

APRIL, MAY & JUNE 2008

# P<sup>ORTHOLE</sup>

Presidio Yacht Club / Travis Marina



## Commodore's Log

By D'Vonne Hutchins

I am pleased to announce that we now have a full bridge. Please welcome Vice Commodore, Lowell Olson and Rear Commodore, John Cashman. They are already hard at work in the background and in the breach to get us up, running and having fun. For those that volunteer to cook for us, you will be pleased to know that our Vice Commodore has hired a cleaning service to clean up after dinner. Many thanks for that.

We are completing our plans for Opening Day and I am very excited about the results of our enquiries and the club member's efforts.

Our Cruise Out Chairman, Don Kavanaugh, has been very effective and we anticipate a wonderful cruising season. Be sure to join us!

The membership survey is in and the results will be published soon. I was quite pleased at the responses we received. They will be very helpful in guiding our club in the near future! ♦

## Marina Manager's Message

By Louis Canotas

Weather report from the Golden Gate Bridge: 'foggy in the AM, with a good chance of clearing by mid afternoon.' I think this pretty much sums up life here at Travis Marina. After much fanfare and anticipation, Travis AFB and the National Park Service finally had the long awaited meeting concerning our fate. What was decided, you might ask? Do we have our new and improved long term lease? Come on...you know better than that! In finest bureaucratic style, when the NPS was asked what our true and ultimate fate was to be, they replied they could be "flexible." The good news is we do not have to shutter the building. The other good news is that we do not have to remove the docks. The still more good news is we can continue operations as they have been proceeding. The bad news...was there any? Yeah, the bad news is we still don't have a signed lease. However, the tone of the meeting was upbeat and I personally think that we will be around for a long time to come.

In a nutshell, that's it. All well, even better than well around these parts. The *April in Paris* dinner was a huge success. I say onward and upward...thank you all for your support. ♦

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PYC Website:

[www.presidioryachtclub.org](http://www.presidioryachtclub.org)

Email:

[presidioryachtclub@hotmail.com](mailto:presidioryachtclub@hotmail.com)

## Vice Commodore's Report

By Lowell Olson

It's been a busy couple of months and there are many things brewing within your club. First off, please forgive me if I don't seem as active as past Vice Commodores. I am enjoying being involved in all the activities but am often held in the Vice Grip of my military duties and don't have the amount of time I would like to devote to the club. That having been said I think there have been some significant activities in the past few weeks. On Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> I was able to wrangle 32 Active Duty personnel down to the marina to get a good bunch of work done. We got a great start on repainting the club house and the sheds, completed a massive clean-up effort on the beach and with the help of Jack Gordon were able to accomplish some much needed dock repairs. Kudos to everyone who helped out especially those who cooked up lunch for everyone! I believe, out of that work party we'll see many new members. Jack Machun signed up quite a few during the lunch period and I had several people approach me inquiring about the next time we would be doing another project. My reaction to them was, if you like coming down to work you're welcome to come on any work day.

Another initiative I am trying to push forward is to ask all of those members who participate in the monthly racing if you would like to mentor a novice crewman on your boat. I have a list of active duty personnel who have expressed an interest in sailing and would like to help crew a boat. Most of these people haven't sailed before but are physically fit and eager to learn. What I ask of you is to send me an e-mail requesting crew members and I'll try to fill out your crew from my list. I think this will go a long way toward gaining some active members as well as an opportunity for all of us to share our sailing experience. Once you're paired up with a crew member you are welcome to keep in touch with that member and try to keep them coming back. Please send your crew requests to [Lowell.olson-02@travis.af.mil](mailto:Lowell.olson-02@travis.af.mil).

We just had a great article in the Travis AFB newspaper "The Tailwind". The article was two pages and was the featured article. A great picture of the cove was also on the cover. Another thing

which I hope encourages more Air Force participation. There are several copies available at the club house.

Upcoming events:

Opening Day on the Bay is almost here! 27 April is the big day and we're still looking for members to dress up as Dr. Seuss characters and have some fun. D'Vonne and Steve are graciously providing the boat to be decorated in a Cat in the Hat theme but we're only limited by the imagination of Dr. Seuss. So if you have an idea for a costume, please contact me for a place on the float. We will also need help with the decoration of the boat so if costumes aren't up your alley please help us out with the decorations. This should be a good time. [afironranger@yahoo.com](mailto:afironranger@yahoo.com).

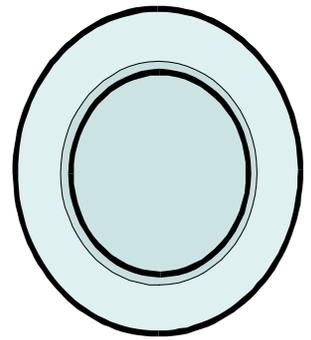
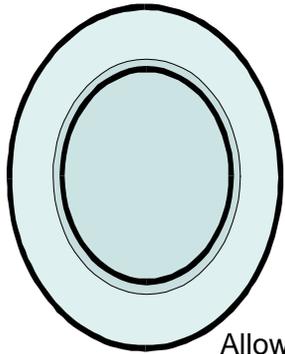


Mary Jane Hutchinson and Hazel Caldwell have produced a "Cat in the Hat" that will be attached to the boat mast.

First Friday – I am looking for our next presenter or an Idea from the members. What would you like to see or do on First Friday? Send me suggestions or if you're interested in presenting please let me know at [afironranger@yahoo.com](mailto:afironranger@yahoo.com). ♦

### Welcome New Members!

Roger Bacon	Eric Morris
John Biale	Col. Jim Pavlison
Alex Briscoe	John Schoenfeld
Aaron Harris	Sarah Stevenson
Charles Jackson	Mark Tishler
John Morral	



**FROM THE NEW REAR**

*By John Cashman*

Allow me to reintroduce myself. John Cashman. I say "reintroduce" as I was a member of the PYC from approximately 1985 through 1991.



I mentioned, during the PYC French Country dinner on April 12, that I vividly remember the 50th anniversary of the completion of the Golden Gate Bridge, especially standing in the doorway of the downstairs dining room and watching the fireworks cascading off the East end of the Bridge. I recalled the year of the anniversary was 1988. A member of the PYC politely stated the year was 1986. Well, as Google informed me, we were both wrong. The 50th anniversary of the Bridge was held on May 24, 1987. And we are so fortunate to be able to continue to utilize our location and to enjoy that view.



I renewed my membership in the PYC in 2006. Earlier this year it was "suggested" (politely, of course) that I consider being nominated for the position of Rear Commodore. I accepted, and, so, here I am.

I attended the crab feed dinner in February. Lots of crab, lots of salad, lots of bread and wine. The more knowledgeable members in attendance brought their own pliers and picks. I shall bring mine next year. Notwithstanding gorging ourselves on crab and accompaniments, there were leftovers for members to take home.



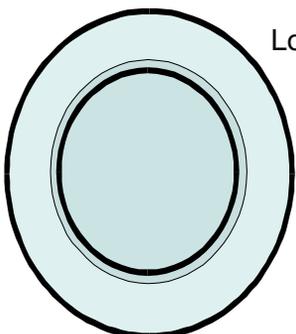
March brought the St Patrick's Day dinner, hosted by the Kavanaughs. Not only were we treated to excellent corned beef (with authentic horseradish on the side) but also cabbage, potatoes and dessert. Not content with providing us with an excellent meal, the Kavanaughs proceeded to entertain us with their dexterity on the violin and an amazing Irish (what else?) tenor voice. At least I think it was tenor. I am not musically inclined.



We have just finished the April dinner, presented by the Beauchamps. Salad, beef roast, winter vegetables, potatoes red and white wine, dessert, coffee and cognac. It was a most elegant event.

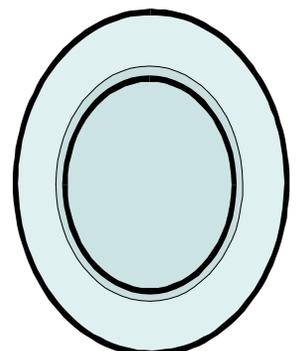
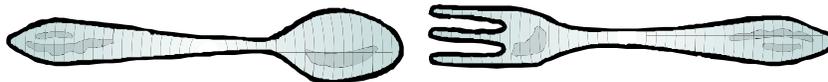
This was the first dinner for me as your Rear. Well, let's just say I went through a bit of a learning curve. Forty-two members signed up. We fed 52. In the future we shall plan accordingly. Our emphasis is on member attendance and participation. We prefer to have food left over, as we did after the crab feed, than to turn anyone away. But, the foregoing notwithstanding, your cooperation in sending in RSVPs is strongly encouraged.

Looking forward to the balance of 2008 –



Per our Calendar of Events, our next dinner will be "Diez de Mayo".

**REAR Continued on page 10...**



## Port Captain Notes

By Jack Gordon

The big good news deal is that the USAF has approved the capital dollars for flotation, lumber and other materials for the docks and indeed may fund a new boat for the fleet.

The bad news is that release of the funds is proceeding like a government project, at a glacial pace. I can't be sure we'll have the money for April, May, or June but I hope so. We also are in the running for acquiring new dock sections from two different marinas. Their docks are great, but timing is again unknown. We will have a major challenge in fitting the docks in to replace more of our old docks but this can be done over time. So, long term maintenance/repair is looking good.

For April, a section of the breakwater dock has separated and we need to bring the two pieces back together. My opinion is that the separation was caused by the difference between the excellent flotation in the newer former Coast Guard section and the time-crab-and-mussel-laden blue styrofoam flotation which is at least 18 inches lower. So, first we will put some new floats under the old dock before the tedious task of reattaching. Second, we've noted that there is a small sag in the breakwater dock solid ramp to the gangway. We will insert a new support, probably 2 or 3 X 10 or 12 and sister it up. The difficult part will be finding a way to stand on the rocks below and reach the work. We may have to tear up the decking and work from above.

In May we will take another run at the guest dock which works but looks sorry. The biggest issue is it needs lots of flotation.

I would also like to add a paean of praise for Lowell Olson our peerless Vice Commodore. He recently organized 30 - 40 volunteers from Travis who came down and worked

from 10 AM to 5 PM. The three buildings are almost completely painted, we repaired a broken dock section, and we got a finger ready to go in with new flotation and significant decking.

Lowell had a few people with cameras to furnish some pictures to the Travis media. After a lunch of spaghetti with marinara sauce and great garlic bread by Jerry and Mark, Lowell and five or six went to work on the finger that's been on the beach for three

to four months, got the tubs on it and most of the decking redone.

As I had just five volunteers with me out on the breakwater dock repair, I did not see all

that went on at the Club but those young men/women painted the welding shed, most of the main building, and I believe but am not sure, the old engine repair shop.

The paint job is a slightly lighter cream color with a darker brown trim around the windows. Louis planned to do what he could today to finish up, and anything not done then we'll get next week.

I am impressed with the quality of the young USAF servicemen and women. These young men and women worked like troopers. ♦

**Want ed:  
Newsletter Editor and Website Curator**

Please contact Jennifer Schripsema at [mike.n.jen@hotmail.com](mailto:mike.n.jen@hotmail.com) if you are interested!





## From the Race Chair

By Steve Peters

Our first Baxter/Judson Race was April 13th. The course was suggested to me several years ago by Dave Adams: Circumnavigate Angel Island in either direction. Sounds easy enough (no charts were necessary) and the skippers were quite excited about the course.

The five skippers were Louis Canotas "Jazman", Don Kanavaugh "Blue Mist", Jack Gordon "HHS Bliss", Jon Rolien "Spirit of Bombay" and Michael Rosauer "Flying Baby".

We had beautiful weather that day but light to unpredictable winds and a 3.7 knot ebb at the beginning of the race. Two major forces against the racers. Four of the skippers DNF (did not finish) with Jack Gordon finishing the race in an uncorrected elapsed time of 3 hours, 52 minutes and 8 seconds. Congratulations Jack in your perseverance. It was a first place well deserved.

The next four races will be more conventional but the last race in September will duplicate the first. It will be interesting to see how the racers fare a second time at this 8.8 KM course. Then, of course, we end the season in October with the Lady's Skipper's Race. If there is a race course that is dear to one's heart, I'm always open to suggestions. ◆

## DID YOU KNOW THAT?

By Jack Machun

- ✓ Boats with engines with a closed cooling system have a heat exchanger for cooling the coolant. Most heat exchangers have a zinc that screws into the body. The zinc should be checked twice a year and replaced as necessary. If it is not checked the zinc can wear to the point that it begins to sluff off small pieces that can clog the exchanger.
- ✓ If you have a Lifesling that cost you many clams, you should know how to use it. This can be done at dockside by raising someone off the dock with the Lifesling. I guarantee you the first time you do this, you will get it wrong. No problem at dockside but in a real situation on the bay it can be disastrous or at the very least cause the victim in the water to be somewhat upset by your ineptitude. Allow about thirty minutes for the practice run and repacking the Lifesling.
- ✓ File a float plan before you go off on another adventure. The Coast Guard recommends filing a float plan so they have some idea of how many people they are looking for. The Travis Marina boat rental operation requires a float plan for rentals and you can use that form. There is also a copy on the club's website, [www.presidioyachtclub.org](http://www.presidioyachtclub.org), which can be downloaded, printed, filled out and left with a responsible party. It takes less than 5 minutes to fill it out.
- ✓ The safest place to be during a severe earthquake is not in a doorway but on the bay. This is a good excuse for going sailing or fishing instead of washing the windows. Another earthquake tip is to keep about 100 lbs of charcoal or a couple to tanks of propane around the house. If a major earthquake strikes you may be out of gas and electricity for quite a while. I also recommend keeping the fuel tank in the car topped off. ◆

# LET'S GO CRUISIN' !!

By Don & Carla Kavanaugh

Dig out your HIPPIE clothes and join us on the cruise to Petaluma on Memorial Weekend! Petaluma Yacht Club does a great job with this annual cruise and is the premier cruise out in the Bay Area! Plus, the cruise up to Petaluma is a beautiful one. For those of you that will cruise up by car, there are accommodations close to the municipal marina.

Contact us (Don & Carla Kavanaugh) at [divndon@comcast.net](mailto:divndon@comcast.net) or call 415-488-4501 for more information or to signup. A signup sheet is also on the bulletin board at the club. See attached info sheet for more info. The cost is \$50 per person for the weekend for the event, not including dock fees. I will collect the event fee **no later than 14 May**, and submit one check for all going.

Petaluma Yacht Club  
Memorial Weekend  
2008

**Feelin' Groovy**

"the Sixties"

**MAY 23-24-25-26**

cocktail contest  
"sit-in" dinner  
variety show  
60's costume contest  
games  
sign up to enter the 60's talent contest

for info and reservations call "Hippie Chick" Gail  
at 707-781-3800



## Petaluma Yacht Club "Feelin' Groovy!" Memorial Day 2008



Hey all you groovy guys and gals!  
Time for another far-out weekend at Petaluma Yacht Club!!

### Here's How It Works:

- Book Your "Adventure Pass" by Advance Reservations and Pre-Payment Only!
- \$50 Adventure Pass includes everything on the Event Schedule
- \$20 for kids 12 and under
- Per event pricing is not available
- Only 150 pre-paid reservations will be accepted, so RSVP early!
- One check for your group - the deadline is Friday, May 16th

### Here's What You Get:

#### Event Schedule

- Friday 5/23 - 5 to 6PM - "60s Theme Drink Contest" and potluck appetizers\*
- Saturday 5/24 - 9 to 11AM - "Continental Breakfast"
- Saturday 5/24 - 7PM - "Awesome BBQ Dinner and Far-Out Raffle"
- Saturday 5/24 - 8:30PM - "Groovy Talent Contest"
  - Sunday 5/25 - 9 to 11AM - "Brunch"
  - Sunday 5/25 - 2 to 5PM - "Groovy Games"
  - Sunday 5/25 - 5PM - Winning Team's "Beer Weigh-In"

\* Each YC please bring one appetizer to share

### Here's Who You Can Call:

Event Chair: "Hippie Chick" Gail Swift  
(707) 781-3800  
[gail@swifthomes.com](mailto:gail@swifthomes.com)

Rear Commodore: "Hippie Girl" Francesca Smith  
(707)484-6889  
[francesca@mckenzieone.com](mailto:francesca@mckenzieone.com)

### So, Man, What Do I Do Again?

- Get the word out in your newsletter
- Hang the poster at your clubhouse
- Fill out the RSVP form
- Send us one check for your group by May 16<sup>th</sup>
- Call Gail or Francesca with questions
- Contact Petaluma Visitors Program for Bridge Opening information
- Start practicing your talent "Act" for the show!
- Get a team together for the "Groovy Games"!

## Team Sandpiper Update Part VII

By Tom and Amy Larson, USCG Retired

Ahoy PYC from the country of Eritrea, Africa! Eritrea is along the east coast of Africa hugging the Red Sea. Sandpiper is currently anchored inside the Port of Massawa.

Since our last writing in the 'Porthole' Sandpiper was anchored in Phuket, Thailand and we have eaten up some nautical miles since. We sailed to the Similan Islands 90 miles off Thailand's coast where we spent a week snorkeling in the crystal clear waters before sailing off across the Indian Ocean.



We had hoped for steady NE monsoon winds to blow us across the Indian Ocean, but ended up with light winds so decided to stop in Sri Lanka, as it was just 12 miles off our trackline hoping for stronger winds later.

Sri Lanka has been in a long civil war, but it only really affects the northern part of the island and the capital of Colombo. Other than the Navy throwing depth charges into the harbor all night long to detour saboteurs, that was the only really downside to stopping here. The people of Sri Lanka are very friendly and the cost of living is quite low. We traveled inland and were able to visit the elephant orphanage in the middle of the island and many of the Buddhist temples along the way.



After clearing Sri Lanka we got the winds back and at times 30+ knots, all the way to our next brief stop at the northern group of the Maldiv Islands. We only stayed for three days in Uligan, Maldives, as we were running out of time in the cruising season before the seasonal monsoon winds changed direction on us.

We pressed on for another 1000+ mile crossing up to the country of Oman, Port Salalah, where we stayed for one week. Oman was our first Muslim country stop, and was quite a contrast from Thailand with all the tourists laying out topless to a country where the women are covered from head to toe in black, even black gloves.

The people of Oman were very friendly and we had a few days with a rental car where we got a chance to explore the countryside dodging camels and donkeys. *Continued on next page...*

*Continued from previous page...*

Once clearing Oman we headed west in the Arabian Sea along the coast of Yemen to the port of Aden. This is pirate country, as Somalia is known for its boats heading far offshore in search of shipping that they take back into Somalian waters where they hold the ships for ransom. This seldom affects yachts and we were sure to stay near to coast of Yemen, along the way we were approached and questioned by a U.S. Navy Warship and by a U.S. Coast Guard Patrol boat far from home patrolling this area looking for any suspicious vessels in the area. We were glad to see them and told them so over the VHF before they sped off looking for other traffic, glad to see my shipmates in Blue out here!

We cleared in to the Port of Aden in Yemen and anchored several hundred feet from where the U.S.S. Cole was bombed by terrorists. I was not sure what to expect from people in Yemen and turns out the people of Yemen are very friendly. Most all say "Welcome to Yemen, no problem". We stayed a week exploring this very old seaport before we had to move on again sailing to where we are currently anchored with a few stops along the way to catch some sleep before moving on again.

Team Sandpipers future plans are to leave Massawa as soon as we get favorable winds then keep heading north thru the Suez Canal. We are expecting to be motoring most of this trip as winds primarily come from the north in the northern part of the Red Sea and can be quite strong at times. We plan to make a lot of stops along the way since there are many small islands along the way with excellent snorkeling and spear fishing. We expect to most of the trip north in day hops, leaving early in the mornings and anchoring by noon before the winds pick up. This also this gives us time to enjoy these stops before moving on again.



When we get to the Suez Canal we are hoping for a smooth passage, then north to Turkey where we are hoping to spend some time. If you are familiar with Turkey and the Med as far as military benefits such as any marinas that might be in the area or good bases to fly space-A from we would love to hear from you. Catch more of us on the PYC's website, or visit us at [sandpiper38.blogspot.com](http://sandpiper38.blogspot.com) where you can track Sandpipers progress and read our postings from stops along the way. ◆

**REAR Continued from page 3...**

I am actively seeking one or two members who will graciously volunteer to prepare a dinner with a menu from South of the Border. Or, I shall start dialing for chefs. The menu is up to the volunteers. Anything South of the Border plus beverages. Chilled Dos Equis and white wine do come to mind.

Finally, for our April dinner, the PYC authorized hiring a cleanup crew to wash and put away dishes, glassware and silverware. The crew also wiped down the counters and mopped the floor. It is my intent to continue to have a cleanup crew authorized so the cooks, in future months, will purchase the food, prepare, serve it and then sit back and enjoy.

Looking forward to August, September and October. We had a blast at the April dinner. We look forward to more of the same. I think we have a member and his wife volunteering to prepare a dinner with an Italian theme. We need volunteers for the other two dinners remaining during my watch so, if any of you are so inclined, please e-mail me at [Riley94965@gmail.com](mailto:Riley94965@gmail.com) or leave a message on my land line, 415 331-5335. I am, of course, open to suggestions regarding our dinners. Please submit same, with our without name attached, to my e-mail address or leave a message on my land line.

Happy sailing and, please, do patronize your Club and attend the monthly dinners. Remember to duck when you jibe. ♦

**PYC Contact information :**

- D'Vonne Hutchins, Commodore 415-333-1687  
[dvon48@msn.com](mailto:dvon48@msn.com)
- Lowell Olson, Vice Commodore 707-864-3307  
[afironranger@yahoo.com](mailto:afironranger@yahoo.com)
- John Cashman, Rear Commodore 415-331-5335  
[riley94965@gmail.com](mailto:riley94965@gmail.com)
- Louis Canotas, Manager, Travis Marina 415-332-2319  
[travissailing@sbcglobal.net](mailto:travissailing@sbcglobal.net)
- Jack Gordon, Port Captain and Cruise-Ins 415-664-8263  
[hjg2706@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hjg2706@sbcglobal.net)
- Jack Machun, Fleet Captain 415-456-3495  
[mach\\_1@juno.com](mailto:mach_1@juno.com)
- Jim Earhart, Membership Committee 415-753-0559  
[jwearhart@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jwearhart@sbcglobal.net)
- Don Kavanaugh, Yachting Club of America and Cruise-outs 415-488-4501  
[divndon@comcast.net](mailto:divndon@comcast.net)
- Steve Peters, Race Committee\_ 415-333-1687  
[selavy01@msn.com](mailto:selavy01@msn.com)
- Jennifer Schripsema, Website and Newsletter, 415-902-8108,  
[mike.n.jen@hotmail.com](mailto:mike.n.jen@hotmail.com)

**PYC Calendar of Events**

Please check [www.presidioyachtclub.org](http://www.presidioyachtclub.org) for updates.

April

Opening Day 4/27

May

Diez De Mayo 5/10

Second Race 5/18

Cruise Out 5/23,24,25,26 Petaluma Yacht Club

June

First Friday 6/6

Santa Maria BBQ 6/14 –Thompson

Third Race 6/22

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

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...**

5/3 *Cheap Therapy* ...Rock, R & B \$7

5/9 *Case of the Willys*... Funk/ Ska / Soul \$7

5/10 *Ora Bora*... Eclectic \$10

5/16 *Emith*... Acoustic Folk / Rock \$10

5/17 *Eugene Huggins Band*... Rock/ R&B / Blues \$5

5/23 *The Soul Starz*... Rock & Soul \$5

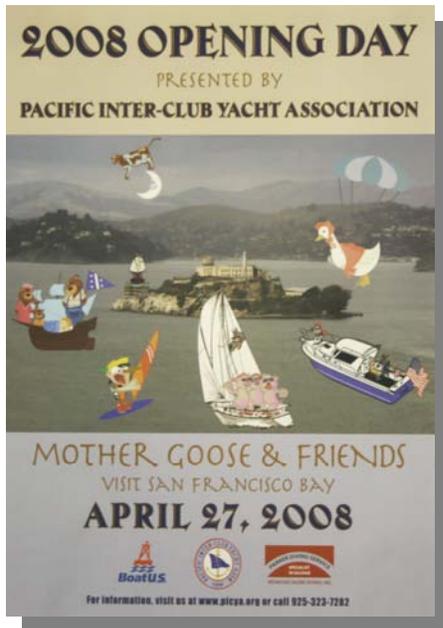
5/31 *Tia Carrol Band*... Soul, Jazz, rock \$5

6/6 *Jhana*... Psychedelic Jazz \$5

6/14 *Souls Starz*... Rock & Soul \$5

6/21 *Eugene Huggins Band* \$5

6/28 *Jhana* \$5



**CORINTHIAN YACHT CLUB  
ANNOUNCES**

**THE 45<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
BLESSING OF THE PLEASURE CRAFT  
OPENING DAY**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 2007  
IN RACCOON STRAIT,  
1030 TO 1200 HOURS**

**ALL YACHTS ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE**

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. All vessels are to proceed under power (including sailboats).
2. Enter the Raccoon Strait Restricted Zone (Point 1 on chart) at the Northeast end (Point 2 on chart), taking Pt. Campbell (Angel Island) to PORT.
3. Proceed on a Southwesterly heading down Raccoon Strait, observing the 6-knot speed limit. (Caution: Check you tides and currents.)
4. Pass between the Blessing Vessel (Point 3 on chart) and the Corinthian Yacht Club in Tiburon. AT NO TIME pass between the Blessing Vessel and Angel Island (Pt. Stuart).
5. Exit the Raccoon Strait Restricted Zone at the Southwest end.

**Following the CORINTHIAN YACHT CLUB'S  
BLESSING OF THE FLEET, the PICYA will hold  
the OPENING DAY ON THE BAY PARADE OF  
DECORATED BOAT beginning at Crissy Field at  
noon.**

**OPENING DAY ON THE BAY and  
THE BLESSING OF THE PLEASURE CRAFT**

*By Doug Owen, Corinthian Yacht Club*

For the 45th consecutive year, Corinthian Yacht Club will sponsor the Blessing of the Pleasure Craft on San Francisco Bay during Opening Day on the Bay activities on April 27th.

Traditionally hailed as the beginning of the summer boating season, Opening Day takes its tradition from the 19th Century. During the months of winter storms, the arcs, floating summer homes on barges, would take refuge in the lagoon located where the Belvedere Post Office now stands. In spring, the bridge spanning the lagoon would be opened, allowing the arcs to once again seek anchorage in the areas of Belvedere Cove and Richardson Bay for the summer months.

In 1963, Captain Elmer Towle and Charles White, members of Corinthian Yacht Club, took the position that, if the fishing fleet received a blessing at the outset of their season in the spring, why not the pleasure craft? It was decided among Corinthian members that a yacht would be anchored in Raccoon Strait with, among others, members of the clergy aboard, allowing pleasure craft to pass in review on Sunday morning to receive a blessing for their summer season on the water.

From that humble beginning, the tradition has grown, and has received continuous leadership and support from notable members of CYC. For some of the early years, the United States Navy became a participant, lending at one time a Destroyer as the platform for the festivities. The U.S. Coast Guard has continued the tradition for many years, and each year has graciously supplied a cutter as a platform for what has grown to include a Protestant Minister, a Catholic Priest and a Jewish Cantor to administer the blessings to a floating congregation on Opening Day.

The day continues with a parade of decorated boats along the San Francisco City Front, sponsored by the PICYA, and dating back to its inception in 1917! This has become one of the oldest and largest Opening Day parades in the entire U.S.! Prizes are awarded to the vessels best representing the years' chosen theme. Excellent viewing of the parade is afforded from Chrissy Field, Marina Green and Pier 39.

Set your watches & calendar for:

**Date: April 27, 2008**

**Place: Raccoon Strait (enter from the north)**

**Time: 10:30 am until 12:00 noon**

Bring friends & family; parade past the USCG cutter and continue over to the City Front to be part of Opening Day on the Bay, wonderful San Francisco tradition! ♦