



# Sierra Point Yacht Club



## Spyglass Newsletter

**Weekly  
Summer  
Sailing  
Races**

**Club  
Social  
Events**

**Cruise outs  
& Cruise ins**

**Monthly  
Dinners**

**Club Managed  
by Volunteers**



**Website: [www.sierrapointyc.org](http://www.sierrapointyc.org)**

### **October 2020 Edition**

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## Club Officers and Board of Directors

Note: Following the October 17th BOD Officer and Director elections, the officer and director posting will be updated.

### 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

I am finally back and in quarantine after a rather long time away this trip - mainly to stay safe on the Isle of Wight and work on my house and enjoy some club sailing and socializing (within COVID guidelines of course). The pandemic has hit Europe just as hard as it has here in the US, and unfortunately a second wave spike is occurring now in several EU countries.

On returning from the airport to my truck (pathfinder) which was parked under the club balcony, I was very upset to find that my truck cover had been stolen while I was away, and especially upsetting because it was relatively new and not cheap. So I will reconsider parking at the club while away in the future as there seems to be bloody thieves about in the area. If you saw anything or hear of anything relating to the theft, please let know. It took hours to wash off the accumulated ash from the fires - a small price to pay I guess compared to the poor folks who have lost their homes in the fires.

This month (October) is the month where we elect our coming year's BOD officers and Directors. Michael has listed the contenders for the election in his section and there are several references to the election website that Martin Tali has developed to review and vote. I have also provided an update in the Club General Update section.

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 October

It's that time of year again... Time to vote! I'm not only referring to our National Elections, but our SPYC Board of Directors as well. This is a unique election, we have enough members of the club willing to volunteer their time that our treasurer role will be contested.

I will be emailing a voting link in the beginning of this month and I encourage all of you to use it to help shape our club in the way you see best fit. Electronic voting will be open until the 3rd Saturday of the month (October 17th) at noon. Although we will not be having the member dinner on that date due to Covid, you will be able to cast a paper (or amend your electronic) ballot at the club between 4 and 6 pm.

With that, allow me to introduce our members running for the Board:

### Officers:

Commodore	Dylan Garrett
Vice Commodore	Martin Tali
Rear Commodore	Melissa Vivas
Port Captain	Jack Ritter
Fleet Captain	Phil Betney
Secretary	Jim Lawrie
Treasurer (contested)	Terry O'Connell   Lee Panza
Past Commodore	Michael Bell

## Board of Directors:

Nigel Baker  
Charlene Larson

Craig Brackett  
Kathy McCormac

Vera Jacobson  
Jose Membreno

In other news, we had 2 simultaneous events this last weekend of September; a cruise out to Marin Yacht Club and the racing awards dinner. Both good signs that a little club normalcy can be had during these unique times.

I would like to thank Craig and Anissa Brackett for orchestrating the cruise out. We had space for 5 boats and they were all filled!

Thanks to Dylan Garrett, Terry O'Connell, Kathy McCormac, Michele Salmon and Emily Balestiere for putting together a terrific dinner. There were 26 (or so) attendees and I have only heard rave reviews about the food. Thank you members and please remember to vote!!



Poolside at MYC

Michael Bell  
SPYC Commodore

## 3. Club general Updates

**DECISION 2020**

**SPYC Board Of Directors Elections 2020 Candidate Statements**

At this time of print we have a contested free group of six Director candidates and a list of two contested candidates for the position of treasurer where we need to have a member vote:

A special voting website has been setup where members can review the treasury position applicant qualifications and vote using the vote button at the bottom of the web page.

Cast your vote electronically now or by paper directly at the club on October 17th

The voting web page link is:

[https://spyc.clubexpress.com/content.aspx?  
page\\_id=22&club\\_id=292277&module\\_id=415624&actr=4](https://spyc.clubexpress.com/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=292277&module_id=415624&actr=4)

### **Treasurer Candidates - pick one**

#### **Terry O'Connell**

Fellow SPYC members, I respectfully request your vote and support in my effort to serve for the next year as your SPYC Treasurer. Having been in the position for 8 years, I know that I can perform the duties and help direct the Club in a Secure, Safe, and Open for All manner. I look forward to how 2021 can be a year of healing and rediscover of all the activities and benefits that our Club brings to our members and the boating community. Please VOTE TERRY O'CONNELL for TREASURER.

#### **Lee Panza (Incumbent)**

For the first time in memory, an office of the SPYC is contested, so you have an important decision to make. The SPYC Treasurer is the CFO of this corporation. The position is technical, and data-driven, and arguably the most demanding position our organization. Therefore, I'd like to help you make an informed choice.

In 2019 the Club's Treasurer decided to step down, and I stepped up to replace her. With my relevant experience it was a natural transition that prevented a

disruption in the management of our Club's finances. I had been a Charter Member of the SPYC, but I chose to focus my time on the Brisbane Lions Club instead. Having recently retired, I rejoined the SPYC and have become extensively involved. I had been fully enjoying the Club's social activities until they had to be curtailed due to the COVID pandemic. This summer I served as photographer for the beer can races, taking action photos of our participants. Earlier this year I helped organize an extensive list of possible Club enhancements suggested by various members. And, I have the time and energy to do the job of Treasurer the way it should be done!

When I started my own construction company I studied the fundamentals of accounting and set up a full dual-entry, accrual financial records system that kept revenues from different jobs from becoming comingled and allowed me to succeed on a tight margin. I've also served as the Treasurer of the Brisbane Lions Club for 13 years;

what began as a small operation of a few thousand dollars annually grew into a system of five segregated funds managing over a half-million dollars in assets. Late in my career, studying on my own, I passed the two-day exam earning my license as a Professional Engineer, and I worked as a consulting Civil Engineer for a number of government agencies before I settled on the City of Pacifica. A Civil Engineer needs to be detail-oriented and almost obsessed with accuracy; mistakes can be costly and get people hurt.

I believe this background bears on my capability as a proficient and effective Treasurer for the SPYC.

In less than a year I've already made significant improvements, starting with a comprehensive overhaul of our financial records system to provide clear, informative financial statements allowing the Board of Directors to more effectively manage our club's money. Then, the Board agreed to allow me to post the general financial statements on our website, making it easier for you to see how your money is being managed (please contact me directly if you ever have any questions).

One of the most important of the suggested Club improvements on the list that I mentioned earlier was to upgrade our point-of-sales revenue management system. We have been operating with a primitive cash register, a disorganized system of hand-written bar tabs (which don't always get paid-off), and open containers of cash on the bar. Better revenue control is something I will be emphasizing.

After I did an enormous amount of research your Board of Directors has agreed to acquire a computerized system that will protect our cash, facilitate members making casual purchases and volunteer bartenders working at busy Club

events, allow for paid-in-advance bar tabs via pre-authorized credit card commitments, maintain inventory control, and provide data for making intelligent future pricing decisions. The ongoing cost will be well under a dollar a day above what we had been paying, and it will be the Club's most valuable investment in financial management in many years. By the time you read this I should be busy integrating it into our operations and resolving the inevitable start-up issues. I've also been compiling a detailed procedures manual, covering everything the Treasurer does, which I'll now be revising for our new point-of-sale system. To appoint future club treasurers, anyone who is not intimidated by numbers, and who is thorough and attentive to detail, will be able to simply follow the written instructions. A well-managed organization needs to provide effective succession for a position that could otherwise overwhelm a volunteer.

Since the COVID pandemic took hold around us I've been strenuously advocating that we suspend our bar operations to do our best to help stop this disease. Indeed, bars throughout California are still closed, because it's been clear that bars have been one of the worst vectors for spreading COVID-19, and the virus won't distinguish between private bars and public bars. I want to resume socializing at our Club as much as anyone, but I've been urging that we exercise greater restraint until this pandemic is under control. While this has been unpopular with some, the election for this office is not a popularity contest; what's most important in a Treasurer is competence, and I hope you'll agree that I've been demonstrating that.

This is an important decision for you to make. I hope you'll allow me to continue the work I've been doing, and I thank you for your confidence in me. I am so looking forward to you and I being able to safely resume the wonderfully enjoyable social activities that we all joined this club for.

**PLEASE GO TO THE SPYC WEBSITE AND VOTE!**

When you log in there will be directions. If that's not an option, provisions will be made for you to fill-out a hand-written ballot on Saturday, October 17, at or outside of the Clubhouse. It's more important than ever before that you help determine how your Club should be run. Make sure your voice is heard!

## **Club COVID Committee Updates**

The Club Reopening Committee updates the SPYC rules given the current San Mateo County status and contacts with ABC and local enforcement agencies.

We are happy that SPYC can continue to stay open and want to make sure our members are as safe as possible at the club. At this time giving the limitations of deck space allow members only to use the club.

The rules allow for outdoor dining on the deck and bar service only with food.

The club has purchased a number of single service food items for purchase to eat at the club. We have a variety of sandwiches and salads. We are open to other suggestions from members.

We want all our members to work with us on continued education of safe practices at the club. Masks must be worn when members are not seated and not eating or drinking. The mask rule is to be followed inside and on the deck. As with everywhere we go these days please try to maintain social distancing of six feet when moving about the club. The Officer of the Day's name is on the white board in the lobby and that is the go to person if you have concerns about practices by members at the club related to safe practices. There is a list of OOD duties on the Board.

The SPYC Board appreciates the continued input as we navigate these waters. Stay safe!

The SPYC Reopening Committee

## **4. From the Bilges**

No smut submitted for this month.

## **5. Events Calendar**

Due to COVID -19 restrictions, our monthly dinners and our Sunday breakfasts are postponed until further notice.



## 6. Cruise-Outs/Ins Update

Our Fleet Captains extraordinaire - Craig and Anissa have decided not to be Fleet Captains for the next Club year, but do not despair Our illustrious other Brit - Phil Betney has stepped up to the plate to become our Fleet Captain for the year 2021. Wish Phil congratulations on his new position, and with COVID restrictions taken into account, we all look forward to an exciting year as we get back to our cruise out schedule

Check out the club calendar for future cruise outs that become definite: Sign up before they fill up.

Log in to monitor the Club cruising planning for 2020/21 and sign up for individual cruise outs at: <http://www.sierrapointyc.org>

Then open the cruising link in the left hand menu.

2020 Cruise Out Schedule -based on COVID19 status			
Jan No Cruise Outs Planned	Feb No Cruise Outs Planned	Mar 13-15 Aeolian YC Cancelled	Apr 3-5 Oakland YC Cancelled
Cancelled	Cancelled	Cancelled	Cancelled
Cancelled	Cancelled	Nov No Cruise Outs Planned	Dec No Cruise Outs Planned

The Cruise-out chart will be updated once an initial schedule of cruise-out events have been identified

## 7. Beer Can Racing Report

Hello SPYC Racers!!!

Thanks to all the racers that made for a good season. I hope everyone had fun out on the water. This last month we finished off the racing season and had a great race dinner. Thanks to all the people who came out to the dinner it was nice seeing racers talking about strategy and getting together.

I still have prizes for people to pick up at the club so let me know when you want to get them. Everyone this season got a prize. This seasons prizes are one of a kind, limited release and in high demand!



*papoose in action.*

Lastly I would like to thank all the volunteers that made the races happen. I could not do it without their help. Michelle Salmon, Martin Tali, Kathy McCormac, Vince Benson, Michael Bell, Lee Panza and Quincy Bragg. I hope next year we can have a “normal” season and everyone comes out aga

Dylan Garrett  
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DylanG84@me.com  
Race Director  
Vice Commodore

## 8. Tech Tips. Items for Sale

I have a very lightly used radial head drifter sail that is in excellent condition. The dousing sock is also in great shape!

Condition: excellent  
Make/Manufacturer: Lee Sails  
\$1,800  
Luff 36  
Leech 39  
Foot 19  
2 oz

Contact:  
Andrea Domel  
[andrea.domel@yahoo.com](mailto:andrea.domel@yahoo.com)



## 9. Member Articles - The Jolly Roger

The so called Golden Age of Piracy (1650-1725) was mainly concentrated on the Caribbean trade routes, where sailing ships carried rich cargoes from the New World to the Old. In 1716 with the end of the Spanish War, hundreds of seamen were laid off from their work as privateers, these seamen



**The Jolly Roger**

were happy to sign on for the next adventure.

Rather than receiving the scorn deserved, these pirates caught the imagination of the public as folklore hero's. Tales of the derring -do of violent characters such as Henry Morgan; Capitan Kidd; 'Calico' Jack Rackham; Edward 'Blackbeard' Teach and Bartholomew 'Black Bart' Roberts became legendary. The Jolly Roger became their flag, with backgrounds of black for 'death' or red for 'blood'. Pirates sailing into an anchorage of 'prizes' would fly no flags or false flags to fool their victims. Once in position, the Jolly Roger was raised to alarming the target crew into submission. A black Jolly Roger meant surrender now and your life will be saved. If that was ignored a red flag was raised meaning no mercy would be shown if the victim did not surrender.

Captain Jack

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Thats all for this month Folks - Stay safe out there

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