



# Sierra Point Yacht Club



## Spyglass Newsletter

**Weekly  
Summer  
Sailing  
Races**

**Club  
Social  
Events**

**Cruise outs  
& Cruise ins**

**Monthly  
Dinners**

**Club Managed  
by Volunteers**



**April 2019 Edition**

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## 1. Editor's Update

Finally Spring is in the air, the hills are green and the wild flowers are in abundance. But, it is still bloody raining, made worse by the fact that I have Haven hauled for her two year maintenance at the San Francisco Boat Works. I have written a small article in this months edition about the work done - the yard have done a good job on the work I needed them to do. She is still out of the water and I hope to have her launched again in a week or so. I am glad to announce that the monthly club breakfasts are BACK. Many thanks to Alison Crossley and Tim Kelso for taking on the immediate task of club breakfast management. We have some important beer can race updates with a focus on some important race rules that need to be studied. Also in this edition under club general updates, Sarah has organized an art picture display by local artists to be displayed on the walls of the clubhouse that will run for several months.

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

Onward and upward  
Spyglass editor.  
[nigelbaker10@yahoo.com](mailto:nigelbaker10@yahoo.com)

## 2. Commodore's Commentary for January

March has passed and sadly, two of our members have left with it. Eight Bells ring for Don Cordo and George Thorpe; two long time members that were integral to our club's growth and history. They will be greatly missed. I was able to attend our last cruise-out and think I speak for everyone who was there in saying it was a great success. Many thanks for our fleet captain, Kathy Stern for organizing another terrific event. I look forward to this months visit to Oakland Yacht Club the weekend of the 27th. I hope you can all attend (well, they probably don't have room for ALL of us, but you get the idea). Another date to mark on your calendar is our Open House on Cinco de Mayo from 2 to 5pm. There will be food, music and special incentives for new members to sign up. Pass the word along to boat neighbors and other friends. It's embarrassing to admit, but in elementary school I missed an answer on my Spanish test. The question was "What day is the Cinco de Mayo holiday celebrated?"

I'm going to put it out there that it's on May 5th. Clear skies and smooth sailing,  
Michael Bell  
SPYC Commodore

### 3. Club general Updates

#### STOP PRESS

We are trying something new. We are going to have occasional small art shows in the club, lasting a month and highlighting the work of local or marine artists. The first will start on May 1st and will feature Rosanna Lyons and her wonderful paintings inspired by Brisbane's abundant plant life. More about that in the next spyglass.

If you know of somebody whose work you feel you would like to bring to the attention of the membership, please come to me and I will facilitate getting permission from the BOD and hanging the work.

Sarah FitzGerald  
[ASarahFitz@gmail.com](mailto:ASarahFitz@gmail.com)

### 4. Events Calendar

#### Monthly Dinner

This month's dinner is inspired by the date and the wonderful music of Groovy Judy. Jon Geary and Diane Hayford are truly amazing cooks and have created a fabulous menu.

I have decided to stop organizing the dinners after the May 18th event. Thank you for all the help, support and enthusiasm I have received from the chefs and the people attending. It has been great fun but now, after 5 years, it is

A poster for the 'Groovy Judy' event. The background is a vibrant, abstract collage of pink, yellow, and orange patterns. The text is arranged in a central column. At the top, '4:20 (2019)' is written in large, bold, black letters. To the right, 'Chefs: Diane Hayford Jon Geary' is listed. Below the date, 'Appetizers : 6 pm' and 'Dinner : 7 pm' are listed. The menu items are: 'Nachos', 'Seafood Lasagna', 'Spring Vegetable Medley with balsamic glaze', 'Ceasar Salad', 'Garlic Bread', 'Green Brownies', and 'Ice Cream'. Below the menu, 'MUSIC BY' is written, followed by 'GROOVY JUDY' in large, stylized, pink letters with black outlines. At the bottom right, the cost is listed: 'Cost : Adult \$20', 'Child (12 and under) - \$12', and '\$5 surcharge for registration after 4/18/2019'.

time for somebody else to have a chance to make their mark.  
Sarah FitzGerald  
415 412 7510

*Editor's note:* I speak for myself and all the club members to thank Sarah for her stellar efforts in organizing the club monthly dinners. This volunteer job no easy task to do and Sarah has risen to the challenge over the years to organize and execute our delicious monthly dinners. Going forward we will need volunteers to take on the task of managing and executing the monthly dinner program. In the interim Terry O'Connell has stepped up to the task.

## **BREAKFAST AT SPYC - Is back**

Mark your calendar! Come hungry! See  
your buddies!  
SPYC Sunday Breakfast

Sunday, April 7  
Sunday, May 5  
Future dates to come

Alison and Tim are taking over breakfast  
coordinating and will be cooking April 7. A  
big shout out to Jim Lawrie for his years of making it happen!



If you'd like to cook this spring/summer, please contact Alison  
(Alisondahlcrossley@gmail.com) with dates you can cook. Dates we need  
people are May 5 and then weekly throughout the summer.

We're looking for groups, individuals, whoever can pitch in and make breakfast  
happen. If you enjoyed a delicious breakfast in the past maybe you might like to  
get in the kitchen. It's fun!

Thanks!  
Alison Crossley and Tim Kelso

## 5. Cruise-Outs/Ins Update

### BALLENA BAY CRUISE OUT

It was a cold and blustery day when Sea Fever headed east, contending with huge swells from the south-east. Her crew of 3 – Cap'n Jack, 1st mate Yours Truly, and seaman par excellence, Nigel, well- outfitted for the cold and standing at the helm – left Brisbane, alone and unafraid. Soon everything in the cabin that wasn't secured went flying and I discovered it was no place to be. Once things were picked up a bit, the captain and I hunkered down in the cockpit (me behind the dodger) while Nigel took us competently toward the eastern shore.

After a lazy afternoon in beautiful Ballena Isle harbor we enjoyed the hospitality of the friendly folks at BBYC who cooked up a delicious dinner of pasta, salad, and delicious desserts. Well-fed and over-served, we returned to our respective vessels to settle in for a good night's sleep.

Ballena Isle is home to some excellent restaurants, so Saturday morning the Captain and I skipped the usual coffee & bagels on Sea Fever and relaxed in the ambiance of Pier 29 Restaurant overlooking the marina. The weather had become "just another beautiful day in Paradise" so we chose an outside table and were soon joined for coffee by returning SPYC member and new cruiser, Lee Panza, and illustrious editor (& man of many titles) Nigel Baker. With no time constraints or distractions, we lingered and engaged in a lengthy discussion of all things nautical.

We later formed groups or went our separate ways for the afternoon – the Captain & I getting into mischief with the Brackets and the always-fun-to-be-with Diana Bortolussi - visiting two local wineries. We're grateful for our congenial and patient Lyft driver who let the 5 of us pile into his Toyota Prius for the return trip to Ballena Isle.

Three of our cruisers had returned to Brisbane or ventured over to Aoelian yacht club, leaving the core group of the Lydons, Gurneys, Russells, Bracketts, Nigel, Diana, Cap'n Jack & me. As the photos will attest, the Saturday dinner at Abigail's Moroccan Cuisine in Ballena Isle (arranged by Anissa Brackett), was the highlight of the weekend. Great food, great friends, and.....oh yah.....Great Belly Dancer! Enough said.

The return trip on Sunday was a quiet transition back to the reality of home, but for the sound of the engine since there was not a lick of wind. Suffice it to say, our cruise outs are never dull. Our friendships grow, we meet new friends at neighboring yacht clubs, visit charming destinations, and through it all we get to enjoy our reason for being here.....boating together on San Francisco Bay.

Join Us! It's hard to beat the experience.

#### 2019 Cruise Out Schedule:

Mar 22 – 24  
Ballena Bay YC

Apr 26 - 28  
Oakland YC

May 10 – 12  
South Beach YC

Jul 4,5,6  
St. Francis YC

Jul 12 – 14  
Aeolian YC

Aug 9-11  
Richmod YC

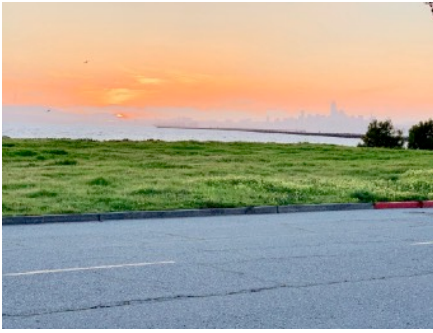
Oct 10 – 13  
Schoonmaker Marina (Sausalito)

Oct 25, 27  
Berkeley YC

Log in to sign up for individual cruise outs at: <http://www.sierrapointyc.org>



## Pictures from the Ballena Bay cruise out;



Kathy Stern, Fleet Captain  
[Fleet\\_captain@sierrapointyc.org](mailto:Fleet_captain@sierrapointyc.org)

## 6. Beer Can Racing Update

### **Beer Can Racing – your summertime Tuesday night break**

Only about five weeks until racing starts on May 7th. The documents including the registration form are posted on the website so you can get registered right away.

**Introduction to Racing presentation:** We will have this on Sunday April 28th to acquaint new participants in our races with the rules and how we operate. If you have wondered in the past how it all works this is your chance to find out. You don't need to have a shiny new boat or a professional crew – we're in it for fun and learning to sail our boats better. Check the club calendar for the exact time.

**Most Improved:** This season our Most Improved Award will be a one free monthly dinner at the Club for one person! We hope this will provide a little more incentive for racers to keep on improving their performance and finish times. Sailing Instructions describe how these will be awarded.

**Meals:** No change in after-race meal pricing this year. Still \$9.00 for dinner and we will again be offering a 10% discount card as we did last year.

**Volunteers:** Yes, we need volunteers! It takes about ten people to run the races, prepare the food, and serve the drinks. Every week. For 17 weeks. That's a lot of volunteer hours. Our greatest needs are cooking (contact me or Renee Olson) and bar tending (contact me or Melissa Vivas). We also need additional help on the committee boat and at the finish line from time to time (contact me). These are great opportunities to be involved with a very enjoyable club event.

**Rules:** This year we have added one new rule to help with light wind problems we have sometimes at the end of the races. When the winds at the finish are very light and there is a tidal current running boats can be moved by the current alone. When they do not have steerage they are essentially out of control and we have had close calls of boats nearly colliding with the concrete channel markers that are the finish line marks. The Racing Rules of Sailing permit the use of engine or other means of propulsion under precise, stated circumstances so we have added the following rule to avoid damage to boats:



- 1.5 Pursuant to RRS Rule 42.3(i) a boat's use of propulsion by engine or any other method while ***racing*** is permitted only as follows:
- 1.5.1 When in immediate danger of striking a fixed or rigid ***mark*** or other ***obstruction*** due to conditions of calm or very light wind and tidal current.
- A boat using propulsion in these conditions shall notify the race committee as soon as possible of the duration of its use, the circumstances, and what actions were taken to insure the boat did not gain an advantage in the race. The race committee shall review each instance of propulsion use for compliance with this rule.
- 1.5.2 After a boat *finishes*.
- 1.5.1 allows a boat to use their engine to stay clear of the mark, but only when the danger is immediate – that is, when the boat is very close, like within the ***zone***. It also requires the boat to report that they did so in order that the race Committee can verify they acted within this rule.
- 1.5.2 allows a boat to engage their engine as soon as they finish, which is when any part of their boat crosses the line. If in doubt, check with the finish line committee on your VHF radio. This change will allow boats to get quickly out of the way of other boats in light wind conditions.

If you have questions about this rule contact me and we can talk about it.

Note – words in ***italics*** in the rule are words with definitions in the RRS.

Quincy Bragg

[racing@sierrapointyc.org](mailto:racing@sierrapointyc.org)

## 7. Tech Tips. Items for Sale

Non submitted

## 8. Haven's Two Yearly Haulout

My good ship Haven is currently hauled at the San Francisco Boat Works for her two yearly maintenance and spruce-up. This year I decided I must replace the 40 year old through hull fittings and seacocks; my old seacocks were of the old conical types that you periodically needed to take apart and grease (when the boat is out of the water of course). The five major seacocks and throughhull fittings were replaced along with the addition of new backing plates (the old seacocks were fitted with just



the flanges as backing - naughty). The two modern bronze valves - raw water intake and head intake- were examined for wear and corrosion (all good) and cleaned up and re-fitted.

The prop was cleaned and re-edged and treated with Prop Shield. Prop Shield is amazing stuff, it protected my prop from weed and crustation buildup from the last two years of Bay use - when the boat was hauled, the prop was clean and still had original Prop shield compound protection evident. The gutless bearing was also examined for wear, all good as it and the shaft, stuffing box and fittings replaced 4 years ago. Over the years whenever

Haven was hauled, I had major and some minor blisters repaired. On. This haul, all looked good and so no new blisters that needed attention were found. The below water line and above water line blemishes were fixed, two coats of anti fowling

applied, and the upper hull was cleaned and polished using a special gelcoat coating. This week, before launching this coming Monday, I am taking the teak topsides back to natural wood in preparation for a new teak coating of which I have not yet decided which one to use. I am tending towards Honey Teak, which has very good lasting properties but is very expensive. Maybe it is right in what they say that 'a boat is a hole that you pour money into'. But, my boat is like a family, she has supported me through good and bad times and has been a great companion and getaway, so I happy to spend on some Loving for the old gal.

That's all for this month folks.  
Spyglass Editor





