

P^{ORTHOLE}

Presidio Yacht Club / Travis Marina

Fourth Quarter 2013

Editor's Report

AMERICA'S CUP

After numerous wind delays the America's Cup races have finally come to an end. Some of the races have provided spectacular entertainment and the crowd of spectators has shown that, in spite of all the controversy, a lot of people were very excited to watch them. We have even had as many as fifty to hundred spectators watch from the hills of Cavallo Point near our Club each weekend.

Team Oracle USA sailed well and climbed up out of a 1 to 8 hole to win the series. The races



"America", a replica of the original winner.

continued far longer than anyone would have guessed. After New Zealand won their eighth race on the 18th, I told all my friends that the next race would be the last. I ended up continuing to say that every day for a week! New Zealand would have had it on the 20th, but the time limit snatched victory from their grasp. I'll bet everyone in the yacht racing world was shaking their head in disbelief. A forty minute time limit? There is an old saying: "it's better to be lucky than good". Team Oracle USA turned out to be both.

The Cup will remain with the Golden Gate Yacht Club and very likely the next America's Cup races will again be held in San Francisco. It could be in 2015 or some year later. We'll just have to wait for the announcement.

ELECTION

By now you should have received a ballot in the mail. This may be new to you as usually we elect the next Council and Bridge by a show of hands during the General Membership Meeting. However, this year two candidates have successfully petitioned for positions in the club leadership in addition to those who were nominated by committee. According to our By Laws, when that happens, we are required to mail out ballots for a vote instead of a voice vote at the meeting. Please fill out your ballot and mail it in. Ballots may also be hand delivered on the day of the General Membership Meeting, but in all cases they must be received before Noon. Let your vote be counted!



Team Oracle USA leading Team Emirates New Zealand.

CONSTRUCTION

As reported before, work on the new roadway and parking lot was supposed to already have started. Obviously, it has not. Currently no word from the Park Service about when that will begin.

LEASE

Also as reported before, next month the Park Service is scheduled to announce whether they are going to accept one of the Expressions of Interest or reject all of them and put out a formal Request for Proposal. So far, there are no rumors, good or bad, so we just have to wait until the new fiscal year to see what the future of the boathouse will be.

MILITARY OUTREACH

It recently dawned on me how much our members are active in helping service members and veterans. We have invited the Blue Star Moms of Marin to give presentations at our dinners several times and our members have donated to their cause. The Club and its members have donated a camera and several boxes of books to veterans who will take part in the Pacific Inter-Club Yachting Association's annual Wheelchair Regatta. Tim Blair takes veterans out for sailing voyages. And on top of all that, Warren Roll, our 2012 Yachtsman of the Year, is starting a sailing program for wounded veterans.

FOURTH OF JULY

This year's Fourth of July was another success. We served about 150, which is a smaller crowd than in years past. We had great participation from the Mount Tamalpias Outrigger Canoe Club. This year we tried something different: Ernie started the grill early and we kept food warm in the oven. This saved us from running out of food at any time. Boat rides were given by Roy Pitts and David Esparza on "Kestrel" and by our special team of Raygee and Robin Glazer on their awesome powerboat. They even came dressed for the occasion. For the first time, we sold club items during the feast, which helped our coffers a little. We had help from John Cashman, Roy Stern, Shannon Elms, Ernie Filippo, Annie Springer, Anne Jahn, Steve Peters, lots of help from Miguel, and a few other people who's names I didn't get.

- Jason Funk

CALENDAR

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.

The Log of Octavia

It seems that we're much luckier with land travel than by sea. After waiting out 5 tropical storms and hurricanes and having an aborted start because of an engine glitch, we managed to motor-sail up to Mazatlan on July 10th. It was the first time that I'd been 30 miles out to sea and seeing the ocean horizon with no land in sight was as magical as I thought it would be. I had the 'day shift' with rolling seas, pods of dolphins tagging the boat in play, and spectacular colors on the water and in the sky. When the stars came up and the seas roughened to the tune of 'glompy', Derek took over at the helm and spent the night feeling like the lone sardine in a shaken tin. I was splayed out in a starfish pattern on the aft cabin bed and lurched with every wave until fatigue sent me to sleep. It was pretty rough going for much of the 32 hour voyage from Banderas Bay to Mazatlan that ended with 'surfing' Octavia into the narrow channel that leads to the marinas here. Safely tucked into a berth, we found the marina quiet as a 'ghost town', having found most other cruisers berthing their boats for the long hot summer and fleeing elsewhere for cooler climes. Our engine problem persisted. It turned out to be a corroded heat exchanger which cools the fresh water that circulates around the engine to keep it cool while running, much like a car radiator works. We hired the local Yanmar engine mechanic and since the new part would take at least two weeks to arrive from Georgia, we decided to take the 'red



PYC members renovating one of the marina's dock fingers.

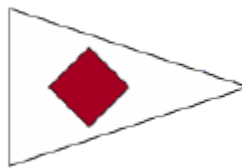
eye' bus down to Puerto Vallarta to pick up our old Volvo so we could do a bit of land travel in the state of Sinaloa.

A few days after fetching the Volvo, we drove north to El Fuerte to launch Derek's 'special birthday trip' (he turned 69 in June) to the Copper Canyon on the 'last passenger train in Mexico', El Chepe, so nick- named for its route from Chihuahua to the Pacific. The train goes from sea level up to nearly 8000 feet into the Sierra Madre del Sur, through 'spaghetti western' terrain to pine-covered heights that evoke memories of Hoss Cartwright and 'Bonanza'. We went over skinny bridges with stilt legs straddling gorges that made for a white-knuckled affair for this quasi-agoraphobic. Altogether, it was far more exciting than scary. As it is 'de riguer' to lean out of the large open windows between the rail cars (the train conductors don't even blink), we felt like dogs with a drool, ears flapping in the breeze, and noses crunching the air.

We're back in Mazatlan with a working engine and also newly sanded and varnished rails and steering column. We're waiting on the passage of the next tropical storm and crossing our fingers for a weather window to cross over to La Paz in Baja for some boat work and exploration of some of the islands north of La Paz.

- Cissy and Derek

Read the whole log on-line on our News page!



Commodore's Report

With the Change of Watch in November this will be my last article for the Porthole.

Our membership continues to be strong. I count 235 regular members and 75 active duty members on our roster. As always, if there are any changes in your account information please let us know.

Financially we are in decent condition with sufficient funds in our operating account to cover on-going activities. We also have a prudent reserve in our savings account.

A number of changes are being discussed, among them a revised Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between our Club and our sponsor, Travis Air Force Base. We plan to have a draft of the new MOU to Travis in October.

Our By-Laws are very much in need of revision. Among the changes being discussed are imposing term limits on members of our Council as well as stating a specific number of members on the Council.

We continue to await word from the National Park Service (NPS) regarding their plans for the marina and boat house. At this time discussions are being held with the NPS regional office. We are assured progress is being made. And we continue to be optimistic about our future at Travis Marina.

Last, a word about change. It has been my privilege to be a member of our Club for over twenty-five years. There have been many changes over the years, the most significant of which was the change in sponsorship from the Presidio of San Francisco to Travis Air Force Base. There will be changes in the not too distant future, among them the revisions to the By-Laws and MOU, as discussed above. These revisions will be thoroughly discussed before implementation. Most of our members recognize change is necessary and appropriate.

- John Cashman



The PYC racing fleet taking off from the starting line. (Not the America's Cup, but being IN a race can be more fun than watching one.) [John Cashman]

Race Report

The results for the last three races:

July

Around Angel Island.

1. "Roadrunner", Steve Hocking, 1:34:10
 2. "Jazman", Louis Canotas, 1:43:21
 3. "Willin", Mark Tishler, 1:45:26
 4. "Stella Maris", Lisa Theodoratus, 1:46:20
 5. "Blue Mist", John Federowicz, 1:47:34
 6. "Flying Baby", Michael Rosauer, 1:50:44
- DNF. "Chloe", Will Smith

August

1. "Jazman", Louis Canotas, 59:10
2. "Tartanic", Robert Larzafame, 1:04:58
3. "Stella Maris", Lisa Theodoratus, 1:15:34
4. "Blue Mist", John Federowicz, 1:18:27

September

Around Angel Island.

1. "Phoenix", Jon Rolien, 1:15:46
2. "Jazman", Louis Canotas, 1:23:01
3. "Blue Mist", John Federowicz, 1:55:56

- John Cashman and Annie Springer

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