



christmas party 2007

photos by Tracy Conn



Santa with elves, Ginger Luckey and Elle Merrill



Heather and Scott Meyer with Kennedy, Reynolds & Katrina



A happy Fox/Peoples clan (except for one!!)



Who's your grandpa??? Brynn and Tanner Jolly are wondering.

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save the date

Rose Bowl Regatta	January 5-6
Membership Meeting	January 18
ISAF Youth Qualifiers	
Youth Multihull Champs	January 19-21
Super Bowl Party	February 3
Midwinter Regatta	February 16-17
Membership Meeting	February 22
Manning Regatta	March 1-2

commodore's comments



ABYC's annual Holiday party was very well attended in a very festive atmosphere. It was great to see so many members and their families coming out to enjoy our Club. A special thanks to Ann Seapy for putting on this wonderful event, and a thanks to Roger Seapy for helping me carve, and to Diane Bateman, Carol Selvin, Sue McDannel, and all the others that helped make our Holiday party the success that it was. Your Social Advisory Committee works hard at putting on our social events, and makes it look so easy!

Most assuredly, ABYC is made up of its volunteers. As I look ahead at the next few months, there certainly are plenty of opportunities for new and old members alike to step up, volunteer, and enjoy themselves while helping out during regattas or social events. I know that John Massey will

need help with Midwinters in February, and by the time you read this, Steve Smith will be doing his last minute scrambling to staff the ISAF Youth Qualifiers. Dan DeLave is the Board member in charge of membership and volunteers, and it's a cause that he's passionate about. If you've got ideas that you'd like to share, track Dan down in the yard or on the patio.

Jeff Merrill, George Kornhoff, and Jon Robinson are making headway with the new Sabot racks. I'm hoping that by springtime, ABYC's yard will have entirely new, state of the art Sabot racks. These racks will not only benefit our Sabot sailors by creating more space for them, but they'll free up other yard space for both 15' and 20' spaces. We're often stymied in our efforts to attract new members by our yard and its waiting list, and these new racks should help alleviate that problem. And, if you'd like to volunteer to run a chop saw or help in the assembly? Yup, lots of volunteer opportunities to help out with the construction of these racks for sure!

And finally, back to the ISAF Youth Worlds Qualifier. Each year, ISAF, or the International Sailing Federation, runs a world championship regatta. For ABYC to be asked to run this country's youth qualifiers is a huge honor for us, and continues our Club's tradition of true excellence in regatta management. We'll have the crème of the crop kids here literally from all over the country, which is exciting! If you can help out, or if you'd just like to come on down and watch and feel the excitement, please do! Show these kids, and their parents, the hospitality that we've become so well known for.

2008 is shaping up to be an exciting year with lots going on. If you're sailing less than you used to but would like to be involved, come on down, make some new friends, and lend a hand. I think you'll find that volunteering for the events we put on is a lot of fun!

See you in the boat yard...

Glenn



"Carvers", Roger Seapy and Glenn Selvin

rear commodore's notes



The Social Committee is considering a Valentine dinner on Saturday night February 16th. Not on the Calendar as yet... looking for interest. Any input or opinions...contact John Massey at jfmasseysr@aol.com

Sou'Wester DEADLINE

January 18, 2008 is the deadline
for the February Sou'Wester.



Well...it finally happened; I kept hearing about it, but never really believed it was real. Nicole Moffett spoke briefly of it, and Jim Bateman said he had actually *seen* it before, yet I stay skeptical.

Then on a cool, rainy day a couple of weeks ago, I glanced at the calendar, and there it was...FOURTEEN DAYS in a row, with NO major events at the club. Alert the media, gather the staff for a briefing, double check the calendar, low and behold...it was true.

Realizing this window of opportunity, I seized the moment, and called my wife, "start checking fights and accommodations, we're hittin' the road"

In lieu of exchanging Christmas gifts with each other, my wife and I have started traveling to interesting destinations within the U.S. for a few days.

Last year we went to New York to experience Christmas in the BIG APPLE, this year we decided on a location we have talked about for several years, Santa Fe New Mexico.

We flew into Albuquerque Sunday morning, and spent 5 days in some of the most beautiful country I've seen in all my years of travel. Santa Fe, and its magical architectural designs, unique shops and unbelievable food was fantastic. A day trip to Taos (thanks for tip Ron Wood) was equally breathtaking.

Back to work now, and the staff and I are getting excited about the new projects we've outlined for the New Year.

It's been quite a year, and I would like to take a moment to thank first, my outstanding staff, whose unrelenting loyalty to the club, its members, Board of Directors and myself, never cease to amaze me. Thank each and every one of you for your hard work and dedication this past year.

To my Board of Directors, past and present, thank you for your insight, guidance and most importantly, your trust, in allowing me to manage this incredible club.

To the members, those of you that I have come to know well, and those of you I only see occasionally, Thank you for your kind words regarding the changes you've seen this past year at the club. Your support, encouragement and sense of pride of your club, fuel me. Thank each and every one of you.

I try to make a habit of not "naming names" in fear that I may forget someone, so a BIG Thank You to ALL the members of the Race Committee and Social Activity Committee and their tireless commitment to our Regatta's and Social events.

Happy Holidays to all, and Thanks once again for the privilege of being part of this exceptional club.

Kelly

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fleet captain's g



2008! Isn't it great? It's not too late to resolve to spend more time on the water representing ABYC this year. Get out and race your boat AND see if you can find a weekend to volunteer to help with regatta logistics. We are always looking for whaler drivers, entry and scoring help, and able bodies to direct traffic in the street; cars & trailer parking and in the yard; boats at the hoists and ramp.

We should be well underway with the new sabot racks by the time this reaches your mailbox, thanks to everyone who is volunteering to assemble and relocate sabots and racks and to all of our members for their patience and understanding. Please thank Doug Jorgensen next time you see him for completing the improvements on the prototype rack – the plastic rails glide smoothly and we have carpet padding on the leading edge for protection. These truly are “new and improved” and will create

not only more sabot racks but more room for other trailerable boats in the club.

Next time you're walking around the club take a closer look at our whaler fleet. We are going through a “tune up” phase to make them more functional and presentable. On highlight: Whaler 4, one of our 17 footers, has just had the console modified (if you ever did hard turns and banged your forearm on the old hood you will really appreciate this) and has been reworked inside and out. Rick Rose and Adam Phelps are doing a nice job moonlighting as boat builders while they continue to stay on top of all of the other chores they excel in working around the club.

See you on the waterfront!

Jeff Merrill - mobile phone: 949.355.4950

membership report

I recently attended a program on how to present information for maximum retention, let's see if it works with this month's membership column.

➤ Membership

- Currently, membership levels at the club are good, but we are always looking for new members.
- Attracting and retaining members is everyone's' responsibility.
 - If you learn that someone is not a member, ask why?
 - Tell them the benefits of membership. Ask if they'd like to join.
- Going through the membership process is easy, just refer the person to me; it's very simple (actually, it's easier than figuring out which flag goes up/down during a start).

➤ ABYC Dollars

- All new members receive \$250 ABYC dollars to spend on practically everything at the club, plus the principal sponsor also gets \$250 ABYC dollars for their efforts in getting a new member to join.

If you have any questions about membership, or even better if you know someone that would be a good candidate for membership but don't know what to do next; it's very easy...just call or email me and I can tell you what needs to happen. I'll do the rest it's up to me

Thanks for your support, see you at the Club.

Ken Reiff, Membership Chairman

Email: kenreiff@gmail.com

Telephone: 626-533-1406

six pack to nine pack

Due to the explosion of our junior program and the demand for our juniors to travel to regattas, we have modified our Six Pack sabot trailers to Nine Packs. The trailers previously carried three sabots on each side; now three more positions have been added across the front of the trailer. Previously we were only able to transport 16 sabots to major regattas such as Gold Cup, Nationals, Dutch Shoe, Junior Commodore and North Series to name a few and with the increase of our junior program, many of our Junior competitors had to find other transportation for their boats. Several times our trailer drivers made several trips. Now we can take 22 boats to regattas and we are much better equipped to travel to regattas reducing the need to find alternative transportation. The trailers are in the yard and we invite you to take the time to look at them. The funds for this modification come from the Junior Fund, which our members have graciously supported. We are eternally grateful and the Junior Program thanks the members of ABYC for their continued support.

Jon Robinson, Director

the bay clogger

(junior sailing)

Who says less is more? The New Nine-Pack Trailers are Here!

After a year and half in discussion, design, and development, the six pack sabot trailers officially hold nine boats each now! Thanks to the hard work of Doug Jorgensen, Jon Robinson, and a trailer committee including Latham Bell, John Massey, Chas Merrill, Tom Newton and Dan DeLave (main designer), the travel capacity for ABYC will be expanded from 16 total sabots to 22. This will hopefully alleviate the "double trips" down to Summer Gold Cup, Nationals and more. The best part is, the trailers are more user friendly now also with new jacks, a kickstand (soon to be installed) on the back of the trailer to avoid any trailer movement while loading boats, rear light guards to avoid breaking anything while backing up, and new mast holders (also soon to be installed).

This is a huge accomplishment for the junior program and just one more way the Junior Fund has helped out. **The Junior Fund is an account that is used for primarily capital improvements for the junior program and has in the past three years purchased us three charter lasers, a 17' laser coach boat, charter sabot racks, 30 new sabot dollies, and now two newly enhanced trailers.** We are always looking to do more improvements (including refurbishing the junior coach boats) but are sometimes at the mercy of what the fund can handle. If you would like to help the junior program by donating to the Junior Fund, it is greatly appreciated and we would like to take the time to thanks all those who have donated in the past few years.



The junior program has increased its capacity to travel

Candy Land Joins this Year's Naples Boat Parade

After winning the award for last year's "Most Original Float" with a 70's peace themed submission, the bar was set high for our Junior Board and the boat parade committee. But with the help of Stacy Gibbs, Jennifer Golison, Doug Jorgensen, Jon Robinson, and the junior board's ideas, the float looked as great as ever.

The theme for this year was "Through the Eyes of a Child" and the ABYC submission appropriately was a life-size version of Candy Land. Students and parents got together and painted huge lollipops and massive candy canes. Along with our younger float riders dressed as elves passing out candy and the lights on the float, it was a life size version of the popular children's board game.

Doug Jorgensen has been one of the drivers for the parade for several years running now and did yet again a fearless and perfect job safely navigating the new bay barge through the narrow Naples canals. There was so much excitement to help out this year that we actually had to limit the number of students that could get on the float. This year the older students helped out and then cheered on from the sidelines while the younger kids helped ABYC's chances of winning this year's "Through the Eyes of a Child" boat parade submission by riding on the float dressed up.

Thank you to Stacy, Jennifer, Doug, Jon and all the parents and kids who put in several hours of work by making the Junior Board's "Candy Land" idea a reality!

Brad Schaupter, Jr Program Director

from the pages

of history

History will return next month. Chris Ericksen had major surgery earlier this month (burst appendix) and has been taking some "forced" time off to recover. He was missed during the sing-along at the Christmas party as well. Chris...we all wish you a speedy recovery.

christmas party (cont)

photos by Tracy Conn



A serious chat with Santa



The McMahon family



Who IS that bearded guy?



Alan and Brett Peoples



Tracy Conn takes time away from the camera to sit on Santa's lap



Santa's "real" family

hails from the fleets

NW e wave goodbye to 2007 with the Boxing Day regatta on December 29th after an event filled holiday season. ABYC decorated to the nines and was a little world within itself as the Keel and Sabot Fleet began the festivities on December 14th. Joe Riddick kept the ball rolling and was certainly not thinking small when our lively members began to eat, sing and talk to old friends, mostly at the same time. But our pleasures weren't all lyrical...the proof was in the eating and a surfeit of chocolate and appetizers for all. Our thanks to Joe, PRO for the evening, Judy Mathias and George Caddle for all their hard work and to Mary Riddick for that phone call just before Friday to encourage everyone to attend. Many will agree that the club looks great when filled with friends.

Fast forward to 2008. January 13th is the first scheduled fleet race and Jennifer is looking for a PRO and whaler drivers to help with the racing. A great opportunity to plop yourself in a whaler for a sunshine filled day in the bay or whet your appetite and select the star-crossed job of PRO. If you feel you don't know enough, come down and you will be coupled with a seasoned companion for a soft landing into one of these jobs

Another item on the agenda for the coming year are Sabot B sailing lessons. There is a lot to learn for the uninitiated, but worry not. Find a sabot, sharpen your pencil and you will learn how to negotiate the bay from the experts. Syllabus: Beginning sabot racing overview, framework for starting and finishing in the hunt, and an after sailing evening dinner with friends to review your day. Quiz, optional. More to follow...contact Jennifer if you have questions, want to stay in the loop, or sounds good, but you just need that little push to get you off the couch.

hails from the fleets



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A Jr. Lido Start up!
That's right, fleet six members Sarah and Mark Ryan are interested in starting up a Jr. Lido program at ABYC. In years past, jr. lido sailing was a big deal in Southern California. Sailors had to first qualify before they could even race in the jr. lido championships {much like Jr. Sabot Nationals of today}. But in recent years, the class has struggled to even get ten boats on the line. We'd like to change that...starting in our bay.

The lido is a perfect boat to learn basic double-handed sailing. It's raced in the bay {familiar waters for kids} and is dog slow. It's a boat that gets growing kids out of a sabot and into something bigger. The lido is just a step down from 420's. Unlike FJ's, lido's have active fleets throughout Southern California. Ventura, Marina Del Rey, Newport, Dana Point, Oceanside and Mission Bay all have lido fleets that race year round!

Currently at press time, the topic is being discussed with the Board of Directors. But rumor has it it'll be approved. If you have any suggestions/would like to help or offer use of your lido, please don't hesitate to contact Mark Ryan at 562-433-2416. If the program is approved, jr. lido clinics will start up in the spring. The plan is to schedule the clinics around sabot clinics/regatta's. If it's a success, we'll go from there!

In other fleet news, our website has been updated. We have the 2008 calendar on the web plus a newly updated photo album. You might be in it, so check it out!

A rumor has been going around that current lido champion Stu Robertson is applying for membership at ABYC! Some of us might recall that he's been a member before. Well, he's back and fleet six welcomes him with open arms! He will provide some stiff competition for our fleet.

Speaking of competition, our next race is the Mid-Winter's Regatta! It's a great way to start up the 2008 sailing year! Plus we'll have the whole bay to ourselves. The sabots race in Newport for this regatta {suckers!}.

Unfortunately it's that time of year where lido membership dues are due. The good thing is it only comes once a year. Plus the money helps support the fleet and the class itself. The money also goes to running our twilight series and to pay for your trophies. Help maintain our strong lido fleet at the club by staying or becoming a member. We boast the second largest lido fleet in California. Lets become #1 this year!

Save the date, our fleet championship regatta is on Saturday April 19th. Wet sand your boards and get ready for some great sailing!

See you out on the bay!

Mark Ryan

T raining Day
Chuck Tripp predicted winds of 10-20 kts for our **Laser** Fleet Race day, December 8th. We think

turn out was low as a result of Holiday responsibilities, the rather crisp (for So Cal) temperatures and the previous day's rain. Well, if you weren't there you missed it.

We almost gave up waiting for breeze while relaxing and talking in the Quarter Deck, listening to **Jorge Suarez** and **John Massey** practice singing and accompanying themselves on guitar & eight string ukulele, for the ABYC Christmas Party. The wait was not in vain as things started to look up for a good breeze as we noticed the small craft advisory flag and more **Laser** sailors pulled up in the boatyard.

Your author, noting the fresh conditions and cool temperatures, elected a **Radial** rig, full Farmer John wetsuit, rashguard, gloves and full length spray suit. The rest of the Masters-aged racers; ABYC's **Chuck Tripp**, **Jim Kirk & Kevin Taugher**, plus pending ABYC members Peter Drasnin, Alex Krauss and Nigel Morris, opted for full-rigs. By group consensus we elected to beat-out through the harbor, past the eastern end of the Harbor breakwater into a remainder of the past week storm and wind-driven swells.

Once outside the breakwater, we just kept beating to windward through steep waves. Despite vigorous steering, maxed vang & downhaul, hiking and sheeting, about one of every ten waves came over the bow ending up in the cockpit and sometimes down the neck. Wow, I've never sailed a windward leg that long! Everyone was reveling in the fresh conditions, waves, clear skies and sunshine.

After a time, the leaders luffed-up to wait for everyone to catch up, drink some water, rest and chart our next move. We elected to run downwind in the direction of the oilrig off Seal Beach pier. Surfing those waves, both reaching and by-the-lee was an edge of capsized thrill ride of speed and spray making the slog out worthwhile. All in all, it was a wonderful day in the company of like minded sailors enjoying the conditions and watching out for each other in potentially challenging conditions. A great reason to be a member of the ABYC **Laser** Fleet!

Future ABYC **Laser** Fleet Activities

- US SAILING ISAF Youth World Qualifier & US Youth Multihull Championship Regatta at ABYC, January 19-21, 2008.
- ABYC **Laser** /**Radial** Fleet Races, February 2, 2008.
- SCYA Midwinter Regatta. ABYC hosts **Laser** Masters, February 16th-17th
- ABYC E.E. Manning Regatta, March 1st-2nd
- ABYC Chapped Cheek Regatta, March 15th
- **Laser** Midwinters West, Mission Bay YC, San Diego, March 28th-30th

Steven Smith, ABYC Laser Fleet Captain



Alamitos Bay Yacht Club

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christmas party 2007 preparation

Carol Selvin photos



Dave Meyer and Dan DeLave string the lights



Jon Robinson works on the tree



Georgia Merchant and Mary Ellen add ornaments while Pat McCormick "helps"



The tree is up, Santa has visited with each of the children, everyone has been fed and John Massey & Jorge Suarez lead everyone in singing carols



Adorable snowman