



# Sierra Point Yacht Club



## Spyglass Newsletter

**Weekly  
Summer  
Sailing  
Races**

**Club  
Social  
Events**

**Cruise outs  
& Cruise ins**

**Monthly  
Dinners**

**Club Managed  
by Volunteers**



**March 2020 Edition**

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# Club Officers and Board of Directors

## Officers

Commodore	Michael Bell
Vice Commodore	Dylan Garrett
Treasurer	lee Panza
Secretary	Jim Lawrie
Rear Commodore	Melissa Vivas
Port Captain	Ed Wilkinson
Fleet Captain	Craig Brackett (Anissa Brackett)

## Directors

Nigel Baker	Phil Betney
Kathy McCormac	Terry O'Connell
Jack Ritter	Martin Tali

## 1. Editor's Update

The Editor has been working hard on the restoration of his good ship Haven. I, with help from friends Captain Jack and Danny (he owns the Catalina 38 at the end of my dock), finally completed the replacement of the perspex Cabin windows (Port lights) - all six of them on the cabin port and starboard. On disassembly the window frames were taken home and thoroughly cleaned up and polished before frame and pane reinstall. Luckily, on disassembly, the frame screws unscrewed without any sign of corrosion thanks to Bristol yachts originally installing with grease on the threads of the frames, an action I repeated when reinstalling. I must admit it was a bitch lining up and trying to get the screws to fit - especially on the port side, much blue language and with the three of us working on it, we managed to get everything back together. Next stage is sanding down and re-staining of the external teak, and painting of the decks with KiwiGrip deck paint - grey. And, after well over 30 years of the mainsail it was time to renew and so I have ordered a new mainsail from Joe at leading Edge Sails. Dan Spradling - the owner of Bounty and Catnip - and I will be making and installing a set of Lazy Jacks to go with the new sail; I may even join in the Beer Can racing this year.

We have a packed edition of Spyglass this month - and most pleasantly I have two articles submitted. - A trip out to the Farallon Islands onboard Robert's boat narrated by Scotty the Yachty, and Captain Jack has submitted the first (1) of a series of a number of articles to be published for the next few editions of Spyglass with the title of 'History of Aids to Sailing'.

Pay attention to Club general updates as there is important info relating to bar tabs, and of course we must recognize our outstanding volunteer contributions.

Dylan is waking up our **Beer Can Racing** section after the winter hiatus and so this edition contains our first beer can racing update from Dylan.

Our Cruise Out schedule for 2020 is firming up nicely under the management of Craig and Anissa and there are some exciting cruise outs planned for this year, so check out the schedule and sign up early.

Oh! Almost forgot. I have reinstated the '**From The Bilges**' section. See section for details.

I constantly require articles from our members to make our Spyglass a true members input newsletter, any story will do - land or sea - ***so 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 March

It's been a pretty mild winter compared to last year. Though our much needed rain hasn't made much of a showing, it has given us ample opportunity to work on and take out our boats. Our days will be an hour longer starting on March 8. A great opportunity for sunset cruises after the work day.

### A few dates to note:

Wednesday, March 11, Coast Guard Auxiliary will be hosting a dock-walker training seminar from 7 to 9pm. It is a great opportunity to learn the ins and outs of clean boating and pass them along to our neighbors.

The 13th is our cruise out to Aeolian YC. They will be hosting a St. Patrick's Day party on Saturday; an event well worth attending. I encourage you to sign

up soon as space is limited.

Our monthly dinner is on the 21 . Yours truly will be making corned beef, cabbage and more. We have had a tough time finding volunteers for this and other events. Please throw your hat in the ring and help keep our all volunteer club thriving.

I'll see you at the club and on the water.

Michael Bell  
SPYC Commodore

### 3. Club general Updates

#### SPYC Bar Tabs

This is a ***reminder to all SPYC members*** that bar tabs are to be settled on a weekly basis. At our most recent board meeting we reaffirmed this policy and resolved to enforce it. Running tabs is a convenience for members to reduce the number of credit card transactions. If possible, it is best to pay as you go, but if you must run a tab, put down your first and last name and the opening date. Then, make sure to pay up within the week. Failure to follow this policy will result in your name going on the "Club Misuse" log and possible suspension of club privileges.

Melissa Vivas  
Bar Manager

#### Honoring our February Volunteers

February dinner was a celebration of spring and Mardi Gras with down home Louisiana cooking. Thank you to Sarah & Colin Thom who are first time dinner volunteers.

Thank you to Melissa Vivas for Bartending during our monthly dinner.  
Keeping us stocked: Tony Bezzina, Dennis Busse.

Charlene

## 4. From the Bilges

By popular demand, The 'From the Bilges' section has been reinstated in Spyglass. Basically it is the gossip column, a section for juicy gossip from members/guests on 'activities' around our Marina. By activities I mean funny stuff, not dirt...so like a nameless member who after a 'few' beers walked straight off the pontoon into the briny and had to be helped out of the water, or funny incidents revolving around boat maintenance and sailing. Stay tuned to this section.

## 5. Events Calendar

### Monthly Dinner

We are still working on our Volunteer system for our monthly dinners. And we have the next couple of months covered. BUT, we do need club volunteers to both manage and to cook based on their preferred menu. So please members, help us and volunteer for a monthly dinner during our year 2020.

The March dinner is covered and will be managed and prepared by our one and only Commodore - Michael Bell. The March Dinner will be in honor of St Patricks Day which falls on March 17th, and so the following Saturday - March 21st will be a Corn Beef and Cabbage dinner evening at the Club.

So sign up as soon as possible and just to add to the fun, dress up in your best green Irish costumes/gear

More details will shortly follow by email to members.



As previously mentioned, we are still working on a Volunteer program to coordinate our Monthly dinners, and for volunteer cooks for each month's dinner.

## BREAKFAST AT SPYC

***The Galley is back in action. Many thanks to Ed Wilkinson for his stellar work on the Galley restoration.***

We are still on our weekly 1st Sunday of the month breakfast cycle, and with the clocks about to change, and the Sun staying with us later into the day... spring and summer approaches and soon we will be on our weekly summer schedule.

Alison and Tim invite you to the SPYC Sunday breakfasts, a perfect venue to enjoy a Sunday breakfast and catch up (gossip) with friends.



Mark your calendar! Come hungry! See your buddies! Sunday Breakfast at the Sierra Point Yacht Club is held on the first Sunday of each month during the winter schedule. We welcome members and guests to enjoy a hearty breakfast and a chat - and what a view from our deck to add to the ambiance. The bar will be open and staffed by volunteers...what better to enjoy your favorite weekend tipple with or after a good breakfast.

If you'd like to volunteer to cook future breakfasts, please contact Alison ([Alisondahlcrossley@gmail.com](mailto:Alisondahlcrossley@gmail.com)) with dates you can cook. 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

[alisondahlcrossley@gmail.com](mailto:alisondahlcrossley@gmail.com)

[timkelsodiving@gmail.com](mailto:timkelsodiving@gmail.com)

## 6. Cruise-Outs/Ins Update

Hello Friends and Fellow Cruisers,

Our first cruise out is right around the corner, March 13-15, Aeolian Yacht Club. It should be a great St. Patrick's Day themed weekend with lots of fun. Aeolian is planning a catered St. Patrick Day dinner/celebration on Saturday night. We currently have 7 boats signed up to go. Sign up soon so we can give a final count.

Don't forget to check out the club calendar for other cruise outs. Sign up before they fill up.

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

Then open the cruising link in the left hand menu

See you soon friends and cruisers,

Craig (and Anissa)

Fleet Captains Extroadinaire

### 2020 Cruise Out Schedule

Jan No Cruise Outs Planned	Feb No Cruise Outs Planned	Mar 13-15 Aeolian YC <a href="#">Sign Up</a>	Apr 3-5 Oakland YC <a href="#">Sign Up</a>
May 22-25 Vallejo YC <a href="#">Sign Up</a>	Jun TBD	Jul 3-5 St. Francis <a href="#">Sign Up</a>	Aug TBD
Sep 4-7 Encinal YC <a href="#">Sign Up</a> Sep 25-27 Marin YC <a href="#">Sign Up</a>	Oct TBD	Nov No Cruise Outs Planned	Dec No Cruise Outs Planned



## 7. Beer Can Racing Report

### Hello SPYC Racers!

Dry out your sails grab your beer cans and get ready to race. SPYC Tuesday night beer can racing is starting again. The first race will be held on May 5th at 6pm. There are some new contenders this year including Scott Wall's new boat Reliance that he has been dialing in all winter and should prove to be very quick thru the water. We will be having a racing skippers meeting at the club after the Sunday breakfast on May 3rd at 11am. Come in and have a delicious breakfast, meet the other racers,

exchange tactics, and let me know what you might want to see in the new season. As always, after the races we will be having dinner at the club that I strongly encourage you to come to. Not only is it after race dinner a great time to discuss tactical tricks, but it also helps the club continue Tuesday night racing. It takes 9 or more volunteers to make these races happen so please come and support the club, the volunteers and above all else, have fun. On another note, Bruce Paris a skipper of San Saggio has passed away since last season and there will be a memorial for him at the first race. If you have any questions or ideas for improving the Tuesday beer can races please feel free to contact me.

Dylan Garrett  
805-451-7591  
DylanG84@me.com



## 8. Tech Tips. Items for Sale

No new tech tips or items for sale this month



## 9. Monthly Articles

### 9.1. A visit to the Farallon Islands- by "Scotty the Yachty"

"When is a good time to leave the comfort of your marina and take off for an exotic destination one boat owner asks another?" If you spoke to Robert Tinus owner of Cleo II, "anytime", he would say. If you included "Tall" Terry in the conversation, he would certainly agree as well!

Such are the joys of the SPYC network. I received and gladly accepted an invitation to accompany them for a journey to the Farallon Islands also known as "Los Farallones" which means sea cliffs coined by the early Spanish explorers.

Robert provided the transport with his 34 ft. sea roving Hans Christian Cutter sailboat and the three of us set off on a crisp February afternoon from Brisbane marina and motored to the far end of San Francisco bay to our evening's port of call, Point Baker at Horseshoe Cove. tucked away from the strong eddy's and currents located at near the base of the Golden Gate bridge, this rustic marina situated on the Marin side of the bay is home to the Presidio Yacht Club.

This small harbor offers spectacular views of the bridge with the steep hills



surrounding the park and hiking trails, a fishing pier and the Bay Area Discovery Museum for children not to mention the Coast Guard Station near the entrance. You should reserve a space ahead of time as their guest dock is very limited plus and know that your boat could be in a mere five feet of water at low tide depending on the time of the month and year. There is another small tie-up at the end their locked gate dock so pre-arrangements with the harbor master are

needed ahead of time. Anchoring is the other option if you have a dinghy to get you to and from shore.

One of the great attractions to this locations is the bar located upstairs to the right of the guest dock that usually opens on Thursday thru Saturday evenings however they also rent out the space for private events so it is a good idea to find out in advance if they are open to the public.

We arrived on Wednesday so we walked up to the nearby The Lodge at Cavallo Point that has the cozy Farley bar and the upscale Murray Circle restaurant. We chose the latter and sampled some of the great items on their menu that proved to be an excellent idea as we enjoyed a few hours relaxation in our casual attire.

Early the following morning with an gorgeous sunrise to greet us, we set off at

8:00 a.m. to take advantage of the slack tide and motored out past Point Bonita lighthouse for the 28 mile run to the Farallon Islands. We kept our navigation slightly to the northern edge of the San Francisco Ship buoy's with the haze and fog hiding the islands from view and averaged about 5-6 knots that put our ETA arrival time just past mid day. There can be a lot of ship traffic so we kept



the AIS on and visually scanned the sea lane for fishing boats that did not register on the screen.

As time wore on, those distant islands that loomed on the horizon eventually filled the sky with a large mountain covered in a carpet of green vegetation, ringed by jagged peaks that really do appear as sharp teeth. (Now I see where the term "Devils Teeth" comes from!)

This is of course, is a protected National Wildlife Refuge and people are not allowed to step on to the islands



which is self explanatory.

Cleo II surged ahead taking us in a clockwise direction from the southern direction as we passed by a solitary large rock formation where the Pacific swells slam into the steep cliffs, we spotted two whales that cruised by at close range which was very exciting to see.

I lost count of the multitudes of sea lions hauled out on the rocks above and according to statistics, there are over 300,000 birds that nest on the islands and I can say that the sound we heard from the nearby shore was quite amazing.

We could see a few houses that were the living quarters for the research team and there was a curious structure on the very top of the mountain with solar panels and what I assume, was a water cistern although someone may correct me on that presumption. I could see through my binoculars a lot of laundry hanging on the clothes in long rows so we knew people were definitely staying on the main island!

As Cleo II slowly made its way around the northern tip of the island the rock

formations jutting along the coastline were absolutely incredible. We also spotted a small crane that serves as a hoist for small specially rigged boats from a small beach area tucked into what I would describe as a hidden harbor. There is another larger main crane on the east end of the main island adjacent to the sea buoy. After about an hour of rounding the islands and taking in the raw beauty of its geology and marine life, it was time for the slow long haul back to the coast and into the bay.





The sun had already set as we approached the Golden Gate Bridge and the tide was favorable for our return back into the bay. As we passed downtown San Francisco, all was aglow in the clear, chilly night and all that fascinating neon and Bay Bridge light show installation is unbelievable to see from below. The flooding current and rate of speed gave us a nice trajectory as we left the city lights in our wake and after twelve and a half hours of motoring, the three of us had made it



back to our home port of Sierra Point with the promise of more adventures to think about for the near future.

Scott Wall (Scotty the Yachty)

## 9.2 HISTORY OF AIDS TO SAILING 1

As a Christmas present, I was given a fascinating book, “A History of Sailing in 10 Objects” by Barry Pickthall. The book delves into the history of some ships as well, mainly of the development of various objects used in sailing. The 100 objects cover a period from 3500 BC to 2006. Without plagiarizing, we’ll present a brief summary of the facts relative to each of the objects, 3 or 4 in each issue of the Spyglass. We’ll take license with which objects are presented and in what order.

1a. Earliest records of sailing indicate that sailing on the Nile River in Egypt may have been the start, as early as 3500 BC. Since the Nile flows only one way, North, some means for traversing Southward led to using a sail with prevailing Northerly winds supplying the power. Earliest boats were reed and later wood, with one square sail. Commerce was the carrying of produce upriver. The Naqada pot dated by Archaeologists at 3500 BC showing palm branches at the prow and oars at the bottom.

1b. Night navigation, always a challenge, has been aided by lights back as far as the eighth century BC. Fires lit on hill tops were referenced in Homer’s Iliad and Odyssey as an aid to ships establishing their location. Pharos of Alexandria, standing 350 ft. and completed in 280 BC. Workers carried wood up a spiral ramp to supply the fire in a brazier to create the light each night. The ancient

Greeks considered it as one of the Seven Wonders of the World. The structure was destroyed in an earthquake in the 14th century. The area is now an underground park where scuba divers can explore the relics.

1c. The sounds of the sea and gunfire created a need for a device to communicate orders to the crew. The English Royal Navy came up with the Bosun's Pipe in 1248 to satisfy the need. The "pipe", blown by the Boatswain, was a narrow tube connected to a globe with a hole in top on the end. By opening or closing the fingers on the globe, the Boatswain could change the pitch of the sound. Numerable commands could be communicated. Today the device is still used to "pipe" aboard flag-rank officers as well as mark Evening Colours.

Captain Jack

That's all for this month folks.

Nigel the Spyglass Man

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