

Sou' Wester

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turkey day regatta 2006

photos by Rich Roberts

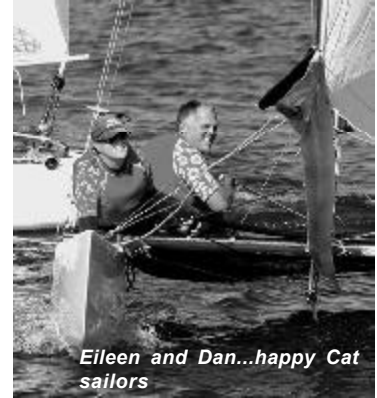
Wind for the birds, but second most ever (279) boats in ABYC's Turkey Day Regatta Raab, Ives-Stevens and Downey-Spencer pluck prizes

Among the 279 entries in 20 classes for Alamitos Bay Yacht Club's traditional Turkey Day Regatta Nov. 18-19, it looked like a mistake when Chris Raab's name showed up on the entry list for the Finn class—like, isn't he a Laser sailor?

"Today was my third day of sailing one of these boats, counting one day of practice and the first day of racing yesterday," Raab said after smoking a respectable fleet of 10 boats with three first places, two seconds and a third which he discarded for a three-point cushion over Andy Casey and nine points over veteran Henry Sprague.

His reward was a turkey—no innuendo intended, because instead of trophies all the top finishers always get turkeys or pies at this event. The entries were the most since 305 in 1969, the first year recorded for the event, which has provided lots of fun for several generations of sailors, although less for the birds.

The single-handed Finn remains an Olympic class, as is the Laser, but Raab, a Laser Masters national champion well into his 40s, suddenly is thinking about a trip to China in 2008. Wind conditions at Qingdao are expected to be light, as it was for this event, and as it figures to be for the U.S. Olympic Trials down the coast next October.



Eileen and Dan...happy Cat sailors



Sabot sailor with cool hat!

"These were my conditions," Raab said. "I like light air, and I'm going to make a big push for the Trials in Newport Beach."

The wind blew only 8 or 9 knots Saturday, carrying a patchy fog over the course that often left the racing marks invisible in the mist, and it slacked off to 4 to 7 knots Sunday—not good for the big guys and gals in little boats. That made Raab's win relatively comfortable compared to the Olson 30s, where Todd Downey and Larry Spencer from Pacific Corinthian YC edged Allan Rosenberg of ABYC on a razor-thin tiebreaker and in the Cal 20s where Keith Ives and Chuck Stevens overcame an initial tactical blunder to beat ABYC's Larry Harvey by one point.

After the first leg of the first race of the regatta Ives and Stevens were among half of the 14 Cal 20s—all from ABYC, so they should have known better—that failed to round the beachball-size white buoy that served as an offset mark 75

yard left of the windward mark.

"We were of many," Ives said, but they didn't realize their error until after the race.

That took care of their throwout, but with two firsts, a second and two thirds the rest of the weekend they edged Larry Harvey by one point and Don Zinn by two, although the light air didn't make it much fun for anybody racing a sturdy light-air sluggish Cal 20.

"It was awful," Ives said, "really light. You just have to sail loose and foot off for the puffs."

Downey and Spencer's rivalry with Rosenberg may have exceeded their previous intensity. The out-of-towners have a slight upper hand in recent years—"We've won here the last five or six years," Downey said—but this time they claimed

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save the date

Christmas Party	December 10
Sou'wester Deadline	December 22
Boxing Day Regatta	December 30
Rose Bowl Regatta	January 6
Membership Meeting	January 19
Adopt-a-Beach	January 20
Membership Meeting	February 16
Midwinter Regatta	February 17 - 18
Manning Regatta	March 3 - 4

commodore's comments



The Turkey Day Regatta marks the real start to the holiday season in Southern California. As I write this, the Friday before the regatta, looking out at another beautiful fall day and looking forward to another edition of this annual classic, it's hard not to see that we have many reasons to give thanks.

I was explaining to our manager Kelly (who is preparing for his first Turkey Day Regatta) how this is the quintessential ABYC regatta and that all the hard work is absolutely worthwhile when you see the enjoyment and goodwill this weekend generates.

If you can fit it into your busy holiday schedule, I hope you can make it to at least one of our holiday events. The Senior Sabots and Keelboat fleet have their Christmas Party on December 8th, the ABYC Family Christmas Party with Santa Claus is on the 10th and the Lido fleet has their party on the 17th. If you are new to the club or the fleets, these are wonderful opportunities to make some new friends.

We'll be trimming the tree on Friday December 1st and every Friday Happy Hour is always more festive during December.

The Holiday season at ABYC ends appropriately with our Boxing Day Regatta on December 30th. This pursuit race around Alamos Bay is at the same time challenging, suspenseful and hilarious. This is another ABYC classic event that you shouldn't miss.

November was the first full month for the new board and we're off to a good start. Our flag officers and directors have all jumped into their new responsibilities and, as you read in these pages and see around the club, have some solid plans and the enthusiasm to get them done. At our last board meeting we approved a number of prudent capital expenditures to upgrade our equipment, facility and help generate more revenue from our yard.

We have enjoyed some huge benefits from the skills and knowledge of our members— some recent examples include Bob Chubb's design skill and craftsmanship on the sabot dollies, Joe O'Reilly's mechanical skill with rebuilding the mules and Ed Spotskey's expertise and resources on improving our lighting. There are many, many more examples. If you too have something to offer the club, let us know. Our member's generosity with their time, skills and resources are a critical component of what keeps ABYC going strong.

A great place to live, an outstanding club in a perfect location and wonderful group of family and friends as members - as I said at the beginning, we have many reasons to give thanks.

Happy Holidays,
Jim

vice commodore's view



Each year's Vice Commodore comes into their post not only with items from the previous person's list of things to do, but with their own agenda as well. Most certainly, I have my own agenda that I'll be working on.

There are several new equipment requests that I'm working on to make ABYC's office a smoother, more efficient place for our employees to work. Kelly Whitlow and I are also working on creating what he and I are calling a Member Business Center, which would be a quiet place for meetings between members, for members to come in and make needed phone calls, check email, etc.

Naturally, a huge part of my agenda is the yard and all of the issues that go with it. Lisa Liebold and John Perone, the two yard czars, have already walked the yard, and between the three of us, we've identified those boats that never, and I mean never get used, and have sent out letters asking that these members please vacate their space. We've also identified some boats whose spaces are an absolute mess, and we've sent out letters asking that these people please clean up their messes. Naturally, besides making our beloved yard a more pleasant place, we're also looking to move people off of the waiting list and into the yard where their boats belong. You'd be surprised as to how many potential members we lose, just because they see a waiting list that just seems so daunting and stagnant. So please, if you care about ABYC and its membership, and if you're truly just not using your boat, please, please, please consider selling it or donating it so that a more active sailor can take that precious spot. Remember, this is not a boat storage lot. This is a yard for actively sailed boats! One of my goals is to truly shorten our waiting list to something that is more manageable.

And finally, notice the mules? Thank our outgoing Vice Commodore and now Commodore, Jim Bateman, for starting this entire process of rebuilding and rehabbing our mules. We are working on putting together a shed in the east yard where these mules will be stored, so if you take a mule from the shed, please, when you're done, put it back. Our hope is to keep these mules out of the inclement weather, so that they maintain their new look for a long, long time.

See you in the yard.
Glenn Selvin

manager's corner



We are entering the holiday season, and for the first time in a long time I'm actually looking forward to it.

The club is looking better every week and I'm meeting more and more members who notice the changes. The staff and I have been busy sprucing up the club for the holidays and embracing the new direction of the Board of Directors. Several exciting new changes are in the wind and all geared toward making your club an even more enjoyable experience.

For more years than I care to remember, November meant a large tradeshow or convention was looming ominously right around the corner and all my attention was focused on the production of that event. While my friends and family were gearing up for giving thanks and Christmas cheer, I was waking up in the middle of the night jotting down notes on last minute details and various minutiae.

Even as we enter the busiest weekend of the year for the club, (it slows down after this... right?) I find myself embraced in an odd, almost serene mindset. It could be I'm becoming more

comfortable in my "Club Manager" skin or the fact everybody to a person has told me how fun the Turkey Day Regatta is. It also could be that since I've gotten my AARP card, things just don't get under my skin like they used too. Whatever the reason, I'm NOT fighting the feeling.

So, as we transition from the dog-days of summer into the glorious holiday season, I submit to you these THANKS.

- I'm thankful for not staying in "non smoking" hotel rooms that smell like someone just cured a ham in the room an hour before my arrival.
- I'm thankful for not having to stand behind the guy on the plane in the aisle in front of me, folding his jacket like it was a flag from Arlington National Cemetery.
- I'm thankful I'm not listening to radio stations that give me my "drive-time" report.
- I'm thankful I don't have to explain to the security officer at the airport why (since my hip replacement) the security system is going off like metal in a microwave oven.
- I'm thankful I don't have to deal with "Gino" the teamster on the loading dock who can't wait to remind me that "hey Mista Show Manager, just want to remind you dat diss is MY dock, and nutin goes in or out widout my say so"
- I'm thankful I'm not calling my wife from Dallas on Friday night explaining how I just missed my connecting flight, but should be home by midnight.

But mostly I'm thankful for the health of my family and friends, co workers and everybody who has made this last three and a half months so pleasurable.

I'm thankful to be your club manager. HAPPY THANKSGIVING !

Kelly Whitlow

rear commodore's notes



Three quick thoughts:

We are looking for members and friends that would like to play with their band (or without!) at ABYC for Happy Hour. It is a good time for them to get some public recognition and some practice. I guarantee at least 6 people will see them that will be hiring bands locally throughout this year. Email Kelly Whitlow <kelly@abyc.org> or me with any ideas or information you may have. Let's have some fun!

Please look forward to joining us again this year for our wild Christmas fandango. It promises to be another great year loaded with Yuletide spirit. December 10th is the date to save. Be there or be square. Yea baby!

Don't forget to keep your eyes peeled for new potential members. We only want the cream of the crop, so lets get them in! Contact Mike Baumann <michael_baumann@mac.com>, your hard working membership chairman, or myself with prospects and we will make sure they get taken care of in the best way possible. See you around the club,

Merle Asper

Sou'Wester DEADLINE

Friday, December 22, 2006 is the deadline
for the January Sou'Wester.

fleet captain's report



With the completion of Turkey Day Regatta which drew a record breaking 274 boats, the race program throttles down somewhat allowing time to inspect, re fit and or replace assets, needed for the approaching 2007 season, beginning with MidWinters February 17th. This is not to say that that activities come to a halt, because they don't. We are ABYC in Southern California adjacent to fine racing waters, and we don't close and lock the club for the winter. I urge members to pay close attention to their Fleet Calendars as well as the ABYC club calendar.

This leads me to point out that our most enjoyable, non-serious, and truly fun club regatta, Boxing day, will take place Saturday December 30. For those unfamiliar, it is a single pursuit race, sailed in the bay, where we pit all club boats, from Sabots on up, to duke it out for bragging rights at the bar and whining about handicap ratings. This is our own members only regatta and we urge everyone to make arrangements to come to the club to race, crew, spectate, and or just put your feet up around the

fire pit.

A note all those, and you know who you are, who haven't visited your boat stored in the yard this last year, give the boat a break, you loved it when you bought it, come to the club and make sure all is well. If nothing is broken, Boxing Day will be a good occasion to launch and have a good time just sailing for the fun of it.

Sabot dollies - In the last month, Bob Chubb, Pat Mc Cormick, Joe Riddick and I have been creating various components for the dollies. The aluminum parts will be delivered to the welder for frame assembly. On completion of all sub assemblies, a call will go out for a date of final assembly. Most likely after the holidays.

Bay Barge - At the November general meeting, the announcement that the board, in response to a request from the Race Management Committee, has resolved to take action, regarding our old bay starting barge. A budget allowance is in place to replace what we have, with the exception of the flotation system and sub structure that is failing, due to dry rot and electrolysis. 41 years ago, our members abandoned an old mono hull starting boat in favor of our existing flat pontoon platform, which other clubs have used as a model for their own starting barge design. Today, pontoon design technology, and vendor availability has changed and that allows options not formerly available.

The Design Committee needs your ideas as to changes, no changes, additions, deletions, anything that may affect a functional final design. I especially solicit input from members and others who have actually used the barge. Many questions to address, some simple, others not. Length - Do we need the 8 ft front platform, and 20 ft over all? Do we still rescue sabots over the bow? Is the engine strong enough in forward or reverse? How about the roof? Does it shed the water correctly when it rains? Do we still want the mast and halyards? Storage? Seating? Signage? Steering... Center console or side? Can we do something to divert the wind so it won't be so cold while waiting for the next series of starts? Other Issues not noted here?

Please, contact me somehow in writing, and/or email with suggestions, diagrams, illustrations and/or sketches. We desire to have the basic design set by the December 20 board meeting, so that orders for key components may be placed before the end of 2006.

John Massey

membership promotion!

Hey ABYC Members! The Club is healthy and we are doing great! Let's keep the momentum going. The more members we get... the more fun we will have. It is important to have plenty of friends, volunteers, and funds to help support all of our various programs and infrastructure.

Here is something that might make it entertaining for you and the new member you sponsor:

The #1 sponsor and new member each get 250 ABYC dollars that can be used for food, beverage, or Club merchandise. You will need to use these ABYC dollars within 6 months and they can't be applied towards dues or mooring. You will enjoy them as best you know how! The new member will be able to use the dollars to help them get going within the club. They can use their dollars to buy the kids, grandkids and themselves some pretty smart ABYC team wear. They can bring their friends and neighbors down for a meal on the patio or a drink at Happy Hour or one of our other events. Think of the favor you will be doing for them! Get them in so they can spend their ABYC dollars and have some fun.

Think and look around you. Look to your crew. Look to your neighbors. Look to your competitors. Look around the junior program. Do you know anyone that could or should be a member, but is not?

Remember: **We need new members!**

If you have any ideas or questions, please contact me. ABYC is very strong and it is a team effort. You have been very successful! Let's keep it up, now is not the time to rest.

Merle Asper

women's group

Reminder: "Kooking with Kelly Klass" on Friday, January 12th. Our manager Kelly will be instructing us on how to make Chicken Picatta, fresh veggies, and homemade soup. The cost will be only \$8.00, so everyone please sign up!!

from the pages of history

If there was a common theme in the three SOU'WESTER editions reported this month, it would be Christmas parties. But, as is always the case, the themes from the pages of history resonate to the current day.

THIRTY YEARS AGO:

The SOU'WESTER of December, 1976, contains a calendar of coming events, even as the SOU'WESTER does today. And that calendar lists no fewer than five fleet Christmas parties--but no club Christmas party.

Back in the day, there was no club Christmas party, and the two events that vied for the biggest holiday event were the Junior Christmas Party and the Sabotier Christmas Party. Many of the traditions of the current ABYC party were featured in the junior party: there was a puppet show, Christmas caroling and a visit from Santa Claus. It was not a dinner: punch and cookies were the fare. But the Sabotier party was the big social "do" of the season: dining and dancing 'til one in the morning, and all for four bucks per person.

A timeless comment was made by Commodore Tick Weber in his "Commodore's Comments." "If you don't read Yachting magazine," he said, stop by your library or newsstand and check out the November issue. On Page 40, Dick Rose has some very complimentary things to say about ABYC and our technically perfect regattas." Dick was then an I-14 racer with a national reputation for knowledge of the rules and racing, so his praise was not a small thing. Tick said that Dick especially commented that ABYC's excellence is "in contrast to other clubs, which are just as well organized but lack the depth of knowledge and experience we possess." The same could be said today.

The Lido fleet article referred to the boats as "bathtubs with couches;" sounds about right..the Lido fleet held not only a series of seminars but also a Braille regatta, where a sighted skipper was paired with a sight-impaired crew, that featured 14 boats on the line...among the names posted for new membership were those of Charles Wilcox and Dan G. Clapp...a meeting notice for "PHRF members, potential members and "keel boaters" was announced to engage in some small talk and a little planning; might this have been the birth of the Keel Boat Fleet?

TWENTY YEARS AGO:

"Christmas at ABYC" was the headline on an entire page of the December, 1986, SOU'WESTER. Margie Brown was chair of the ABYC Christmas Party, to be held in mid-December. The schedule called for a photographer from Morris Studios, a local photographic firm, to set up in the lobby; at the same time, a puppet show for the kids was to begin upstairs. Santa was expected before dinner, and Christmas caroling would occur thereafter. The other part of the page described the float that would be ABYC's entry in the annual Naples Christmas parade: a larger-than-lifesize boy sits on the front of the float dreaming of gifts to come.

Two full pages were filled by Carl Rischer. Half of one page was news on the C-15 fleet, of which Carl was a member and the fleet's reporter; the other page-and-a-half was about how the C-15 fleet was thriving, as evidenced by the extra activity and larger fleets being seen around the club, and Carl's musings on how our sport needs to refocus so as to "attract our fair share of the sailing talent and public interest." Something must have worked, as the C-15 fleet did indeed flourish in those days.

A birth announcement graced the pages of the SOU'WESTER: Andrew Michael McDade was born on November 7, 1986, son of Mike and Sandy McDade and grandson of John McDade...other grandchildren were in the news as well: Bud and Joyce Lorbeer welcomed twin granddaughters, Leslie and Laurel, daughters of their daughter Cindy and husband Joe Siebert, while John and Jinx Ellis announced that daughter Jane and husband Jerry McNaboe delivered a son, Christopher John...a full-page photo spread reported that the popular daytime series, General Hospital, had come to ABYC for filming: the clubhouse was used to portray a New England bank building in wintertime...the C-15 Fleet held its Christmas party at the traditional time--for them: in January; it was their "Better-Late-Than-Never Christmas Party," and featured a gift exchange of "white elephants," perhaps the birth of the modern practice of "re-gifting"...

TEN YEARS AGO:

What had become "ABYC's traditional family holiday party," the Christmas Carol Dinner, was set for early December and promoted with a full page in the December, 1996, SOU'WESTER. The format was pretty well set at that time. The party kicked off with children's activities were centered around a performance of some kind; this year it was Gumdrop the Clown, who did balloon animals if I remember correctly. Santa arrived not that long thereafter, and posed for photos: the family pictures that used to be taken downstairs before the party now were taken upstairs during the party and included Santa. Dinner was served, but not dessert: everyone attending was expected to bring either hors d'oeuvres or dessert for 12 people in a disposable dish, and the tables groaned under homemade deviled eggs and gingerbread men. And, in addition to the Christmas caroling, a special reading of "A Visit from St. Nick" was to cap the night: it is the poem perhaps better known for the first line, "'Twas the night before Christmas."

Holiday giving also earned a full page. For many years, ABYC participated in a toy drive to benefit the Children's Dental Foundation and dental clinic. Wrapped gifts were collected in a big box in the lobby, and unwrapped donations were wrapped by volunteers. The program was organized by Rebecca Moffett and included the ABYC Juniors.

And the season would end with a Christmas Breakfast Brunch on Sunday, December 22. Prepared by the ABYC staff and some members, the menu items included steak and eggs, a breakfast burrito, pancakes and French toast and a full range of seasonal and traditional drinks out of the bar.

Birth notices were the order of the day: Mark and Jennifer Golison welcomed daughter Emily while Stan and Stacy Gibbs welcomed there as-then unnamed son; but two obituaries appeared, those of Albin Reid and Leon Duhamel...the Keel Boat Fleet was already talking about having not one but two summer cruises, one headed north and another headed south; their article also reported two new boats in the fleet, a newly-delivered Hunter 34 for Bobbie Baker and a newly-ordered Catalina 42 for Randy and Holly MacLaren...a flyer touted the first regatta of 1997, the Tumbuckle Tightener; it was a one-day event with racing both in the Bay and out in the harbor...

Chris Ericksen, Club Historian

the bay clogger (junior sailing)

The Fall Junior Sailing Program is winding down as we completed the Turkey Day Regatta and head into our last two clinics before the holidays. It has been an amazing fall season with so much growth in all the sailors. Once again these students have impressed the staff with their willingness to work hard and succeed while still having fun with it all. In our fall program, we saw nearly a dozen students graduate up a fleet by winning or placing high in a regatta. This is so impressive and important



Sawyer Gibbs smiling ofr the camera with his Turkey trophy

This is what Ginger Luckey had to say: "Everyone that sailed the fall program was totally committed because they gave up their weekends to do sailing." Jack Jorgensen said "we had some very good resources (clinicians)." Regarding the fall breeze, Bridget Luckey thought "the wind was light and easier to handle!" Hilton Sligh said "everyone was fun to be around and they were all cool!" Richard Bell noted his happiness with his accomplishments when he said, "I was in every single sou'wester which was very, very cool." Samantha Gebb summed it up saying, "I like that we have an established group practicing. I have a place to come where there are other talented sailors to practice with."

Overall, it has been an outstanding fall with a lot of growth in terms of the program, but more importantly the growth of the individual sailors has been phenomenal. Each regatta the staff challenged the students not to compete for results, but to try and do better than the last time they sailed and just to have fun. The result of that was much better than anyone could have hoped... lifelong friendships and the love of sailing!

Brad Schaupter, Junior Sailing Director

for these students as it takes great dedication and resolve to continue traveling to regattas across southern California in order to improve and eventually win their

fleet. The students who moved up a fleet this fall include: Ginger Luckey (A), Matt McDermaid (C1), Hilton Beckham (C1), James Temple (C1), Elle Merrill (C1), Bridget Luckey (C2), Richard Bell (C2), Andrew Cole (C2), Ian Markowitz (C2), & Dugan Farrell (C2).

The big events in November were the Junior Commodore's Cup at Mission Bay and the Turkey Day Regatta here at ABYC. We had 20 sailors go down to Mission Bay which is a huge record for us (we had 6 the previous year and one the year before that)! And for Turkey Day Regatta, we had 26 students compete in seven different fleets! This truly has been the story of the fall with participation through the roof that comments on the team spirit and friendship that is building in our ABYC junior sailors.

Some of the big finishers at the Turkey Day Regatta were Cameron Summers (5th in Laser Radials), Jack Jorgensen (5th in A's), Samantha Gebb (6th in A's), Hilton Beckham (4th in C1's), Matt McDermaid (5th in C1's), Andrew Cole (2nd in C2's), Sawyer Gibbs (2nd in C3's), and John Merrill (4th in C3's). Also, one of our coaches and favorite juniors, Sydney Bolger took home a 3rd place trophy at the Perry Series Regatta the previous weekend in 420's.

Congratulation to all of them! Pertaining to the fall program and what was best, I went to the sailors themselves to hear it from the source.



Two of our favorite and most festive coaches, sarah Ryan and Mark Ryan after the Turkey Day Regatta



Cameron Summers after receiving a 5th place finish in Laser Radials sitting with Jack Jorgensen

membership

Merle Asper photos

November has been a busy month for membership. I encourage you to keep the aball rolling. Sponsors of new regular members receive \$250 ABYC bucks, that can be spent at the club galley and store, and a recognition pin.

POSTINGS: The following three applicants are being posted for membership consideration. Members have 30 days to comment on the applications before they are submitted for approval.

Patrick and Deann McDaniel, Regular Membership, Sponsor: **Lynda & Chris Peoples**

Stephen Casey, Junior membership, Sponsor: **Mike Shea**

Dan and Maria Milefchik, Regular Membership, Sponsor: **Gabe Feramola**

NEW MEMBER APPROVALS: The Board of Directors has extended membership invitations to 5 Regular, 2 Yachting, and 8 Junior Memberships in the past 2 months.

WELCOME TO THE CLUB: At the November General Membership Meeting, three burgees were awarded to new members.

Scott & Valerie Kramer. The Kramer's live on the peninsula, and are returning to sailing, which Scott enjoyed here in his youth. The Kramers run a business in medical data management, and have 2 children. They are sponsored by **Don Reiman** who met them while he was teaching a sailing class.

Sean Curley. Sean became a Junior Member back in July. While not sailing, he and his family live in the Pasadena area.

Noah LaBarba, Noah is from Long Beach, and is one of the students of our own **Mark Ryan**. Mark is Noah's sponsor. *Mike Baumann & Brian Brown, 07 and 06 Membership chairs*



Mark Ryan sponsor and Noah LaBarba, new member, with Jim Bateman



Don Reiman, sponsor, with Scott Kramer, new member, and Jim Bateman



New member, Sean Curley



ABYC Family Christmas Party
Sunday, December 10, 2006
5:00 pm

Adults \$14.00
Kids 12 and under \$5.00
2 years and under free!

Call the ABYC office for reservations
562 434-9955

turkey day (cont)

...from page 1

a turkey on a tiebreaker taken to the extreme.

"We were one point behind and didn't know there would be another race," Downey said. "We dropped our sails, and then we saw the catamarans sailing again. We were able to jump Allan when he got jammed in with some other boats at the start and won by about a minute."

After discards, that left them tied in points with the same number of firsts and seconds after discards, but the third tiebreaker—best finish in the last race—won it for Downey and Spencer.

Downey said, "You know, Allan is 71 now, and he's still a wonderful competitor. He's the reason we come here."

Jack Driscoll and crew Cody Shevitz of San Diego YC won the closest class overall—the 29er skiffs—where the five boats finished one point apart per place, first through fifth.

Rich Roberts

Complete results and photo gallery at www.abyc.org (photos available at underthesunphotos.com)



Pete Melvin concentrating!

turkey day recap

It's a wrap, folks!!!

The Turkey Day regatta just seems to get bigger and bigger and better and better. While chairing this regatta with Bill McDannel, I heard nothing but thank you's from people who thoroughly enjoyed the racing, and from people that were just awestruck by the Saturday night turkey dinner!

This is an event, not just a regatta, and is an event that truly shows the world how special a place ABYC is, and how our volunteerism is a state of mind that other clubs just try to emulate.

For me, the biggest thank you goes to our new General Manager, Kelly Whitlow. Kelly is still fairly new to the job of running ABYC, and he keeps hearing that, at some point, our season slows down. With Jesus out of action, it was Kelly, along with Stacy Conn and the entire ABYC staff that just completely stepped up to the plate and did everything that was needed to make sure that this was truly a first class show. Nearly 400 dinners were served in just under an hour and a half, with Kelly, Stacy and crew cooking Turkeys all day Saturday. If you were there Saturday night, then you know how impressive the night was!

But this was also a regatta. Bill McDannel did an unbelievable job of making the calls, rounding up nearly 100 volunteers for the water-side of the regatta. And, with 279 boats entered, it truly took this many volunteers! Bob Anderson, PRO on Patience, was joined by Dave Rustigan, Judy Mathias, George Anderson, Norma Clapp, Kay Cook, Barbara Rustigan, Bobbie and Don Hodges, and Dave Anderson. Bob was assisted by Dave Myers, Sam Bell, Dan Clapp, John Perone, Don Reiman, Rob Fuller, and Peter Troin, who all ran the whalers to set the marks and create the courses.

Marc Schryer, the inside PRO, was joined by Jim Drury, Jinx Ellis, Lynn Drury, Evie Belisle, Betty Mills, and Bobbie Peterson. Whalers were manned by Bob Ware, Rob Rice, Bryan Warren, Bob Bishop, Jeff Merrill, Joe Riddick, Gerry McNaboe, and Samanpha Ebert.

ABYC owes a great deal of gratitude to Jerry and Sally Dally, who so generously lend us their Sea Owl to run the second circle of racing. Chris Ericksen, the PRO on that course, was joined by Stacy Jackson, Steve Shaw, Bill Horner, Wayne and Shirley Smith, Jim Loeffler, and Dave Ellis. Whalers were run by Dave Crocket, both Sr. and Jr., Greg Montz, Tom Mendenhall, Yvonne Galvez, Steve Landeau and Joe Markowitz.

Keeping track of this many racers is always a handful, and this year was no different. Sharon Pearson, joined by Mark and Robin Townsend, spent nearly their entire weekend in that little computer scoring room, trying somehow to make sense of it all, which they accomplished without even breaking a sweat. Ok, ok, they did stress out just a little bit, but they got the job done! Maggie Cattle, Latham Bell, and Chuck Fuller handled the protests, passing out quick justice in the dreaded "room."

Oh, and thanks to Mark Gaudio and Vanguard Sailing, who donated over \$1000 worth of sailing stuff, tossing goody bags to kids during the trophy presentation, and raffling off some very, very nice gifts.

I hope I've not forgotten anyone, but as you can see, there are just so many people to thank for running these regattas.

But, many, many people also helped out upstairs carving, serving, and cleaning up after our so famous Turkey Dinner. Sue McDannel, Diane Bateman, Carol Selvin, Lori VanSkyhook, and Georgene Anderson helped out with the decorations, directed by Stacy Conn. Barabara Conn was downstairs collecting tickets, along with Jennifer Kuritz. George Kornhoff, Steve Kuritz, Loraine Perone, Yvonne Linderman all served the food, smiling the entire time. And then there was Pie Land, with my wife Carol, Diane Bateman, and Jamie Bell outside slicing and serving pies, and playing with all the Cool Whip!

26 Turkeys were carved, which is a feat in itself. Ron and Elaine Wood, Chuck and Nita Hardin, Glenn Selvin, Jerry Thompson, Rob Fuller, and Jim Bateman were carving maniacs. Steve Moffett kept the birds coming, two at a time, in from the kitchen for more carving and serving!

...continued next page

Turkey Day regatta is a huge undertaking, and again, it is our volunteers, Kelly Whitlow, Stacy Conn, and our unbelievable ABYC staff that make these happen. I'm amazed at the energy of some of our volunteers. On Sunday, John Perone came in off a day in a whaler when the boats all started to descend on our docks. I'm sure John was tired, we all were, but he was more than happy to man the big hoist when asked, and stayed until all the boats were hoisted out. John is a fairly new member, and just absolutely loves helping out. Steve Shaw? Same as John... came in off a whaler, and manned the small hoist until all the Mercury's were hauled out. And John Massey? Our ramp and yard boss, with so much enthusiasm and energy. John is truly an amazing individual!

Thanks to everyone, whether I've caught you here or not, who helped out during the Turkey Day regatta. I heard nothing but great things from so many people, and once again, Alamitos Bay Yacht Club has risen as one of this country's truly great sailing clubs!

Glenn Selvin, Vice Commodore, *Regatta chair with Bill McDannel*

How I Spent Turkey Day

There I was, pacing the top deck of Patience, the Alamitos Bay Yacht Club's venerable race committee boat, I peered downwind, toward the gate, and could clearly see about 40 tightly bunched Laser Radials and a sprinkling of 29ers, tacking back and forth, making their way up wind to the finish line. Getting the finishes correct was all in the hands of the Scoring Crew. Beverly was at her post tightly grasping the rail anticipating the flood of finishers. Don Hodges was ready to signal finishes with his whistle. Kay Cook and her scribes were attentively poised with pencils and rotation sheets.

I divert my attention from the excitement and pay attention to Dave starting the C-15 Class, the Laser full rigs and then the Finns. My usual suspects are almost automatic in timing and producing the correct flag hoist and sound signals. My good friend Dave Rustigan is the Starter and continually evaluates and adjusts the start line. Judy Mathias has been my Timer for several years now and is a joy to work with. Barbara Rustigan can do any job on the boat. For this Turkey Day Regatta she handles the flags and placards. My lovely wife Georgene writes accurate Race Notes to keep us out of trouble with pesky protest committees.

Being Principal Race Officer on one of the three circles for the 2006 ABYC's Turkey Day Regatta is rather like being an air traffic controller. If the crew is attentive, experienced and well trained, and the weather cooperates the race committee is mostly invisible to the competitors. Quite clearly the competitors have enough concerns without the distraction of an unpredictable screwed up race committee.

Quite clearly racing doesn't happen unless Patience and our whalers are running and operated by alert active crews. George Caddle and Vern Peterson maintain Patience in great shape and John Massey does a magic job of keeping our whalers up and running. This year, as always, on Turkey Day we had excellent whaler drivers that made course adjustments quick and seamless. Dave Myers, our hard working Port Captain, Dan Clapp and Sam Bell manned Outrage and tended the weather marks. My Cal-25 skipper, Don Reiman, along with my bud John Perone, handled the leeward gate. Rob Fuller and Joe Houseman set and continually adjusted the start line.

My goals for the Race Committee are really simple and two phased. First, understand the customers (racers) and what they want (and don't want) in terms of course length and configuration. Second, execute starting/finishing procedures that are fair, efficient and predictable.

I don't believe in the stone-faced race committee. If a competitor asks a question the answer to which is published I'll answer. At this level yacht racing is recreation. As Race Management Chair, Chris Erickson, has said many many times. "My God! This is only yacht racing!"

In multi-class regattas the wants of the various classes can be somewhat in conflict. Dinghy classes want to be quickly turned around and out on the course while keelboat classes quite often need time to pack their spinnakers, perhaps change jibs, retune the rig, swap cookie recipes and choke down a sandwich. For dinghy classes, starts are a lot of fun and really exciting. If a dinghy crew has blown the first two races a killer start in the third race is a chance for redemption. In keelboats, on the other hand, maneuvering the multi-ton craft on and near the start line is serious business. A screw up can result in damage to hulls/ rigging and crews.

Then there is the Etchells which seem to put holes in each other any where on the course.

One other very important consideration is to balance the need to get races out with the requirement to get it correct. I have witnessed race committees delay and delay waiting for wind steady in velocity and direction. Guess what! Wind is never steady. The judgment call is to get starts going when condition are acceptable, not perfect.

Running yacht races at ABYC is definitely a team sport. Our trophy is knowing we didn't screw up very much. Occasionally a competitor will tell us what a good job we do at ABYC. That is gratifying.

I believe the Turkey Day Regatta at ABYC is unique in yacht racing. We run three circles at a time of year when the weather is a crap shoot with about 100 boats on each circle. We run a serious number of starts, clear the course before dark and put on a sumptuous turkey dinner. I think we all did an excellent job this year and I am looking forward to having my team do it again.

Bob Anderson

hails from the fleets



KEEL BOAT FLEET ON WATCH

The new governing Triad of the Keel Boat Fleet, Judy Mathias, John Brennan and Joe Riddick, certainly hit their first meeting with their running shoes on! The November meeting was full of news and very well organized. All the winners of the previous October's Pinewood Derby were congratulated, (see the November Sou'Wester for the results). The 2007 Keel Boat Calendar was handed out and it is full of great events in the New Year. All the old favorites such as the Armchair Cruise, Pinewood Regattas and the Shoreline Yacht Club Cruise are there but also there were some new ideas. One of the new trips proposed by Judy Mathias was a morning visiting the Lane Victory, a WW 2 freighter, then lunch in San Pedro followed by a visit to the L.A. Marine Museum. Wow, that would be great. If you missed this super meeting and would like a 2007 calendar I will be glad to e-mail one to you. georgemargaretm@aol.com

The month of January brings two important dates. The first one is the January Keel Boat Fleet meeting on the 12th. The what and when of the Armchair Cruise plus the sign up sheet will be one of the topics. More info on other upcoming events and a report on the Christmas party will also be on the agenda. The second important date is the ABYC General Meeting, January 19. The Keel Boat and Sabotier Fleets are responsible for the meeting. Some of the combined fleets members are needed to help serve the dinner that night. Please give Izzy Lounsberry a ring and volunteer. The guest speaker is also our responsibility, which I am going to arrange for, but we need the fleets to attend the meeting and support the guest speaker.

And last but not least I ask the Fleet members to support the Triad. Judy, Joe and John have all been fleet captains, chairmen and officers many times over and yet they are once more volunteering. Your job, as members, is to support the events they are working so hard on to make our Fleet a success. Oh! One other way you can support the Fleet is to send in your 2007 dues, \$10, to Sue Brennan, 118 Glendora Ave., Long Beach 90803. Checks should be made out to Keel Boat Fleet. Cash will work also!

I hope everyone has a wonderful Holiday,
George C



Sunday, November 12th, was not only the monthly racing day for the eight-footers, but also the official start of Isabelle Lounsberry's regime. She was officially ordained with the "seat of authority" and the naval officer garb that completed the ceremony. The dinner was well attended with fleet members. Marilyn and Mike McMahon were even in town for the occasion.

Jeanne and Al Nelson, George and Margaret Caddle, Mary and Joe Riddick, Jinx and John Ellis, Dale and Maxine Berkihiser, Mack and Betty Mills, Vern and Bobbie Peterson, Don Wilson, Peter Gales, Adra Kober,

Dianne Gonzales, Jennifer and Steve Kuritz, Bob Ware and Beth, and Lee Berlinger were on hand to witness the pomp and circumstance and enjoy a wonderful dinner served by Kelly Whitlow, the much appreciated new manager. Later in the meeting, however, it was voted to send Jesus a get-well message and a monetary remembrance. The fleet misses his culinary support.

We are pleased to announce that Bob Chubb is again turning out Sabot Dollies. He and John Massey were cutting the handles. They will be requesting more help as they get to the saddles and wheels. Give Bob a call if you want in on this important project.

Our outgoing Fleet Captain, Mary Riddick was given a carry all and special sponge with her name engraved as a small token of thanks for all she went through last year on our behalf. Hubby, Joe Riddick, always there for her and us was also presented a monogrammed carryall.

Sabotiers sailing Sunday were Sheila Eberli, Brian Brown and Haley, Marilyn, Mack Mills, Dianne, Mary, Lee, Dianne, John, Jennifer, Bob, and for the first time, Lori Vanskyhopk.

The Winners:

1) Bob Ware 2) Dianne Gonzales 3) Lee Berlinger

Thanks go to Al Nelson, PRO, Jinx Ellis, timer, and Joe Riddick, chase boat.

Bob Ware also received the Twilight Perpetual for the summer, and he remains our Fleet Champion for another year.

If you did not pay your dues Sunday, please send the \$7.00 to John Ellis.

Join us for the Christmas Party December 8th, and our Fleet Race and Dinner December 3rd.

As Sabot Fleet Activities are announced, we hope you know they include YOU. Call Isabelle for more information

Barbara Gabriel



Turkey Day Holiday Regatta Report

A Foggy Day in Lasertown, followed by Here Comes the Sun, tells a tale of the 2006 Turkey Day regatta. Saturday saw a wonderful turn-out of 26 Full-Rigs and 43 Radials, albeit with light winds as we headed out to the Bravo race course located conveniently just west of the Alamitos Bay jetty. The race committee (RC) started us on-time, but just then, a blanket of fog swept across the race course. The fog stayed with us all afternoon lifting occasionally, only to move in again, leaving competitors with a sometimes concerning lack of visibility. A number of racers did report over-standing marks in the haze.

Bob Falk from Alamitos Bay YC (ABYC) was in full control on day one scoring two seconds and a third. Charlie Buckingham of Newport Harbor YC and Caleb Paine of Southwestern YC were close behind each having scored a bullet on the day. ABYC's Jay Golison, a newcomer to our fleet, was within striking distance in fifth place. Expecting

hails from the fleets

a fourth race, the RC instead sent the Full-Rigs home as the fog once again obscured the race course and dinner was waiting at the club house.

Sunday greeted the fleet with light winds again, but sunshine all day. The RC conducted three more races in short order around a windward-leeward course with several close encounters at the weather mark and offset mark. Bob Falk prevailed again with Charlie and Caleb following in order. Peter Wenner of Cal YC was 4th, a regular at ABYC regattas, Peter Drasin was 5th and Jay Golison finished 6th. Other ABYC members finishing in order were; your author, Jorge Suarez, as well as newcomers to the ABYC Laser Fleet, Chase Young, Doug McLean and Sydney Bolger.

The large Radial Fleet started after the Finn class and experienced the same conditions as the Full-Rigs; however, I understand their last race on Saturday was really socked-in with fog to the point where the RC could not see any boats at one time. Everyone found their way back to the club safely.

Cameron Summers of ABYC finished fifth in this tough fleet scoring a fourth on the last race Saturday. Chris Barnard of Newport Harbor YC finished in first place followed in order by Rex Cameron of San Diego YC, Oliver Toole of Santa Barbara YC and Benjamin Spector of CalYC. Other ABYC members competing in order, where another newcomer to the ABYC Fleet Oliver Kepirz 14th and Ryan McNaboe 18th.

All in all, a successful and enjoyable Turkey Day Regatta!


2006 ABYC Laser and Laser Radial Fleet Champions

Adding in results of the Turkey Day Regatta, we awarded the 2006 ABYC Laser Fleet Championship to Bob Falk whose point total prior to Turkey Day left little doubt he would repeat as our champ. On a sadder note, we learned Bob and his family are taking a job transfer and moving to the Sacramento area. Bob has been a stalwart competitor on the water and always helpful and supportive friend to all off the water. Bob will be missed. All the best to you and your family!

In our Laser Radial fleet, Cameron Summers is our 2006 champ. Judging the turn-out of Radials at the Turkey Day Regatta, it looks like the Radial championship will see increased participation next year.

As fleet champs, Cameron and Bob received a framed 8 x 10 graphic representation of a Laser launching off a wave, rounding a race mark. This nicely and professionally rendered picture is the original work of ABYC's Ellen Kirk. Ellen is a professional artist in her own right and was kind enough –with help from husband Jim she said- to fit this project into her busy schedule. All who saw Ellen's work agreed it is an award they would proudly display in their trophy case. Thank you Ellen!

Steven Smith, ABYC Laser Fleet Captain

 Winter is a pretty quiet time for the ABYC Etchells fleet: what with Christmas and other family events, and a pretty sparse calendar, it's a time when the boats are not usually as active. But the fall has been otherwise, and November was a good month for our Etchells.

Jeff Powell, our Fleet Captain, suggested that the Etchells participate in the Seal Beach Yacht Club Sunday Sailors Series. It is a natural, after all: a series of three Sunday races, one race per day, hosted by SIBYC, our hosts for Twilights. So he lined up a few boats, got the approval of the SIBYC Race Committee to enter, and there we were.

The first race was on November 12. There were only two boats on the line--this and that conspired to make the turnout a bit low. The saddest part was that it was a perfectly beautiful fall day: sunshine, breeze and not too cold.

Jeff and partner Gordon Dudley were in one of the boats, while Chris Wells and members of his rotating team of partners/crew were in the other. Jeff and Gordon got off to a good start and led at the windward mark, only to have Chris and Company pass 'em on the run and lead 'em around the rest of the course.

And the very next weekend was Turkey Day. There is plenty of news on that elsewhere in this *SOU'WESTER*, but suffice to say that the half-dozen Etchells signed up added to the total of 278 entries and helped make the 2006 Turkey Day Regatta the largest in a generation.

There were some unfamiliar faces in the crowd. It was particularly nice to see Ken and Jean Frost. Ken could accurately be called the "Father of Fleet 18," for he was the spark-plug that arranged to have three boats sold to ABYC members after the 1985 Etchells Worlds in Newport Beach; both Ken and Doug Jorgensen combined with the new owners to charter our fleet the next year. Long-time members of ABYC, Ken and Jean brought their boat home for Turkey Day from Newport Harbor YC where it lives.

The Corkett's were back, too, after a long absence; Tom and Tom, father and son, were joined by Wayne Rodgers and sailed on Sunday only. Reese Lane and Jon Mitsumori were here, too, but on Saturday only. The gang from USA126 came out Sunday. Only the Frost's and the Dudley/Powell team were out both days, the latter team with guest helmsman Bruce Golison on Saturday.

But it wouldn't have made any difference if everybody'd been there every day--they'd still have seen the Frost's completely dominate the fleet with a first-place finish in four races and a second in another. With unrigging to do and the drive back to NHYC, they didn't sail the sixth race but still won the regatta handily.

And now winter is approaching. There are no fleet races in the offing, and the second Sunday Sailors race was the weekend of Thanksgiving. The last of the three is set for December 10. And don't forget the season finale for ABYC racing, the Boxing Day Regatta on New Year's Eve eve: there has almost always been an Etchells or two at that one.

To all of you and yours from all of us in the Etchells fleet, may the blessings of the holidays be upon you, and Merry Christmas to all.

Chris Ericksen



Alamitos Bay Yacht Club

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Photo by Barbara Gabriel

Isabelle Lounsberry accepting the helm as Senior Sabots' Fleet Captain from Mary Riddick

7th Annual Boxing Day Regatta Pursuit Race Saturday December 30, 2006

Turkey Day Regatta is over, so it's time for the last holiday regatta ... Boxing Day!
Mark your calendars and make sure that you don't miss the seventh annual Boxing Day Pursuit Race, which this year will actually occur on December 30th.
Jerry Montgomery after his win last year said, "I got more publicity winning Boxing Day than I did the Transpac"
Mark Townsend

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