



spring spruce up 2008

Tracy Conn photos

We had a fantastic turnout for our annual Spring Spruce up. 82 people contributed a good part of their weekend to getting our club ready for Opening Day and another busy Spring and Summer of sailing. Here's a list of our accomplishments:

- Nails reset or replaced with wood screw on the docks
 - Brass name and club logo polished on front of club
 - Commodores wall plaques polished and lacquered
 - Commodore wall repainted
 - Gardening – virtually every planter and plant on the premises was worked
 - Wood work on Patience
 - East yard was cleaned up and thoroughly swept
 - Boat yard was cleaned up and thoroughly swept
 - The lower third of the boat ramp was rebuilt
 - The white columns on the South side of the clubhouse were filled, sanded and painted
 - The stanchions on the railing on the 3rd deck widows walk were repainted
 - The white wooden bench outside the Quarter-deck was painted
 - The brick wall under the white bench and along the patio steps was painted
 - The brick wall around the front of the Quarter-deck was repainted
 - The rusted and broken gate to off the patio was removed
 - Hoist yellow safety stripes were repainted
 - Red no-mooring zones on the docks were repainted
 - Perpetual trophies were cleaned and polished
 - The member tool room was purged and cleaned up
 - Lights in the trophy cabinets were repaired
 - Hoist safety rails were repaired
 - Social decorations were reorganized and cleaned up
 - The entry room was cleaned up
- Here's a list of volunteers:**
 Bob Best and Edna Best
 Cliff and Judy Mathias
 Bob, Terry, Kate and Peter Bishop
 Vern and Bobbie Peterson
 Pat McCormack
 Jinx and John Ellis



Volunteers come in all sizes...Sam is getting ready to plant some flowers



John Ellis working on Patience



Ron Wood does some major yard clean up

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save the date

ABBPG Concert	June 8
Membership Meeting	June 20
Sou'wester Deadline	June 20
Men's Day	June 21
ABBPG Concert	June 22
Long Beach Race Week	June 27-29
4th of July Regatta	July 5
Cal 20 Nationals	July 11-13
Multi-Hull Regatta	July 26-27

commodore's comments



If you didn't make our Opening Day celebration, than you missed ABYC in all of its tradition, splendor and glory. With boats ranging from Sabots and Lido's and 5o5's on shore, and with many members' bigger boats dressed and on display in the water, there was certainly something for everyone. The junior program had a \$5 per swing fundraiser, whereby you could use the tool of your choice to break up a Sabot. Dave Morse had his exciting Viper 640 in the water, giving rides to all comers. Tim Carter manned the Etchells fleet's barbecue and cooked this year's assortment of dogs, ably assisted by the Cal 20 fleet that shared their tent.

ABYC was wall-to-wall blue blazers, and we received many, many compliments from visiting dignitaries from other yacht clubs that took the time to attend our Opening Day. A huge thanks to Kevin Ellis for arranging this year's festivities, to Ron Wood for arranging the host boats, and to Kelly Whitlow and staff for making ABYC just look fabulous!

And so, ABYC is officially ready for the season. Between Wet Wednesdays and Pop Tops, plus our own Sabot and Lido twilights, the summer season is in full swing. We have a full list of regattas full of both sailing and volunteering opportunities, with all the information that you need to know on our website...check it out! Between regattas, the keelboat fleet's activities, General Membership meetings, and a myriad of other sailing and social events, there's plenty to do at ABYC this summer.

So here's to sunny days and great breezes. Come on down, hose off your boat, and go sailing!

Glenn Selvin





There's something special about Opening Day, it seems to bring the best out of the club. I'm sure part of it is the "afterglow" of Spring Spruce Up, but it goes further than that. Beautiful boats line the seawall, hospitality is the order of the day, and we all seem to walk around with a little more pride than usual.

The compliments that I heard regarding Opening Day, and the overall good feeling of our club, should be shared with all parties involved. Sometimes it appears as though there really isn't much involved in producing an event or Regatta, but trust me, it takes the proverbial village. A special "job well done" to Steve Moffett, and Kevin Ellis for spearheading Opening Day ceremonies, and all the members and quest that made it the special day that it was.

Jr. Staff Commodore, Jim Bateman was responsible for this year's Spring Spruce Up, and somehow he managed to keep all parties ON TASK, and accomplished an incredible amount of clean-up.

Volunteers rolled up sleeves, and dove into a variety of projects, some large some small...but all important. Everything from trophies being polished to our ramp being resurfaced, flowers being planted and decks being repainted, excellent effort by all involved. If you haven't been part of a Spring Spruce Up in awhile, make a note on your calendar to join the party next year. You'll have a ball, and lunch & beer is on us.

Mother's Day was last Sunday, and ABYC hosted a wonderful brunch for all the Mom's and their families. Lori VanSkyhock and Bonnie Robertson planned the event, and 194 happy and hungry folks enjoyed a outstanding buffet prepared by our own Jesus and the ABYC staff. Once again, nothing but positive feedback regarding the event, and this club manager was proud to be part of such a important day. Hope all you special Mother's enjoyed your day.

I know it seems hard to believe, but summer's right around the corner. I'll be working on new, fresh and exciting items for the Galley menu, and as always, welcome your request and ideas. One thing we'll be trying will be "Fruit Smoothies."

See you at the club.

Kelly Whitlow



**Laser National Championship
@ ABYC
August 8-10
Volunteer early!!**

Sou'Wester DEADLINE

June 20, 2008 is the deadline
for the June Sou'Wester.

2007 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS			
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vice commodore's view



June is here and summer is in full swing. Summer sailing is good!

House and Grounds:

The Spring Spruce-up went very well. I think all had a great time and a lot got accomplished. I believe we had one of our larger turnouts, which is another indicator of our continued success.

I personally partnered with Eric Conn and we cleaned out the tool room. Many years of accumulated tools, parts, junk, and debris was examined and either brought to a more usable place in the tool room or discarded to make room for tomorrow's treasures. This was interesting, because one man's trash is another man's treat, but I think Eric and I represented the Club's best interest by only throwing away that which is most useless. I know there are people out there wondering if their favorite do-dad still exists, let me assure you that it does exist somewhere, just maybe not in the tool room! I am just kidding, I am sure it is still there (maybe!). You better go check!! ☺

Yard Czar Committee:

By the time you read this, the sabot racks will be in place and we should be making a lot more money with the new spaces created. This will hopefully alleviate any need for dues or rate increases in the future. We will hopefully also avoid the need for finding other sources of funds.

Unused boats in the yard continue to be a problem. Again, keeping boats that are used in the yard is critical to keeping the yard and Club vibrant. Dead wood does not promote new growth. Again, if I or any of the Yard Czars can help you find a new home for your boat, let us know.

Mother's Day

Mother's day was a lot of fun. A lot of new faces and a great deal of nice people were found to be enjoying themselves. It is interesting how a whole new generation is starting to participate more and more in the Club's activities. I believe we had more than 170 participants and I am sure most of them will be coming again next year.

Brad Schaupter played fabulous tunes. Lori VanSkyhock was in charge and it showed. The Staff and Kelly Whitlow know how to throw a party. John Massey was the board liaison.

4th of July Regatta:

4th of July regatta is coming up! Remember this is an ABYC family event. Reverse starts with a finish in front of the club. Fun, fun, fun! I am the board liaison for the party afterward. It should be a blast as well.

Finally:

The Club is growing and is vibrant. All of your efforts have paid off! Keep looking for new members to join. If you see someone hanging around the Club a lot and you like them, get them to join. You will be doing us and them a favor.

See you around the Club. Go ABYC!

Merle

fleet captain's log



Summer is here and Opening Day was a great way to kick things off. All in attendance applauded club members Sydney Bolger, Chris Ericksen, Mark Townsend, Sandy Toscan and the ABYC Jr. Program who were saluted by several yachting groups for their superior efforts sailing for and promoting sailboat racing on behalf of ABYC – we not only have one of the best sailing venues in the world, but also can boast some of the best sailors and race organizers plus the top rated junior program on the west coast. (Hey, we already knew that, but it's nice to see the acknowledgment and recognition from our peers in the sailing community).

On Saturday May 10th Eric McClure and his ABYC team successfully defended the ASPBYC Walt Elliot Harbor Challenge. Eric's J-35 Mac's won two out of three races against Shoreline YC and we will be defending "the Walt" again in 2009, way to go Eric and team ABYC!

Memorial Day regatta will be hosted after this deadline for publication, but I am confident that the Laser fleets organizational skills will have been appreciated by all of us and a special thanks to Jorge Suarez and Steve Smith for a job well done.

The weekend of May 17 and 18 found the structural completion of the highly anticipated new sabot racks. I will give a full report next month, but wish to offer an all encompassing THANK YOU to our incredible volunteer team who put in countless hours to make this happen. Over the next couple of weeks the fine-tuning will be continued which involves finishing the carpeting and tagging of spaces, plus the completion of the mast rack installation. If you have a sabot in the yard I hope you come down to ABYC soon to inspect your new home. You can find your new rack location (and your old

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rack position for reference) in the glass case mounted just outside the front office. As you might imagine we have already discovered a few assignments got mixed up and yet we hope to have everything settled soon. There were a lot of “loose items” (mostly spars) that are now situated by the far east yard fence for recovery (organized by the old wood rack numbers) – come take a look to see if you can reclaim any lost or missing sabot equipment. And please contact me directly if you have any questions or concerns.

What you may ask happened to the old wooden sabot racks? A team from Mission Bay YC came up Sunday to decommission our wooden racks, so next time you visit MBYC you might be able to find your old rack – modern recycling at its best! Mission Bay YC was very appreciative and the already healthy bond we share with our San Diego cousins is now even stronger.

We are still one whaler short of a full complement for our race committee fleet. If you have a 13' or 17' whaler you would like to donate, or know of one somewhere that we should make an offer on please let me know.

Summer is here, twilight racing is in full swing. Come on down to enjoy the camaraderie and incredible lifestyle that ABYC has to offer.

See you on the waterfront!

Jeff Merrill - mobile phone: 949.355.4950

Tracy Conn photos

junior fund raiser

Give 'em the Axe!
 Ever crunched into a sabot? Most of us can probably answer yes...but with an Axe? As unsettling as you would expect, the crunch of smashing fiberglass is a sound probably in every sailors top three list of “things you don't want to hear”.

One of the rites of spring finds the Junior Program revamping our charter sabot fleet to place 12 good sailing sabots into service for the summer program. Each year we field our best dozen and sometimes we retire one or two that are deemed beyond repair. In last months Sou'Wester I included a photo of ABYC Junior star Cameron Summers holding up the remains of one former charter sabot that was sliced up for the dumpster. (In fact it was during that work weekend that the idea was hatched of letting the membership enjoy the “work” involved in destroying a sabot and making it a fundraiser for the Junior Program - hey Tom Sawyer an Oliver Twist on your fence white washing scheme).

For those of us with a “demolition disposition” it is irresistible to “help” when offered a chance to participate in sanctioned destruction as was the case when he had “Red Star” on the tarp during Opening Day. Over \$200.00 was pledged (if you are one who said you'd send your money in later this is your reminder) and many members savored the uncomfortable satisfaction of making an axe hole.



Elle Merrill takes a turn

Given traditional Bay rivalries I expected a bigger turn out from the Lido fleet, club photographer extraordinaire Tracy Conn was willing to bury the hatchet (several times and with vigor!) so we may try this fund raiser again next year with a little better advance advertising and promotion. For all of you who joined the fun thank you for donating to the Junior Program. If you missed out and would like to make a contribution please make a separate check payable to “ABYC Junior Program” and include it in the envelope next time you mail in your dues. The Junior Program thanks all ABYC members for their generosity and encouragement!

Jeff Merrill – Junior Advisory Board member



Jonn Merrill attacks the sabot



Tracy Conn puts down his camera long enough to attack the sabot

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from the pages of history

For reasons I don't want to explore too closely, some words from the Jimmy Buffet song, "Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes" was going through my head as I reviewed the SOU'WESTER's of past. "If it suddenly ended tomorrow," they go, "I could somehow adjust to it all; good times and riches and son-of-a-*****s, I've seen more than I can recall." Well, I recall a lot of it—and the SOU'WESTER's record the rest.

THIRTY YEARS AGO:

While change is a theme here, the SOU'WESTER of June, 1978, includes a lot of the same things we might see in this edition. Staff Commodore Dick Russell was president of the ABYC chapter of the Order of the Blue Gavel, an association of past commodores, and was master of ceremonies for Opening Day that year, celebrating ABYC's "52nd sailing year." It was held on April 29 and was apparently well attended. Music was performed by the Long Beach Municipal Band, a buffet lunch was served after the ceremony and open-boat hospitality was the order of the day. A number of the men of ABYC, including Gordon Brown, Jim Hetherington, Harry Hutchinson, Stan Scott and Tom Lyon judged "the Sabot contest;" nowhere is it said what that competition was, but I think it was a competition to see which Sabot was in the best condition for the coming season.

Commodore Bill Nicolai used his "Commodore's Comments" to call for volunteers to help—and help pay for—the refinishing of the captain's chairs on the second deck of the clubhouse. Many of the chairs included a plaque naming the person or persons who paid for the original purchase of the chairs ; those who paid for the refinishing of one or more could have their names on plaques affixed to the refinished chairs. And a team was being recruited to do the actual refinishing.

Sailing competition was of course reported, and names there are often the same as seen now—and some have changed. Second place in the "B" division of the 1978 Lido 14 Fleet Six Championship Regatta was Jerry Montgomery. John Hsu sailed his California Orient Express" to a win in the ABYC 1-14 fleet's 6th Annual Long Distance Race, finishing first in the "outside-the-breakwater, over-15-mile race." And Kevin Dumain tied for second on points but lost the tiebreaker to J.J. Fetter of San Diego Yacht Club; she is known now as J.J. Isler.

Ron Fox and Eric Conn were teaming up to co-chair the 1978 Snipe Nationals, to be held at ABYC in August; their request for volunteers and housing help reminded everyone that ABYC won the St. Petersburg Yacht Club Trophy, signifying the best regatta of the year that year, for the 1968 Snipe Nationals...an auction was being planned to help defray the costs to redecorate ABYC, with such items as a cocktail and dinner cruise on a Newport 41, a Sabot rudder and leeboard and a brand-new Schoonmaker Campbell Sabot sail; among the auctioneers were to be Chas and Paul Merrill and Gordon Brown...the "2nd Annual (Traditional) Inverted Start Family Picnic Race" was scheduled for August, according to John Hand, the regatta organizer and coordinator...

TWENTY YEARS AGO:

Opening Day celebrated the start of ABYC's "62nd yachting year" on Saturday, April 30, according to the SOU'WESTER of June, 1988. Dick Landes was in charge that year, and reported that ABYC member Vic Guder brought a 17-piece band down from Glendale Community College to entertain the pre-ceremony crowd. Apparently the ceremony went well; special note was made of gunner Ronnie Cook ("no mis-cues and no mis-fires") and Port Captain Chris Ericksen. The "flags broke out smartly and right-side-up," it was reported; "we expect it to be that way at ABYC," he continues, "but I can assure you it doesn't always happen at other clubs!"

Commodore Al Nelson reported on a moderately controversial proposal being bandied about in the spring of 1988: the change of the name of the United States Yacht Racing Union (USYRU)—formerly the North American Yacht Racing Union (NAYRU)—to the United States Sailing Association. In the understatement of the day, Al reported that "there is not universal agreement on this proposed change," which in part was to remove the words "yacht" and "union" from the name so as to avoid "negative connotations." Glad to know those days of controversy are behind us.

Passings were noted in the SOU'WESTER. Staff Commodore Neil Dundas died on Opening Day in his home in Huntington Beach; in honor of a particular service he provided to the club for many years, the article ended thus: "Bye, Santa—have a long winter nap." Jack Cook, who had been a race-committee chairman and sailed Sabots, Lidos and Cal 20's, lost a long fight to lung cancer on May 6. And Scott Gillespie, who had served as club historian and financial manger for the 1976 Finn Gold Cup, passed away on May 23 of heart failure.

There was an article entitled, "Whaddya mean, 'what Laser fleet?'" ; apparently there was some interest in rekindling the moribund fleet structure...the "Driftwood" column, guest-authored by Vicki Ericksen as Judy Mathias was on vacation, reported on the premature birth of Kathleen Rose Marr to Chris and Patricia Marr; "while she is named for her mother's two grandmothers," the report continues, "there is no question that this baby is a Marr"...the list of new members included some familiar names as Don Cole, a C-15 sailor and Yachting Member, converted to Regular membership status while Sharon Pearson, a longtime Lido 14 crew, became a Regular member with her two daughters, Rhonda and Kelli...

TEN YEARS AGO:

"Mike McDade, a longtime member of ABYC and a regular race office for ABYC events, died on May 10, 1998, of cancer. He was 46 years old."

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So started the lead article in the June, 1998, SOU'WESTER. Sadly, his was not the only untimely passage of an ABYC member reported that month. Annette Best, who grew up as Annette Lore and was a Regular member as an adult, passed away that spring; she was survived by her husband, Bob, and their young daughters, Amanda and Edna. Jim Chapman, who with his brother John came over from Phoenix to race their J/24, "J Hosen Neig," died of stomach cancer in March. And Jim Heatherington, an active Keel Boat Fleet and Sabotier member, succumbed to cancer as well in April.

There was much coverage dedicated to the recently completed Spring Spruce-Up; more than five dozen members were on hand and all posed for a photo on the lawn, shot from the second deck railing. They painted, planted and polished; worked on both PATIENCE and the Bay Barge; and were fed a barbecue lunch. Of coincidental interest was a report in Ann Exley's "From the Pages of History" column of a work party that had been organized in May, 1958, to repaint the clubhouse (now the Leeway Sailing Center); among the participants of that event—held fifty years ago—were then-Commodore Ted Matson, past Commodores Sid Exley and Llewellyn Bixby, Jr., and such folks as Charles Kober, Raleigh Moffett, Loyd Landes, Roy Conn and Bernie Fowle. This crew was rewarded by a spaghetti dinner.

Robin Townsend, representing the Etchells fleet, won the 1998 Club Championship Regatta in Naples Sabots; Tom Newton, Jr., representing the Cal 20 fleet, was second while Snipe representative Jim Grubbs was third...the Etchells Fleet "hot-dog stand" was a big hit at Opening Day, hosted this year by Jerry Montgomery and Tim Carter as the regular chef, Steve Moffett, was otherwise engaged (he was president of the Blue Gavel chapter in this, ABYC's 72nd year)...Pete Melvin, sailing with Roger Jenkins, won the 1997/98 US SAILING Multihull Championship and brought the Hobie Alter Cup back to ABYC; defending champion Jeff Newsome, also an ABYC member, participated as well with crew Sandra Tartagliano...

Chris Ericksen, Club Historian

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more spruce up

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Mac Mills | Jerry Thompson |
| Mandy Smith | Russ, Dana and William Boudreau |
| Chris Peoples | Jay and Pease Glaser |
| Craig Yandow | Kevin Taugher |
| Jim Morford | Evie Belisle |
| Norma Clapp | John McNaughton |
| Gordon Dudley | Bill and Sue McDannell |
| Andrew Bish | Heather, Sam, Zack and Brian Rusaw |
| Jeanne Reid | Dave, Justin and Austen Crockett |
| Chris Wells | Glenn and Carol Selvin |
| Marcel Hughs | Eric Chadwick |
| John and Donna Massey | Mary Riddick |
| Al and Jeanne Nelson | Larry Kidd |
| Lori VanSkyhock | John and Georgia Merchant |
| Dave and Carol Kofahl | Jeff and Jonn Merrill |
| Steve and Jennifer Kuritz | Jerry and Jane McNaboe |
| Lee Berlinger | Cole and Mike Price |
| Lars Rosenblad, Eileen Edwards and Max Rosenblad | Eric Conn |
| Don and Bobbie Hodges | Jon Robinson |
| Tracy Conn | Merle Asper |
| Ed and Brian Spotsky | Brad and Sharon Bolger |
| Dan Delave | |
| Diane Bateman | |

Many thanks for a job well done!

Thank you also to those of you whocouldn't make it but made a financial contribution to the club.

Jim Bateman, Jr. S/C



Vern Peterson polishes Patience



Bob Bishop polishes brass



Kate Bishop gardening

Who is that sailing with the ABYC juniors?

You may recognize two of the faces in the photos below as non-junior sailors. So what are they doing out in Cal 20's with some of our junior racing team?

Recently I was approached by Alex Vaught who had a desire to start a Governor's Cup Match Racing Team at ABYC. The Governor's Cup, which is an ISAF Grade III match race event, is held at Balboa Yacht Club this summer and is an invitation only event. It has seen such famous names as Paul Cayard, Mark Christensen, and a host of other local and international talent. Sailed in Governor Cup 21's, this event boasts some high class talent and is only open to juniors!

So who are these two sailors and why are they out there sailing with our juniors then? It just happens to be Dave Perry and Steve Flam, two world-renowned match racers and they were training our 'A' and 'B' Gov. Cup teams in match racing tactics and starts. Steve Flam, who is a member at ABYC and has a daughter in our junior program, has agreed to be the primary coach for the ABYC Gov. Cup team which consists of Alex Vaught, Cameron Summers and Russell Olson (the 'B' team in training is Laura Newton, Samantha Gebb and AJ Robinson).

Dave Perry was in town for the Congressional Cup and would be sailing with Steve, so as a favor to his crewmate and to have a little fun, Dave and Steve squared off against each other with our juniors as crew. It was quite the sight to see them "dialing up" at the starting line and practicing their starting techniques with two pros. The two boats quickly gained the attention of nearly every passer-by on the bay as their curiosity got the better of them as to why these sailboats were chasing each other around so aggressively (part of the pre-start tactics of match racing).

I was just the beginning of many match-racing practices to come, but it was an exciting beginning. We look forward to fielding our first Governor's Cup team in over a decade and would like to thank Steve Flam for volunteering to be the ABYC team coach. Best of luck to them in their training and competing in this year's Governor's Cup!

Continuing the Tradition of Great Laser Sailors at ABYC

On May 3rd and 4th, three members of our junior laser team went up to Santa Barbara to compete in the final leg of the Ullman/Frost Series which consists of four Laser/Radial regattas across Southern California. This particular event would not only decide the winners of the Ullman and Frost Series but also qualify one sailor for the O'Day Championship Regatta.



Cameron Summers (right) carries on the tradition of great Laser sailors at ABYC

Andrew MacLean, who was attending his first laser regatta ever, improved upon his results nearly every race approaching mid fleet finishes by the end of the regatta in this extremely competitive fleet.

AJ Robinson came for the second day to help jump his Frost series scores up and ended up scoring many top 10 finishes and ultimately a 9th place finish overall in the entire Frost series - a remarkable accomplishment even after he missed one of the four regattas in the series!

Cameron Summers, an ABYC junior in his last year who has had an incredible sailing

career found himself carrying on an ABYC tradition in Lasers by not only winning the Cinco De Mayo Regatta but also the O'Day qualifier (part of the regatta) and the Ullman Series overall. He was loaded up with a medal around his neck and a perpetual trophy that shared many familiar ABYC Laser fleet names such as Bob Faulk, Chuck Tripp, Chris Raab, and Kevin Taugher. It was a remarkable performance that essentially had Cameron finishing top 3 in seven of eight races including three first place finishes and the majority of the rest being 2nd place finishes. It was an incredible sight to see as he performed his downwind 's-curve' sailing; a maneuver that brings him up to a reach to pick up speed then shoots him downwind with an accelerated punch. It was difficult (or easy depending on which way you look at it) to coach him with so many good things he did and so little to give criticism on. Congratulations to Cameron, AJ, and Andrew for all their accomplishments and for carrying on the tradition of great laser sailing at ABYC!



Team ABYC at the Cinco De Mayo Regatta

If you would like to find out more info about the ABYC junior sailing program, please visit our junior website at www.fleetracing.net where you can find summer program sign up forms, articles and more!

Brad Schaupeter, ABYC Junior Sailing Director

melanie patterson all girls regatta

Jeff Merrill photos

The wind was blowing at the Melanie Patterson Memorial All Girls Regatta. Out of the 15 participants sailing, 7 were from ABYC. Caitlin Curley (C3), Bridget Luckey (C2) and Marissa Golison (A), all started the day off with 1st's, followed by some good racing from Savannah Robinson (A), Elle Merrill (B), and Lilly Flam (C2). Sara Ryan was our coach for the day (I guess Brad didn't think it was too manly to coach the All Girls) and did a great job. In the first race, one of the seniors capsized behind a mooring, and since Sara was our only coach, we all started yelling to her. She couldn't hear what we were saying or see the flipped boat, so she just gave us the thumbs up and said, "Good job guys!," having no idea what we were talking about, but she finally got the message. By the 3rd race Marissa and I were tied, but in the end she took home the Sabot A trophy, and the First Overall in the regatta trophy. Because we all sailed together, we were just scored separately. Elle Merrill sailed a solid regatta, getting 2nd in each race and overall, but we all know that's just because she wore the regatta shirt on the day of the regatta, which is bad luck. Although it couldn't have that bad of luck because Bridget wore her shirt, and she won the C2 fleet! (Her strategy was to talk her way up to 1st in each race.) Lilly Flam took home the 2nd place trophy, and Caitlin Curley finished 2nd for the C3's. This All Girls wasn't nearly as big as the one at LIYC, but next year we hope to bring down even more girls!

Ginger Luckey



Catching a tow to the start



Team ABYC



Lilly Flam, 2nd in C2



Marissa Golison, 1st in A



Bridget Luckey, 1st in C2

unsung heroes of Spring Spruce Up

I am not even going to start naming all that showed up to Spring Spruce Up 2008. It was a lot and there was a very large chunk of work done. It was believed by the organizer, Jim Bateman, he should just divvy out really easy tasks so as not to mess up the momentum that the crew of the club under Kelly Whitlow has accomplished to date. But work has to be done and many hands were ready to take task.

There were some that decided one project or other should be tackled. With the blessing...mostly...of Jim they trekked into some really treacherous waters. The crew on the boat ramp was the most aggressive. "Remember, no crowbars and no hammers", was the last thing Jim remembered saying. Next time he visited the ramp it was a mess. Wonder where they got all those hammers and crowbars? "Had to be fixed sometime", was one explanation. From a crew of a few to a crew of about a dozen the power tools came out. The bad wood went out and the new wood went down. There were plenty of people willing to give advice on the next step. At one time I only saw one person with a hammer and eleven people watching. It looked tough and go for a while but with some of the crew working well into the evening and coming back the next day it all got done.

Other obvious improvements came from the painting, polishing and gardening. In the background was a crew working on the East yard and tool shacks. It was quite an orchestration. The club was quite spiffy in the end and really ready for Opening Day. So I have to give a hats off to all that showed up, Thank you.

If you would like to view some shots that do not make it to the SouWester you can browse:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/dandelave/SpringSpruceUp2008>

Dan DeLave

ABYC Defends 2008 WALT ELLIOTT HARBOR CHALLENGE TROPHY!

Eric McClure and a team including his brother and several other highly skilled ABYC sailors successfully defended a challenge from Shoreline Yacht Club and retained the Walt Elliott Harbor Challenge Trophy in a three race regatta sailed on Saturday, May 10, hosted by ABYC.

The Walt Elliott Harbor Challenge Trophy, a beautiful brass scale model of an 18th century naval cannon on a base, is sailed for among member clubs of the Association of San Pedro Bay Yacht Clubs (ASPBYC). The event was deeded by Walt Elliott, a member of Los Angeles Yacht Club before his passing, "for the purpose of promoting interclub fleet racing on a challenge basis among the member clubs of the Association." Among past winners of the trophy are Jim Barber, Barney Flam, Keith Ives and Bob Kirstine, although all were sailing for other yacht clubs at the time; only Doug McLean has won as an ABYC member (with Steve Flam as crew), and that victory occurred in 2007.

Under the Deed of Gift, any member club of the ASPBYC may submit a challenge to the yacht club holding the trophy and the defending club must choose from the challenges received. The winner of the Walt Elliot Harbor Challenge not only takes home the trophy, but is responsible to put on the event the following year. Since ABYC sailed away with the trophy from Cabrillo Beach Yacht Club in Cal 20's last year, it was ABYC's first time to take on the responsibility of hosting (and hopefully defending) this regatta. The only challenge received in 2008 was from Shoreline Yacht Club in J/35's. Fortunately, Eric McClure recently acquired a new "Macs"—a J/35—and agreed to defend on behalf of ABYC. Eric and Jorge Suarez recruited a great team to represent ABYC and of all the ASPBYC member clubs only Shoreline Yacht Club sent a challenger, "Craic," skippered by Dan Paracchini.

This one day regatta was sailed inside the breakwater in smooth water with a building breeze. Though the event is promoted as a fleet race, with only two entries some vintage match racing tactics prevailed throughout the competition. Race One was sailed in lighter air but gave both boats a chance to look each other over. ABYC tried to pin SYC during the pre-start maneuver but SYC got away; they won the start and led at the end of the first beat. ABYC came back to lead by the second lap around; the second run, however, saw some struggles on the ABYC boat, and SYC sailed into a lead they held

across the finish line. Race Two seemed to be a more even challenge, and was sailed in a fresher breeze. ABYC rallied and managed to lead most of the race and held on to win setting up a third and final race to determine the winner.

The final start seemed to foretell a real tussle, as the boats jockeyed for position in the pre-start; both ended up OCS at the start and ended up restarting within seconds of each other. On the first beat ABYC showed superior speed and led at the first mark, but SYC drove hard on the run and began to close the gap. In the end, however, a disastrous leeward gate by SYC that led to a near broach and an extended struggle to regain control of their spinnaker decided the match: SYC retired, the race committee shortened the race at the windward mark and ABYC sailed to victory.



Team ABYC accepts the trophy

Both teams sailed home and unrigged then came together for the trophy presentation at the ABYC Quarterdeck. On hand for the awards was ASPBYC commodore John Merchant (yes, our John Merchant) and ABYC and ASPBYC staff commodore Chris Ericksen (who also happened to be the PRO for this years event).

Crewing aboard ABYC's winning entry was: Eric McClure, Steve McClure, Darren Rosenberg, Allan Rosenberg, Jorge Suarez, Ron Clanton, Cameron Summers and Alex Vaught. Both crews enjoyed a nice cold one and complimented each other for a great battle on the water. The camaraderie, respect and sportsmanship exemplified by both teams both on the water and ashore was a fitting tribute to Walt Elliot who donated his heirloom cannon to with a vision of perpetuating friendly competition amongst local yacht clubs.

Assisting Chris Ericksen aboard *Patience* were Marc Schryer and Judy Mathias. Whaler crews included John Merchant, Mike Baumann, John Williams and Dan DeLave. *Patience* was prepared by George Caddle and Dave Myers had the whalers and marks all set up in advance for a fun filled day of action. Margaret Caddle assembled a jury for protests, but none were filed. It is a testament to ABYC to not only successfully defend this prestigious event, but to run such a smooth regatta staffed by such a seasoned group of club veterans. Look for an ABYC three peat in 2009, way to go Eric McClure and the Mac's team – please thank and congratulate everyone whose name you read in this article when you see them at the club!

Chris Ericksen PRO and Jeff Merrill Regatta Chairman

mother's day brunch

Lori VanSkyhock photos

ABYC was definitely the place to be on Mother's Day. "Mother Nature" blessed us with a perfect day of blue skies and warm sunshine. Each mother was greeted with a rose of her choice – not an easy decision with so many colors to choose from.

Those who attended were treated to a lavish buffet of quiche lorraine, smoked salmon and bagels, French toast casserole, scalloped potatoes, and roast beef and turkey, served fresh from the carving station. Warm chocolate flowed from the chocolate fountain, from which you could dip the treat of your choice – strawberries, marshmallows or salted pretzels. Complimentary champagne was served at the bar, while Brad Schapueter serenaded all the mothers and their families with delicate piano music and soft vocals. The colorful centerpieces were meticulously hand-made by Bonnie Robertson.

If you were lucky enough to receive a chair massage from one of the two massage therapists that were on site, you completed your Mother's Day experience with the ultimate complement. Thanks to the entire Massey family, Michelle Spotskey, and Yvonne Lindemann for greeting the guests- all 194 of them! I hope everyone had a wonderful Mother's Day - wherever you spent it!

Lori VanSkyhock





Jeff Merrill photo

Potential Club Champs

Tracy Conn photo



The winners: Kevin Tauger and AJ Robinson

hails from the fleets

KEEL BOAT FLEET ON WATCH



Vern and Bobbie Peterson just keep getting better and better at putting on the Spring Cruise at Shoreline Yacht Club. Twenty five people enjoyed a terrific Dock Party that was at the slip of Bobbie and Don Hodges' sailboat, 'Dixie Cat', the host boat. Barry Simmons sailed to the Cruise on Larry Hill's 'Turnabout' with the rest of the Fleet coming by auto. A great dock side cocktail party was followed by an outstanding dinner with all the trimmings at Shoreline Yacht Club. Thanks from all the Fleet to Bobbie and Vern Peterson and Bobbie and Don Hodges.

Friday, May 9th, was our regular bi-monthly Keel Boat Fleet meeting. Bob Ware and Beth Campbell were welcomed into the Fleet as the newest members although both have been around Alamitos Bay and ABYC, I think, since just after Spain's Conquest of California. Speaking of which lets me go to the speaker of the meeting, Chris, (forget about the microphone), Erickson. Chris had everyone spellbound with the history of Alamitos Bay from the time of the native Indians to the Ranchos of the Spanish Grants to the modern day times of the Bixbys. Thanks Chris, the evening was enjoyed by everyone.

Monday, May 12th, several of the Fleet met at 'Curley's Restaurant' in Signal Hill for a real treat of jazz music. It seems that every Monday jazz musicians from all over the Southland arrive at this restaurant on an impromptu basis. Starting at 6 P.M. the music starts and various musicians arrive any time after and simply get out their instruments and join in. Great fun, good food and there must have been ten different beers on tap. My kind of evening! Our Keel Boat Fleet member, Don Hodges, was holding his own against all comers with his clarinet.

Saturday, June 14th, Jeanne Reid and Bob Chubb will put on their ever popular Pinewood Model Boat Regatta. Bob designed and constructed the hulls, supplied sail, spars, sandpaper and paint on a long ago Keel Boat Cruise to San Diego. All participants were required to sand, paint and name their boats after a third world country along with an appropriate story made out of whole cloth, (B.S. to the unwashed). Naturally Bob had designed the model boat to actually sail which prompted the first regatta at Mariner's Basin in Mission Bay and the rest is history. Not only is the regatta fun to participate in but watching many of the boats head out to parts unknown, (no electrical controls on these beauties, eat your heart out Dan De Lave with your radio controlled Nirvana II), is just plain fun for spectators also so don't miss the party. Mickey Beland and his wife, Eleanor, plus Carol Reynolds will again be on the job corralling our wayward model boats. After the Regatta we all repair to the ABYC patio for libations, (bring your own), and the bar-be-cue. The Fleet will supply chips, dip, salads, plates etc. however you must bring your entrée for the grill.

This is the last function for the Fleet's 2007-2008 calendar years. There will not be a meeting in July as is our custom. However the meeting on September 12th will start our 2008-2009 year and it's tradition to have an outside bar-be-cue meeting. The Triad of Joe Riddick, Judy Mathis and John Brennan have done it once more, a great year. Many thanks to the Triad and to all the others who contributed to the Fleet in various ways, the many volunteers are surely what make the Fleet so terrific. Well...that and the fact that we really know how to throw a party.

Have a wonderful Summer,
George C.

hails from the fleets



Memorial Day marks the traditional start of summer, but for sailors in Long Beach it kind of starts when the weeknight “beer can” races begin. And for the Alamitos Bay Etchells fleet that was in May as the fleet began the summer long races on Thursday nights as part of the Seal Beach Yacht Club Pop Top Regatta.

We got off to a slow start: the first weekend of the year Jim Bateman was the only one on the water. There were three racing the next week—which is about when the SOU’WESTER deadline hit—but a lot of the “regular suspects” had not been out yet. So the turnout should increase. Watch this space for news as the summer progresses.

The fleet was quiet in May but were invited to race in the ABYC Memorial Day Regatta. As of deadline I don’t know how many (if any) were planning to race, but the turnout ought to have been good: Saturday of the regatta will be the next edition of the 2008 Fleet Championship Series.

Our next fleet regatta is Sunday, June 22, and it, too, is part of the Fleet Championship Series. It’ll be the usual format: four or five races, no hassles. And no hassle about weight or number of racers, either: for this regatta we’ll follow the rule changes voted on in April. No excuses not to be there, now.

The Etchells fleet and Cal 20 fleets combined for the most popular food booth at ABYC’s Opening Day. Our own “chef du jour” Tim Carter turned to on the grill with the help of Dave Myers and Stacy Jackson to serve up hot dogs, sausages and fixin’s while the Cal 20’s provided the beverages. A great partnership, this, between the two one-design keelboat fleets at ABYC.

Sadly, our representatives did not fare quite so well at the 2008 ABYC Club Championship Regatta. Going into the last race there was a three-way tie for first place and five boats out of the ten competing that were in contention for the title; sadly, neither the Etchells team of Jerry Montgomery and Alex “Cubby” Vaught nor the Cal 20 team of Paul Anctil and Stu Robertson were in the running. Chris Ericksen served as Regatta Chair again and Bob Anderson was Board liaison for the event.

Chris Ericksen



Got a Lido?

Opening day at the club is a way for fleets to promote their boats to as many sailors as possible. Such is the case for the Lido fleet at the club. We didn’t have just one or two, but three lido’s show casting their good looks on opening day. Mike Baumann’s Lido “M&M’s” was a popular boat to see {probably due to the give away of free M&M’s!}. Right next door was another classic Lido: “Crusin ‘N’ Losin” owned by Mark/Sarah Ryan. After their boat was Robert Best’s new Lido #6307. His boat turned a lot of heads and it won best host, too!

While our fleet captain didn’t show off his Lido, he did show off his other toy: a keelboat. When Don/Chris Taugher need a break from the high performance Lido, they’re on their keelboat, sailing to Catalina! Long time Lido sailors Ron/Carol Clanton were also showing off their keelboat. Like there Lido, their keelboat is good looking too!

The Lido fleet was showing their force out on the water, too. Three different Lido teams raced in the Club Championship Regatta on opening day. Current class champion Stu Robertson/ Paul Anctil represented the Cal 20 fleet, while Freddie/Fred Stevens represented the Lido fleet and Mark/Sarah Ryan represented the senior sabot fleet. Only three races were raced with the fleet racing in CFJ’s owned by USCLB. The racing was close and very competitive. In the end, Kevin Taugher/ AJ Robinson finished first. Congrats goes out to them for winning the parking spot. Kevin is a 505 sailor and is Don/Chris Taugher’s son. From what I’ve heard, he’s had his time in a Lido and that’s why he’s such a good sailor!

By the time you read this, it’ll be mid-June and Lido twilights will be well underway. Come on out and join the fun if you haven’t already! Our fleet is large, so you’re guaranteed a good turnout every week!

The High Sierra Regatta is coming up fast and you don’t want to miss it. Many fleet members are planning on driving up to Huntington Lake for the popular regatta. It’ll be held on July 12th-13th of this year. Huntington Lake is east of Fresno set up at 7,000 or so feet. This is always a fun, relaxing regatta and many sailors campout for the weekend. Don’t have a campsite? No problem. Mark/Sarah Ryan have booked a campsite at Camp Kinnikinick that can hold 12 fleet members/ 4 cars! Now you don’t have an excuse! Get out of the city and see for yourself why Huntington Lake is the best place to sail a Lido. Call me up for a spot at the campsite!

Mark Ryan, Fleet Secretary



You say "potato" and I say "po-tah-to"

Sabotiers come in all shapes and sizes; and they come to the table with all sorts of needs, wants and requests. Sailing is one of those activities that screams out for personal preference. Wherever your tastes lie, the Sabotier fleet will guarantee you will be well taken care of and have a great deal of fun. A hands-on sailing lesson from Mark Ryan for the beginners, the opportunity to enjoy the evening hours on the bay at Thursday Twilights or hotly contested monthly racing to determine the fleet champion and tune up for the Nationals. We appeal to a broad range of sailors and we haven't even mentioned our new innovative idea for Men's Day.

Meet our new Sabotier sailors...baptized in the basin and on the course and spoiled rotten with personal attention by Mark Ryan (and loving it). Four novice Sabotiers came to the second lesson on May 10. It was blowing a quite a bit for a novice lesson which resulted in two capsizes. The first swimmer was Leah Williams who did a spectacular death roll near the long dock. She was attempting a quick maneuver to avoid an A-Cat. Our fearless instructor dove into the basin and helped bring the boat back to the dock. Both Leah and Mark then sailed the boat out of the basin for the lesson. The second mishap was Kathy Robinson. She got stuck in the "no go zone" and ended up swimming. Once again, our fearless Mark swam to the rescue to right the boat. This time Mark sailed the boat back into the basin while Kathy, a great sport, stayed out on the barge for the remainder of the lesson. Three cheers for our novice fleet with a job well done. The next lesson will be planned for June — so please watch the weekly club e-mail for date and time! Come down to help and cheer these dauntless Sabotiers on.

We have begun our fleet championship series based on the best three out of four Sunday races. The series consists of 4 regattas, one each month, which gives us a rich collection of unique weather opportunities and produces a true fleet champion. This is, perhaps, less venerable than a world championship but it is as hotly contested. There are also practical benefits for our fleet as it brings everyone up to speed and polishes our competitive skills. And then, of course, we wind down to a pleasant dinner to discuss it all. What could be better — hot racing, good food, wine, sailing discussions and friends! Results for the two out of the four Sundays are very close. For the April Series, the three top finishers were: Tom Newton, 6 pts, Robin Townsend, 9 pts and Lee Berlinger, 11 pts. The May Series was also very close: Bob Ware, 3 pts, Jane McNaboe, 9 pts and Lee Berlinger 10 pts. Tom Newton has two good races in the May Series but ended up swimming in race 2...so I'm guessing this was his throw-out weekend.

The Sabotiers will make a pilgrimage to Newport for the Senior Sabot Nationals on June 7th and 8th. We have the opportunity to sail at this wonderful venue and get swept up into the excitement of fierce competition. There is plenty to do if you are spectating as well and don't think twice about the party on Saturday night...it is always fun. Details can be found at www.naples-sabot.org. Entries are on-line so check it out!

We've put a little more time and elbow grease into making Men's Day positively wonderful and hope that what we have come up with might appeal to a wider audience. Responding to your requirements is what makes us tick so we have added a class of Nirvana II's to the offering. Consider this your engraved invitation to a day truly dedicated to sailing for the men and come compete in our first Biathalon. Chili, beer and a day just for you. Decide what suits you the best — sabot or radio controlled racing and hurry down on the 21st of June!!!

Robin Townsend



With excellent weather, and a light turnout, the ABYC Nirvana fleet was racin' in the basin for Opening Day honors.

Andrew Vaught, Dan De Lave, Bill McDannel, and Don Shirley fought it out for line honors in numerous races in the basin. Bill McDannel won accolades for best-dressed yacht with a full string of signal flags flying.

Summer racing has started and continues every Friday evening before Happy Hour. The ABYC fleet is over 80 strong, so charge 'em up, and come on down and get some thumb and elbow exercise!

Next regatta is Men's Day, so get em ready!

Don Shirley, Fleet Secretary



hails from the fleets



Cameron Summers Wins Cinco de Mayo Regatta and More in Santa Barbara

Congratulations to **Cameron Summers** on winning the Santa Barbara Sailing Club Cinco de Mayo Regatta and Southern California Youth Yacht Racing Association (SCYYRA) Ullman Series. Cinco de Mayo was a combination of events; as racers were competing for a Cinco de Mayo trophy, a spot at the 2008 U.S. SAILING Single Handed Championship and for Juniors, final winners of the SCYYRA Ullman-Frost Series.

Here is what **Cameron** had to say about the regatta:

I like racing in Santa Barbara. As in past regattas there, most everyone goes right off the start line. I call it a drag race. The prevailing wind seems to swoop off the bluffs or something. Whatever, it's faster that direction. The wind blew 8 to 11 except for the last race on Saturday. That race was shortened. It was a drift-fest to the finish line. I'm not going to the O'Day championship (U.S. SAILING Single Handed Championship), due to the timing conflict with the U.S. **Laser** Nationals at ABYC. I would have liked sailing a *Sunfish* at O'Day. **A.J. Robinson** and **Andrew MacLean** sailed in the **Radial** class. **Brad Schaupeter** came up and coached us. It seemed they all had a good time too.

So, in addition to collecting the Cinco de Mayo Regatta hardware, **Cameron** also qualified as U.S. SAILING Area J representative for the 2008 U.S. SAILING Single Handed Championship held at the Sayville Yacht Club in Blue Point NY this August. As he mentions in his remarks above, he decided to pass on the opportunity to compete in the U.S. **Laser** National Championship at ABYC held the same week this August.

With the Cinco de Mayo Regatta being the culmination, it should be noted; **Cameron** also won the SCYYRA, Ullman Series this year. The series combined results from the 2007 ABYC Labor Day, ABYC Turkey Day, 2008 **Laser** Midwinters West at Mission Bay YC and Cinco de Mayo Regattas.

The Ullman **Laser** Series was created to encourage travel and high caliber competition for youth racing in Southern California at the major bays for **Lasers**. It is contested for & by juniors at four events during the academic year.

The Ullman perpetual trophy is composed of two medals won by Dave Ullman, floating in Lucite with a walnut top and large tiered walnut base. The medals were won at the 1978 Baltic Pre-Olympic Regatta at Tallinn, in the former Soviet Union (now Estonia). The trophy is currently located at the United States Sailing Center in Long Beach.

Congratulations again to **Cameron** for his sailing "Hat Trick".

Jim Kirk & Derek Landeau Represent the Laser Fleet in The Club Championship

Here are **Jim Kirk's** observations on the Club Champs:

For the past three or four years I have closely watched the **Laser** Class representatives such as, Vann Wilson, Chris Raab, & Jorge Suarez competing in the ABYC Club Championship from the vantage point of my canoe or my kayak. I have always wanted to sail against the Fleet Champs from the other classes sailed at ABYC. This has always looked like a fun event which starts off the Opening Day celebrations at ABYC. Our Fleet Captain, Steve Smith, sets up a series of qualifying regattas sailed at ABYC. Points are awarded for results in each event and the top person in the ranking system is eligible to represent the **Laser** Class in the Club Championship Regatta. The top people in the **Laser** fleet were unable to attend some of the key regattas and I found myself at the top of list for 2007. I was very fortunate to have Junior **Laser** sailor, **Derek Landeau** as my crew, he was quick, observant and fun to sail with. His light weight was a definite plus getting us closer to the 300 pound minimum. There were no weigh-ins conducted by the organizers however.

This year the event was sailed in Flying Juniors on loan from the US Sailing Center down the bay. All of the competitors were given a ride in the bay barge to the Sailing Center. It was a perfect, crisp, clear, Long Beach morning as we powered past the City of Long Beach fire boat spraying tons of water into the air to salute the Opening Day of ABYC.

The Flying Juniors were fairly new and solid. They all seemed to have fairly equal speed. The racing was very close and competitive, actually very aggressive at times. The wind was light but sufficient for good racing; it was shifting from slightly east of normal.

Kevin Taugher and A.J. Robinson from the 505 Fleet sailed well, they were able to recover and get back into the lead group following a couple of unlucky situations. They well deserved their victory in this event.

I was very happy to be out there, I greatly appreciated the help and advice I received from **Laser** sailors; Derek Landeau, Steve Landeau, Vann Wilson, Chuck Tripp, Steve Smith, Cameron Summers and Alex Vaught.

ABYC **Laser** Fleet Volunteers Wanted

Summer 2008 will place extra demands on our fleet members and friends, as ABYC and our **Laser** Fleet host the U.S. **Laser** National Championship Regatta August 7-10.

Please contact **Chuck Tripp**, **Vann Wilson** or **Steve Smith** to offer your services for the Nationals...Many Thanks to All!

Steven Smith, ABYC Laser Fleet Captain



Alamitos Bay Yacht Club

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Glenn Selvin, Commodore as part of the Viper Team on Opening Day

Tracy Conn photos

opening day awards



Nirvana II

Men's Day 2008
BIATHALON
June 21

