and not missing a single meeting.

OPENING DAY

On the subject of the PICYA, I'd like to put out a call regarding Opening Day on the Bay. Opening Day is an on-the-water boat parade organized by the PICYA celebrating the "official" start of the summer sailing season. This year it will be on Sunday, the 28th of April. Almost every year we have had at least one boat decorated according to the theme and in the parade. Recently, we haven't won any prizes, but in the not so distant past we did. The key, of course, is designing and building a good decoration for the boat. This year we have Kestrel available to decorate. I'll admit, it's fun being in the parade even if we don't win a prize, but wouldn't it be even more fun if we motored through the parade in style? So, if you would like to help design and build a decoration for the boat, please let the Commodores know.

Also, if you just want to be in the parade, we can set that up too. There is a category every year for boats that just have streamers and we have streamers for that purpose. But, it helps if you get the streamers from us ahead of time so you can get your boat dressed early.

PARK POLICE

Word around the Club is the National Park Service police have increased patrols on Fort Baker. The good news is it will help keep our area just that much safer. But, it also means we need to be more careful with our easy going lifestyle, especially after dancing and drinking with the bands at night. Keep to the speed limits, don't roll through any stop signs, and don't give the police any reason to pull you over. If you even think you may have had too much to drink, call a cab or, if you have a boat at the marina, just sleep it off.

Jason Funk

Commodore's Report

As we enter 2013 I am struck by the changes I have witnessed in our club over the past quarter-century. I became a member around 1985. I know it was before the 25th anniversary of the Golden Gate Bridge because I recall Ray Kampe and I standing in the dining room doors that evening in 1987 looking at the fireworks off the Bridge. At that time the Presidio of San Francisco was home to Sixth Army and Fort Baker was an Army

NEW MEMBERS

Dana Parker
Howard Holzapfel
Rosic Slobodan
Douglas Ammerman
Dean Hadlock
Melissa Alfred

Welcome aboard!

post. Our club membership was open to active duty, active reserve, and retired military only. We ran the club and the marina. Peg Kampe, a Department of Army civilian, was the club secretary. We had reciprocity with other yacht clubs, except, per Peg, the St. Francis. The public was not admitted to the clubhouse.

We survived the closing of the Presidio through the extraordinary efforts of a few members. Today we are sponsored by Travis Air Force Base which has a use permit from the National Park Service. Our club is now a tenant of Travis Marina. We help maintain the clubhouse and the marina on workdays. We have access to the sail training room and to the dining room for club functions. Our membership is now open to the public. We work with the marina manager. Is it a perfect relationship? No, but few are.

My point is, our club has changed substantially over the past 25 or so years. Most of our members have embraced those changes. Others have found change difficult to accept. Accept we must. I was recently asked by one of the newer members what our goals are for 2013. There are at least two:

Increase the number of dues-paying members. This will be accomplished by reviewing the membership roster for members whose dues may not have been paid because of change of address or credit card information.

Reach out to the community. Travis Marina is currently, per a National Park Service ranger, “the best kept secret of Fort Baker”. We will also make application for membership more efficient. We have heard of too many applications not being processed in a timely fashion. One point: There appears to be an expectation that each new member will receive a PYC burgee. I am not certain where that came from. I regret to say it is not the case. [The tradition at our club has been to give new members a free meal at the first club dinner they come to (but they have to introduce themselves the Commodore).]

Next, we will try to make our monthly dinners more interesting. This means bringing in cooks who have not volunteered in the past as well as speakers, especially those associated with the Cup activities that will take place later this year.

A word on the Club support of AC34 activities which are scheduled to take place from July 5 through September 22. Your club is a member of the Bay Area Yacht Club Alliance (BAYCA) which meets monthly for Cup updates. We will keep you advised of the contents of those meetings. Further comment will be made in a future edition of the Porthole.

In closing, as you know, the NPS has issued a Request for Expression of Interest for operation of the marina and “historic boat



Coming Home to Horseshoe Cove [Cashman]

house". Jason will be addressing that subject in his column. Suffice to say we have every hope that your club will weather whatever further changes may occur and continue its presence at Fort Baker.

John Cashman

BAYCA Report

At the last meeting of the Bay Area Yacht Club Alliance (BAYCA), The Golden Gate Yacht Club Commodore welcomed participants and opened meeting. He described the successful volunteer efforts during the America's Cup (AC) races in August and October. The races and efforts were a good trial for next year's races. A lot of volunteer boats are needed.

April 16-21 is the date for the AC World series in Naples, Italy. There will be two more somewhere else.

July 5 through August 30 are the dates for the Louis Vuitton races. Korea has dropped out, but New Zealand is doing well as is Artemis. Luna Rosa has launched its boat. [The AC Finals will be September 7-23.]

John Craig, the principal race officer for AC, was up next and stated he was happy with the results in August and September, both commercially and with the racing. The teams are allowed to spend 15 days until February to make modifications to their boats. Luna Rosa has had 3 days on the water and are doing well. Team New Zealand and Luna Rosa are working together. Mr. Craig discussed the accident with Oracle's 72 foot boat. It is of great concern. If after capsizing the boat is not stabilized, the wing will be lost. The team is working hard on solutions to stabilize the wing. Safety of the crew is also an issue. The hull sustained some damage from the broken mast. In case of an accident, it is important to identify what to do - rescue, stabilize the wing, right the boat. All this information will be shared. The crew will be carrying small oxygen tanks and wearing body armor. He talked about escape techniques from underneath a capsized 72 as well.

He next discussed the selection of teams for the Red Bull series. Six teams have applied so far from across the U.S. There will be 16 to 20 teams from around the world. One San Francisco and one Oracle team will be selected. In February there will be 12 to 16 teams. The goal is 12 teams in August for four days of fleet racing. After that the racers will be ranked. Three of the AC 45 foot boats will be available on a rotating basis.

There will not be a race in Venice, but in Naples instead, and some other location as yet undetermined. The schedule for 55 days is still a work in progress. Oracle will be testing and sailing on 45s.

John Craig next discussed volunteers for the marshall boats. He is also looking for yacht clubs to accommodate the championship actions after the one hour run on the AC course. He thought there maybe possibilities of merging with existing races sponsored by the various yacht clubs. [Interesting!]

Marika Edler

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