



garrett Horder award

Garrett Horder Award-Our Junior Program has been awarded the Garrett Horder Award by the Pacific Coast Yachting Association. The award is for the most outstanding youth sailing program for 2007.

The Pacific Coast Yachting Association, with the approval and encouragement of the Horder family, rededicated the classic Garrett Horder Memorial Trophy to recognize the importance of imparting knowledge and appreciation of the sport of recreational boating to the youth of our areas. The trophy is a famous Currier and Ives print of the sail/steam vessel, San Francisco, which is over one hundred years old and sits on a prominent mantel location at St. Francis Yacht Club. The trophy is awarded annually to the PCYA member organization whose submission is determined to be the most deserving. The trophy will remain at St. Francis Yacht Club with an engraved plaque announcing the winner and a take home is given to the winning PCYA organization.



Brad Schaupter is congratulated by Marty Livingston, a PCYA board member

Some of the former winners are Coronado Yacht Club, Silver Gate Yacht Club, San Diego Yacht Club, Seattle Yacht Club, St. Frances Yacht Club, Seattle Yacht Club, and Benica Yacht Club. Brad Schaupter applied for this award earlier this year, allowing us to be selected to reside with an impressive group of west coast yacht clubs. The award was presented to ABYC on January 26, 2008 by PCYA at their annual meeting at the Silver Gate Yacht Club. All of us are proud of this award and the recognition of our Junior Program and Brad as our director. This is a huge achievement that has come with a lot of hard work. It poises us to do more good things. Congratulations ABYC and our Junior Program.

Jon Robinson

aspbyc jr yachtsperson of the year

Sydney Bolger is ASPBYC Jr. Yachtsperson of the year!

ABYC junior sailing phenom Sydney Bolger was honored at the annual ASPBYC (Association of San Pedro Bay Yacht Clubs) installation and awards dinner held at ABYC January 16th. Accompanied by her parents, Brad and Sharon, plus grandparents Betty and Mack Mills it was an exciting family gathering for the Bolger/Mills clan.

The ASPBYC accepts awards nominations from the local clubs spanning from Cabrillo Beach to Huntington Harbor and it was a real treat to see Sydney recognized for her sailing prowess. Sydney has had several great racing years and 2007 showed her on form and excelling once again.

Graceful and poised on the podium as she is on the race course all of us at ABYC are very proud to tout Sydney as a "home grown" product and look forward to following her sailing career as she just seems to effortlessly keep taking her racing skills to a higher level.

Congratulations Sydney!

Jeff Merrill



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save the date

Midwinter Regatta	February 16-17
Membership Meeting	February 22
Manning Regatta	March 1-2
Chapped Cheek Regatta/St Pat's Party ..	March 15
Membership Meeting	March 21
Easter Brunch	March 23
Finn Masters NAs	March 28-30
CISA	April 5-8
Membership Meeting	April 18

commodore's comments



So, I'm looking at the website, and there, on the left hand menu of upcoming events, are regattas stacked up back to back to back to back... ISAF Youth Qualifiers, then the SCYA Midwinters, then the Manning series, followed by the Chapped Cheek regatta, and then the Finn Master's North Americans. All great regattas, and all will exemplify ABYC's standing within our sport as to regatta and race management.

But, I'm looking at this, and I realize that's what's missing is fun stuff that we can do as members besides just race, race, race! Now realize, that between my Finn and Capri 25, and now sailing on Dave Morse's exciting new Viper, I race as much as the next guy, perhaps more! So what's missing? Maybe it's the fun, social stuff?

This year, I started a new area of responsibility as a bit of an experiment for Bob Anderson, one of our Directors. That area, which I called Non Racing Sailing Activities, was meant to see what we as a club, and what we as a Board, could do for all of our members that do NOT race. Ever notice that at our regattas, we always see the same faces? Ever go through our roster and wonder just who all these people are that we just never see? Ever wonder how we could reach out to those people? That's what I've tasked Bob with... the task of reaching out to those members of our Club that don't race, and probably feel a little bit alienated.

Boxing Day brought out a lot of those people, and all of us that sailed had a wonderful near-summer day on the water. We already have bridge nights at the club, though I'm not sure how well attended they are. How about some movie nights at our Friday night happy hour? We could all show up in our jammies and watch a movie, complete with popcorn. How about a great rib night on a Sunday with Kelly's famous ribs! Perhaps the club in general could plan some arm chair cruises, vs. just the keelboat fleet. Maybe we could do a group cruise over to Shoreline Yacht Club for lunch? We have such a great group of members, yet, all we do is race, race, race!

Think about it... and then corner Bob Anderson, Director in charge of Non Racing Sailing Activities. Lets see if we can't knock out a few less windward/leewards this year, and have fun doing other stuff! Food for thought?

Glenn Selvin

vice commodore's view



February is supposed to be a slow month for sailing, but at the Club we are very busy with several different issues! You should be proud of the direction we are going and thank yourselves, because you are doing the work! We are a volunteer organization and nothing will get done unless somebody strong stands up.

The Sabot racks are going in and being assigned as you read this letter. Hopefully we will be nearing completion before the year really gets rolling. Many thanks go out to George Kornhoff, Jeff Merrill, Jennifer Kuritz, and Jon Robinson (I will let him thank his merry band of pipe cutters and assemblers) for leading the way and getting the job done.

Our Fleets seem to be doing very well right now. Rich Vaught is making large headway in getting the Etchells Fleet out and running. He is putting in large amounts of time and energy into making that fleet stronger and better. Steve Kuritz has the pulse up on the Cal 20 Fleet by being very informative on the email side of things and being proactive with the celebratory cooler after racing! Don Taugher has been going strong with the Lido Fleet and they are growing fast with a great amount of participation. All of their events seem to be very well attended. The Senior Sabots are always exceeding and having a tremendous amount of fun with their monthly racing in the bay and dinner afterwards. Steve Smith has been leading the way with the Lasers for a while now and they just keep growing and growing. Our Junior Program is second to none. Our parents (too many to mention here) in conjunction with Brad Schaupeter are digging in and their hard work is paying off. Jon Robinson is leading the charge this year. The kids are participating and winning races in fine style. They are excellent examples of kids that are going places in sailing and life because of the values that they are getting from our Club! That is really something to be proud of!

House

Cathy Black and the House Committee is working on getting prices for the remodel of the bathrooms downstairs (ADA compliant), quarter deck bathrooms (grossly out of style and functionality), and new sewer pipe (it keeps clogging at big events). Kelly Asper and Wayne Noecker got pricing on new trophy cabinets and Boatique displays (We have lots of great new merchandise! Check it out). Nothing is written in stone yet, but the process is turning. We hope to be doing the construction on some these items in the near future. The Elevator committee (not under me) started by Bill McDannel and carried forward by Dominic Meo III seems to be making real progress and has a very detailed plan in advancement. Dominic is working hard so please thank him when you see him.

...continued next page

Yard Ogre Committee

...from page 2

The Yard Ogre Committee is off to a flying start. For now, it is Lisa LeBold (Laser), Jorge Suarez (Laser, Snipe), Jim Kirk (Laser), Jon Robinson (Junior), John Williams (Multihull) Jennifer Kuritz (Sabot), Steve Kuritz (Cal 20), Rich Vaught (Etchells), Don Taugher (Lido) Kelly Whitlow (Manager, silly) and myself (Cal 20).

We had our first meeting and everyone is energized. Seven people attended and three could not make it (we have since gained new members!), but everyone is in on it and they are ready, willing, and able to manage our greatest asset with the attention and devotion it deserves. This will add consistency to a very important job that is often overlooked. This is really great, because every fleet has a representative that will be taking care of their particular part of the yard. By the time you read this, we will have done our yard audit Jan 27th. This will give a better idea of exactly what our issues are and how we need to solve them. This is an ever-changing problem and this will make it easier to handle. The meeting was fun and everyone went home with a feeling of accomplishment.

The Laser contingency is hot (with some issues) on designing a Laser rack. Contact Jim Kirk with any ideas you may have. This will double or triple the amount of Lasers in the yard. If done right, it will make room for other boats in the yard as well.

Today (this just in) I went out and checked out the Sailing ISAF Youth Worlds Qualifier. Again, we have a lot to be proud of. The very complicated courses were run to the perfect "T" by a true group of professionals. I only saw the courses, but the crews involved were phenomenal. Chris Erickson's and Jerry Montgomery's courses were run like a tightly wound watches! The windward and leeward marks were set precisely and I am sure that these were some of the best courses many of these people have ever seen! Good going guys! Steve Smith is the regatta chairperson and he always exceeds the requirements.

The Club is doing fabulous things and we can be excited that it will only continue to move forward.

See you around the Club!

Go ABYC!

Merle



Glenn Selvin photo

Dave Morse's new Viper 640 shows up at ABYC after its cross county delivery.

2007 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Commodore ghselvin@ix.netcom.com	Glenn Selvin	Non-racing sailing activities BobDAnders@aol.com	Bob Anderson
Vice Commodore merleasper@verizon.net	Merle Asper	Treasurer	George Kornhoff/Mary Montz
Rear Commodore JFMasseySr@aol.com	John Massey	Junior Rear Commodore	Sydney Bolger
Jr. Staff Commodore jbateaux@hotmail.com	Jim Bateman	Fleet Surgeon	Dr. Allan Rosenberg
Fleet Captain jeff.merrill@nordhavn.com	Jeff Merrill	Judge Advocate	Tom Ramsey
Secretary michael_baumann@mac.com	Mike Baumann	Port Captain	Dave Myers
Directors		Sou'wester Editor/Layout	Sharon Pearson
Junior Program sanilex@verizon.net	Jon Robinson	ABYC	Phone (562) 434-9955
Membership/Volunteers DDELAVE@aol.com	Dan DeLave	Fax (562) 434-2267	www.abyc.org
		Homepage www.abyc.org	abyc@abyc.org
		Email abyc@abyc.org	

fleet captain's log



One of these days I hope to write a briefing that only talks about how much everyone is enjoying the new sabot racks...hopefully next month. The project has come to life under the guidance of Jon Robinson with the ever present Latham Bell also right in the thick of things. The pre-production assembly is stacking up in the parking lot and we are just getting in the final parts and fittings needed to begin actual set up in the yard. This will lead to a lot of "sabot salad" as we mix up all the ingredients and dismantle the wooden racks to make room for the aluminum racks. If you own a sabot (even if you think you own a sabot) please come down to the club and check our impound area to see if any of your stuff can be reclaimed. A special thanks to Jennifer Kuritz for organizing the new space assignments – if you like your new position please thank her, if you don't like your new position please complain to me!

Our Race Management group led by Mike Baumann and Jim Drury is ramped up for an active February where we will see ABYC host two big SCYA events – Mid-Winters and Manning. If you are not sailing and can help volunteer please get in touch with me and we will put your talents to good use.

At the January Board of Directors meeting we took a vote and decided to keep (for now) the old bay barge with the intent to use it as a finishing platform. We will not be re-powering her (she'll be towed to her anchoring position) or spending much money to spruce her up – we just want to see how she will work out in a more static role – no longer the life of the party, but not quite ready to be put out to pasture - at the end of the year we will re-evaluate the situation.

Jim Loeffler is the new regatta trophy chairman for 2008. You'll start to see what he's got planned for the first time at the Chapped Cheek event. If you have trophy ideas or suggestion please email or call Jim, he'd love to hear from you.

Our whaler fleet continues to be a refurbishment project. The junior program has purchased and installed all new UV stable plastic to replace the aging and peeling wood in the "Bix" – and she's starting to look a lot prouder. And Whaler 4 should be done with her cosmetic surgery refinements by the time you read this. Kelly Whitlow, Rick Rose and Dave Myers are systematically going through each whaler to see what can be done to improve each one – we welcome your ideas, suggestions and elbow grease. I am hoping that 2008 is the year of the upgrade for our fleet of whalers (lovingly referred to as "rental cars"), not the year of the major purchase or expense...time will tell – and if you find yourself driving one of our trusty steeds keep that in mind as you shift, turn and dock – we've got to keep these babies running like tops, a lot depend upon their good reliable performance.

Please come down to the club for a sail, to help with a project, or to just enjoy the wonders of the bay and the camaraderie of your fellow ABYC members.

See you on the waterfront!

Jeff Merrill - mobile phone: 949.355.4950

cool kid cleanup

Jeff Merrill photos

bamboo and reeds washed down the river by rain. The other day I was helping my dad with sabot racks when I was invited by Dave Behr to help clean up the trash left by the rains and now exposed by the low tide. Dave was pitching the gunk up onto the seawall. So I got myself a cart and started filling it with bamboo, sticks, underwater plants and even an occasional tree branch. John Massey helped too and we filled three dock carts to the top. It didn't take that long and we all felt good about making the club look nicer.

Jon Merrill



Jon Merrill, Dave Behr and John Massey



Jon Merrill with his haul

the bay clogger

(junior sailing)

ABYC wins Garret Horder Youth Program of 2007 Award!

The Pacific Coast Yachting Association, with the approval and encouragement of the Horder family, rededicated the classic Garrett Horder Memorial Trophy to recognize the importance of imparting knowledge and appreciation of the sport of recreational boating to the youth of our areas. The trophy is a famous Currier and Ives print of the sail/steam vessel San Francisco which is over one hundred years old and sits on a prominent mantel location at St. Francis Yacht Club. The trophy is awarded annually to the PCYA member organization whose submission is determined to be the most deserving. The trophy remains at St. Francis Yacht Club with an engraved plaque announcing the winner and a take home is given to the winning PCYA organization.

This year's winner is the Alamitos Bay Yacht Club! We are extremely honored to have won this great award for the first time and encourage you to read the application that was submitted on line at our junior website www.fleetracing.net (follow the links for the ABYC junior program webpage). It documents the junior programs growth and development very well over the past 7 years.

Way to go ABYC!!!!

ABYC Juniors Achieve Amazing Results at Orange Bowl

It seems that January was the month for great achievements for the ABYC juniors and junior program. Over the holiday season, five junior members of ABYC went to Florida to compete in one of the biggest youth regattas in the country. It is the first time we have had this many ABYC juniors go and also achieve such fantastic results.

Sydney Bolger, who is becoming a local legend, won the 420 class overall out of 88 competitors! Cameron Summers pulled out a 10th place finish overall out of 40 in the full rig Laser class and Alex Vaught grabbed an 18th overall out of 138 Laser Radials! Cameron Forsberg and JP Saunders had a respectable 73rd place finish in the 420 division in some intense competition. It is amazing to see these results among our sailors and if you see them around the club, congratulate them on such amazing achievements!

Ten Go Down to SDYC to Compete in the Junior Invitational

Last year was our first year sending a team down to San Diego for the annual Junior Invitational and we went again this year sending 10 sailors down to compete. It began with heavy breeze and then became a drifter the first day where the Gibbs brothers (Riley and Sawyer), had great performances. Sawyer had a 1, 2, 2 in C1's and Riley had a 2, 17, 12, 8 in A's after the first day. Unfortunately, the family caught a pretty bad bug and couldn't sail the next day. Jack Jorgensen took over at the point pulling his way back into a 6th place overall in A's after a rough first day. He currently sits in 2nd place overall in the overall North Series results.

The big story from the weekend was the birthday boy, Steven Hopkins and his 2nd place finish in the B fleet division. This is an exceedingly hard fleet to achieve well in and he really took over. Matt McDermaid also had a good regatta with an outstanding first day of a 5, 1, 3, 16. The second day was not as kind but Matt still ended up in a respectable 9th place. Elle Merrill finished close behind in 12th overall.

Newer sailors, Lilly Flam (C2) and Bradley Clinton (8 year old C3) also did some traveling to this regatta showing bright spots in our younger sailors. Lilly finished 7th out of 14 and Bradley finished 8th in C3's at his first ever travel regatta. Congratulations to all of our sailors!

Brad Schaupeter, ABYC Junior Director

commodore's

kudos

At Alamitos Bay Yacht Club, we've seen huge, huge strides in our junior program, and we fully recognize that our up and coming juniors are not only the next generation of members, but are the next generation of champions!

Four ABYC Juniors recently traveled to Florida for the recent Orange Bowl regatta, one of the largest junior regattas in the nation, and ABYC shined once again with Sydney Bolger winning the 88 boat 420 class! Let me say that again... she won her class! ABYC junior Cameron Forsberg also competed in the 420 class, taking 73rd in a very competitive 420 class.

Other ABYC members competed, and again are our future champions. Cameron Summers took 10th place in the 40 boat Laser Full rig, and Alex Vaught' 18th in the 137 boat Laser Radial class is nothing less than stunning! 137 boats... can you imagine?!? Great job Alex! I'm sure the sight looking back at that many boats behind you is something you'll remember for years to come.

It is these future champions that is proof positive that ABYC's junior program is working. A big, big thanks to Brad Schaupeter, our Junior Program Director, and to all the members and supporters of the Junior Advisory Board.

Congratulations to these fine ABYC juniors and to their families and parents!

Glenn Selvin, Commodore

from the pages of history

First, a personal comment. The dozens of get-well cards, phone calls and visits received from ABYC members during my hospitalization and recovery, to say nothing of the good wishes and prayers from so many others, went a long way to making our December a much better time that it might have been. I'm glad to report that I'm well and truly on the way to recovery. As of mid-January, when I write this, I have already helped run one regatta, sailed in a one-day Etchells fleet regatta and am getting ready to be one of the PRO's for the ISAF Youth Qualifier. My strength and stamina improve each day, and Vicki and I are both back to as normal a schedule as we can maintain.

Now, back to history. Again, the vagaries of the collection of our archives meant that the February 1998 SOU'WESTER is not in our files, so I can't report on that one. What I found instead is a SOU'WESTER from FEBRUARY of 1975—a third of a century ago.

THIRTY-THREE YEARS AGO:

The first regatta to be held in February 1975, was the now-defunct Honest Abe Regatta. It was one of a series of club regattas that were separate from the Holiday Series and featured one day of racing in the Harbor and one day in the Bay on the same weekend: Saturday was to be the Harbor day and Sunday the Bay day this year. The other news of the regatta was a "Nostalgia Night" party on Saturday, with dancing to the music of "the swinging Stan Ray." The regatta notice said there'd be "SKAT music played 'eight to the bar,'" and that a "Zoot suit with a reet pleat" would be appropriate attire. Kids, ask the grandparents what that all means...

There were a lot of "thank you's" in the newsletter this month. In his "Commodore's Comments," Ron Fox especially thanked Jon Lounsberry for having done the Christmas float, Charles Dorrans for getting the roster out and the Sabotier Fleet for having spent much of January repainting the stairway in the Clubhouse. Thanks went out as well to Georgette Weber and her team that included Adra Kober, Karen Fox, Mary Matson, Isabelle Lounsberry, Marilyn Shirley, Tina Bloemeke, Lynn Lore and Jeanne Holmes for planting the flower beds and moss baskets.

There were 37 ABYC Juniors at the annual Junior Membership meeting in January, and they elected new officers and representatives for 1975. This included Jeff Merrill as Junior Rear Commodore, Todd Merrill as Junior Vice Commodore, Maureen O'Toole as Secretary, Keith Dodson as Treasurer, Mike O'Toole as Port Captain, Becky Black as Historian/Reported, Anne Bloemeke as Sabot representative and Scott Merrill as Laser representative.

Among new members were Rich Kempster, a former ABYC junior; Peter Gales, who had belonged to ABYC before World War II and was returning; and Charles Merrill Kober, "known better around ABYC or country music as 'Boeey' or 'Hambone'"...congratulations went out to Mike McDade, who had been accepted into the USC Graduate School...Keith Dodson reported the outcome on Super Bowl Sunday, which included Laser races as part of the Chapped Cheek Regatta: "Jeff Merrill (1), Andy Ayale (2), Pat McCormick (3), Dan Wilson (4), Pittsburgh (16), Minnesota (6)"...

THIRTY YEARS AGO:

There was a lot of business in the February 1978 SOU'WESTER, but room for congratulations as well. Commodore Bill Nicolai reported in his "Commodore's Comments" that John Hand had been elected to lead the brand-new Keel Boat Fleet, and that Dave Crockett would be representing ABYC in the sail-off for the coming Congressional Cup Regatta at Long Beach Yacht Club.

A policy established in July, 1977, was explained. It decreed that "invitational regattas" would be open to ABYC members and members of member clubs of the Southern California Yachting Association (SCYA) or the Yacht Racing Union of Southern California (YRUSC). "Club regattas" would be open to ABYC members and members of clubs of the "Los Angeles-Long Beach Harbor Association"—which meant LBYC, Seal Beach Yacht Club, Little Ships Fleet and Leeway. And fleet regattas and Twilights, were open to non-ABYC members, but they could not launch their boats at ABYC but had to find "launching facilities outside the premises." This policy was in place well into the Eighties.

Committee chairs for the 1978 year included Challenge Chairman Bruce Golison, Club Photographer Peter Gales, Junior Program Chairman Al Rosenberg, Calendar Chairman Paul Merrill, Membership Chairman Jim Shirley, Olympic Classes Regatta co-chairs Al and Mary Smith, Year Book Editor Jim Morford and Race Committee Coordinator Dorothy Hill.

Among new Regular members of ABYC were Sherwood and Marietta Jones, owners of a Santana 20 and a Win'ward Sabot. Alicia Dose, a Sabot sailor who worked for California Sails, joined as an Interim (now Yachting) member, as did Glenn Selvin, who sailed a Lido 14...as previously reported, the Keel Boat Fleet elected John Hand as their first Captain; his lieutenants were Dan Clapp and Larry Hill...the fleet's purpose was to "foster yachting and social activities among ABYC members with keelboats," not only racing but also "cruising, day-sailing and plain old getting together"...

TWENTY YEARS AGO:

Commodore Al Nelson reported in the February 1988 SOU'WESTER that "the exact same ocean that provides us with the reason to be a yacht club came over the beach and entered through the front gate." Apparently the damage was limited to the front-gate controls, which cost a thousand dollars to both repair and redesign them to "protect against the next intrusion."

With the 1988 Olympics in Pusan, Korea, in the offing, there was a fundraiser announced for the "Long Beach Olympic Sailing Team." This included Pete Melvin and Pat Muglia, Tornado; Steve and Ron Rosenberg, Flying Dutch-

...continued next page

history (cont)

man; Rich Byron, Finn; John Shadden and Charlie McKee, men's 470; and Pease Herndon (now Pease Glaser) and Cindy Goff in women's 470. It was to be held at the Hyatt Edgewater at Pacific Coast Highway and Second Street (now the SeaPort Marina Hotel) and was sponsored by West Marine, Gondola Getaways and International Sailing Products (ISP) West.

There was a wonderful letter reproduced in Ann Exley's "From the Pages of History" column that deserves some mention. Apparently back in 1929, Alamitos Bay was a favored venue for outboard-motorboat racing. The Long Beach Yacht Club, then headquartered in the commercial Port of Long Beach, would be hosting the Long Beach Yacht Club Outboard Regatta in Alamitos Bay on November 30 and December 1, 1929—presumably in the stretch of the Bay that is bounded by the Peninsula on the south and Naples on the north. Unrequested by LBYC, the members of ABYC voted that "the use of the ABYC Clubhouse be offered to participants in the regatta," and a letter to that effect extending this offer and explaining that "restroom and lounge facilities at the Bay are otherwise rather scarce" was sent to Commodore Richard Loynes of LBYC. And here we are, nearly eighty years later, still in close cooperation with LBYC in such events as the Congressional Cup, Olympic Classes Regatta and as co-host of Long Beach Race Week.

The speaker at the General Membership Meeting for February was to be Mike Segerblom of ISP West, talking about the Olympic Classes, one-designs in Southern California and the latest news on construction techniques and mast development in both...ABYC Staff Commodore Dick Landes was installed as Commodore of the Yacht Racing Union of Southern California (YRUSC) by past ABYC and YRUSC Commodores Llewellyn Bixby, Jr. and Sid Exley...among new Regular members of ABYC was Thomas Grubbs, MD, a physician with the FPA Medical Group in Long Beach and owner of a New Zealand 37.

Chris Ericksen, Club Historian

three cheers

Three Cheers for Director/Secretary Mike Baumann for completing the 2008 ABYC Yearbook & Roster in January! This is an enormous task which he had a little help from Stacy & Nicole, but it was Mike's diligence and computer expertise that got the job done. Thank you very much, Mr. Baumann!

john merchant a commodore again

ABYC Staff Commodore John Merchant has his hands on the helm again, this time guiding the ASPBYC (Association of San Pedro Bay Yacht Clubs). At the packed annual meeting and dinner hosted by ABYC on January 16th John Merchant joined a long and distinguished line of volunteers including many former ABYC commodores to assume this charge. ASPBYC and ABYC staff commodores in attendance at the event included: Ron Wood, Dave Dorrans, Dick Landes and Jerry Montgomery.

Georgia Merchant was there to applaud her husband and ABYC commodore Glenn Selvin was also on hand to take in the proceedings.

Kelly Whitlow and team did a great job of serving over 100 dinners, some of the best cedar plank salmon served south of Seattle and tender hand carved roast beef – it was a tremendous turn out for a gala installation!

The ASPBYC is a dedicated group that helps instill camaraderie between the local clubs and helps to make sure the harbor marks are maintained (and anchored where they are supposed to be) as well as sponsors of two annual challenge cups and individual annual awards.

On the subject of awards, Sydney Bolger from ABYC received the ASPBYC junior yachtsperson of the year honor – see separate article.

Congratulations John Merchant, have a fun year and thanks for stepping up.

Note: If you see a mark out of place don't contact John, contact Ken Griffing the ASPBYC rear commodore a member of Hollywood Yacht Club!

Jeff Merrill, Fleet Captain

This is a group of unsung heroes about a group. There is no one that will take the credit for getting it together so I will have to go with all of them. They are the crew that has been working on the Sabot racks. On a Saturday of a keelboat fleet race I was down at the club early to start assembly on the Multihulls for the following weekend. I thought I was down there early but there was a group with metal tubes all piled up, saws in the middle and about 12 hands divided by two means about 6 people cutting precisely all the pieces that are to be assembled for our new flavor in the yard. This will be an exciting time while we are organizing and making room for more sailing members in our club. This was a controversial program but has since been met with enthusiasm by concerned parties. Those I saw on that Saturday were, Jon Robinson, Latham Bell, John Massey, Mike Gebb, George Kornhoff, and Jim McInerney.

Dan DeLave

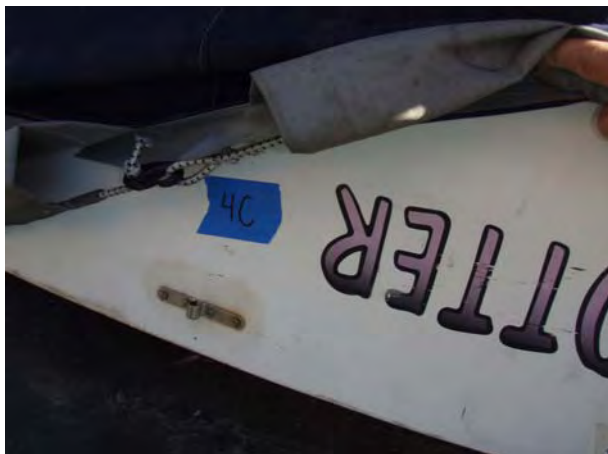


Tom Newton, John Ellis and Jon Robinson work on the new sabot racks

new sabot racks

Jeff Merrill photos

Please unlock your sabot and take home loose sabot parts...thanks! As we get closer to the big day when we move every sabot in the yard (early February is what we are shooting for) from the wooden racks to their new aluminum rack homes we need to make sure that if you have your mast or sabot locked that you come down and remove the lock and chain. We don't want to cut locks, but we won't have any choice if we get to your boat and you have it permanently tethered.



Please come down to the club and take your lock home. The new sabot racks have mast brackets with hasps you can lock – and you'll also be able to lock your sabot to the new aluminum racks if you want to. We don't want to inconvenience



any of the members, but if you are concerned with the security of your gear please take it home (mast, sabot, cover, etc.,) and we'll let you know when you can bring it back to your new location.

Every sabot has been labeled on the transom

with its' current wooden rack location to help us when we make the big move – please don't peel these blue tape and sharpie labels off. Also, once you get your new assignment we will be affixing a new ABYC decal to each sabot (most of them are so faded we can't read the numbers) so we can insure that every boat in the yard is identifiable.

Last call for claiming loose masts, booms, paddles, sails, covers and bailers – there are a lot of loose ends that are not labeled, we have no idea who they belong to and we will be putting all of these parts into an impound area for you to sort through and reclaim...why not take an hour or two and come down to the club to pick up anything that is yours that might get lost in the transition, thanks!

Jeff Merrill - Sabot Rack Project Manager



membership report

Jeff Merrill photos

The following burgees were presented at the January 18th membership meeting:



Stu Robertson (right) sponsored by Paul Ancil



Dennis and Robin Diem Sponsored by Bob Daniel (left)



Brad and Janice Hobson Sponsored by Jeff Merrill



Bradley Clinton sponsored by grandma, Sharon Pearson

boxing day regatta

Little boats rule at ABYC's Boxing Day Regatta

In what kind of sailboat race could a Mercury 18 finish first and an eight-foot Naples Sabot second among 16 different types of boats in a fleet of 69 also including big boats flying spinnakers and a pair of Hobie Formula 18 catamarans?

Only in Alamitos Bay Yacht Club's annual Boxing Day Regatta traditionally raced between Christmas and New Year's Day. The pursuit race—slowest boats start first, fastest boats last—was sailed under a grumpy cloud cover on a chilly Saturday afternoon that ushered out the year's sailing season in Southern California.

The wind never blew more than 5 knots but "it was really what you want," said Eric Conn, 62, who sailed his Mercury 18 to first place with daughter Stacy as crew. "It's a family event and you don't want to scare anybody."

All boats sailed the same course around the various extensions of the inner Alamitos Bay, some taking it more seriously than others.

The Conns, ABYC members like most of the competitors, have been a team for about 25 years but started sailing their Mercury, dubbed OI Skool, only recently. It's an 18-foot two-person sloop with a 635-pound keel—security they didn't need Saturday but is nice to have for windy days on the ocean.

The race had no finish line, instead was scheduled for 2 hours 25 minutes. Starting times were determined by the Portsmouth handicap system, and even the start line was unusual: right off the dock at the club. Each boat or a crew member had to be touching the dock when they started, and several of the larger boats already had their spinnakers set through the countdown, stirring like anxious thoroughbreds in the starting gate.

The Sabots were first to go at 12:51 p.m. The Conns went off 43 minutes later at 1:32, and the chase was on, followed lastly by the F18s at 2:11 p.m., 16 minutes behind three Etchells.

When the finish cannon fired at 3:16 p.m., OI Skool was only 50 yards in front of Steven Hopkins of ABYC in his Sabot, followed by the family group of Stan, Riley and Sawyer Gibbs in their long-sailed Catalina 25.

The hot boats just didn't have enough track to run, finishing in the middle of the pack.

While most of the boats started in groups of three or more, the Conns' handicap rating was such that they had no company off the line.

"We had the advantage that we started without any boats around us," Eric Conn said. "We always had clear air."

Rich Roberts

A heart stopping, heartbreaking day in SL-16s, 29ers. As a day of rainbows, rain squalls and sailing through a full range of emotions in chilly 55-degree breeze ground down to dusk, Andrew Mason said to himself—but not to crew Chris Segerblom, “There goes our trip to Denmark.” Meanwhile, on the same course inside the outer harbor breakwater, Judge Ryan and crew Hans Henken kept remembering the advice of their coach, two-time Olympic medalist Charlie McKee, to “keep an open mind on the race course. It’s never over until it’s over.”



Emily, Morgane going to Denmark

And when the 2008 US Sailing ISAF Youth World Qualifier and US Youth Multihull Championship at Alamitos Bay Yacht Club really was over, Mason, 18, and Segerblom, 15, of Corona del Mar had come from far behind to beat Evan Miller and Taylor Reese of Panama City, Fla. by a heartbeat to win the multihull title, while Ryan and Henken held off Oliver Toole and Willie McBride of San Diego in the 29ers.

Along with Laser winner Luke Lawrence of Palm City, Fla., Laser Radial winner Anne Haeger of Lake Forest, Ill. and girls 29er winners Emily Dellenbaugh, Eaton, Conn. and crew Morgane Renoir, San Diego, the winners will represent the U.S., in the ISAF Youth Worlds in Denmark in July.

Mason and Segerblom, sailing a Nacra SL-16 catamaran, also received the Arthur J. Stevens Trophy for their national title.

The SL-16 and 29er leaders were separated by only one point starting the final day, and that narrowed to first-place deadlocks before the 10th and final race.

“It was by far extremely close racing,” Mason said.

And heartbreaking at times. As Mason/Segerblom ran fourth with their rivals far back in eighth on the second lap of the first race, the committee abandoned the race because of a 60-degree wind shift. Then they ran third to Miller/Reiss’s second in the re-run.

The last race, beset by smaller shifts, was a wild ride. At the first windward mark Mason/Segerblom were second with Miller/Reiss dead last in 10th. Almost a lap later that had flipped with Miller/Reiss leading and Mason/Segerblom eighth. But the latter found some speed to regain third place before the final mark rounding, then slowly reeled in the leaders, who jibed toward the downwind finish line about 100 yards from the end.

Mason/Segerblom then jibed inside of them and managed to cross in front three boat lengths before the line to pull off their comeback.

“My heart stopped,” said Segerblom, who with Mason had lost last year’s youth title to Miller and his previous crew by a half-point in their first catamaran regatta.

Segerblom took a flopping dive into the water—not exactly a Kevin Burnham Olympic backflip but making a similar statement.

“We just went nuts,” Mason said. “I didn’t think we had it until I heard the whistle.”

Ryan and Henken related to that. “It was the toughest regatta I’ve ever sailed,” Ryan said. “We were just about dead even.”

Henken said, “We just came from the 29er Worlds in Australia where we were practicing for this.”

In that event, with McKee alongside, they sailed against the world’s adult elite of the class and finished third in the silver fleet.

“That was our plan,” Henken said, “to learn as much as we could, test some stuff and tune the boat. We also met some guys from Denmark who won [the Youth Worlds] last year.”

So they should feel right at home come summertime.

There were no on-water protests requiring post-race hearings through the full three days.

Rich Roberts



Segerblom (l.) and Mason with the Arthur J. Stevens Trophy



Judge Ryan and crew Hans Henken won the 29er trip to Denmark

orange Bowl 2007

Orange Bowl International Youth Regatta 2007
A winning experience in the C420 Class

Brad Bolger photos

Over 600 sailors in the optimist, laser, laser radial, laser 4.7, and C420 classes, competed in the 37th annual Orange Bowl International Youth Regatta hosted by the Coral Reef Yacht Club in Florida between Christmas and New Years. This is always such a great event and my crew, Caitlin Beavers (NHYC) and I were really excited about participating, especially as part of the sponsored California International Sailing Association (CISA) team. Competitors from 17 countries were represented including more than (150) Yacht Clubs from across the USA. Amongst this group, (39) California youth sailors from StFYC, SFYC, SBYC, CalYC, DRYC, CBYC, ABYC, NHYC, BYC, SDYC, CYC, and SWYC were selected, based on sailing resume, by CISA to receive monetary support and coaching at the Orange Bowl regatta. **Go California!!!**

Most of the California sailors arrived late in the evening on Christmas day, got their hotel accommodations squared away, and headed to the traditional Christmas dining spot, Johnny Rockets to grab a bite to eat. After dinner it was straight to bed, knowing that getting up the following morning would be tough considering the three hour east coast time difference. The next day we worked our way down to the historic and beautiful Coral Reef Yacht Club, rigged our charter boats, and went out for a short practice in some very light breeze.

The weather for spectators the entire regatta was fabulous with partially cloudy skies and day time temperatures hovering between 76 and 82 degrees. However, for competitors the wind was fairly light throughout the regatta, not exactly Caitlin and my forte, but we made it work!

Race day one began at 6:20 am when our alarms went off. We arrived at the club at 7:15 am with no one in sight—exactly what we wanted to see. We were the first to launch our boat and we were feeling ready for the day. By 10:00 am, the time of the scheduled first race, the water was still glassy and with a loud horn the on land postponement went up on the flagpole. Around 1:00 pm, there looked to be a glimpse of breeze, so we headed out to the race course where racing was finally canceled after drifting around on Miami's Biscayne Bay for a couple of hours.

Race day two shaped up early and brought a fairly consistent 8-10 knot breeze. Once again we were up bright and early to guarantee being first to launch. This allowed us to be completely relaxed, knowing that the boat was ready to go and our settings were just where we wanted them to be. While tuning up on the race course before racing began, it was trapping conditions for Caitlin so we decided to pin down a half of a hole to add tension. The wind was fairly consistent and not to shifty but gradually the left side of the course became more and more favorable as the wind died near the end of the day. After the first race of the day we realized we were sailing pretty quick, rounding the first windward mark around tenth and grinding back to finish the race in fourth. Our finishes were a 4, 7, 2, 1—enough to put us in first place for the day. We were very excited but didn't let it get to our heads because we knew there were still two more days of racing to go and anything could happen.

Race day three, we continued our tradition of being first to launch, even if it meant having to move a moldy old car seat off the launch ramp to do so. The conditions were similar to the previous day, with the wind almost out of the same direction but a bit lighter breeze. Once we got to the race course we talked about what had worked well yesterday and



ABYC representatives Sydney Bolger, Alex Vaught and Cameron Summers

...continued page 12

orange bowl (cont)

collectively planned our game plan for the day. The left side of the course was really favored and patience was key. Each race we attempted to accomplish a conservative start at the pin third of the line. From there we used our speed and pointing ability to create a nice lane and headed for the left side of the course. As soon as the competitors to windward of us flopped to port tack and we were in the stronger left pressure, we too would head back towards the right side of the course, often almost on lay line for the mark. This allowed us to round the windward mark top ten almost every race. From there we knew we could pick off boats one at a time. Our downwind strategy was usually to round the offset, pop the shoot, and sail about forty boat lengths and then be the first to gibe and get away from the other boats. Once on lay line for the gates we would gibe back and sail a fairly heated angle, which allowed us to pass a few boats in the light air. The second upwind beat to the finish line was the time to play the smaller righty's and then carry the lifted right pressure back to the left. Catching these small righty's when we could, often allowed us to gain a couple more boats on our way to the finish.

The racing on day two and three was all about patience. We sailed towards the pressure, often found on the left and when we got headed we tacked. The key was to keep it simple and not to take too many risks. As Adam Roberts, one of our CISA coaches said, we were sailing so fast and pointing so well, that we were just sailing around people. So, we based our tactical decisions off this information and avoided tacking too much because also according to Adam, "our tacks sucked." We hung on to first place with five more races, finishing 3-2-3-11-1



Orange Bowl champs Sydney Bolger (left) and crew Caitlin Beavers

The **final day of racing** brought improved wind conditions that are more traditional to the Orange Bowl regatta and Biscayne Bay sailing venue. The breeze was blowing at 12 to 15 knots slightly further right than the previous days. With only a (6) point lead in the 88 boat fleet going into the last day of racing, Caitlin and I had our work cut out for us to retain 1st place. Although we tried to pretend that this was "the first race of the regatta", we knew that our ability to win this regatta depended on these last three races. At the first start of the day, my nervous energy got the best of me, and I sheeted in too early, had to point my bow down to avoid being over and fouled the 3rd place boat right below us. We completed the 720 penalty turn which put us in the back of the pack. We managed to round the top mark in eighteenth and then work our way back to twelfth. After that race the butterflies were all gone and we went out and won the second race of the day. Going into the last race it was down to our team and local favorites Enrique Quintero and Margaret Spears, with both of us in the same flight. Before the race, our coach for the day, Charlie Buckingham had offered to tell us the point spread, but we didn't want to know. It would only make us nervous. Enrique, punched

at the start, ended up fourth in the race while we finished tenth. Not knowing the point spread, I was sure that we had lost first place to Enrique. As soon as we saw Charlie's bright smiling face though, we knew we had done it! **WE Won!!!!** Caitlin jumped back and gave me the hugest hug of my life and we were both screaming so loud! Caitlin is an absolutely amazing crew and I could never have done it without her! It was probably one of the most exciting and fulfilling moments of my life and I will never forget it. For me, this championship completes an unforgettable year of competitive sailing which included top finishes at the US Youth Championships (New Orleans, LA), US Women's Doublehanded Championship (Mandeville, LA), C420 Nationals (Minnetonka, MN), C420 PCC's (CBYC), World Team Race Qualifier (USSCLB), C420 North American Championship (ABYC), and now 1st Place at the Orange Bowl International Youth Regatta.

ABYC was also proudly represented by four other youth sailors. Cameron Summers, who had incredible success last year in the Laser radial fleet, joined me on the podium receiving a 10th place trophy in the Laser Full rig class. Alex Vaught finished a very impressive 18th out of 137 Laser Radials in his first appearance at the Orange Bowl, and Cameron Forsberg and JP Saunders gained an immense amount of experience in the highly competitive 88 boat C420 fleet sailing to a very respectable 73rd place finish in their first Orange Bowl regatta.

I'd like to give many thanks to CISA for their support, coaches Adam Roberts, John Farrar, Charlie Buckingham, and Zander Kirkland, and the advanced clinics they provide throughout the year that help prepare us to compete successfully at national and international level regattas. More than anyone, I would like to thank all of my friends and family from ABYC and the CISA team for cheering us on and making us feel as though we truly could win this regatta!

Sydney Bolger



Orange Bowl family photo (by Bob Summers)

youth world qualifiers

2008 US SAILING ISAF Youth Worlds Qualifier & US Youth Multihull Championship Regatta

When Jim Bateman asked me to consider taking on the Regatta Chairmanship for the 2008 US SAILING ISAF Youth Worlds Qualifier Regatta, I was pleased to be recognized as a member –and there are many others- capable and willing to complete the job. This was especially gratifying, as US SAILING had approached ABYC with a request to host a new qualifying regatta for the ISAF Youth World Championships. The request was for ABYC to run this event for three years, so the first time would be a test and we would be watched. After several months, hundreds of e-mail messages and phone calls, the deed is done.

The 2008 US SAILING ISAF Youth Worlds Qualifier Regatta morphed into the 2008 US SAILING ISAF Youth Worlds Qualifier & *US Youth Multihull Championship* Regatta when US SAILING and its Multihull Council requested the US Youth Multihull Championship run concurrently with the Youth Worlds Qualifier Regatta. So, a new, prestigious regatta now had a name to fit.

The regatta was structured for sailors 19 years and younger and contested in **Lasers** (boys), **Laser Radials** (girls), **29er** (boys), **29er** (girls), **RS:X** boards (boys), **RS:X** (girls) and **SL-16** multihulls (open). Competitors were to bring their own boats, except for ten **SL-16's** generously provided at no cost to ABYC or the competitors by *Performance Catamaran* of Santa Ana CA. Since only ten **SL-16's** were available on the west coast, only ten teams would compete. The teams were selected after submitting a racing resume to the Olympic Sailing Committee of US SAILING.

The not simple task of picking-up, delivering and assembling ten **SL-16** cats was ably conducted by **John Williams**, **Dan DeLave**, **Pete Melvin** and others whom I'm failing to credit here. The **SL-16's** were set-up in the booyard as the remainder of the competitors arrived Thursday and Friday. Following registration and a Competitor's Briefing, we were set to go racing.

Principal Race Officer (PRO) **Jerry Montgomery** assisted by **Stacey Jackson** set a windward-leeward course for the **29ers** and **SL-16's** in the traditional ABYC race area between the oil islands, while PRO **Chris Ericksen** assisted by **Marc Schryer** set a modified trapezoid course for **Lasers** and **Radials** off Seal Beach, (**RS:X** boards failed to establish a class and did not compete).

Our competitors, guests and coaches, (there were twenty-four registered coach boats for this event) were treated to two sparkling clear, crisp days and one changeable day with lighter winds and light rain showers the last day of the competition. **29ers** and **SL-16's** completed the scheduled slate of ten races while **Lasers** and **Radials**, facing a more complex race course and less consistent winds, had to settle for nine.

Racing was conducted largely without incident save for a torn spinnaker on the SL-16 course Sunday. **Dan DeLave** and **Bob Anderson** sped in their whaler back to the club for a replacement which was delivered to the crew in time; however, in the rush to re-rig their spinnaker, the crew damaged the boat forcing them to withdraw for the day. On the same day, a **29er** returning to the club after racing ran into and partially under a power boat heading out the channel, directly adjacent to the club house. The collision resulted in one of the crew suffering a minor cut on the head as well as a broken boom vang and damaged mainsail. Unfortunately, this team did not return to race the last day.

ABYC was represented in the competition by **Christopher Segerblom** who with helm Andrew Mason, won the **29er** class and a trip to the ISAF Youth World Championships in Aarhus Denmark this summer. ABYC's **Cameron Summers** and **Alex Vaught** took sixth in the **SL-16** class. Other winners were; in **Lasers**: Luke Lawrence of Palm City FL, **Radials**: Anne Haeger of Lake Forest IL, **29er** Girls: Emily Dellenbaugh & Morgane Renoir (Emily & Morgane placed third overall in the mixed fleet of 16 **29ers**), **29er** Boys: Judge Ryan & Hans Henken of San Diego.

For complete regatta coverage, please check the ABYC website: <http://www.abyc.org/event.cfm?id=280> , for photos, results and terrific Press Releases by ABYC's own **Rich Roberts**.

As with all ABYC events, conducting the 2008 US SAILING ISAF Youth Worlds Qualifier & US Youth Multihull Championship Regatta would have been impossible without our volunteers. I wish to extend special thanks to my PRO's, **Chris** and **Jerry** for running the racing. **Latham Bell** assembled a distinguished cadre of judges & umpires consisting of; **Margaret Caddle**, Art Engle, Doug Campbell, Kim Kymlicka, Ernie Baine, Tom Robinson, John Lee and Ken Frost. I'm also indebted to my scorers; **Jim Morford** on land and **Ellen Kirk** and **Sharon Pearson** on the water. I also wish to thank Don Zinn and Chas Merrill for their assistance on the race course and for allowing us to use their boats. The **Luckey Family**, esp. **Julie & Palmer**, also pitched in with registration and race management, as well as allowing us to use their whaler. Our other volunteers, my Board Liaison, Glenn Selvin; ABYC management and staff, too numerous to list here, were also essential to the success of this event.

We look forward to hosting another great group of youngsters in 2009.

Steven Smith, Regatta Chairman



Rich Roberts photo

hails from the fleets



February Newsletter Happy Valentines Day Sabotiers!!!!!!

Is it any wonder that the gorgeous scenery around the bay inspires us to fall in love with our sabots? Life in the bay is good indeed...and those sabotiers that attend the monthly races and sweep around the bay recognize a perfect location to sail when they have one. Our welcome is warm and if you would like to come down and join in, please do. Need proof? Our next scheduled fleet race is February 24th. Get down there on the double and join us for racing or volunteering in the bay and in the evening.... it's Italian!

The January fleet races were one of those special days in the bay....enjoyable 70 degree weather and 12 competitors making for an intimate and manageable group. Our fearless leader, Jennifer, reports that the racing was close and those who caused an infraction actually did their 360's. "Great" we all say-that is what holds the fleet together. A round of applause to John McNaughton, Jinx Ellis and Dave Crockett for running the races, all experts who know their stuff. Results: Bob Ware- 6 pts, Mary Riddick- 11 pts, Jan McNaboe- 12 pts, Mark Ryan- 13 pts

Discussions were lively in the evening as the sabotiers tell of personal experiences and tossed around ideas. Our little fleet comes alive at every monthly dinner (even though we are still looking for a wine steward) Here are the highlights

Lee Berlinger gave an INSA report. There are some concerns regarding boat modifications that will be addressed by the National Measurer.

Mary Riddick gave a report on the SCWSA calendar and John Ellis gave a report on the finances. Go to www.Naples-Sabot.org for the calendar and be confident that our treasury is still "in good hands" with John.

The "B" fleet discussion continues and it was agreed that it would be good to have coaching available during twilights and to have a few Sunday sessions in May. More to come on this as the details are ironed out.

Sabot rack assignments are underway. Be sure to get your requests in to Jennifer. No whining allowed later if you don't make the effort now.

Nancy Grubbs has kindly vounteered to pull the 4 boat trailer to the Midwinters. Please contact her if you would like to go.

We finish up this month with a big thank you to all the sabotier (and sabotier lovers) who helped on the January 18th Membership Dinner and for those of you that have read as far as this without nodding off.....Cupid's February question.....which sabotier has the middle name of VALENTINE?

KEEL BOAT FLEET ON WATCH



Thanks Bard Heavens for a wonderful evening at the January Fleet meeting was heard many times by the Fleet members after Bard's presentation of his trip to Alaska. If you missed the meeting you also missed a great party as it was a grand turnout of members and just seeing old friends made the evening a success.

Judy Mathias and Carol Reynolds told about the upcoming Armchair Cruise that is always lots of fun. The play tickets are tax deductible and support a great cause, The Children's Benefit League. The play is always very enjoyable and the sponsors provide complimentary hors d'oeuvres and very reasonably priced wine. Now that's a win win situation!

Norma Clapp reported the recent Charity Regatta, supported by the local yacht clubs, produced over 50,000 dollars to make it the all time best.

Joe Riddick said the up coming ABYC January meeting that both the Keel Boat Fleet and the Sabotier Fleet are the duty fleets is fully staffed. John Brennan conducted a most successful meeting that certainly set the tone for the coming year. Guests were Patty and Keith Hall from Seal Beach Yacht Club and Betty Wright, sister of Maggie Caddle.

The 'triad' that Chairs the Keel Boat Fleet does a grand job year after year and all Keel Boaters owe them a vote of thanks. As I look back on '07 it was a great year that Judy Mathias, Joe Riddick and John Brennan steered the Fleet through out the year in all the activities that have become cherished traditions. Certainly the Christmas Party, (the combined Sabotiers and Keelboaters function), was and is the prime example of the very best. However we are fortunate that our Fleet also has many volunteers that support these traditions and this year we will try to bring forth some others starting with the Belands. Both Eleanor and Mickey are seasoned sailors having sailed their venerable sailboat, 'Aikane', to the far ends of the earth. They are one of the first ones to volunteer on what ever activity the Fleet is doing whether the Cocktail boat during a cruise, attending Fleet functions or being the chase boat at the Pinewood Model Boat Regatta the Fleet can always count on their quiet support. Thanks from all the Fleet Eleanor and Mickey.

The Fleet is off to a great year and our next meeting is March 14. We will be hearing about the Spring Cruise. I'm looking forward to seeing every one at the meeting.

George C.

hails from the fleets

L¹⁴

A Boxing Day Wrap-up
A record number of Lido sailors showed up for the last race of the year at ABYC. All in all, 13 Lido sailors showed up for the Boxing Day Race. We boasted the largest fleet turnout. Nice job everyone!

In past years, the event has been sailed in some bizarre weather. This year was no exception. The sailors who showed up were given little wind, cold water and cold temperatures. But that couldn't hamper our spirits for we had warm snacks cooked by Jesus when the day was done. Jesus, you're the man!

The Conn family was definitely ready for this race! Not only did Eric/Stacy Conn won the race in their Mercury 18, but Tracy Conn finished firstoverall for the lido's, too! Finishing second in lido's was Grant Hill followed closely behind was Sarah/Mark Ryan.

A big thanks goes out for everyone who helped make this race possible, especially Mark Townsend the PRO. Having over 50 sailors show up to race really shows you how much fun the regatta is. I hope to see you all out there this year!

Our next big race is the MidWinters on February 16th and 17th. This is always a big lido regatta with many out of town lido sailors visiting ABYC. Come on out and represent ABYC and defend you waters lido members!

Just reminder dues are due. Please help support your fleet by becoming/staying a member.

See you out on the water!

Mark Ryan

ET

The season opener for the ABYC Etchells was a corker—no put in tended, as you will see. There were a total of ten boats on the line, perhaps the largest number of boats out for a single regatta since the 2002 North Americans—or maybe the 2005 Worlds Qualifier regatta. Whatever happened, there was a bunch of boats.

The weather could have been a bit more friendly: while it was sunny and not that cold, it was incredibly light. The four races were run by ABYC juniors, Andrew and Alex Vaught and Cameron Summers; they did a fine job.

And there were a few drop-outs as the day progressed, as one might imagine: broken equipment, bruised body parts, prior commitments. Nevertheless, the best-sailed boats did the best, and the early charge is on for the year.

The Corketts, Tom Senior and Junior, were practically unbeatable: with two firsts, a second and a third, there was nobody very close. Second place went to Fleet Captain Rich Vaught; on the strength of his last-race win he took the tiebreaker from third-place Rob Rice (nice to have EL PATRÓN back, and in fast form).

Jerry Montgomery had to forgo the last race but did well enough to take fourth place, only two points behind the second- and third-place boats. Another team that has been away for awhile was there, Greg Sims and Doug Menezes, came out and sailed all three races; they were touched out in a tiebreaker by fifth-place Jim Barber and Jeff Newsome and ended up sixth.

The other four teams, in order, were Chris Wells and Dan Dooros, sailing doublehanded; Tim Carter and Chris Ericksen, sailing profoundly underweight with their 2005 Worlds crew Chris Rulla and one of the retirees (skyyed halyard); Jim Bateman with Dan DeLave and Ron Daugherty, who also retired (broken gear); and Jeff Powell and Gordon Dudley, who retired for an undisclosed reason.

Here, then, is the tale of the tape:

OWNER	RACE 1	RACE 2	RACE 3	RACE 4	TOTALS
Corkett/Corkett	1	3	1	2	7
Vaught	7	5	5	1	18
Montgomery	6	1	2	DNS/11	20
Barber/Newsome	10	2	7	3	22
Simms/Menezes	5	6	6	5	22
Wells/Dooros	3	10	8	6	27
Carter/Ericksen	2	4	DNS/11	DNS/11	28
Bateman	9	8	DNF/11	DNS/11	32
Powell/Dudley	8	9	9	DNS/11	37

This regatta was not part of the 2008 Fleet Championship Series: that actually starts in February with the first of the two-day SCYA Midwinter Regatta. ABYC will host the Etchells this year after several years over at Long Beach Yacht Club. The rest of the series, which includes both ABYC regattas and fleet regattas, will run right through the summer and into the early fall.

But before the serious racing starts, the Etchells Fleet will reenact an annual extravaganza, the Super Bowl Regatta, on Sunday, February 3. The fleet will gather early in the morning for a skipper's meeting at about 10:00 and a first race at about 11:00; then, after racing, the gang will retire to the ABYC Clubhouse to take part in the ABYC Super Bowl Party.

What makes this schedule work—and makes this extra challenging—is that the racing takes place on Alamitos Bay. Some years we've had good winds and some carnage; other years we have had light winds and light contact. But it is always challenging and even fun. If you can't sail, come on down early for the sightseeing.

Chris Ericksen

Sou'Wester DEADLINE

February 22, 2008 is the deadline
for the March Sou'Wester.



Alamitos Bay Yacht Club

7201 East Ocean Boulevard
Long Beach, California 90803

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Wow...does it get any better than this? Photo was taken by Rich Roberts at the US SAILING ISAF Youth Worlds Qualifier & US Youth Multihull Championship Regatta.



Where else would this happen except at our Boxing Day Regatta?! What a mess of boats! (Rich Roberts photo) - See article on page 9

Here comes Peter Cotton Tail
Down the Alamitos Bay Canal
He's hopping over, I have a hunch
To the ABYC Easter Brunch!

Sunday - March 23
10:00 am - 1 pm

Adults \$15
Kids \$10 (under 10)

Easter Egg Hunt!
Photos with the Easter Bunny!

Don't be a dumb bunny - RSVP by March 16
(cost is \$5 more at the door)