



2008 turkey day regatta

Rich Roberts
underthesunphotos.com
Photo boat captain was Chuck Hardin

Fog puts damper on ABYC's race for turkeys Day 1

You can't see Russia from Long Beach (sorry, Sarah), but on good days you can see Santa Catalina Island 22 miles away. Not so Saturday on the first day of Alamitos Bay Yacht Club's annual Turkey Day Regatta, when at times the competitors couldn't even see the length of the starting line.

A turnout of 319 boats—believed to be a record for the event launched in 1948—was caught by surprise partway through the opening races when a dense fog rolled in from Newport Beach down the coast like a staged special effect (cue fog!).

All three courses—two on the outer harbor and a third for the smallest boats inside the bay—suddenly were sailing in 30 to 40 yards of limited visibility in light southeasterly winds topping at 7 knots, and speed became secondary to finding course marks.



Olson 30s run downwind toward the beach that is being obscured by fog rolling in from the right

A common lament on shore at the end of the day: "I was leading the race and got lost in the fog."

The 19 fleets included sailors from four countries—one each from Germany (Michael Zittlau, Laser), Italy (Stephen Fuccillo, Finn) and New Zealand (Nigel Morris, Laser).

When the fog arrived, the game quickly changed. Don Shirley, the crew for Eric Conn on

a Mercury dinghy, and many others became navigators.

"When I saw the fog coming in I took a heading on the jetty, and I started taking all the [compass] headings posted on the committee boat [at the starts]," Shirley said. "We had to work the compass and navigate. It was a challenge. It was fun."

Bob Anderson, principal race officer on that course, managed to run all three scheduled races but stopped moving the windward mark off its 160-degree heading to adjust to changes in wind direction because the racers were having enough trouble locating the yellow inflatable buoys without playing hide and seek. However, Anderson did shorten the starting line.

"If we could see the other end [from the committee boat] we could have a race," Anderson said, "so we moved it in. It was too short, but we could see that nobody was getting an advantage."

Pease Glaser, a longtime ABYC member and an Olympic silver medalist in 2000, sailed a Formula 18 catamaran with Damon LaCasella as crew. They won the only race on Alpha course for high-speed boats that also included 29ers, A-Cats, Hobie 16s, International 14s and Olson 30s.

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save the date

SCYRRA Clinic	Dec 6-7
Jr Fall Clinic #5	Dec 7
SAC/Race Management	Dec 10
Keelboat/Sr Sabot Christmas Party	Dec 12
Naples Boat Parade	Dec 13
Christmas Party	Dec 14
Boxing Day Regatta	Dec 27

commodore's comments



December is here and we are ready to enjoy the Holiday season! No great mystery solved here, but December is the month with the shortest daylight hours of the year in the Northern Hemisphere (where we live!) and the longest daylight hours of the year in the Southern Hemisphere (a good time to go to Australia!). Here is a fact that may astound and amaze your friends: December starts on the same day of the week as September! Wow! This year that day is a Monday! Go Wild!

Turkey Day was a huge success. Many thanks go out to Jeff Merrill and John Massey for putting it all together. I will let them tell you all of the details and mention our fabulous volunteers (over 100! 25% of the Club?!). There are some astounding numbers; 320 boats entered and nearly 500 dinners served. Crazy! This is another indication of our continued success. We are strong and getting stronger.

As Commodore, I have had my first Board of Director meeting and my first General Membership meeting. At the General Membership Meeting our friend and member Rich Roberts (famous for his sail journalism) presented us with some of his most memorable pictures from some of his exciting exploits. He also gave us some pointers to use in our own picture taking adventures. I know that I came away with some concepts that I can use. Thanks again Rich!

Kelly Asper, with Dawn McKenna's help, has been putting a lot of effort into bringing in new products to the Boatique. New jackets, bags and shirts are the highlights. We do not make a lot of money on this, but it does get our logo on people's backs. Here is our ultimate goal; we want the last thing a competitor to see in a race is an ABYC sailor with logo go sailing by them! Regardless, when our members are out and about we want people to know that these cool people are ours! Remember when you are a main sponsor of a new regular member; you get \$250 ABYC dollars to be spent at the Boatique, galley, or bar. Wow! I know some people on my list are going to receive ABYC gear for Christmas.

The Annual Christmas party is Sunday December 14th. Don't worry kids; you have all been pretty good. Santa and all of his ABYC helpers will be there to make things merry and bright. We are going to have fun! You know the drill. Get there or be sad until next year. This is another multigenerational event that is an annual occurrence for the members in the know. Families and individuals are welcome! This is a inexpensive and fun experience for our single members (can you say date?), that somehow never show up for this. I urge everyone to attend!

Here comes our last holiday regatta. You guessed it; Boxing Day! Not only the last chance to hit the water in 2008, but this event can be billed as an ABYC "family fun" event. The date is Saturday December 27, right between Christmas and New Years. It is ok to take the racing seriously or pack everyone (mom, dad, sisters, brothers, your mailman, and your acupuncturist) and don't worry about the weight onboard, it is all for fun. Once again it will be a pursuit race, where the slowest boats start first and the fastest last. You end up seeing just about everyone on the course at one point or another. Plenty of time to wish them some holiday cheer or give them some sort of encouragement!

The long and short of it is that we have a lot of great things going on here and you should be a part of it. Please let me know how I can facilitate this for you!

Go ABYC!

Merle

manager's corner



In a time of the year when our hearts and minds should be on giving thanks and preparing for Christmas, and all the joy that is associated with the holidays, I can't stop thinking about our friend and colleague Jesus Espinoza. Around November 16th Jesus' mother, sister and Aunt were involved in a senseless accident outside of Guadalajara, Mexico. Jesus' mother did not survive the accident, and his sister and Aunt were seriously injured.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Jesus and his family, and a special thanks to all the members who have graciously contributed to the special fund established for Jesus.

Well...the buzz around the club these days is the overwhelming success of the annual Turkey Day Regatta and Feast.

It's amazing how inclement weather, lack of wind and impossible parking didn't dampen the spirits of the participants. As one sailor very familiar with this weekend said, "This isn't a Regatta, it's an *event*"

Although the sailing was conducted under less than ideal conditions, the annual Turkey Day Feast came off without a hitch.

Well, if you can call waiting in line for up to two hours for dinner, not a hitch, than put this one in the books as a home run.

I'm always reluctant to name names of people who really made an impact on a particular event, because inevitably, I'll forget someone, *but* I really need to give a shout out to Jeff "email madness" Merrill, Sue McDannel, who insured the buffet line was always well stocked, and Adam Phelps who gave a Herculean effort helping me with 28 Turkeys, and all the necessary fixin's to feed almost 500 people. Thank you all.

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Commodore Asper has had the helm for just over a month now, and I think he's seeing just how complex the club can be on a daily basis.

When I arrived at the club this morning (Sunday) Adam and Rick were standing over a small waterspout shooting up from the concrete by the east yard. The unstable nature of the foundation of the club had reared its ugly head once again. A copper pipe had broken, and a sizeable lake was forming adjacent to flag officer parking. Water was shut off, concrete was broken and removed and our outstanding maintenance department fixed the leak. Never a dull moment at ABYC.

Happy Holidays to all!!!
Kelly Whitlow

vice commodore's notes



Wow! A resounding "CONGRATULATIONS" to all the Turkey Day 2008 participants, staff, and volunteers. Over a hundred of our members volunteered. In a club our size, that translates to one quarter (25+%) of our membership working to make this regatta a success. And truly, a success it was. The largest ever. It appears we have transitioned from an Event to a Happening. That said, be in mind that completion of Turkey Day 2008 does not finalize until debriefing of event tasks and collection of numbers for accounting have taken place. Reminder, if you have any outstanding bills or charges assigned to the regatta, turn them in for payment so that we can close the books ASAP as the end of 2008 approaches.

ABYC's Turkey Day dinner was started in times back by Isabelle Lounsberry's daughter Robin, now Robin Townsend. Get her to tell you her story of that first one. It is a real treat. Little did she know she was establishing a tradition, much less the suggestion of enlisting the flag officers to carve the turkeys. This leads me to my first "major" gaff this year. While Jeff Merrill handled the racing, I was assigned the dinner. Sue McDannel's social committee and Kelly Whitlow's staff organized everything, leaving me to arrange for the turkey carvers. At the November Social meeting, John Merchant and Bill McDannel were "volunteered" by their wives. I thought "slick the turkeys will get carved." That was until I was taken to the wood shed by a Staff Commodore that it was "TRADITION" that the turkeys are "always" carved by staff Commodores. Oops! What have we got here "Fiddler On The Roof"? Cut me some slack...everyone worth their salt was already working the regatta. Besides that, if all the responsible troops knew about this "TRADITION" where was the line up of volunteers for that one? And how about Stacy Childers from a guest yacht club (Coronado YC?) who excitedly jumped in to carve when we needed help. Great Scott! she's not from ABYC? Boy, am I in for it...So, I now throw out this challenge to the membership. Puleeeze, send me all known "TRADITIONS" real or imagined so that they may be documented for the future generations of ABYC. I'm betting there are some whoppers out there.. cheers

Massey

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Turkey Day was a wonderful festival, a whirlwind of activity with legions of people cascading about ABYC...if you were at the club you know what I'm talking about, if you missed it, make sure you don't in 2009.

John Massey and I took on Turkey Day as co-regatta chairmen for 2008 and I don't want to fill up this whole issue of the Sou'Wester up with the names of our over 100 volunteers (apologies for not listing every deserving name), but I would like to be sure to thank John and Donna Massey along with my wife Pam Merrill for all of the extra time it takes to put on this event. Jr. Staff commodore Glenn Selvin told me Turkey Day is not a regatta; it's a "happening", very true! See full details in another article.

Friday (Turkey Day Eve Day), as the early birds started to arrive for the regatta we rolled into our November membership meeting, the first chaired by commodore Asper. The business side of the meeting was swift and the highlight was a wonderful slide show presentation from Rich Roberts featuring all kinds of sailing photos (many of which are framed and displayed at the club) and tips on how to take good shots – thanks Rich, great program and thank you to the Cal 20 fleet for hosting the event and serving food, cleaning up, etc.! It was a great way to start off Turkey Day.

Christmas is now upon us and we have our annual party Sunday December 14th. We all get busy with holiday preparations and lose the motivation to drag ourselves down to the club...re- think that thought, the trees in the bay are beautiful to behold (personally I like to look for the night herons that seem to take station on each floating tree). And all of your sailing friends will be coming down for Happy Hours every Friday night. How about a cool and lazy December afternoon with the Swedish fireplace on in the quarterdeck...it's time we let 2008 slip out the door and get ready for 2009.

There are fleet parties to attend (check the website for dates) and the Naples boat parade is Saturday December 13th - with the junior board of directors actively planning this year's float.

And just when you think we're all done we give you our finale – the Boxing Day regatta pursuit race – on Saturday, December 27th. This is always well attended and one of our real fun races since all classes are invited and we sail as one fleet in the bay – watching a Melges 24 flying a spinnaker attempting to catch up to a Lido 14 wing and wing trying to reel in a sabot ...it's really the sailing version of that old cartoon where the bigger fish has its' mouth open to eat a smaller fish, while from behind a larger fish looms...but in this case sometimes the small fry gets away! Mark Townsend is PRO for this baby and he usually has a new twist to make each rendition slightly more intriguing, guess you'll have to show up to find out what he has in store this year (and this event is one that is just about as much fun for spectators as participants so bring the family!).

The daily news covering the financial crisis is going to affect all of us. I'd like to remind all of our members that the value of your ABYC membership should be appreciated even more now as we all try to cut back, save and dig in a bit. I won't be surprised at all if we see an expansion in membership and an increase in activity at the club, it's a logical way to get through a tough economy...don't retreat or go silent, come down to the club and live life OUT LOUD! ABYC can be your home away from home and our social committee is looking to see what kinds of events might make coming down to the club even more attractive (please send me your ideas, I've already heard a few from previous rounds of "good old days"). Our galley serves delicious meals, our bar prices are the lowest in town, all of your sailing friends are here and the view...the view isn't half bad at all.

Thanks for making 2008 great. We are ready for an even better 2009.

See you at the club!

Jeff Merrill – mobile 949.355.4950

fleet captain's log



Our fleet is stronger than ever. Patience has 12 hours running time since the overhaul and she is purring like a kitten and just in time for Turkey Day. We are organizing classes to ensure that our PRO's and drivers are well trained in handling Patience and well as where all of the equipment is stored. These refresher classes will go a long way to keep Patience in good working order.

Our whaler fleet is also in good condition. Whaler #5, one of our 17's, is currently under rehab. The engine works good and Rick and Adam are hard at work making her look like the rest of our reconditioned whalers. Whaler #1 and #2 are next. We will have Capt'n Glass take a look at each of these whalers and we will make a determination if it is economical to refurbish them or if we need replace them.

Race management is doing a great job. Online registration is going very well. Turkey Day, as of Thursday before the regatta, had 278 entries. Competitors experienced some entry frustrations but with a little explanation they were easily overcome. Boxing day is next and as usual Mark Townsend has this regatta well in hand. This should be a great regatta and I would like all of you to join in the fun.

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The container for the race committee equipment is almost complete. The interior has been painted and carpeted. Cabinets to hold much of the equipment have been installed and the remainder have been completed and are ready to be installed. The container looked so good, Dave Myers was ready to move in and put out his mailbox. Many thanks go to Robin Townsend, Mark Townsend, Bob Chubb and Dave Rustigan for the hard work to get the container ready for the race equipment. If you get a chance go by and take a look at their handy work.

ABYC has a great tradition for incredible race management and part of that is protest committee and judging. We are looking for some volunteers. This is an important part of race management and we need some new blood. I would like to organize a class for judges and protest committee volunteers. If you would like to be a judge or protest committee volunteer please contact me at your earliest convenience. We need you. We have a number of regattas coming up so you can get some experience quickly so we can get the training started.

See you around the club

Jon Robinson

from the pages of history

News of the Turkey Day Regatta seems to be the common theme among the December SOU'WESTER's of the past—that and the changing of the guard in fleets of Alamitos Bay Yacht Club.

THIRTY YEARS AGO:

There was no single news article on the 1978 Turkey Day Regatta in the SOU'WESTER for December of that year, but several fleet reports alluded to an event that was sunny and warm but with pretty light airs. There were a total of 170 boats on hand for the event and the Cal 20 fleet had the duty.

There was some pretty tight racing, apparently. The Lasers had four races with a discard, which led to a tie on points between Kurt Miller of St. Francis Yacht Club (now of ABYC) and Chuck Queen of Ventura Yacht Club (later of ABYC). Chuck led after Day One and won the first race of Sunday but was disqualified after having finished first in the last race; discarding the DSQ led to the tiebreaker, which went to Miller under the tiebreaking rule of the day. A discard—and some good sailing—led to John Shadden, sailing with Pete Frazier, come from behind on Saturday to win in the Snipe class.

Tom Newton, Jr., touched out Mark Golison for first place in the Senior Sabot class of Turkey Day; Mark was then sailing under the Long Beach Yacht Club burgee. Jack Franco of Balboa Yacht Club was tops in the Lido 14 "A" division ahead of ABYC's Harry Wood; Dave Smith was tops in the "B" fleet against fellow ABYC member Harry Hutchinson. And Rod Ogilby took first place in the PHRF "B" division—yes, in those days there were PHRF boats at Turkey Day, and two divisions of 'em!—to garner both a turkey and the lead in the hunt for the Holiday Series Perpetual.

A full page was dedicated to the fleet championship of Cal 25 Fleet V; Bob Kirstine, then of Long Beach Yacht Club (and now of ABYC) won on a tiebreaker while third place went to Tom Newton, Jr., of ABYC...Don Brown was Challenge Chairman for ABYC in 1979 and asked Bruce Golison and John Weiss to join him on a Challenge Racing Committee; their goal was to field ABYC teams for as many USYRU championships as possible as well as such events as the Junior Team Race Championship...fleets announced their captains for the coming year; among the honchos were Terri Clapp (C-15), Dick Russell (Coronado 25), John Hsu (I-14), Charlie Cummings (Lido 14), Tony Fallon (Senior Sabots) and Sherwood Jones (Snipe)...

TWENTY YEARS AGO:

The 1988 Turkey Day Regatta "almost had it all," said the article on the event in the SOU'WESTER of December, 1988: "165 boats from almost 20 yacht clubs, sailors from San Diego to San Francisco and almost everywhere in between, even an Olympic medalist"—but apparently very little wind. Only two races a day were sailed among the ten classes in the harbor but the six divisions on Alamitos Bay got in five.

There were plenty of keelboats on hand, including ten PHRF boats, six Andrews 26's sailing as a one-design, seven Etchells (the entire fleet in those days), a dozen Cal 20's and 14 J/24's; John KostECKI of StFYC was tops in the latter fleet while Ken Frost won in Etchells. Dinghy fleets on the harbor course included 5-0-5's (Howard Hamlin was the winner), Snipes, C-15's, Lasers and I-14's. The bay only saw a total of 35 Sabots in five divisions, but the largest group among them were the Junior "C's" in two divisions of their own; out-of-town sailors dominated the Bay fleets, including that of the Lido 14 fleet (understandable, that, as the local Lido fleet was the duty fleet).

A lovely handwritten letter was reprinted in the SOU'WESTER. "I am writing to thank you and all ABYC members for the support and encouragement you gave to our 1988 Olympic effort," the skipper wrote. "The Club is consistently generous in offering facilities and hospitality to Olympic aspirants." She concluded by saying. "I am proud to be a member of ABYC—it is definitely recognized nationally as a great club. Thanks for all your help over the past two years." The author? Pease Herndon, now Pease Glaser; her 1988 women's 470 campaign did not end in Olympic success but her 2000 campaign with J.J. Isler ended with a medal.

With the Installation Dinner having run so late in the year in 1988, an article ran in December; among the winners of honor awards were Keith Ives (Don Adams Memorial Outstanding Junior Sailor Award), Stacy Conn (Frances Dixon Nason Sportsmanship Award) Margaret Caddle (Ted Matson Memorial Service Award)...an obituary for Don Brackenbury, ABYC's long time Bay PRO, took up an entire page; he was described as a "journalist, sailor, wit, raconteur and bon vivant"...Peter Gales and Tom Newton, Jr., sailed in the McDonnell Douglas Sailing Club's Around Terminal Island Race; after almost three-and-a-half hours, four boatlengths divided the duo, with Tom in the lead...

TEN YEARS AGO:

The deadline for the December, 1998, SOU'WESTER came too early to get news in on the Turkey Day Regatta for that year, but a gem was printed in the edition: a report on the 1958 Turkey Day Regatta ran in Ann Exley's "From the Pages of History" column. It was like so many other Turkey Day Regattas: the winds were light. But a record 191 boats in 18 classes were on hand, reported to be the largest regatta in the history of ABYC and considerably more than the 118 boats that sailed in 1957.

The rest of the report is a real walk down memory lane, both as to names of winners an as to classes invited. There were eight classes sailing out in the harbor, including an Ocean Racing division, won by George Hart, Jr., of ABYC, and a K-38 class, won by the legendary Peggy Slater. Other keelboats included Feathers and Dragons; dinghy classes were Thistles, Snipes and Nationals; and Warren Seaman won an 11-boat Malibu Outrigger class.

In the Bay a brother-and-sister team took top honors in junior Sabots: fifteen-year-old Henry Schofield was tops in the Sabot I division while his thirteen-year-old sister Margaret was tops in the Sabot II division. Other winners included Jerry Thompson in Senior Naples Sabots and a kid from Balboa named Dave Ullman in the Seabright class. Other classes in the Bay included Skimmer, Satellite, Metcalf, Lido 14 (then a brand-new class) and Win'ard Sabot.

ABYC's Etchells fleet held an Etchells Demo Day that was well attended. Among the guest skippers were Stacy Jackson and John Chapman, both interested in owning Etchells; it must have helped as both ended up members of the fleet! It was reported that three ABYC Staff Commodores—Dave Dorrans, Pat Bixby and Chris Ericksen—set sail and made it back with no mishap. The day ended with a barbecue dinner and awarding of the Fleet Championship Trophy to Larry Harvey and Stan Gibbs.

ABYC's Juniors again were collecting toys for the Children's Dental Clinic: members were asked to bring a wrapped toy marked with the appropriate age and gender of the recipient and deposit it in a large box in the ABYC lobby...passings were noted among the ABYC family, including that of Clare Hossom, mother of Linda Landes, and of Betsy Ogilby, an ABYC member in her own right and mother of Cathy, David, Tina and Becky Black...Senior Sabot Fleet Captain Bobby Baker (now Bobbie Hodges) reported that Ladies' Day was in risk of being stricken from the ABYC calendar owing to low turnouts in recent years; "use it or lose it" was the phrase in her report...

Chris Ericksen, Club Historian

the bay clogger (junior sailing)

Brad Schaupteter photo

Hello ABYC Members and happy holidays! The Junior Program is trucking along through the colder months and having lots of fun. This past weekend was the annual Turkey Day Regatta where we had 45 ABYC Juniors compete! The weekend held light and variable winds with a fog bank rolling in on Saturday that looked like something out of a Stephen King film. The sailors could see it coming and we all took our bearings before it hit so not to get lost. Fortunately, everyone was just fine and even sailed one more race before calling it an early day. On Sunday, the wind was extremely light and became a bit of a drifter at times, but the kids toughed it out. Admittedly with the tough conditions, the race committee did a great job to get the regatta off and the kids did a good job of keeping their heads in the game.

Some of the highlights included an amazing finish from Riley Gibbs of 4th overall in the very competitive Sabot A fleet followed by Jacob Rosenberg's first top 10 finish ending up in 9th in A's (and he's only 10 years old)! We also saw a strong finish from our B's as Steven Hopkins finally nabbed the top spot overall with Matt McDermaid close behind in 2nd overall. Richard Bell caught fire yet again and won the C1 division. He has been on a winning streak since the Sabot Nationals in August where he qualified for the Silver fleet and has since placed in every regatta he has sailed in. He was followed closely by John McInerney (more affectionately known as "J-Mac") in 4th place.

Another sailor who has caught fire and is moving up the ranks rapidly is Dana Boudreau who was in first place after Saturday in the C2 fleet, but fell to the light breeze and ended up in 2nd overall on Sunday. Rory Gaudio, who is also an ABYC member, finished in a strong 3rd place overall.



Stephen Hopkins after his "swim" having finished 1st in the Sabot B Fleet

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Our C3 crew was mostly rookie sailors and they did outstandingly well with Shannon Hughes finishing the best in 8th overall. We saw many highlights from them though including Jacob Warren winning one race as well as a host of others grabbing at least one top five finish. I think there is a lot of promise in these young sailors.

In other news, a few of our sailors are going to Orange Bowl this year in Miami, Florida to compete at one of the biggest youth events in the country. Samantha Gebb, Laura Newton, Jack Jorgensen, and Derek Smith (all 420's), Ian Paice (lasers) will go compete in the four-day event. It is a tremendous accomplishment to graduate to the level of competing across country and we wish them the best of luck in this huge event.

Finally, as we have just passed the Thanksgiving holiday, it reminds me just how thankful I am for all of our junior sailors and especially their parents who are incredibly supportive and make this program happen. In particular, thank you so much to the Junior Advisory Board for their countless hours of work on trailers, storage units, organization and playing "Mr. Fixit" to the junior program. They are Doug Jorgensen (Chair), Latham Bell, Brad Bolger, Mark Golison, Bob Kirstine, John Massey, Chas Merrill, Jeff Merrill, Tom Newton, Jon Robinson, and Marc Schryer. Thank you to them and all our supportive and amazing parent base! Have a wonderful holiday and we'll see you next year!

Brad Schaupter, ABYC Junior Sailing Director

Top Young Sailors from Across the Nation Compete in Chubb U.S. Junior Championships in Chicago - Bemis Cup

Jack Jorgensen, Freshman @ St. Francis High School, La Canada, recently sailed in the US Junior Sailing Championships in Chicago Ill. The events featured competition in single-, double-, and triple-handed classes sailing Lasers, Club 420s and Lightnings respectively. Accomplished junior sailors from across the country qualified to race in this regatta based on their performance in a ladder system of numerous eliminations held at dozens of sailing organizations nationwide

Jack was skippering a C420, his crew was Samantha Gebb from Long Beach, CA. Sailing out of Alamitos Bay Yacht Club in Long Beach, they were 1 of 2 boats who qualified to represent Southern California. It was quite an experience for Jack and his crew. Their finishes included a 1st and two 3rds in the individual races. Jack has been sailing competitively for about 6 years in the Naples Sabot, Laser, (single handed boats) CFJ and the C420, (double handed boats).

Sponsored by the Chubb Group of Insurance Companies and LaserPerformance, The Bemis Trophy, established in 1975, is awarded to the winning duo in the 420 fleet and is named for F. Gregg Bemis who was known for his work on the Racing Rules of Sailing and his leadership role in judging at junior and intercollegiate regattas. This fleet was comprised of a deep field of talented young sailors.



Bemis skyline photo

membership report

Hi Folks, from the incoming 2009 Membership Chair, John Williams. I'm very pleased to have been asked to take over Ken Reiff's role as he moves on to become a member of our 2009 Board. As someone who's admired ABYC's heritage and expertise from afar (Pensacola, FL) until just over a year ago, I'm really happy to be both a recent transplant and a member of such a terrific and vibrant club. I've been your guest for various championship events since 1999 – getting deeper into the gears of what makes a yacht club great has been a fascinating journey. What most of you long-timers probably take for granted, but what I am only just learning, is that a club's membership creates the foundation – not the brick and mortar. Jesus' tortillas and Tori's rummies are the frosting on the cake, but it is the high degree of membership involvement that makes a club really jump. A staggering 25% of the membership was

Jeff Merrill photos



The Elsharhaw Family with John Williams and Merle Asper

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more membership

involved with running the Turkey Day event this year at some level. That is incredible. Our fellowship and camaraderie are the strongest reasons for our success. I'm excited to be a part of it!

We were happy to ring in the Elsharhaw family as new members this month. Tarek and his lovely wife Shelly have four Sabot kids; Adam, Nora, Sammy and Ryan. They came to ABYC for our Junior program, and you can expect to see Team Elsharhaw representing ABYC in the regional standings next season. Thank you to Pete Melvin, who was the primary sponsor for these new members!

Also getting a burgee at the last meeting were Bob and Lisa Little, along with their kids Bobby and Sailor – the Littles have been around the club for a while, but somehow we missed giving them a burgee. If you know of a recent member who hasn't been properly recognized, please drop me a note and I'll make sure we get them to the next meeting.

See you at the club –

John Williams, Membership Chair

(562)343-5085, john.e.williams@charter.net



The Little Family with John Williams and Merle Asper

more turkey day

"I've sailed in all kinds of conditions here over the years, but I've never sailed in a fog on Turkey Day," Glaser said, laughing. "Turkey Day is an event, not a regatta."

The fog did in the best of them. Pete Melvin, twice the world A-Cat champion, led early in the only race but wound up third to Pease Glaser's husband, Jay.

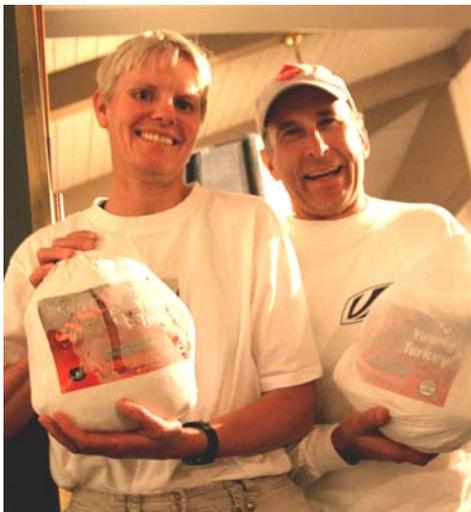
"Jay was right behind me when I jibed," Melvin said, "but I couldn't see the [leeward] mark and jibed too soon, and he got past me."

Steve Washburn was PRO on that course, which ran only one race, and LaCasella said, "I think he did the right thing by not calling the race, not moving the marks—and not having another race."

Racing concludes Sunday with the sailors competing not for trophies but for turkeys and pies. Competitors may discard their worst finishes after five races. Racing will start at noon, conditions permitting.



ABYC's Jeff Newsome and Michelle Eatough found their way in the fog



Jay (r.) and Pease Glaser won a double helping of birds

A turkey for Germany, a double helping for Glasers Day 2

Michael Zittlau of Germany had never sailed in the USA but probably never celebrated Thanksgiving in his homeland, either, so he's glad he sailed in Alamitos Bay Yacht Club's annual Turkey Day Regatta, anyway.

But when his peers back home asked what kind of trophy he collected, they may be puzzled when he tells them: "A turkey."

Zittlau, 20, of Ueberlingen, outsailed 29 other Laser full-rigs in conditions far less than ideal, with dense fog Saturday and winds so light Sunday that photography looked more like oil paintings.

"I like strong winds," Zittlau, 20, said after suffering with his peers.

Nevertheless, he figured out that the key to success when the zephyrs dip to 2-3 knots and swing left and right by up to 60 degrees that "the most important thing is to keep the boat moving. When the wind is so light and shifting like that you have to look ahead to where the water is stirring to know where to go."

Zittlau came over to visit a cousin in San Diego and hooked up with Andrew Campbell, the U.S. Olympic Laser coach who arranged for him to borrow a

...continued next page

boat from the San Diego Yacht Club. He has been sailing a Laser five years and won the Europe Cup for the class earlier this year, lifting his hopes for representing Germany in the Olympics in England in 2012.

"I'm trying to get there," he said. "I'm in a youth group in Germany and am sailing as much as I can."

Zittlau was one of three foreign competitors in a turnout of 319 boats in 19 classes, which is believed to be a record for the event launched in 1948.

Other winners were the husband-wife team of Jay and Pease (pee-zee) Glaser, who probably wouldn't trade their Olympic silver medals for the turkeys they won for winning the A-Cat and Formula 18 classes, respectively.

So who will do the cooking?

"Pease will," Jay offered.

The little wind that did come through Sunday died to a 0.0-knot reading in mid-afternoon and prevented all of the ocean class boats on two outside courses to sail only two to five of their scheduled six races. The Lido 14s and Naples Sabots managed to do all six after putting an extra fourth race in the bank on Saturday.

Rich Roberts, richsail@earthlink.net



ABYC's Ryan and Ross Butcher raced in Lido-B with autographed sail from the class champs



Frustrated fleets of high-speed boats on Alpha course waited in vain for brisk wind to arrive Sunday



The other end of the start line faded away



Chris Rutz and Adam Riscitto of San Francisco sail their stylish I-14



Dan DeLave and Eileen Haubl chase F-18 winners Pease Glaser and Damon Casella



Paris Henken and Nina Malingri finished third in 29ers

9th Annual Boxing Day Regatta Pursuit Race Saturday December 27, 2008

Turkey Day Regatta is over, so it's time for the last holiday regatta...Boxing Day!
This year's Boxing Day regatta will be on Saturday December 27, and your last chance to hit the water in 2008!
Once again it will be a pursuit race, where the slowest boats start first and the fastest last. Last year saw Eric Conn in his Mercury hold of the faster boats, with Stan Gibbs winning the "boats with heads" fleet in his Cal 25.
Despite last year's spectacular downwind Le Mans start from the dock, after some reflection the spirit of tradition has caused us to reconsider this innovation. So make yourself a Turkey sandwich, grab something hot or cold to drink and come play on the bay Saturday December 27, 2008 starting at 1pm.

Enter on-line at <http://www.abyc.org/event.cfm?id=288>

Mark Townsend

ABYC CHRISTMAS PARTY!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2008
5:00 p.m. - UNTIL THE LAST CAROL HAS BEEN SUNG!
ABYC SECOND DECK



The Evening Will Include:
Pictures with Santa
Gifts for the Kids
Prime Rib & Turkey Dinner
Your Favorite Christmas Carol Sing-a-long!

Adults \$18.00 Kids under 12yrs. \$8.00
For reservations call the ABYC office at 434-9955
After December 10th
Adults \$25.00 Kids \$15.00



turkey day volunteers

Turkey Day – where the ABYC volunteer spirit shines!

Over 300 boats on the water and over 100 volunteers, this is an enormous event that we can all share a lot of pride in sponsoring. John Massey and I were the co-chairs this year, but we were assisted by an amazing assemblage of supporters.

Online registration was hugely successful, with 257 entries received over the internet before our noon Friday cut off – we expected a dozen or so on Saturday, wrong! Another 60 entries rolled in. We have learned a few lessons to streamline and improve this process and are in great shape for full-scale implementation in 2009. Special acknowledgment to Chris Ericksen for coordinating with Regatta Network and Jim Morford for in-putting data and converting names and sail numbers into our scoring system (with help and special kudos to Toni Morford, Mark and Robin Townsend, Sharon Pearson and Sandy Toscan for their contributions).

Fleet Captain Jon Robinson with the help of Rick Rose and Adam Phelps had our whalers ready to go with special thanks to Vern Peterson and George Caddle for making sure Patience was up to speed with her newly refurbished engine. Also thanks to LBYC for the use of two of their whalers.

Dave Myers, our port captain, handed out dozens of anchors and marks, radios and boat kits...which he always does with finesse, but was particularly impressive this year since we had recently moved everything from our building and shed to the new race container and things weren't always found where they were last seen.

We staffed up deep with parking coordinators including Cliff Mathias, Jim McInerney, John Williams, Yvonne Galvez and Steve Kuritz – we blocked off the lot across the street for trailers and volunteer parking only and it worked out great (unless you were a visiting yachtsman who arrived after the lots filled up). But this year we had our shuttle bus running again and Jim Drury was our outpost coordinator at the Claremont launch ramp lot to make sure everyone got a pass and a free ride to the club.

Steve Flam took on the lead as yard coordinator and was unbelievable! We had a smooth flow of cars unhooking trailers and color coded the trailers so we knew which could stay in the yard serving as a dolly (for a Lido or C-15) and which were keel boat or coach boat trailers that could be moved across the street to the overflow lot since those boats spent the night in the water. Steve Bloemeke, Doug Jorgensen, Ken Reiff and Latham Bell were joined by the "Rusaw Ranglers" – Brian, Zack and Sam Rusaw to manhandle and relocate all of the visiting trailers. This is a very physical mission, thanks guys!

Heavy lifting was conducted by Stan Gibbs who manned the large hoist. Kathy Schriefer and Don Taugher ran the small hoist and we dunked a raft of racers with all of their help.

Lynda Peoples was ramp boss (a difficult position to coordinate, but one she did with grace and efficiency). We ramp launched 225 of the 319 boats entered (Lynda did this estimate after the event) and what gets splashed also returns home to the roost so it was not uncommon to see the ramp crew reclined once the docks cleared, catching their breath and storing up energy for the afternoon onslaught. Thanks to Chris Peoples, Kirsten Warren, Matt Rustigan and Steve Flam again, plus many, many more parents and volunteers for helping to keep things "ramped up" – particularly hectic with the low tide coinciding with mid afternoon!

On the water we had three outstanding PRO's; Steve Washburn, Bob Anderson and Jerry Montgomery with head scorers, Sandy Toscan, Karen Fox and Sharon Pearson – all very experienced and each sailing venue was deep with volunteers who raised flags, moved marks, recorded finishers, monitored the VHF, kept an eye out for the safety of the competitors and helped run outstanding races in trying conditions that featured light air both days and a dense fog on Saturday.

Kelly Whitlow and the entire ABYC staff did a great job of hosting all of the sailors and the traditional Turkey feast was delicious, I don't know how our guys can cook so much food and keep it warm and tasty. Turkey carvers included Bill McDannel, John Merchant and Stacy Childers.

Sue McDannel, Donna and Stacy Massey plus Diane Bateman, and more helped with the dinner event – preparing tables, cutting pies, there's a lot involved. We also gave out dinner tickets this year – featuring commodore Merle Asper on the currency – and we promise to get the dinner line moving faster next year. Servers included Pam Merrill, Marilyn Wright (a new member who was at ABYC for the first time Turkey Day weekend – Marilyn, it's not always this crowded I promise!) and Georgia Merchant.

Margaret Caddle gathered an all star team of judges to hear protests, Bill McDannel with Pam Beckham and Julie Luckey staffed the volunteer check in, we had many of the people already named in entry registration (also assisted by Kelli Clinton, Elayne Curley, Kim Blumberg and more) and I know I'm going to miss calling out a couple dozen other very noteworthy efforts by volunteers, but please know that every effort was truly appreciated and the "happening" wouldn't happen without so many ABYC volunteers pitching in. It should also be mentioned that we had more than a dozen visiting yacht club volunteers help out, a tribute to the camaraderie we all see in our small world sailing community.

And last but not least, I counted a dozen staff commodores (all of whom have been Turkey Day chair at one point in their lives and understand what is involved) who came to take on all kinds of chores. This list of names would include; Jerry Montgomery, Jim Bateman, Dave Crockett, Sr., Chuck Hardin, Chas Merrill, Norma Clapp, Jim Morford, Mark Townsend, John Merchant (and apologies if I forgot to list you) plus most of their spouses. I commented to Mark Townsend that we are so lucky at ABYC to have so many chiefs who can function just as happily as Indians (OK, probably not PC, but I don't know the "new" analogy, please forgive me this one time, it's kind of in the spirit of the pilgrim and Indian time of year).

John Massey and I salute all of the Turkey Day volunteers and can't thank you enough!

Jeff Merrill

2008 Halloween Regatta

Gray morning fog, greeted a small group of *Laser* and *Radial* sailors for what turned out to be a beautiful day, for the Halloween Regatta. Our Race Committee wisely postponed on shore for wind and was rewarded with lifting fog and a nice breeze to get underway with a minimal postponement.

Following A-Cats, Etchells and Cal 20's, the combined *Laser* and *Radial* fleet set off on a once-around windward-leeward course. Reaching the first weather mark was a close group with ABYC's **Jorge Suarez** leading your author and Michael Bradley from Long Beach YC. Also in the hunt was young Morgan Matthews from Bahia Corinthian YC proving a well sailed *Radial* can keep up with a full-rig *Laser* in a breeze. Morgan won the first race followed by ABYC's **Palmer Luckey** sailing a *vintage Radial* complete with multi-colored sail.

A nice breeze keeping everyone hiking hard continued for two more races. Race Committee **Steve & Jennifer Kuritz** along with **Joe Riddick** and the rest of the race committee volunteers, kept the action moving. Race two was a twice around affair and **Jorge** did a horizon job on us while Morgan notched another win in the *Radial* fleet. In race three, Michael Bradley wisely noted a committee boat line favor and got launched with a nice port tack start. An interesting twist occurred as we raced upwind when the race committee dropped an orange tetrahedron mark half-way up our weather leg. Overcoming my confusion and generous advice from Jorge, we continued to the correct mark further upwind. Turns out a HUGE tanker had slipped inside the breakwater and anchored in our race area, blocking the course for the Etchells and Cal 20's, hence their course change. I mean that tanker was *big*...unbeknownst to me, the tanker had anchored between races and when I looked up to see it head-on, my heart skipped a beat. The bow had to be twelve stories high, blotting out the sun!

Despite the excitement, your author did manage to slip ahead and finish the last race in first, followed by Jorge who just nipped Michael at the finish. Morgan continued his winning ways with three bullets in the *Radial* fleet, consistently hanging in with the full rig *Lasers* all day. Other ABYC racers competing in the *Radial* fleet, finishing in order where; **Andrew McLean**, **Dugan Farrell** and **Kate Bishop**. **Jorge** finished the regatta first in the full-rig fleet followed by your author, Michael Bradley and ABYC's **Bob Anderson** making his welcome second appearance in the *Laser* fleet this season.

2008 Charity Regatta

Despite gray morning fog, twelve *Laser* and *Radial* sailors showed up to compete, on what turned out to be a beautiful day, for the Charity Regatta. Marc Schryer and his race committee started seven full-rigs and five *Radials* together, sending us on a "bay cruise", i.e. westward down the channel to marks F, A & B. We enjoyed enough breeze in the main part of the Bay to exercise our hiking muscles and challenge our ability to take advantage of the shifts. The breeze also made it possible to sail to marks F, A & B with enough wind to keep the boats moving and skippers challenged. Although the Bay was also full of Sabots, the fleets were able to compete with a minimum of interference.

The racing was close in both fleets with several lead changes, overlaps at the marks and the finish line. In the last full-rig race, **Jim Kirk** crossed the line and received a finish signal from the race committee to apparently win the series with your author close behind. Jim and I both then realized, we and the race committee were in error, as **Eric Chadwick** and **John Bergan** rounded the mark and proceeded to complete a second lap of the course. Gathering our wits, Jim and I set off to chase Eric and John and complete the proper course. This worked out well for your author as I was able to catch and nip John and Eric to finish first and win the series by a mere single point. John and Eric finished next in order with Jim in fourth. Also from ABYC and taking a decisive victory in the second race of the day was **Andrew MacLean** who ended up third overall.

In the *Radial* fleet, **Dugan Farrell**, **Palmer Luckey** and **Derek Landeau** traded the top three spots in three races leaving Dugan and Palmer tied on points but with Dugan winning the tie breaker. Derek was only three points back in third with **Hilton Beckham** and **Kate Bishop** rounding out the finishers with an all ABYC group.

ABYC *Laser* Fleet Participation at All Time High

Each regatta brings out new ABYC members racing *Lasers*, *Radials* or the newest addition to the fleet, the *Laser* 4.7. This season there have been 37 individual ABYC members racing *Lasers* in at least one event this year. With three rig options available, the *Laser* offers a simple yet challenging sailboat and great competition for nearly any size, age or gender sailor. So dust off your *Laser* in the yard, buy or borrow one and come join us!

2008 ABYC Laser & Radial Fleet Championship

Adding results from the Charity Regatta, **Jim Kirk** now holds a slim lead over **Cameron Summers** for the title of 2008 ABYC *Laser* full-rig Fleet Champion. With only the Turkey Day Regatta left to score for the championship, the title is up in the air. Depending on how many boats show and who places well, there is still a mathematical chance **Ian Paice**, **Chuck Tripp** and **Vann Wilson** could also challenge for the title.

In the *Radial* fleet, as a result of his top ten placement in the *Laser* Nationals, **Chris Barnhard** holds a significant lead; however, depending on who and how many *Radials* show up for Turkey Day, **Ryan McNaboe** is within striking distance. Whoever does win will be eligible to represent the *Laser* Fleet in the 2009 ABYC Club Championship.

2008 Turkey Day Regatta

Lasers and *Laser Radials* comprised the second largest class turn-out for the largest regatta on the ABYC calendar, as 30 *Lasers* and 66 *Radials* signed up for the 2008 Turkey Day Regatta. *Radial* participation was no doubt enhanced as

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Turkey Day served as the second installment of the popular Southern California Youth Yacht Racing Association, Ullman/Frost series of races.

The ABYC boatyard and surroundings were a merry maelstrom of activity Saturday morning as racers prepared their boats, registered and ate breakfast. Light winds greeted the racers as they sailed to the racecourse. *Lasers* got off as the first class of the day on a mercifully short, once around, windward-leeward course. The racing became more interesting as halfway to the weather mark in the second race of the day, a thick fog bank rolled across the course.

Visibility was now down to 60-100 yards which meant at times you would find yourself with no visual references, until another boat would emerge from the mist or you could see marks or race committee boats. For this sailor accustomed to bright Southern California sunshine, these conditions were a unique, yet enjoyable challenge. It was a very good day to have a compass to judge wind shifts, downwind courses and a course back to the jetty and the clubhouse.

Awaiting the third race of the day fog persisted, making it impossible for competitors and the race committee to view the pin-end of the starting line. While some racers contemplated the idea of a shrouded, unobserved premature start, the race committee just shortened the line, scotching that nefarious plan.

The light to nonexistent and shifty winds postponed racing for several classes, but *Lasers* were able to complete three races Saturday. **Mac Mace** from Newport Harbor Yacht Club (NHYC) was in first place, followed by **Michael Zittlau** from Segelund Motorboat Club Ueberlingen GERMANY. Also scoring first place finishes on the day were **Philip Lozier** from Coronado Yacht Club and your author.

On Saturday, *Radials* were unfortunately able to complete only two races. Additionally, this author understands mark rounding was often a challenge with the large fleet converging at the weather mark in the fog. In this fleet, **Chris Barnard** from NHYC was in first with two bullets, followed by **Oliver Toole** from Santa Barbara Yacht Club (SBYC) and a three way tie for third between **Ben Spector** from California Yacht Club, **Sally Mace** from NHYC and **Sky Adams** from SBYC.

Sunday greeted sailors with calm winds, overcast skies but no fog. Enough breeze allowed nearly everyone to reach the race course without a tow. Since *Radials* got short shrift on Saturday, they were allowed to start first; however, with this aggressive fleet in a light breeze causing a General Recall; it looked like it was going to be a long day of drifting. Despite the light, shifty winds, *Radials* did complete two races; however, the results board reflected a large number of DNF's indicating many racers gave up in the last race who headed in to get a jump on the post regatta traffic jam.

Chris Barnard continued his winning ways to win the regatta, followed by **Oliver Toole**, **Ben Spector**, **Olin Paine** from Mission Bay Yacht Club (MBYC) and **Matt Morris** from San Diego Yacht Club and MBYC rounding out the top five. Other ABYC racers finishing in order were; **Palmer Luckey**, **Samantha Gebb**, **Andrew MacLean**, **Kevin Baumann**, **Jack Jorgenson**, **Spencer Snook**, **Hilton Beckham** and **Kate Bishop**.

The *Laser* fleet was able to complete only one race on Sunday before the race committee made the prescient decision to abandon all racing for the day. **Brian Cottrell** from King Harbor Yacht Club mastered the light and shifting zephyrs to win the race and finish the regatta in fifth place.

Michael Zittlau finished second and won overall. Regatta Media Contact, **Rich Roberts** wrote; "Michael Zittlau of Germany had never sailed in the USA and probably never celebrated Thanksgiving in his homeland, but he's glad he sailed in Alamitos Bay Yacht Club's annual Turkey Day Regatta, anyway. But when his peers back home asked what kind of trophy he collected, they may be puzzled when he tells them...a turkey.

"I like strong winds," Zittlau, 20, said after suffering with his peers. Nevertheless, he figured out that the key to success when the zephyrs dip to 2-3 knots and swing left and right by up to 60 degrees, "the most important thing is to keep the boat moving. When the wind is so light and shifting like that you have to look ahead to where the water is stirring to know where to go."

Zittlau came over to visit a cousin [in] San Diego and hooked up with Andrew Campbell, the U.S. Olympic *Laser* coach who arranged for him to borrow a boat from the San Diego Yacht Club.

He has been sailing a *Laser* five years and won the Europe Cup for the class earlier this year, lifting his hopes for representing Germany in the Olympics in England in 2012." ¹

Following Michael in order were; **Mac Mace**, **Philip Lozier**, and **Jay Golison** from ABYC. Other ABYC racers finishing in order were; **Cameron Summers**, your author, **Chuck Tripp**, **Mark Juranek**, **Ian Paice** and **Jim Kirk**.

2008 ABYC Laser & Radial Fleet Championship

With the final race of our 2008 ABYC *Laser* Fleet Championship series in the books, we know our *Laser* and *Radial* champions. Capping a busy and successful season, **Cameron Summers** is the 2008 ABYC *Laser* Fleet Champion. Following



Michael Zittlau accepts his first place trophy from Commodore Merle Asper. Rich Roberts photo.

hails from the fleets

in second place is **Jim Kirk**. There is a tie for third as **Chuck Tripp** and newcomer to the fleet, **Ian Paice** finished tied on points. Another fleet newcomer, **Mark Juranek** rounds out the top five.

In our *Radial* Fleet, **Chris Barnard** representing both ABYC and NHYC ran away with the prize due to his excellent results in both the highly scored *Laser* Nationals and Turkey Day events. Following Chris in order are; **Andrew MacLean, Palmer Luckey, Ryan McNaboe** and **Spenser Snook** rounding out our top five. **Cameron** and **Chris** have now won the privilege to represent the *Laser* Fleet in the 2009 ABYC Club Championship.

Steven Smith, ABYC Laser Fleet Co-Captain

Philip Mumm photos

F18

ABYC Teams Travel to Florida
A group of three ABYC Formula 18 catamaran teams traveled to

Pensacola, Florida for the F18 North Americans held October 13-17. ABYC members Dan DeLave and Eileen Haubl, John Williams, and Ian Sammis managed to modify John Williams' trailer to carry all three boats and gear. Past F18 Chairman Dan DeLave and Eileen took to the highway for the long 34-hour journey on Wednesday night and pulled into Pensacola Friday morning.



The Formula 18 class has a "box rule" which allows the sailor to keep his brand loyalty and race boat-for-boat against other makes. Each of the three major F18 manufacturers were represented on this triple stack trailer; the Hobie Tiger (Oceanside, CA), Nacra Infusion (Santa Ana, CA), and AHPC Capricorn (Bendigo, AUS). The Formula 18 Class rules have proven to be a success as each of these designs continues to perform well even when new developments find their way into the fleet.

During this week long event the competing fleet saw a wide range of conditions. Day one was sailed in 18-20 knots and it never let up. Day two and three started with more of the same but by the afternoon on Wednesday, conditions had settled down to 8-10 knots. Thursday was lighter at 5-7 knots, and Friday's racing was canceled due to lack of wind. John Williams (crewing for Greg Goodall) finished out the week in second place. Team DeLave and Team Sammis finished right in the middle of this 33 boat fleet.

With the Formula F18 North Americans in the history books, 2009 is anticipated to be an exciting year. ABYC will be hosting the 2009 North Americans and the fleet is attracting top international sailors and Olympic hopefuls. In 2009 we hope to add other ABYC multihull members into this growing fleet, including the Glasers, Pete Melvin, and others.



Jeff Newsome is the 2009 multihull fleet captain, and can answer questions or arrange for a ride for anyone interested.

Ian Sammis



KEEL BOAT FLEET ON WATCH

If you want a fleet meeting with no hassles, just fun with good friends, the Keel Boat Fleet is hard to beat. Many arrived for the cocktail hour and enjoyed Kelly's great hors d'oeuvres and a libation from the bar while sitting around the fireplace. We also appreciated Kelly having his hard working crew install the partition enclosing the bar as it certainly holds down the noise from the bar occupants during the business meeting.

Joe Riddick conducted the meeting with his usual dispatch handing out the K.B.F. schedule for the coming year. Both Judy Mathias and Joe talk about the upcoming combined Sabotier and K.B.F. Christmas Party, December 12. There will be great games such as the '50/50 drawing' and 'whose name is on the sticker on my back'. Judy has once again arranged to have our favorite pianist, Rhonda Rubio, play the great Christmas songs. Mary Riddick remembers last year's hors d'oeuvre's as being too many deserts and suggests a more substantial hors d'oeuvre this year. All guests are welcome and encouraged to come to the Christmas party. Do not miss this party as it is always the best of the season.

Speaking of Guests, any member of ABYC is always welcome at our functions and we also invite anyone, regardless of what type of boat or none, to join the K.B.F. as a member. Dues are \$10 a year and the fun goes all year long.

Our next meeting will be January 9th, and we will undoubtedly hear from Judy Mathias and Carol Reynolds about the Armchair Cruise. Thanks to all who have volunteered for the January ABYC General Meeting. Joe has a full complement to staff the serving line.

See you at the Christmas Party
George C.

hails from the fleets

Rob Rice photos

L¹⁴

Lido fleet 6 had an amazing year and nobody can argue that! We went from being a moderate size fleet to the largest lido fleet in the galaxy! Our regatta turn-out sky-rocketed these past twelve months. All of this could never have happened without our fleet captains dedication. **Don and Chris Taugher** did a fantastic job running fleet six. Their hard work didn't go unnoticed, the Board at the club awarded them the **Stan Church** perpetual—awarded to the couple who gave the most to ABYC. Big congrats goes out to them! They definitely deserve this trophy {past recipients of the award includes fleet members **Bob/Emily Sherwood**}. Stan Church was a lido sailor himself back in the day. But Don and Chris have decided to step aside and let **Ed Sposkey** try fleet captain out. Ed is new to lido sailing and is very excited to be fleet captain. We're looking forward to the coming year and what he has plan for the fleet.

Looking back on 2008, big congrats goes out to the monthly twilight winners: **Sam/Dana Bell, Chuck Babcock, Sarah/Matt Ryan, Kathy Reed and Walter Johnson**. This year's twilight's was a complete success. Our lowest turnout was eight, our highest nineteen! Wow! We also hosted a Jr. Twilight night that boasted a thirteen-boat showing! MidWinters was our opening regatta of the year with fleet member **Andrew Vaught/Katie Bishop** winning the B's. **John Hauck** placed a respectably 4th in the B's at fleet two's Invitational in April. April also brought our fleet champs with **Freddie/Fred Stevens** repeating as champions. **Ross Nemeroff** captured first place at the Labor Day Regatta in September while six fleet teams traveled up to Huntington Lake in July for some fun. **Sarah Ryan** brought home the Betty Schock Perpetual {first female skipper} from nationals while **Stu/Erin Robertson** retain there Class Championships. Congrats to new fleet member **Bruce Wasson** for kicking butt at the Charity Regatta. **Paul/John Makielski** nearly won the silver fleet at the District Champs—but there death roll kept that at bay {for now}. Kathryn Reed ended up winning the B's at the, always scary, Halloween Regatta in October. Kathy is also in first in the Sunkist Series down in Newport Harbor! She's sailing in the B fleet and we wish her the best of luck!

As 2008 comes to an end, we look ahead to 2009 to be a great lido year. The Class Champs are once again in our back yard {Mission Bay}. Our Twilight's series will start up in May and we will host the Jr. Lido 14 Class Champs in August and the District 1 Champs in October. Several Clinics are being planned throughout the year for both Sr. and Jr. lido sailors. We always invite anybody who loves to have a good time to join our fleet. See you in the coming year!

Mark Ryan

N Thanks so much for all the help from the Sr. Sabots and Keel Boat fleets on organizing and running a successful Halloween Regatta! I think everyone who attended had a great time!

Our November fleet race was cancelled due to winds gusting 20-35 knots. The majority of the Sr. Sabot fleet opted not to race the Turkey Day race. Sorry to those who were thinking about racing. Our next fleet race will be Saturday, December 6 and will include dinner after racing. Hope you all can join us! We are all looking forward to the annual Christmas Party to be held at the club in combination with the Keel Boat fleet on December 12. Come and join the fun and share a little Christmas cheer! Look for more details to come on the party.

Sheila Eberly



Sou'Wester DEADLINE

December 20, 2008 is the deadline
for the January Sou'Wester.



The Nirvana fleet had practice racing in the basin Sunday Nov. 30 as this went to press. It looks like our next open Sunday could be Dec. 21, so unless you are doing your Christmas shopping, fun racing and practice at the club will start at noon. Watch your email for updates. Even if your boat is in need of repairs, bring it on down for help from the Nirvana marine engineers. As always, beer sampling helps the thumb dexterity and repair ability.

Happy Holidays to all,
Don Shirley



Alamitos Bay Yacht Club

7201 East Ocean Boulevard
Long Beach, California 90803

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The Basin - ready for Turkey Day

a letter from the commodore

Dear Members,

Our long-time employee and friend Jesus Espinosa has had a terrible tragedy occur in his life. Jesus' family resides near Guadalajara, Mexico. His mother and sister were walking home from church when a drunk driver hit both of them. His mother did not survive, and his sister is in critical condition. Jesus has helped us in many ways over the years and now it is time for us to help him through this terrible time of grief and recovery. He is not asking for your help, but with your donation, you will assist him with airfare, funeral services, and hospital bills.

You can participate several ways:

1. Email Lisa (lisa@abyc.org) and give her your account number along with the amount you would like to give
2. Call the office (562-434-9955) and give Lisa the same information.
3. Mail in a check, please clearly mark "Donation for Jesus"
4. Drop a check or cash at the office, again please clearly mark "Donation for Jesus"

We do not get the chance to help people that are close to us very often, now is the time.

Sincerely, Merle Asper

a turkey day thank you

Dear Mr. Merrill,

I wanted to thank you and ABYC again for another off the charts, over the top, incredible TURKEY DAY REGATTA !!! Every year we think it cant get any bigger, or better and then, IT DOES !

My family and I have been coming to this regatta since I was nine when I won my first Turkey and could barely hold it. We have made it an annual tradition along with so many others, gathering with the friends and family that all come back year after year. Since I was born on Thanksgiving we always bring along a cake to celebrate at the dinner and it has now become a tradition for the past 6 years. This, being my 16th birthday was especially great!

I really appreciate you helping organize the 29ers, allowing us to have our own launch time and adding an award for the top girl finish. I am a bit embarrassed that we are the ones that actually won it but, I am sure down the road it will be much appreciated by the up and coming girl teams.

Thanks again for allowing us to take part in such a great event. See you next year.

Here is a photo we took our first night out sailing at sunset!
WE LOVE ABYC!

See you on the Sea...

C.C. Childers

