

Sou' Wester

April 2006



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very chapped cheeks

photos by Bill McDannel

Saturday's Chapped Cheek Regatta turned out to be more of an endurance contest than a test of sailing skills. Wind speeds at the first start of the Cal 20's were already around 18 knots. By the last race the winds had increased to a steady 20 knots with gusts to 23 knots. Thirty boats registered to race but only 12 completed the last races in all classes. As a note of comparison, 60 boats entered last year. The stormy weather forecast for the day was a definite deterrent.

Interestingly, the Laser Fleet opted to race outside instead of inside as originally scheduled. By the last of the 4 scheduled races all had retired except one, Luigi Donat-Pierre. Kudos to Luigi!

Two marauding Etchells from the club were also seen around the course engaging in some heavy weather tuning.



Ginger and Palmer Luckey.
1st place + 2nd place, Sabot CS

Sweatshirts with an imprinted club logo were presented around the upstairs fireplace as everyone warmed up. Ron Wood and Cindy King took first place in the Cal 20's and Matt and Steve Rustigan took second. Luigi Donat-Pierre won the Laser class and Jim Otis placed second. Luigi and Jim swapped places for the first 3 races.



Jack Jorgensen... 1st place, Sabot As

In the A Sabot Class which was the largest class at 9 entries but included Senior Sabots, first place went to Jack Jorgensen, second to Samantha Gebb, and third to Lauren Bussey.

The Luckey family terrorized the C Sabots with Ginger Luckey taking first and Palmer Luckey taking second.

After the presentations the juniors left for an Irish piñata party in the patio and the adults to the bar or dinner consisting of Jesus' famous Irish stew.

Special thanks to all the volunteers who helped make this regatta possible.

Jim Drury was PRO for the Ocean Classes and was supported by Steve Clemmer, Larry Kid and Bill McDannel aboard Patience. Pete Troin, Tom De Long and Allan and Chris Hoffman provided whaler support.

Jorge Suarez was PRO for the Bay classes much to the delight of the juniors. Stephanie Munn, Alex Vaught and Cameron Sumners provided assistance.

The tireless Jim Morford provided scoring.

Evi Beslile, Bobbie Peterson, Betty Mills and Jeanne Nelson took care of registration.

Barbara Gabriel, Margie Brown, Chuck Fuller and Ken Frost were standing by for protests but none were filed.

Bill McDannel



Ron Wood and Cindy King...
1st place, Cal 20s

save the date

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Olympic Classes Regatta	April 1-2
CISA Clinic	April 8-11
Easter Brunch	April 16
Membership Meeting/Sou'wester Deadline	April 21
Club ABYC Presents Flight 6875	April 28
Spring Spruce Up	April 29
Opening Day	May 6
Membership Meeting	May 19
Whaler Training	May 20
Club ABYC Presents Flight 6875	May 26
Memorial Day Regatta	May 27-28

commodore's comments



It's April and that means its Junior time! Our Junior sailors host the April membership meeting, begin signing up for summer sailing programs and start rounding up all the misplaced sabot parts and sails from last summer. But, not all juniors have taken the winter off from sailing. If you haven't noticed lately, the Juniors are all over the place, all the time! Thanks to our hard working Junior Advisory Committee lead by **Bob Kirstine**, ABYC Board member **John Massey** and Junior Sailing Director **Brad Schaupteter**, the Junior Sailing Program is bigger and better than ever. Our Winter and Spring Programs are full (over 50 kids signed up this last winter!) and we can barely keep up with the growing program. Did you know that **Jr. Rear Commodore Sydney Bolger** is racing a 420, a CFJ and her sabot or that **Jack Jorgensen** came in 10th at Manning and won Chapped Cheek for Sabot A's (oh no, another dominating Jorgensen sailor) or that **Alex Vaught & Cameron Summer** have been out sailing their Lasers almost every week-

end rain or shine? More of our families are sailing too! Sibling racers **Laura & Alex Newton** are sailing more than Dad, **Tom**. Have you seen **Savannah & AJ Robinson** lately? Their parents **Jon & Kathy** are trying to keep up with their sailing schedules! How about **Sunny Scarbrough**, she just keeps getting better and better and her mom & dad **Missy & Scott** are now sailing their Lido together! And we can't forget brother & sister duo **Palmer & Ginger Lucky** dominating in their sabots too! These are just some of the kids and their parents at ABYC that are doing great things with their boats and our yacht club. Many more are placing in regattas, moving up in the sabot fleets and moving on to bigger boats. Hearing the ABYC Juniors cheer for each other at regattas, watching them load-up the sabot trailers and travel to Newport and San Diego and seeing their parents totally support sailing is what makes ABYC a great sailing club. So please contribute to the Junior Fund, support Junior Sailing and smile every time you hear about one of our kids doing well and loving the sport that we already know is the greatest.

We have a lot of activities coming up this spring and summer so be sure to look over the ABYC calendar and put some of the activities on your own. We need lots of help with Spring Spruce Up, Memorial Day Regatta, 4th of July Regatta and Junior Olympics. Contact your local Board member, event chair or the office to get your name on the volunteer list. And, don't forget our 80th Opening Day is coming up on May 6 and I hope everyone can attend.

And finally, one last thought as we move into the spring and summer months, the Club will be much busier, more activities will be going on, the parking lot will be fuller and more people will want to use the facilities. It is important that we all follow the rules for parking, boat rigging and launching, that we be kind to our staff and our fellow members and be cooperative when asked to move a boat or car, especially during regattas. Also, if you have a chance, help out a junior or senior get their boat launched, let the ABYC Office know when you like something and don't just sit on the sidelines-become a part of what makes ABYC so successful-its members doing the things that we love: sailing, volunteering and enjoying the wonderful environment of our Yacht Club. I'm ready to see everyone back at the Club, so come on down and take advantage of us!

Nicole Peoples-Moffett

manager's corner



OCR, Spring Spruce Up, Easter Brunch, CISA Clinic, Pine Wood Regatta, plus Junior Clinics and assorted parties and meetings! YUP, I'd say spring has sprung here at ABYC! And this is just what is on tap for April, so please remember to call Dan DeLave or the front office to volunteer for not only our April events but those coming up this summer. Spring Spruce up is vital for us to all come and give that spit and polish to our club so that we can continue to be a world class club that people marvel at when they are here sailing. When I was putting together material for upcoming articles I looked up Regatta on Google. One of the first places it took me was to Wikipedia for the definition of Regatta. For those of you that may not surf our internet shores let me tell you that Wikipedia is the internets version of an encyclopedia. I'd like to quote it here for a special reason. It states,

"A **regatta** is a boat race or series of boat races. This can include both powered and unpowered craft. The term is also used to describe the festivities that occur during the lead up to the races, often a large social event for the town in which the regatta takes place.

Typically regattas are amateur competitions. They may be organized as championships for a particular area or type of boat, but are most often held for the joy of competition and camaraderie alone. Professional sailing and powerboat competitions are typically not referred to as regattas.

One of the largest and most popular is the Henley Royal Regatta held on the River Thames, England. North America's oldest regatta is the Royal St. John's Regatta held on Quidi Vidi Lake in St. John's, Newfoundland every year since 1826. Both of these are rowing regattas.

In the US, some famous examples include:" Here is where they start to quote five of the more prestigious races in the United States.....Long Beach Race Week is one of those and we are listed as a co-sponsor of this event. When you are listed as the definition of racing you are doing something right! So remember to pitch in this month and continue our tradition of being the true definition of a sailing institution!

Theresa

fleet captain's report



If you all are wondering what the life of a fleet captain consists of, here is what I have been up to and some general information about what is happening at the club (You may want to skim through as some of it may not interest you!):

Weather Classes:

The second set of classes was a success. Not as many people as last time, but everyone enjoyed it. We probably won't do another weather class for a while, but if you have any ideas for new classes, let me know. We are thinking about a first aid class including CPR or a navigation class.

ASPBYC:

Part of my duties include attending meetings for ASPBYC (Association of San Pedro Bay Yacht Clubs) ASPBYC is in charge of maintaining the racing marks in the harbor, keeping everyone's calendar straight, organizing the yacht club challenges, and basically keeping up a dialog between the clubs. These meetings are held monthly. Last month we had it at ABYC. Jesus made great appetizers and Tori made drinks. We looked great!

This month it was held at Seal Beach Yacht Club. We discovered among other things, that the racing mark to worry about was #2; it was 12" above the water. A dive company dove it and it is now bobbing happily at 5' above the water- Hooray!

Challenge Chairman:

Jorge Suarez is in charge and keeping his ear to the ground.

Here is what is coming up:

The Walt Elliot Challenge which is scheduled for May 20. LBYC has challenged in Cat 37's. We are accepting sailing resumes from anyone that would like to participate. If you are interested, contact Jorge ASAP.

The San Pedro Bay Cup (team race) 3 boats to a team. Each team member score based on sailing to the PHRF area C Buoy rating between 65 and 165. At least one boat in the team must be part owned by a member in good standing of the club, which it represents. There will be more info to follow. Start thinking about it if you are interested.

The Lipton Cup: Sir Thomas Lipton Challenge Cup will be a nine race series on May 27 and 28, 2006 on the waters of the Pacific Ocean south-southeast of Point Loma. The organizing authority is the San Diego Yacht Club. The regatta will be sailed in the J105 Class. There is a lot of prestige associated with this regatta. Again, we are accepting sailing resumes.

Port Captain:

Dave Myers and Jeff Ives are large and in charge. This is the nuts and bolts of regatta management.

Dave and I went through the bay barge and took inventory of what is on there. All is correct, but I think we need to put extra stuff that they might need in a separate box so it makes easy for the operators. When the summer hits, the barge will be preloaded for the daily racing.

We also went through all of the flags and replaced some.

I am purchasing new FRS radios for on the water communication. The other ones are going bad quickly and we will need new for the year coming up.

We are talking about asking the fleets/or whomever is in charge of a regatta to appoint a port captain helper so as to not make the job so overwhelming.

Bay barge:

At some point our little friend is going to fail us. We have a plan to replace her if need be.

Temporarily or long term we are able to rent an electric catamaran from Bay Boat Rental (across the bay, if you go to rent one tell them "ABYC sent you!") at a discount. Although it is more expensive than maintaining the current Bay Barge, it is less than buying a new one and maintaining it.

Ultimately an electric boat would reduce our maintenance hassle and expense. The best part is that an electric boat would make the bay process more safe and easier.

Race Management:

Everything seems to be going swimmingly. All the future regattas are looking good. The people in charge are all on top of it.

We will be buying a swim ladder for the Bay Barge and the Sidney T to make retrieval of swimming human easier. Dan DeLave set up May 20 as Whaler training day.

Trophy Chairman:

Cathy Black has everything in order. Thank her when you see her around.

Whalers:

We have been looking at buying a new Whaler. John Massey and I drove to San Diego and made an offer on it, which was not accepted. We are looking at other Whalers and considering other options.

...continued page 4

OCR:

We may be doing only one course. The people that said they were coming have not materialized. We have the boats, equipment and a lot of the volunteers lined up if we need them for 3 courses.

U.S. Sailing Spring meeting:

Chicago, Illinois. Don't worry; I did not go on your dime! Jerry Montgomery and Bobby Frazier were present from our club. Other notables present were Alex Uniak (son and brother of members Bill and Billy Uniak, respectively) and Don Warner from LBYC.

Upcoming Olympic events were discussed. The windsurfing group was nice.

All had a good time.

Marks in Bay:

The Coast Guard asked us to give Lat and Lon of all the bay marks, so I went out and took the GPS readings. Here are the current actual locations as they are plotted on a map:



Patience:

George and Vern put a new deck on the upper level and had the yearly maintenance performed on the engine.

We may need a new signal horn. George and friends are troubleshooting. We may also need new bottom paint this year.

Merle Asper

from the pages of history

Fleets were and are the basis of all activities at ABYC: It is through fleets that sailors get introduced to each other, competition in fleet regattas occur and the duties of running ABYC regattas are handled. The SOU'WESTER's of past prove this better than any other way, as fleet activities make up the bulk of the newsletters of April 1976, 1986 and 1996.

THIRTY YEARS AGO:

The longest article in the SOU'WESTER for April 1976, was from the Junior Fleet. ABYC hosted a Luff-In, and the names of the winners are as familiar to readers in 2006 as they were in 1986. John Shadden, then as now sailing Sabots under the burgee of Long Beach Yacht Club, won the Sabot A division, just ahead of ABYC sailor Steve Bloemeke. Greg Lowe, then sailing out of the Leeway Sailing Club, was third. Charlie Crockett was the winner in Sabot C's, with Jeff Ives—then an LBYC Junior but now ABYC's co-Port Captain—was fourth, just ahead of Kristen Fox.

Rowell Green reported in behalf of the ABYC I-14 fleet that, "The Canadians are coming!" It seems the 1976 I-14 Nationals was hoping to be "the first international competition between Canada and the U.S. for a North American Championship" in the I-14's. The reason for this, as reported, was "money:" apparently the Canadian government had voted money for the Canadian Fourteeners to come to ABYC, and U.S. I-14 President (and ABYC member) Jack Wills, Senior, was working to make this happen. Coincidentally, Canadians will be represented this year, too, at the 2006 I-14 Worlds.

Two other fleet-related articles also appeared, one inviting all ABYC fleets to challenge for the ABYC Fleet Match Challenge Trophy and another inviting fleets to submit nominees for the ABYC Outstanding Service Award, later renamed to honor the late Ted Matson. ABYC Fleet Captain Gordon Brown was the author of both pieces and was coordinating both activities.

The new electric gate into ABYC was operational for key-card access; key-card operators were to be installed on the hoists, the pedestrian gate and the restrooms in the Quarterdeck...a daylight robbery attempt was foiled by the ABYC staff, led by Midge Marshall; all received commendations at Men's Day, which occurred the following weekend...Roger Bloemeke, Chas Merrill, Lex Kimball, Willis Boyd and Vic Guder each won their division at Men's Day.

TWENTY YEARS AGO:

"The Alamitos Bay Lido 14 Team Challenge Regatta was a great success," according to the April, 1986, SOU'WESTER. A Newport Harbor Yacht Club team skippered by Jack Franco, Mark Gaudio, Tim Mulvaney and Chris Raab won the event while the ABYC I team of Don Barrus, Charlie Cummings, Gib Marshall and Robb Walker was third, ahead of the fourth-place ABYC II team of Chuck Babcock, Kevin Ivey, Bill Moore and Dave Smith. I recall the trophy was a pewter cup that had recently turned up in somebody's garage, leading to the Lido 14 Class asking that the regatta be reinstated; sadly, to the best of my knowledge, the regatta never happened again.

The Lido's also reported on a successful two-day seminar run by no less luminaries than Dave Ullman and Dave Perry and including Charlie McKee as well as Ron and Steve Rosenberg. Ullman led out the clinic with tacking and boat-handling drills before short races were run; Perry ran a morning-long rules seminar before joining the fleet on the Bay for more drills and racing.

The Snipes reported that the Arch Higman Trophy was won by Steve Bloemeke ahead of Keith Dodson; apparently Dodson was expected to win but was foiled in the last race by the winning performance of Ron Fox. And the fleet captain, Charles Wohl, also reported the wedding of Grant and Ann Hill, who held their reception at ABYC.

The weather at the 1986 Turnbuckle Tightener Regatta was a bit varied: too much wind blew out racing on Saturday but Sunday was "almost balmy;" the turnout included 14 PHRF boats...A new cruising pennant was introduced to the Keelboat Fleet by Vice Captain Jerry Tankersley...nearly 100 members and guests turned out for a Monday-night St. Patrick's Day party, hosted by Mike McDade and Steve Moffett; Irish stew was on the menu, and green ice cream was served as dessert.

TEN YEARS AGO:

Three Etchells traveled to Newport Beach for the SCYA Midwinter Regatta, according to the April, 1996, SOU'WESTER: Commodore Jerry Montgomery, sailing with Chris Ericksen and Jim MacLeod; Pat Bixby and Dennis Pederson with Dick Landes; and Pat Kelly with one crewperson whose name is not reported. Chuck and Adra Kober with David Crockett as "boat boy" towed the boats down on Saturday morning, and everybody rafted up at Newport Harbor Yacht Club on Saturday night. The race-management was not of the highest level: after three scheduled races, a fourth race was started after the ABYC boats began the sail back to Long Beach. The same weekend saw Steve Moffett with Greg and Mary Montz winning the PHRF B Midwinter trophy out of Little Ships Fleet of Long Beach.

The Snipe Fleet held their Higman Regatta on Alamitos Bay in 1996. Nine boats turned out for the regatta, which included a "mud bug dinner" of Louisiana crawfish, organized by Don and Betty Barrus and Don's parents from New Orleans. The Snipe fleet was working to make a successful transition to a family fleet, as many of the members were now raising children; babysitting was being offered for all races of the Snipe Bay Series that year.

Ann Exley's "From the Pages of History" column reported on the "young ace" in the Naples Sabot class, Jerry Thompson: he won the 1950 and 1951 Turkey Day Regatta and also the 1952 SCYA Manning and Midwinter regattas in "TOMAHAWK" the 1996 Laser Midwinters West Regatta was held at ABYC, with more than 200 Lasers, Laser Radials and Laser II's on hand; it was a qualifier for the upcoming Laser Olympic Trials...the very next weekend saw 110 boats in six classes for the Olympic Classes Regatta; Al Smith and Ted Flood were regatta chairs, and Mike McDade and Langdon Parrill were PRO's.

Chris Ericksen, Club Historian

Sou'Wester DEADLINE

Friday, April 21, 2006 is the deadline
for the May Sou'Wester.

manning regatta

photos & captions by Rich Roberts
photo boat captain - Dave Myers

Barnard (the Son), veterans Drasnin and Gaudio Post Manning Victories

The father-son entries of Scott and Chris Barnard of Newport Harbor YC almost scored a family sweep in the annual E.E. Manning Regatta at Alamitos Bay YC March 4-5 as Chris, 14, sailing with Christy Tatchell as crew, won the CFJ class and Scott, 46, finished one point behind Peter Drasnin, 47, of Westlake YC in Lasers.

The event, launched by its namesake from Los Angeles YC in 1939, represents the Southern California Yachting Association's interclub dinghy championship. Boats must not exceed 20 feet, and this year none came close.

Other class winners were veteran Mark Gaudio of Bahia Corinthian YC in Naples Sabots and Vincent Paternoster and crew Wayne Lewis of Marina Sailing in Agoura in Coronado 15s.

Chris Barnard and Tatchell, 17, also clinched the Shadden Series championship in the fourth and final test of the series in which they won 11 of 21

races. Gaudio also collected the Chuck Kober perpetual trophy and the E.E. Manning trophy as winner of the largest class, in which he dominated a fleet of 36 boats with two firsts, three seconds and a throwout third in the six races, all run inside the bay.

Sailing in moderate but chilly breeze and light chop in the Long Beach outer harbor, the Barnard-Tatchell tandem broke away from the 25-boat fleet in Sunday's brisker winds, winning all three races by wide margins.

Their worst finish all weekend was fourth place, which they discarded.

"We were really fast downwind," Tatchell said, "and upwind we played the shifts. [Downwind] we were surfing as a team, communicating spinnaker pressure so when the spinnaker was full we could head right for the [leeward] mark."

Tatchell, a senior at Newport Harbor High School, learned last week that she had been accepted at USC. Her skipper is three years her junior, but Barnard said, "I just wanted to go with an experienced crew."

They placed fourth in the CFJ Nationals at Redondo Beach last July. Chris Barnard won the Naples Sabot Junior Nationals at ABYC last year.

With the wind peaking at 12 knots, his dad Scott led Drasnin by one point going into Sunday's last race, which Drasnin won as Barnard slipped to third. Drasnin said he had no idea he had even won until he returned to shore.

"I didn't even look at the points after yesterday," Drasnin said. "I just know I have to do the best I can every race."

Drasnin placed 16th in the Laser Worlds in Brazil last October "where it blew 25 knots every day," he said, "so I felt comfortable today."

For Gaudio, it was another notch in his long list of Naples Sabot successes—including 14 National titles—over 41 years in the boat.

"I won't say how old I am but I started sailing Sabots when I was 7," he said.

His competition ranged over three or four generations, and Gaudio said the best part was that "the four times I got beat it was by a different kid each time. I've been coaching kids from here and Lido Isle YC and a lot of them were out here this weekend."

And what has Gaudio learned in 41 years of sailing Sabots?

"With all the dynamics, they're the hardest boats to sail," he said. "There are nuances that take a lifetime to figure out."

Complete results and photos: www.abyc.org. Prints may be viewed and ordered from www.underthesunphotos.com.

Rich Roberts



Long Beach YC's Korbin Kirk leads Bahia Corinthian's Mark Gaudio in one race the veteran didn't win.



ABYC members Jack Jorgensen and Robin Townsend had a close battle in the Naples Sabots.



Chris Barnard, 14, and crew Christy Tatchell, 17, from Newport Harbor YC were runaway winners in the CFJs.



This spectator had a front row seat.

more manning



Chris Segerblom and crew Kayla McComb (1225) take a tactical turn to find clear air.



This is where foredeck crews earn their keep.



Smiles and Sabots go together.



This is how Lasers raft up.



Spinnaker down, sheets secured, ready to go upwind.

new website

If you haven't heard or are Computer Challenged, some dedicated members have redesigned the ABYC website. Still the same address; www.abyc.org.

It has a new look, and is packed full of new photos. In addition, each sailing fleet can have their own site, with happenings, schedules and other cool stuff. You can keep track what the Juniors are doing, get regatta results, and event information.

You can thank Rob Rice and his sister Sue Rice for their efforts for bringing this on-line. They have done a great job. This new site will allow us to grow and improve the services to members and sailors. It's a work in progress and will be continuously upgraded and improved, so check it often.

Give us your feedback.

Grant Hill

ullman sails long beach race week

Is this a regatta with great keelboat racing and some serious party time thrown in, or is it the other way around? It may be hard to tell, but the Long Beach and Alamitos Bay Yacht Club organizers will set the table for nightly soirees with snacks, entertainment, and shore boat shuttles between the two clubs, all complimentary, as is boat docking for the weekend. The rest is up to the sailors. Registration is not free, but you can save a few bucks by filing your entry before May 31st. Details at <http://www.lbrw.org>

Rich Roberts



March has come in with a very intense schedule as the junior program has had clinics or regattas every weekend. We began the month with the cold weather at the Manning Series at ABYC, and then again at Spring Gold Cup at Newport Harbor Yacht Club. Meanwhile we were hosting Laser clinics back at the club to train for the upcoming Laser Mid Winter West. **The biggest announcement is the 2006 Summer Program Sign Up forms are here! You can pick them up in the office at ABYC or on the Junior Website at www.fleetracing.net.**

Manning Series Training

One of the best regattas of the year is always the Manning Series where there is only one fleet for Sabots and seniors and juniors all sail together. We had the opportunity to get a little practice with the seniors the weekend before with coach Mark Gaudio working with both groups. Overall, it was a great experience as both groups got to experience a large line of 38 boats. One of the more exciting stories was Hilton Beckham who has now sailed just a total of a dozen days or so who received the award for persevering through both days of racing in a regatta where coaching was only allowed between races. She was very excited and we were very proud of her and all of our racers!



Mark Gaudio coaching Junior and Senior Sabots at a joint session during Manning.

Spring Gold Cup

Spring Gold Cup took place at Newport Harbor Yacht Club on March 11th and 12th and we saw some extremely cold conditions where there were threats of snow on the West coast. And though we did not see any snow except for in the mountains, we did experience some icy cold rain the second day. Our eight sailors toughed it out though and did exceptionally well seeing improvement across the board. Once again Hilton Beckham stepped up to a new challenge by sailing in C2's so she could sail both days. Ginger Luckey, Palmer Luckey and Sunny Scarbrough all took home trophies while Jack Jorgensen and Lauren Bussey made serious strides in the A fleet finishing with some top 10 finishes in the 34 boat fleet. Derek Smith had a first place finish the first day and Savannah Robinson held her own as she sailed her first regatta in the B fleet. Being from Michigan, the California weather has spoiled me and I found myself very proud of our sailors for putting on their foul weather gear and sailing strong. Great job guys!

2006 Summer Program Sign Ups!!!

As mentioned before, the summer program sign ups are ready and can be found in this edition of the Sou'wester as well as in the ABYC main office or online at the junior website at www.fleetracing.net. Please pass this information along to anyone who may be interested in the program as word of mouth is one of our strongest advertisers! Also remember to sign up sooner than later to assure a spot in the program.

Brad Schaupter, ABYC Junior Program Director

Save the date

**Saturday, May 6, 2006
Alamitos Bay Yacht Club
80th Opening Day Ceremonies**

1100 -	Club Championship Regatta
1300 - 1520	Open Boat Hospitality/Fleet Boat Display
1400 - 1500	Registration
1530 -	Opening Ceremony
1600 -	Champagne and Hors d'oeuvre Reception

Please contact:

Chuck Hardin (562) 434-0029 for general information and volunteer opportunities.

John Merchant (562) 431-7621 for open boat and fleet boat display information.

saving the endangered catalina fox

photos courtesy of the Catalina Island Conservancy

For the past seven years, the Catalina Island fox – only about the size and weight of an ordinary house cat – has endured a struggle for survival rivaling any “reality” program on television.

In the early 1990s, Catalina Island Conservancy scientists estimated that 1,300 fox lived on Catalina — this subspecies, the Catalina Island fox, is found only on the Island.

In 1999, an outbreak of canine distemper virus devastated the fox population. The animals were all but wiped out east of the Isthmus. Fortunately, it was the natural barrier of the Isthmus that saved them.. Approximately 75 of the creatures survived on the Island’s West End, saving the subspecies from extinction.

The Conservancy and the Institute for Wildlife Studies — a conservation organization with prior experience working with the Conservancy on Catalina — formulated a recovery program that included relocating a number of surviving fox from the West End to a captive breeding facility in Middle Ranch. In the meantime, the Catalina Island fox, along with three other Channel Island fox subspecies, were listed as “Endangered” by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

By December 2004, the Conservancy had achieved its goal. Three hundred healthy fox roamed the Island, nearly all of which had been vaccinated against distemper and 29 of which were born in the Conservancy’s captive breeding facility. Because of the program’s success, the Conservancy was able to end the captive breeding phase and enter a period of rigorous monitoring.

In 2006, the population of the Catalina fox was estimated at nearly 400. Conservation scientists, monitoring the fox, found a disturbing new danger threatening the creatures. Mysterious, and usually fatal, ear tumors are now being found on some of the older fox on the West End. This malady is not being reported on any of the other Channel Islands.

Conservancy scientists are hopeful that a cure for the ear tumors will be found, and the little Catalina Island fox may prosper for years to come.

For information on how to make a donation for Island fox research one of the Catalina Island Conservancy’s projects, volunteer your time, or become a member please call 310 510 2595 ext 114, or log on to www.catalinaconservancy.org



acura miami race week

Just a note to say that ABYC member Scott Taylor, better known around here as an A-Cat sailor, won the six-boat PHRF 33 division today at Acura Miami Race Week 2006. In a tiebreaker with TRIPTease, a Tripp 33 skippered by hometown sailors Richard Shellon and Jeff Rubin, Taylor and his team in their B-32 DEFIANCE overcame a Race Two disqualification and falling one place behind TRIPTease in the final race to win the tiebreaker on the strength of four firsts and two seconds in the ten-race series (TRIPTease also had four firsts but only one second). Tactician Tim Dohman, who has sailed as tactician for many years with Taylor, repeated in this event, for which DEFIANCE was scratch boat in the division.

In the 25-boat Melges 24 class, ABYC member Argyle Campbell took third in an international fleet. Jud Smith, an Etchells sailor who is no stranger to ABYC, having sailed both Etchells PCC’s and NA’s here, resoundingly won the 28-boat Etchells fleet while sailing with his two teenaged daughters as crew.

Details on the regatta can be found at www.premiere-racing.com.

Chris Ericksen

Tim Wilkes Photo





KEEL BOAT FLEET ON WATCH

The March meeting had two very important sign-ups. Judy Mathias list was for the armchair cruise, April 6 at Long Beach Community Playhouse featuring the comedy "Move Over Markam". The Children's Benefit League is the recipient of the evenings tickets (donations). Carol Reynolds and Judy Mathias always do a great job on this cruise. The Children's Benefit League supports the Children's Dental Clinic at Memorial, The John Tracy Clinic and Ability First Guidance. The Keel Boat Fleet always looks forward to supporting this fine organization.

Vern Peterson had the other list for the April 28 cruise to Shoreline Yacht Club. This cruise is always a fun time and you can come by boat or car. Give Vern a call and let him know you are planning to attend. This will give him the information for Shoreline Yacht Club as to the number for dinner and the size of your boat or if you will arrive by car. Last year some of us went by boat and returned home the same night. What a great sail to SYC and a moonlight trip home. It just doesn't get any better than that!

Two of our members are under the weather as this is being written. Tick Weber was in the hospital with pneumonia, then received medicine that caused internal bleeding. Tick is stable now but is still in a critical care unit. Barbara Gabriel has been helping Tick during his ordeal and the one to call for further information.

Bobbie Peterson went for a routine cataract operation that turned into anything but routine. Again, as this is being written, Bobbie has a severely infected eye and is in considerable discomfort.

Let's hope that by the time you receive this bit of bad news that both Bobbie and Tick will be well on the road to recovery.

Friday, May 12, is our next meeting and will also be my last time as Meeting Chairman. It is time for someone else to take over the helm. We will have our usual pot luck. Bob Chubb and Jeanne Reid will have all the details on the Pinewood Regatta to be held Saturday, June 12

George



2006 E. E. Manning Series Regatta

Amere three points separated the top four of eighteen Laser racers this year. It was so close, the eventual winner, Peter Drasnin did not know he won until returning to the club (if you saw the Laser fleet presentation at the last Membership Meeting, Peter was the one who created and ran the video montage). Peter, who placed 16th at the 2005 Laser Masters Worlds Championship in Brazil remarked, "it blew 25 knots every day, (in Brazil) so I felt comfortable today."

Peter's comment no doubt refers to the fresh breezes the fleet encountered on Sunday which were up nicely from marginal hiking conditions on Saturday. **Mike**

Pentecost was the top finisher from ABYC snatching third place from **Bob Falk** who did not benefit as much from the one-race discard. Other ABYC participants included; **Willem Emmer** in 10th and **Cameron Summers & Alex Vaught** who both switched to full-rigs for the regatta. **Jorge Suarez, Lisa Lebold** and your author also participated.

Chapped Cheeks Regatta

If ever a race deserved the name, the 2006 Chapped Cheeks does. On a cool, clear morning, seven Laser racers assembled on the patio for the skipper's meeting. Although the NOR stated centerboard classes were to race in the Bay, the Laser racers objected and pleaded with the R.C. to race in the Harbor. At this point, the old adage, "Be careful of what you ask for..." applies. We sailed out to the starting area in a freshening breeze which built to gusts in the 20's as the day progressed. The R.C. posted twice-around a long windward-leeward for our first race. Due to confusion about the starting sequence, only one Laser hit the line to start on-time, but the rest soon got the message and began the slog up-wind.

Well, we finished that race in reasonable fashion, but only ABYC's **Jim Otis** and our frequent guest, Luigi Donat-Pierre stayed out to finish two more races, the rest of us having had enough for one day. Donat stayed out to even get in a fourth race and finished the day as the overall winner. Overall, the day proved a reminder to get out and practice in a fresh breeze to build confidence in those conditions in the future.

2006 ABYC Laser & Laser Radial Fleet Championship

The ABYC Laser Fleet began their 2006 Fleet Championship series at the E.E. Manning Series Regatta. **Mike Pentecost** takes the early lead in our series by virtue of his Third place finish followed one point back by **Bob Falk**.

We will score Lasers and Laser Radials separately and crown both a Full Rig and Radial Champ in November at the Turkey Day Regatta.

ABYC Laser & Laser Radial Winter Series

The last of the 2005/2006 Winter series was sailed on February 26th. We were pleased to have **Jim Otis** join us and give us a racing lesson as he scored the best finishes of the day. We also had a guest and potential new member from Israel, Yishay Aizik, joining us to race in a borrowed boat and finishing fourth for the day.

We decided to race off Seal Beach for the day and encountered light breezes and moderate powerboat chop throughout the day. ABYC's **Jim Kirk** finished second with **Willem Emmer** in third place. For the last two races of the day, four Laser Radials from the ABYC Junior program joined us putting twelve boats on the line.

Since this format of Fleet races has proven popular, the ABYC Laser and Laser Radial Fleet will continue to host these Sunday informal, multi-race, relatively short-course race days for Lasers and Radials throughout the year. Check the ABYC Laser Fleet Calendar for dates.

Steven Smith, ABYC Laser Fleet Captain

hails from the fleets



The CAL-20 Fleet has been and will continue to be very busy over the next few weeks. Before I let you in on all of the upcoming events I would be remiss if I didn't mention some of the recent races involving the fleet.

As mentioned in the previous Sou 'Wester, the CAL-20 fleet had a fantastic turnout at the recent Mid-Winters with 11 boats participating. Leading the pack was Mark Townsend/Chuck Hardin, second in was Tom Pollack/Clarence Yokishane and third, Barney and Steve Flam. Next up was Long Beach Yacht Club's Spring Invitational. Out of the seven participating boats, Ken Hodges took home the 1st with Ron Wood close by in second while Steve Butler came in third. Last, but hardly least, was the Chapped Cheek regatta. Even though I didn't witness any of the racing, just reviewing the results points out that there was some very unusual racing. The results, 1st place was secured by Ron Wood/Cindy King, 2nd The Rustigans, Matt and Steve and 3rd place with David Johnson/Linus Rolls. However, all top 3 finishers had a 1st place finish in one of the 4 races.

Now on to some upcoming events. Scheduling the Fleet 1 Championship Series has been a little like a "herding cats". But we have all (at least most) come to agreement that the CAL-20 Fleet 1 Championship will be held on Saturday, April 15th. So if you're like me, once you pay Uncle Sam, you'll really be ready for some racing. Keep tuned to the ABYC web-site for all of the details. This will be a great Championship and we want EVERYONE to participate. Additionally, we will also be having a Fleet meeting immediately after the racing and trophy presentations, please plan on attending that as well.

Lastly, I'd like to say thanks to a few people who have been particularly helpful in the arrangements surrounding the Fleet Championship: Bill McDannel, Jim Drury, Merle Asper, Glenn Selvin and Chris Ericksen.

See you on the water.

Ken Reiff

Whaler Training Seminar:

May 20th 2006

It will encompass:

Starting and running the boat

Handling the boat:

Shoving off

Maneuvering

Docking

How to prepare the boat

How to set marks

This is so we will have a better understanding of the boats and our responsibilities on the race course.

Dan DeLave, DDeLave@aol.com

scuttlebutt

Good wishes to Jeanne Kasper who is having a great recovery from heart surgery. We look forward to seeing her on the patio this summer!

Best wishes to getting better go out to Tick Weber. Tick-race committee on the bay is calling, we need you! Take care and get better!

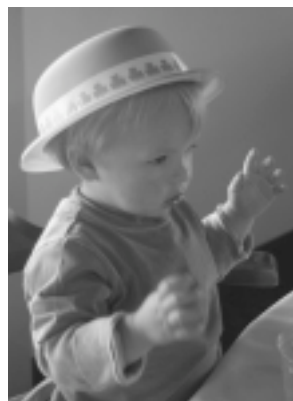
boatique

Some new inventory now in place.

Size & color ranges of jackets and vests.

Special "WIKZ" sailing shirts long and short sleeves.

Also "Anatomy of a Sailboat" Tee shirts, Adult and Kid sizes.



st pat's kid party



Ronda Nuzum photos



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save the date...
spring spruce up

We are approaching that time of year when members need to use some elbow grease sprucing up the club. Saturday, April 29 is the day. We have a broad range of projects...something for everyone.... OH BOY! Opening Day is May 6. We want our club to look its best. Plan to arrive as close to 8:00 am as possible on April 29. We will have coffee and donuts ready and will provide lunch for all hard-working volunteers. If you have not sent in the Spring Spruce-Up form that was sent with your monthly billing please send it in so we will know how to organize work parties. I promise that you will get to know more members and have a good time doing some much-needed work for your club.

Ron Wood

Bill McDannel photo



Pinata killer at St. Pat's Party.



June 25, 26 & 27th



Commodore	Nicole Peoples-Moffett	Treasurer	George Kornhoff
Vice Commodore	Jim Bateman	Junior Rear Commodore	Sydney Bolger
Rear Commodore	Glenn Selvin	Fleet Surgeon	Dr. Jeff Cohen
Jr. Staff Commodore	Ron Wood	Judge Advocate	Tom Ramsey
Fleet Captain	Merle Asper	Port Captain	Dave Myers/Jeff Ives
Secretary	Grant Hill	Sou'wester Editor/Layout	Sharon Pearson
Directors		ABYC Phone	(562) 434-9955
Junior Program	John Massey	Fax	(562) 434-2267
Membership	Bill McDannel	Homepage	www.abyc.org
Volunteers	Dan DeLave	Email	abyc@abyc.org