



Sierra Point Yacht Club



Spyglass Newsletter

**Weekly
Summer
Sailing
Races**

**Club
Social
Events**

**Cruise outs
& Cruise ins**

**Monthly
Dinners**

**Club Managed
by Volunteers**



March 2019 Edition

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1. Editor's Update

March is now upon us and it is still p*^%#@g down with rain - to quote a well used English expression. In fact, we are getting more rain this year in California than they are in the UK...very rare. And there seems to be no end to it for this month. But, the good news is that the reservoirs are full and there is a very deep snowpack in the Sierra's. It is unfortunate though that the Russian river overflowed and caused much damage to properties close to the river.

We are approaching Beer Can racing season and Quincy has woken from winter hibernation and is lighting the boilers of race season; a beer can racing update appears in this edition.

As for Spyglass man, this winter's rain has really affected the teak on the good ship Haven. A year ago I tried a new teak covering from West Marine called liquid Gold, a water based teak stain. This has been a bloody disaster as my topsides teak turned black in this wet season, so last week I took my pressure washer to my topsides teak and blasted all that crap off and back to almost clean base teak; I'll give it another blast this week to finish cleaning it up. I am thinking of going back to using Cetol Marine teak varnish unless members can recommend an alternative covering that is better than Cetol.

Our Commodore Michael the pipe man submitted an article to me on Cruiser types which I found to be quite amusing and so have included in this months edition.

Don't forget that the clocks go forward one hour on **Sunday, March 10th** At last light evenings to be enjoyed at the club and for boating.

AND FINALLY - Come on members - ***get those articles to me.***

Onward and upward
Spyglass editor.
nigelbaker10@yahoo.com

2. Commodore's Commentary for January

March is upon us and with it, my favorite holiday. No, not St. Patrick's Day. I'm referring to the week before; the start of glorious Daylight Savings Time! A psychological milestone heralding the beginning of the end of short days and less than ideal boating conditions.

March is when our club cruise-outs start getting into full swing. If you haven't been on one, you should give it a try. These events can be as relaxing or exhausting as you want them to be, but they always involve comradery, food and laughter. Check the calendar at SierraPointYC.org for cruise dates and locations.

Another important date is March 18th. This is the day when we will be switching to our new key reader. Our new reader is compatible with the marina's system, allowing their gray keys to work for club entry as well. Unfortunately, we can't import our current keys to the new system. This means that we need to physically swipe your key into the new system. I recommend dropping by the yacht club to have your key updated before this date to avoid the inconvenience of being temporarily locked out. We will be updating keys at our Friday potlucks and at our St Patrick's dinner on March 16th.

Merry Daylight Savings to one and all,

Michael Bell
SPYC Commodore

3. Club general Updates

I am sad to report that one of our members and a past member of the board - Mr Cordo has passed away. Our condolences to Family and friends. I personally have no details but this news came from club member Thomas McKinney at sffullmoon@verizon.net



4. Events Calendar

Monthly Dinner

This month's dinner falls on the day before St Patrick's day and it turns out that it would take our entire annual music budget to get an Irish band for that day, so we are going Brazilian!!!!

Choro (pronounced SHOH-roh) is best described as the jazz of Brazil. It is a complex popular musical form based on improvisation, and like New Orleans jazz, blues or ragtime, grew from a formalized musical structure and many worldly influences. (thank you wikipedia)

"Choro Son Nome" is acoustic so they will not be too loud.

Renee, Sarah and Amy are cooking up a delicious fusion meal. Come and enjoy this unique evening.

Sarah FitzGerald
Event Panjandrum
ASarahFitz@gmail.com
415 412 7510

March 16th
Appetizers : 6 pm
Dinner : 7 pm

Chefs: Renee Hartig,
Amy Farley
and Sarah FitzGerald

Erin go Bragh

CHORO SON NOME

Menu
Hor d'oeuvres

Corned Beef
Southern Cabbage
Roast Potatoes
Irish Soda Bread

Amy's Irish Dessert

Special : Irish Coffee

Cost : Adult \$20
Child (12 and under) - \$12
\$5 surcharge for registration
after 4/30/2019

BREAKFAST AT SPYC - Important Notice

I'm sorry to report that there will be no Sunday breakfasts at the club for the time being. We need someone willing to coordinate (wrangle) the volunteer cooks. Jim Lawrie did a terrific job for a couple of years (Thanks, Jim.), but is now ready to pass it on to someone else. Anyone interested, Jim will be happy to give you the benefit of his wisdom. Remember, we are an all-volunteer club. If

you loved those sunny Sunday mornings eating delicious breakfasts on the deck and socializing with your fellows, this may be your perfect chance to contribute.

Melissa Vivas.

Editor's Note:

I think our breakfast sessions are a great venue for club members and guests to get together on a Sunday morning to enjoy a hearty breakfast and to catch up on all the latest gossip. So please help re-start this event by volunteering as a full time coordinator or as a roster cook.

5. Cruise-Outs/Ins Update

CRUISE OUTS

No updates from the Fleet Maiden this month, so 2019 proposed Cruise out schedule reflects last month's update.

Here's a quick list of cruise outs that Jack and Kathy have confirmed so far for 2019:

- ***Ballena Bay – March 23rd***
- ***Oakland - April 27th***
- ***St. Francis - July 5th***
- ***Richmond - August 10th***
- ***Berkeley - October 26th***

We'll add them to the club calendar as soon as possible. Sign onto the website: www.sierrapointyc.org to register.

More to come!

The 2019 sailing season is almost upon us! Stay tuned.....

For more information on our cruising calendar please go to our web site cruising section on www.sierrapointyc.org/cruising where you can find detailed info and sign up procedures. You can also contact our Fleet Captain Kathy Stern on: fleet_captain@sierrapointyc.org

Your Fleet Captain Crew
Kathy Stern & Jack Ritter

6. Beer Can Racing Update

Race Committee Reawakens:

We on the Race Committee are finally stirring after our winter's hibernation and already thinking hard about the 2019 Beer Can Racing season. We anticipate another great season of Tuesday night sailing and gathering to socialize and celebrate.

We have seventeen race nights, Tuesday May 7th to Tuesday August 27th. First race start is 18:00 hours, as usual. We will have a Treasure Island race on Saturday afternoon June 22nd, Summer Sailstice Day. Mark your calendars now.

We will have the annual "Introduction to Beer Can Racing" presentation on Sunday April 28th for sailors to learn about our race series. Racing is both fun and educational – it will teach you things about yourself and your boat that will be useful any time you go out. We're all sailors who want to have fun while sailing so come along with us.

There has been some discussion of adding some additional Saturday races so if you would like to participate in those let me know and if there is enough interest we can add them.

No changes to courses and procedures this year. We will be adding a minor rule change that I will describe next month.

If you have questions about our Beer Can Racing program or suggestions to improve it please contact me. If you would like to help out by volunteering to tend bar or help with the race dinners, or anything else related to racing – let me know. I'm looking forward to a great season of racing!

Quincy Bragg
Racing@sierrapointyc.org

7. Tech Tips. Items for Sale

As mentioned in my Spyglass editor's update, I am redoing my teak topsides after a disastrous experience using West Marine's 'Liquid Gold' that turned my teak black in this seasons wet weather. Instead of trying to sand my teak back to base I used my pressure washer instead and this method has worked amazingly well blasting all of the old blackened stain off and nicely bringing up the base teak wood too a clean finish. Now I am trying to decide whether to go back to using Cetol or trying something new. I am leaning towards using the latest Cetol formula, but if members have alternatives that work better then I am willing to try.

8. Cruiser Types - From our Commodore

It struck me when I was cruising that the people you find yourself in the company of can be distilled, for the most part, to a handful of "types". Here is an excerpt of a previous blog on that subject:

Most cruisers are older couples that are enjoying their retirement in a much more rewarding way than the bulk of society; choosing adventure over stagnation. I'm embarrassed to admit it, but most of them can out-party me. The first thing they always tell us is that they wish they had done this at our age. To which I respond, "I hope my body will tolerate that volume of rum when I'm YOUR age!".

These people are giving and wonderful. If you have any bizarre mechanical problem, they are the people to hail on the VHF. They ALWAYS have the answer and, if they don't, they will never sleep again until they've discovered a solution. I used to feel guilty about setting them about my tasks until I read in Scientific America that older people REALLY don't need much sleep. Far better that they're keeping us afloat and safe rather than playing solitaire 'till 4am.

Not as abundant, but still a large group are the younger cruisers that found a screamin' deal on a fixer-upper boat. Many of these folk are single-handers that will have friends or family hop off and on as crew. The reason they're single handing is usually due to the cramped quarters. It sounds romantic to be out on a boat, but significant others / potential significant others find the 24 / 7 quality time in a space slightly larger than a bathtub a little...much. (That I've been able

to keep Diana in our tub this long is a testament to just how entertaining I really am.)

The next set of cruisers are similar to those that tend to live in the backwoods of Alaska or some desert plot of land 60 miles outside of Las Vegas. These are the people that require a certain tight-rope walk between cruiser etiquette and 'the wider the berth given, the better'. You can usually spot them right away; they're the ones that are sitting by themselves (or with similar



souls), they're usually the first to approach you, wanting to discuss government conspiracies or see if you can lend a hand with some small predicament that suddenly becomes complex and costly. When you meet them DO NOT RUN! commit yourself to the 5 minute conversation that involves a bunch of nodding and non-committal agreement. After that time, you can safely excuse yourself saying something like, "I'm pretty sure I left the head valve open. I better go check it out."

The majority are harmless, quirky people that just don't fit in with mainstream society. But there are quite a few that are running from past lives; the kinds of lives that make self imposed exile seem like a pretty smart idea.

My hat's off to cruising families; that can't be easy! Picture a normal family household: dirty socks and underwear strewn across the bathroom floor, toys not put away and such. Now shove all of that in one room of the house (preferably a room that doesn't have a level floor) and shake it up really hard. Slowly open that door, as items may have shifted in transit, and toss in the textbooks you'll need for home-schooling. Shake, rinse (for there is no such thing as a dry boat) and repeat.

These kids turn out to be some of societies more well rounded adults. Organization and structure are crucial skills and drummed into their malleable psyches from early on. Communication skills are off the charts. They have to

'use their words' if they're going to get along with the family for months at a time. Some of those words can be quite colorful, since they've been hanging out with older cruisers who can be a little, what...crass...salty... uncensored and don't give a shit if kids are around?

This brings us to the empowering, confidence building skill of problem solving. My good friend's kids (ages 8 and 11) took it upon themselves to make a swear jar; a plastic piggy bank That goes by the name of 'Mr. Word'. If you hop aboard their boat for cocktail hour, you'd better bring some change, because payment is due upon delivery (that is, once the word passes off your tongue and through your teeth) and they don't take American Express. I once witnessed their grandmother commit a mild offense. The poor woman put up a valid protest for a few hours, but eventually was badgered into submission and payment.

How is this problem solving, you may ask? Are they protecting their youth and innocence from cantankerous old salts? They may spin it that way, but I think it's really just a sure fire way to build their cruising kitty. Some words are free (damn, Dick - because some cruisers have that name, and crap) while other words may cost you dearly. Jodido costs \$100; I don't know what it means, but I know I'm never going to say it on their boat. Most words are reasonably priced, such as bastard and shit; a mere 10 cents each. I'll sometimes end up dropping 20 or 30 cents during a night of revelry. I know some people who have fared much worse. The kids just set the jar next to these rubes... you would be amazed how much some cruisers swear!

One thing that I can say universally about our neighbors of the sea... They're a colorful and unique lot, and nowhere else have we seen such a tight-knit community. Everyone keeps any eye out and goes out of their way to assist in any way they can. I would guess this is sorta what it was like to grow up in the 'Leave it to Beaver' era. Sure, there might possibly be human remains in Mr Olsen's bilge... but you're probably never going to see them! And if you need to borrow a cup of sugar, Mr. Olsen is gonna give you 2 cups!!

Michael Bell
SPYC Commodore

That's all for this month folks.
Spyglass Editor

