



chris raab rocks australia

Chris Raab finished 5th in an International fleet of 48 *Laser Masters* (45-55 years) sailing Radials at the 2008 *Laser Masters World Championship* in Terrigal Australia last month. (More information in Fleet News in the *Laser* column.) Congratulations Chris!!

2008 midwinter regatta

*Rich Roberts (underthesunphotos.com)
photos and captions*

Hosts or not, winning comes natural for ABYC's sailors. Not to be an ungracious host, but small sailboats are Alamitos Bay Yacht Club's business, which is why its sailors won most of the prizes while running those classes in the Southern California Yachting Association's 79th Midwinter Regatta Saturday and Sunday.



Harbor seals check out Formula 18 catamarans starting line. There were 109 boats in 11 classes

success who must rent a warehouse to store a lifetime of trophies these days.

He picked up another one by winning the 13-boat Cal 20 fleet with his similarly accomplished son Steve as crew. Glaser won a strong A Class catamaran class by winning five of seven races to beat out her husband Jay Glaser—also an Olympic silver medalist—by four points.

"It was our [18th] anniversary," said Pease (pronounced pee-zee). "He let me win."

Not likely, unless most of the top A-Cat sailors from San Diego to Santa Cruz also were in on the fix.

On the other hand, Paul Galvez was the only ABYC member among 16 competitors in a strong International 14 class—and won all seven races.

Over the years the club has produced world champions and Olympic medalists like USC and Notre Dame turn out Heisman Trophy winners. This time the list included Pease Glaser, a silver medalist at Sydney in 2000, and Barney Flam, 83, a local icon of sailing



An I-14 flipped in front of downtown Long Beach

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save the date

Chapped Cheek Regatta	March 15
Membership Meeting	March 21
Easter Brunch	March 23
Finn Masters	March 28-30
CISA Clinic	April 5-8
Membership Meeting	April 18
Spring Spruce Up	April 26
Opening Day	May 3

commodore's comments



Is it just me? Or is it starting to already stay light later into the evening? Or am I just wishing it was summer already? Yet its only February!

Lots has been happening at your yacht club as of late. The folks at U.S. Sailing has written us a very nice letter, thanking us for our outstanding job at running the recently completed ISAF Youth Worlds Qualifier and U.S. Sailing Youth Multi-hull Championships. Last weekend was SCYA's Mid-winters regatta, with ABYC as a venue holding its usual band of suspects in terms of one-design dinghies and multi-hulls. Midwinters is traditionally the start of the sailing season, which means that summer has to be right around the corner... right?

But we're not slowing down, and have plenty of other opportunities on the near horizon for racing, sailing, and volunteering. And as I mentioned last month, we have lots of fun social stuff coming up as well. In the meantime, your yacht club has been busy gearing up.

The Sabot racks are nearing completion, and will soon be assembled in our yard, greatly increasing our yard's capacity to allow more members to bring in their boats for their enjoyment. These new Sabot racks will help create several new 20' spaces, and will take many, many boats off the waiting list. And when you see Jeff Merrill? Ask him what a chubby is, as they're the latest rage as to Sabot dollies.

As soon as the Sabot racks are completed? That entire committee, beautifully orchestrated by Jeff Merrill, will shift over to starting on the Laser rack project. They'll hold the same series of design meetings with the Laser sailors as they did with the Sabot sailors, so as to ensure that we ultimately end up with Laser racks that will work, nearly, for everyone. These Laser racks will take all of the Lasers off of the waiting list, and will nearly wipe out the waiting list for the small boat yard, and will greatly increase our ability to attract new members. And, we're going to do away with those dreaded, vertically stored Laser racks in the corner of the yard. I know that the Laser racks will create some angst, much as the Sabot racks did at their inception, but the demands of our membership simply requires that we completely maximize the yard to its fullest!

Next time you're down at the club, take a minute and look at some of our newly refurbished whalers. Some of these ol' gals are looking sharp, thanks to the hard work of Rick and Adam who have been putting their newly acquired fiberglass and paint skills to work. These whalers truly are the work horses of our race program, and are finally getting some of the attention they deserve. Great job, guys!

So pick a day and come on down to your yacht club and get re-acquainted with your boat if its been a while. Summer is getting there... no, really, it is!

Glenn Selvin

vice commodore's view



House and Grounds:

I hope you find this interesting! We had a sinkhole over next to the ramp. Much, if not all, of our beloved Club is built on sand. Periodically the sand may shift. Water may wash some of it away or something heavy may go across the asphalt and create a sinkhole. This becomes a problem. Kelly had to call some specialists out to fix it. Hopefully it is a done deal. Nice job Kelly!

This was an interesting problem in that I was reminded why we have the rule not to drive a car past the first line of keelboat moorings into the yard. The area was never designed or constructed to carry the heavy weight of a car. We go many years without seeing signs of why we have certain rules, but then all of a sudden we are reminded in fine style!

Yard Czar Committee:

All is going incredibly well. Everyone is pumped and energized. A representative from each fleet is taking the lead to get their fleets/boats organized. This is more fun as a group project.

We also did a yard audit. Stickers and condition of boats were determined. We measured all of the keelboats including trailers in the West Yard. We need it because assigning the keelboat spaces created by the sabots is difficult due to the different sized trailers. The information would also be useful if we ever decide to charge by the foot instead of by the boat.

When we did our audit, 6 or 7 people showed up and we made things happen. Boats moved and people were getting it done. A lot got accomplished and people had fun. This is much better as a group effort. It is not such a negative experience anymore.

A letter went out to all of the people that have old unreadable stickers on the back of their boats. We asked them to get down here and replace it, or we would do it for them. The next step is registration!

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Jorge Suarez and Lisa Fernandez (super office official) made this happen. Please thank them when you see them!

We were also reminded about all of the dead boats that have not seen action for many months or even years. We currently have a rule in our yard rules (3.20) that states: "A yard-moored boat must be sailed at least once during a six month period to retain yard storage privileges". We do not want to focus on negative subjects; rather we would like to see the boats in the yard get used. The unfortunate truth is that people's life change and something that they once used in fine style often goes unused for a long while, or never. It is important that we all look within ourselves and see if there is a need for this boat that we do not use (and may never use again). Why waste time and money, maintaining and storing something that will never get used? There are many people that would consider it one of the best days of their lives to get a spot in the yard. Why not do somebody a great favor and free up a yard spot? We are your friends and we can and will help you any way possible to clear up space.

The Yard Czar committee 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), and myself (VC and Cal 20). Many people have an interest in how the yard is run. If you are interested, we are interested in having you. Contact me or any of the above-mentioned people.

Goals for this month: We intend to re-tag all the trailers in the yard and send out nice letters to people that are not using their boats.

Hopefully all of this effort will stabilize the yard issues and make them easier to manage!

See you around the Club.

Go ABYC!

Merle

Sou'Wester DEADLINE
 March 21, 2008 is the deadline
 for the April Sou'Wester.

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rear commodore's notes



This is an amazing yacht club. In fact, amazing may be an understatement. Most recently, was the challenging task of staffing our division of the SCYA 2008 Midwinter Regatta. Often affectionately referred to as the “Usual Gang of Suspects”, our regular corp of volunteers was being taken down by a Flu Bug and a mysterious respiratory virus. A call was issued to the ABYC ListServe email population. The number of responses was overwhelming. We were successful in completing our needs, with a few alternates committed. Shoreline Yacht Club of Long Beach, shared our race committee duties, and provided their whaler and crew, plus additional members that rounded out the event. I here by thank Shoreline for their part, and all those ABYC members that jumped in to help. That being said, I wish to make note all those who responded to the ABYC ListServe call. Even those of you who responded, but could not volunteer. You did respond, and that in it self was a great help.

This leads me to spotlight the “ABYC ListServe” communication feature the club now has available. The mission is to remind our membership of current events and note special topics that may have a time urgency character. We realize that 90% of the information can easily be located on the Club Calendar. But, some of us may not necessarily visit the calendar site on a regular basis, where as email often gets a daily inspection. We are still in a learning curve with this type of communication, as to form, content, and frequency. We trust that you will find it useful, as it evolves.

A note to those members who were unable to attend February’s General Membership meeting: Laser Fleet Capt. Steve Smith, arranged for most interesting guest presenters. They were Greg Curiel - Long Beach City Fire Dept. including the Fire Boat, and Dave Tedesco City of Long Beach Beach & LifeGuard Operations.

A note to all of our members, who monitor channel 16 on VHF, and they do respond to 911 calls. They often hear of capsizing calls that are from the shore, which can be a difficulty in responding as the caller may know where they are standing, but can’t describe the location of the over turned boat. Traffic in the bay is always a concern plus, don’t forget, even a sailboat that is exceeding the 5 mile speed limit in the restricted areas can in fact lose it’s rights of way to a powerboat.

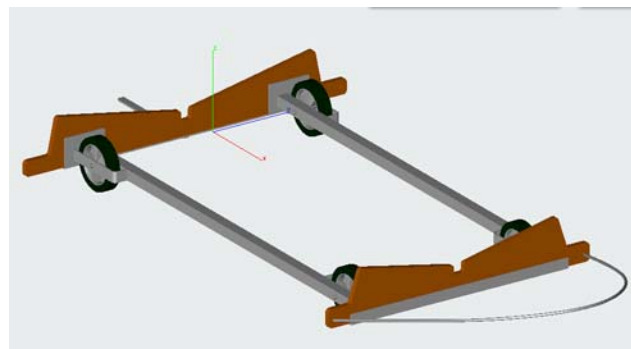
Lest we forget
John Massey

fleet captain's log



The “first article” sabot rack has been assembled and is on station. Jon Robinson, Latham Bell and a host of volunteers have been cutting pipe and riveting plastic. We are “kitting up” all of the components so that when we have everything ready we can go to town with assembly. One logistical issue stood in our way...until it was solved by Bob Chubb (to the rescue again!). As we were taking requests for the ground level sabot rack spaces we could not get a consensus – some people want to store their sabots with keel down, some keel up. Bob came up with a universal cart that can suit both needs, you

can’t use this cart to launch, but it will give you your choice of storage orientation and we expect that with the ground level dolly dilemma solved we can proceed.



On the subject of racks...the Board of Directors has approved a budget to build a prototype laser storage rack. The concept is a three high by four wide aluminum pipe structure that will be portable, long lasting and economically constructed. The sabot rack team will be expanded to include active laser sailors as we brainstorm to finesse a design that will work for everybody. ABYC yard space is at a premium and we believe we have a preliminary design that will allow for the two lower levels to house lasers on Seitech dollies with a rack type upper third level so that we can easily and safely stow lasers three high. Here we go again..I know this will be met with emotional reactions from high to low. Let’s harness that energy to work together and get more lasers into the yard – we want to erase the waiting list (all of the “off campus” laser owners want to stop car topping to sail and can’t wait to get inside the grounds) and we intend to create more room for this growing class that is one of our most active fleets already and seeing more and more growth as juniors start graduating into the fleet from sabots. I have been asked to be the project manager for the laser racks and welcome your ideas and suggestions.

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Whaler 4 is done, launched and looks like a new boat. Thank you Kelly, Rick and Adam. Whaler 2 is on the hard as the next of our boats to get a spruce up.

Patience will be undergoing some cosmetic refinements beyond her annual maintenance. We hope to redo the saloon floor and have her waxed and polished. I met with George Caddle and Vern Peterson, they are tireless stewards of our Race Committee boat queen and have done a fabulous job of keeping Patience ready to go – thanks gents!

I'd like to also clarify the Board's stand on the old bay barge. We believe she is safe as a finishing platform and intend to keep her active as such for this calendar year. She will not be re-powered and will most likely continue to be towed to her position by whalers. As a floating finishing platform she will be quite useful during the sailing season. We will retire her when necessary, but think she is still a benefit to our bay race committee in the short term.

The days are getting longer and soon it will be time again for twilights...come on down to the club and bail out your boat, dine at the snack bar and see all your friends. If you can find a weekend to volunteer to help with regatta logistics please give me a call and we'll find a place to use your skills.

See you on the waterfront!

Jeff Merrill, Fleet Captain - mobile phone: 949.355.4950

Ken Reiff photos

membership report

As a member of ABYC I think that it's important that I do every thing possible to keep our membership growing. As the Membership Chair I want you to know that going through the membership process is probably one of the easiest tasks that you can imagine. In fact, all you have to do is let me know about a potential member and I will literally take it from start to finish. The complete process doesn't usually take more than a month, it's that easy. Again, if you have questions about the process just call

me, I'm happy to assist.



John Williams (family) with Dan DeLave- Sponsor was Jerry Montgomery (John has jumped in feet first and is regatta



Robert and Dawn McKenna (and family) with Glenn Selvin and Kelly

Membership has been steadily growing and as I reported at the February General Membership Meeting we will soon be closing in on our 400th member. Now, don't take that as signal to stop promoting the club and all of its great features. I think that it's really important to take a moment and thank some of those who have been instrumental in getting us there; fol-

lowing are the Membership Sponsors so far this year: Art Vasenius, Lynda and Chris Peoples, Vann Wilson, Jon Robinson (2), Virginia Butcher. Next time you see one of these folks please thank them.

By the way, we've just revamped the ABYC Dollars promotion (\$250 each, for both the new member and their Sponsor) and it will be a lot easier to use and manage than before. I'd like to thank George Kornhoff, Mary Montz and especially Lisa Fernandez, in the front office, for some fantastic design work on our new ABYC "currency".

Well, that's it for now keep those members coming. I look forward to seeing you all down at the club.

Ken Reiff, Membership Chair



Gilles Martin with Dan DeLave(wife Christina couldn't

the bay clogger

(junior sailing)

Sabot Junior take home 3rd, 5th in A fleet at Midwinters

This past weekend at Midwinters, we took a modest sized but very talented group down to Newport to compete. We found our four "A" fleet sailors consistently competing and finishing in the top 7 places. Jack Jorgensen, Riley Gibbs, Samantha Gebb and Korbin Kirk all put forth valiant efforts with Jack and Riley finishing 3rd and 5th overall in the event out of 20 competitors.



Jack Jorgensen at Midwinters

In the C1 class, the younger Gibbs brother Sawyer caught some serious fire and won the class with three bullets. Congratulations and welcome to the B's big guy!

Matt McDermaid finished off strong in the B fleet with a 4th and 2nd place. Congratulations to them all!



Sawyer Gibbs moves to Bs

Spring Program Begins – Summer Close on It's Tail

The ABYC Spring Junior Program has begun with 30 sabots, 8 lasers, and 4 420's enrolled. We have had cold weather so far, but the excitement is still there as the 420 program catches fire and the anticipation of Laser Nationals at ABYC breathes new breath into the laser program.

Close on the tail of this program is the Summer Program Packet which should be available on the junior website by March 12th and sent out in the next Sou'wester. If you have a child or know of someone that has a young potential sailor in their family who would like to be part of the award-winning ABYC Junior Program, please pass the word around. Word of mouth is our greatest advertiser and with the new Sabot Racks, we are looking forward to fitting in new sailors and watching them fall in love with the sport for the first time this summer!

Brad Schaupter, ABYC Junior Director

from the pages

of history

Twice each winter, ABYC gives up a weekend to run a regatta on behalf of the Southern California Yachting Association (SCYA) for which it receives no entry-fee income. Entry fees for the SCYA Midwinter Regatta—in which ABYC typically hosts the greatest number of boats of any host club—go directly to SCYA to support its work, and the SCYA Manning Regatta—which ABYC has hosted since 1986—has no entry fee. ABYC does this out of a feeling of service to the greater yachting community; and these regattas are usually well covered in the SOU'WESTER every March.

THIRTY YEARS AGO:

The Midwinter Regatta of 1978 was its usual big deal, according to the SOU'WESTER of March, 1978: there were 215 boats entered, which was the greatest number among all host clubs and constituted twenty per cent of all boats participating in the Midwinter Regatta. Committee chairs for the event included Dave Crockett, Dorothy Hill, Evie Belisle, Pete Stoker, Dick Russell and Don Brackenbury.

Based on their fleet report (in those days space constraints led to exclusion of full regatta results), ABYC Lido sailors had a good time and did well. Charlie Cummings topped "A" division, more than ten points ahead of the second-place boat; that skipper was identified as "Mark Gaucho" in the SOU'WESTER, but it was really Mark Gaudio, then as now a member of Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club and whose son Rory is now an Independent Junior member of ABYC. Bill Moore was second in the Lido "B's," just a point-and-a-quarter behind the first-place boat (remember, there were fractional points in the scoring system in those days).

The very active Coronado 15 fleet reported that two class series were underway. The Coast Cup Series of eight regattas had begun with races on Lake Havasu, hosted by the Phoenix C-15 fleet; Stan Sorensen led a crew of six local boats across the desert and came home with a first-place trophy. Tom Linksey won Midwinter's, the second of the Coast Cup Series and first of the Fleet 7 Championship Series. It looked like a busy year for the C-15's in 1978.

Advancing up the membership ranks at ABYC continued as Jim Grubbs and Bruce Conn were among the new Regular members of ABYC announced in March; both had been Interim Members, now called Yachting Members. New Yachting Members, advancing from junior status, included Steve Washburn and Mark Rastello. A circus theme was chosen for Men's Day, scheduled for early April this year; the five-dollar entry fee included a continental breakfast, a day of racing and dinner for all entrants...Opening Day 1978 was scheduled for Saturday, April 29, and would include music by

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the Long Beach Municipal Band, ceremonies starting at noon and a buffet luncheon at one o'clock before open-boat hospitality.

TWENTY YEARS AGO:

The SCYA Manning Regatta was sailed in January in 1988, according to the SOU'WESTER of March of that year. Naples Sabots were the largest class in the regatta, sailing for the Manning Trophy, with Snipe's the second-most numerous; in those days this was often the case, except when there were more Snipe's than Sabots. This regatta is for dinghies only, and there were five classes, all sailing in single divisions (no "A's" or "B's"). Top Sabot was a junior from Huntington Harbour Yacht Club while second place went to ABYC Senior Sabot Robin Townsend; there were three HHYC kids in the top five that year.

Jack Franco was tops in the Snipe class, earning the Skimmer Trophy, finishing just ahead of ABYC Staff Commodore (and then-Snipe class Commodore) Jerry Thompson. Third-largest class was Lasers, and ABYC's Chuck Queen was in first place over Jimmy Elms of Mission Bay Yacht Club; and ABYC members took the top four places among 16 C-15's, with Jackie Golison in first place. Defending Lido 14 class champion Tim Mulvaney won the 14-boat Lido class.

The weather for the Manning was reported as "summer-like;" the weather for Midwinter's was similarly warm but very light. Forty Snipes showed up to see Craig Leweck of MBYC beat out Mark Gaudio of BCYC; ABYC's Steve Bloemeke was third and Keith Dodson fourth. There were 27 I-14's there, with seven of them sailing in an "experimental" division; I can't for the life of me understand how you'd differentiate between a regular I-14 and an experimental one, but there you have it. There were 23 J/24's, sailing in a single fleet but scored as "A" and "B;" out-of-towners won both divisions. A total of 176 boats were entered in 13 fleets, including Laser II's.

Commodore Al Nelson in his "Commodore's Comments" reported on desired improvements listed by the Board; they included a new public-address system, an elevator or dumb waiter to the second deck and a windscreen around the Widow's Walk...the former First Mates, the women's auxiliary that had been disbanded, gave the \$1,100 in their treasury to the club to help purchase outdoor heaters for the patio. Ann Exley's "From the Pages of History" included more historic letters, including one that led to ABYC joining the SCYA in 1930 and another that said the "Fourth Annual National Mid-Winter Regatta" would be sailed in the same year; last month we sailed the 79th Midwinter's, which would be correct if you account for the years the regatta was dormant during World War II...

TEN YEARS AGO:

A very clever caption accompanied the cover art for the SOU'WESTER of March, 1998: a photo of A-Class scows in the ABYC parking lot ran over an "open letter to ABYC" reporting that "someone stole the bows of our boats." These kinds of covers were the stock-in-trade of the then-SOU'WESTER editor, Allison Jolly.

Midwinters of 1998 featured one of the myriad combinations of weather seen in mid-February: rain and too much wind on Saturday and plenty of wind on Sunday. My recollection is that racing was pretty much called off on Saturday but racing on Sunday was kind of spotty: Long Beach Yacht Club apparently ran one race and Seal Beach Yacht Club two for the entire weekend. No results were there.

There were results, however, from the second annual Etchells Super Bowl Regatta on Sunday, February 1; it was not actually sailed on Super Bowl Sunday, for reasons, not recorded, but it was sailed. Jerry Montgomery, winner of the inaugural 1997 event, was winner again in his then-new boat TUSK; Steve Moffett beat the team of Tim Carter and Chris Ericksen on a tiebreaker for second place. It was reported that Carter/Ericksen ran aground while sailing between marks X and C—evidently the Trees in the Bay were not there at that time. Six races were sailed among the five boats on hand.

From the nothing-is-new-under-the-sun file, an ad touted the "First Annual Spring Break Sabot Seminar" at ABYC in 1998, oddly enough, the SOU'WESTER of March, 1978, included a flyer for the "1978 Spring Vacation Racing Program" in Naples Sabots..ABYC members received a number of honors for the 1997 sailing year, many of which were reported in the SOU'WESTER: Jerry Montgomery and John Latiolait received the SCYA Transpac Trophy for winning the 1997 event in "Ralphie;" Pease Glaser was awarded the Andy Gram Olympic Trophy for her ongoing involvement in Olympic sailing; Pete Melvin was presented with a Medal of Achievement by "Sailing World" magazine for designing and sailing the world-champion A-Class catamaran; and Chris Ericksen was named Yachtsman of the Year by the Association of San Pedro Bay Yacht Clubs while Independent Junior J.M. Modisette was named Junior Yachtsperson of the Year by the same group.

Chris Ericksen, Club Historian



3 Amigos...I to r... Vern Petersen, Dave Myers & George Caddle, the "parents" of our fleet

Nirvana II Maintenance Day

Well we had a very good maintenance day for the Nirvana II's. We saw everything from boats that had never been on the water to boats in which the rudder post was so frozen it took about 15 minutes to remove. We went through the rigging, changing lines where needed and improving some of the areas which should be paid attention to, especially for sailing in the saltwater environment which we bought the boats for.

Many of the owners have already done most of the fixes so you may or may not have benefited from this clinic. Some of the areas of concern are:

1. Cut Sponge to fit Radio box – for catching water that may get in from the hole in the radio box
2. Cut plastic piece to fit radio box – this keeps the Sheets from being caught on the rudder servo
3. Turn backstay upside down – allows the radio antenna to stay attached to the backstay when dismantling
4. Add slip rings for sheeting – these are stainless steel rings which allow the sheets to run smoothly
5. Turn switch on side – the switch as mounted will get water in it and fail. By turning it on it's side it is less likely to accumulate water
6. Open radio plastic and dip in oil – we took the receivers out of the white plastic boxes to dip in dielectric oil for longer life.
7. Numbers – there were numbers and the template on hand for those who did not have them yet
8. Lube rudder shaft – with dielectric grease so the shaft does not freeze in the tube
9. Drill holes for alternative to O-Rings – the outhaul o-rings may eventually fail in the sun so we can secure the outhauls with line through the holes.
10. Add String to all hatch covers – no more lost covers
11. Bend rudder pushrod to line up with servo – this will keep the rubber gasket in the cockpit from too much bending.

If you have not already done so you may be interested in the web page we have on the ABYC.ORG website. Go to fleets then to the Nirvana radio controlled fleet. You will find articles and information there.

At the clinic were:

Merle Asper – who could help with many of the questions, as he has been through many of the issues Tom DeLong – had a couple of nice ideas since he has been sailing RC boats for years.

Dick Landis – Had the problem rudder freeze and is now ready to rumble

Sam Bell – Just generally taking care of his boat

Jeff Merrill – Showed up with many issues late, in which all were resolved

Teri McKenna and Chuck – Just to get their boats ready to sail for the first time

Jim Bateman – Stuck his head in but did not bring his boat

Sorry there are no pictures of the clinic but I forgot my camera.

The fleet still seems to be growing and I am about to make another order. If you know of someone interested in being included write me.

We are going to start sailing the boats on “non-regatta” Sundays starting at noon. We will probably move back to the Friday evening program when the days get longer.

So if you are interested in coming out we will go with a schedule like this: Friday nights after daylight savings time begins.

Later, Dan DeLave



Altogether there were 109 boats in 11 classes, towing their assortment of little high-performance craft in from San Diego to Seattle. Farthest traveled was Laser sailor Thomas Kloumann from Norway.

The weather was sunny, if cool in the lower 60s, and winds were 6 to 12 knots, peaking late Sunday afternoon as competition wound up.



Sailing a Finn is no day at the beach

Non-ABYC winners were Finn veteran Andrew Kern (actually a Long Beach resident who represents the Des Plaines YC in Illinois), Brandon Wallace and crew Damon Lacasella of San Diego's Mission Bay YC in Formula 18 catamarans, and Lido 14 veterans Kurt and Anne Wiese of Newport Harbor YC.

Galvez, with Guillo de la Barra as crew, now owns the boat that ABYC's Howie Hamlin sailed to win the I-14 Worlds at Long Beach in 2006, and he has international ambitions of his own with plans to race in the European and world championships in Europe this year.

"I've had the pleasure of sailing with some pretty good sailors this past year and I think I'm pretty much there," Galvez said. "We're pretty comfortable in all conditions. We had a lot of good people out this weekend . . . probably the best pool of talent since the Worlds here. The only problem is that when we practice we sail against our shadow."

The Wieses beat out the four-time

Lido 14 class champion Stu Robertson by five points—the difference coming in the last race, which the Wieses won as Robertson finished sixth.

"We still haven't won the class championship," Kurt Wiese said. "We'll be trying again [at Oregon's Fern Ridge Lake] this summer."

Barney Flam was as modest as always. "It's easier to win when Steve is doing everything else and all I have to do is steer," he said.

Pease said she and Jay were married on Presidents Day in 1990 because nobody had scheduled a regatta that weekend.

"Now we race on our anniversary," she said.

Complete results, photos and other information at abyc.org

Rich Roberts



Winner Andrew Kern leads a Finn downwind chorus line

hails from **the fleets**



Ken and Jean Frost are long-time members of both ABYC and Newport Harbor Yacht Clubs. An Etchells sailor for almost 30 years, Ken was instrumental in bringing Etchells to Alamitos Bay Yacht Club: he brokered the deal for three boats to be purchased by ABYC members after the 1985 Etchells Worlds at NHYC and, with Doug Jorgensen, became a charter member of Alamitos Bay Etchells Fleet 18 in 1986.

Ken and Jean have been occasional competitors in ABYC regattas over the years, including the 2007 Super Bowl Regatta—which they won. And Ken came out swinging last month in the SCYA Midwinter Regatta Etchells title for the second consecutive year.

To say he was consistent is an understatement: he finished either first or second in every race. Only Tom Corkett gave him any challenge and led after the first day; however, Tom sailed doublehanded on Sunday and slipped into second place.

Third place went to Jim Bateman, with guest skipper Merle Asper aboard; they won on a tiebreaker over the Tim Carter/Chris Ericksen team. John Chapman, Gordon Dudley and Jeff Powell, the Jim Barber/Bob Newsome/Don Burdge team and Chris Wells rounded out the standings.

The flu took a toll on the regatta: not only was Fleet Captain Rich Vaught a no-show, it ravaged the race committee as well. Jerry Montgomery stepped into the position of PRO on the harbor course when the need arose and when he could not get crew of his own.

Saturday of the Midwinter Regatta was also the first of the 2008 Fleet Championship Series. The early leader is Tom Corkett, with Ken and Jean Frost in second and Bateman in third. After taking the month of March off, the series will resume with a one-day fleet regatta on Saturday, April 12.

By the way, the Super Bowl Regatta was a washout—almost literally: the enthusiasm of the fleet to race Etchells in 15 knots of wind and rain was underwhelming. But three hearty souls—Jim Bateman, Tim Carter and Chris Ericksen—hoisted some old sails and thrashed around Alamitos Bay for a few hours (the boat was already in the water). No accounting for the good sense of Etchells sailors...

Chris Ericksen

hails from the fleets



On February 16th, one senior sabot found her traveling sea legs. Mary Riddick representing ABYC, threw her sabot into the briny at Balboa Yacht Club to sail the Midwinters and placed 5th overall, amongst 13 other competitive A skippers. Congratulations Mary on a job well done. The wind was moderate and shifty and the sabots had a great day of racing. We would like to also mention a long time sabot sailor who is a dual member to both ABYC and Balboa Yacht Club, Pinky Greene who was the PRO for the event. Additional volume in the applause area please

We ended February's activities with a cancelled sabot fleet race on the 24th. We had wished for the rain to go away, but it came anyway. So after much telephone activity, we cancelled the race and dinner. We'll wish for better weather for our next race on March 16.

March brings the Manning Series on the 1st and 2nd, Chapped Cheek Regatta on the 15th and Sabotier fleet race on the 16th. Plenty of opportunities to humbly and cheerfully volunteer to help on race committee or sail your little boat so we don't go on the endangered species list. Make big plans, sail them all.... don't miss *your* moment and start getting tuned up for those balmy summer evenings in the bay.

The Men's Mayhem Regatta is March 22 at San Diego Yacht Club. Mike O'Connell is in charge..and the flier reads ARE YOU MAN ENOUGH FOR MAYHEM? Registration at 10:30AM entry fee ...2 six packs of beer, soft drinks or other...here is his number (858) 254 8234 sounds like fun

Stay in the loop and keep reading the Sou'Wester for advance notice of upcoming regattas, volunteer friendly events, and other important fun activities.



ABYC Represents at Midwinter's!

A record number of Lido sailors from across Southern California showed up to sail the Midwinter's Regatta held at ABYC. All in all, we had 16 Lido A's and 9 Lido B's. We were the largest class turnout at ABYC. Nice job everyone!

The racers enjoyed a Sabot-free Alamitos Bay with lots of sunshine and a good breeze of 8-12 knots. The racing was intense and pack mark roundings were common.

Fleet six members showed their force in the B fleet. Seven of the nine teams were from the homeport. A big congrats goes out to Andrew Vaught/ Katie Bishop for taking first place! It's hard to believe that this was Andrew's first big Lido regatta! {Watch out A fleet!} Coming in second was Marcel Hughes/Jennifer {also from ABYC} followed by John Hauck/Doris {another ABYC member}. It was great to see Sam/ Dana Bell and Patrick Kelly out in their Lido's again. Fleet Captain Don/Christine Taugher were Rocking 'N' Rolling in the first day of racing. Too

bad they already had plans on Sunday. It was also great to see Terri/{little} Peter Bishop trying out the Lido, too. From what I've heard, they had a great time!

Fleet six also had good results in the A fleet. Stu Robertson/Brandon took a respectable second place while Mark/Sarah Ryan took third. Long time fleet members Dave/ Jeanne Smith had some great moments, even rounding the windward mark in first in the last race! A big congrats goes out to Newport sailors Kurt/Anne Wiese for winning the regatta with only 12 points!

A big thanks goes out to March Schreyer and John Massey for running the inside races. Also, a big thanks goes out to the young ladies out on the finishing barge!

Our next race is a big one. Fleet Champs is coming up! It will be held on Saturday, April 19th. A large turnout is expected. If you own a Lido at ABYC, I highly encourage you to join the fleet and come out and play. Whoever is crowned fleet champ will represent our fleet in the Club Championship Regatta. Who ever wins the club championship gets that sweet parking spot at the club. So if you want to get you own parking spot at the club, try your luck out in the Lido!

Some fleet members are going to a couple of out of town regattas. If you're interested, the Harry Wood Memorial Regatta is March 31st down in Newport. Also Fleet Two's Invitational is April 5th up in Marina Del Rey. See you out on the water!

Mark Ryan

KEEL BOAT FLEET ON WATCH



There we were at the theater waiting for the play to begin. We had all arrived early and enjoyed the pre show cookies, cakes, sandwiches and other goodies that the ladies of the Children's Benefit League had supplied along with very reasonable priced wine. After all, wasn't this our annual Armchair Cruise and had not Carol Reynolds and Judy Mathis sold out all the tickets to this charity affair? Was not this a win win for everyone, a great charity, all our friends to see and usually a fun play, many times with a surprise ending? Of course this time we had the all time surprise ending, **SOMEONE FORGOT TO TELL THE CAST THAT THERE WAS A PLAY THAT NIGHT!** A very apologetic associate of the theater handed out vouchers to everyone that are good for any performance in the coming season.

Saturday, April 26th will be our Spring Cruise arranged by Vern Peterson. This is always a fun event that features a dock-side cocktail party and then dinner at the Shoreline Yacht Club. If you plan to come by boat be sure to get in touch with Vern so he can arrange for slips at Shoreline Yacht Club. If you plan to arrive by auto give Vern a ring so he may pass along the dinner count to the chef. The cocktail host boat this year is Bard Heavens' boat, 'Penguin Crossing' which is the boat Bard took to Alaska and made the trip narration that Bard presented at our January meeting.

...continued next page

We again would like to tell about two more people that are always contributing to the Keel Boat Fleet but sometimes are overlooked when it comes time to say thanks. Jeanne Reid and Bob Chub do an outstanding job with running the Pinewood Model Boat Regattas that we all enjoy. Bob was the designer and builder of all the boats. The boats come ready for finish sanding and painting and even include the rigging and sails. Bob also wears another hat as he also sends out those very important notices about upcoming Keel Boat Fleet events plus lets us know if we have paid our dues. Thanks Jeanne and Bob for all you do.

March 14th is our next Keel Boat Fleet meeting. The speaker will either be from the Long Beach Aquarium or Chris Ericksen on the ABYC history depending on availability in their schedules. The following Meeting, May 8th will be the one who was unable to make the March 14th meeting so it looks like to me that we will have two enjoyable evenings up and coming. As always, bring a salad or entree or desert to share with eight and a serving utensil. The Fleet will provide napkins, plates, eating utensils, coffee etc.

Great times ahead don't miss it.

George C.



Laser Masters Compete at SCYA Midwinters

A small yet eager fleet of **Lasers** came out to race in the SCYA Midwinter Regatta hosted by ABYC President's Weekend. These **Laser** Masters (35 years and older) all hailed from ABYC save for our guest, Thomas Kloumann, representing the Royal Norwegian Yacht Club and visiting Southern California from his temporary home in Calgary Alberta Canada...this guy gets around!

We enjoyed two days and seven races with cool temperatures, clear skies and manageable winds allowing all of us to exercise our hiking muscles and practice for a busy **Laser** racing season this year at ABYC. **Jay Golison** was the man to beat, as he won all but one race. In the third race of day one all, save **John Bergan** who won the race, sailed to the wrong weather mark. Close behind **Jay** in all races was **Jim Kirk**, followed by Thomas, your author, **John** and soon to be initiated ABYC member and new comer to the **Laser** Fleet, **Alex Krause**.

We did miss competing with a few of our regular Masters stalwarts, **Chuck Tripp**, **Chris Raab** and Peter Drasnin; however, all three were *Down Under* in Australia competing in the **Laser** Masters World Championship with 350 other graying **Laser** racers.

ABYC Racers Place in 2008 Laser Masters Worlds

Chris Raab finished 5th in an International fleet of 48 **Laser** Masters (45-55 years) sailing **Radials** at the 2008 **Laser** Masters World Championship in Terrigal Australia this month. In the huge, 90 strong fleet of **Laser** Masters sailing full-rigs, ABYC's **Chuck Tripp** finished 8th overall including a second place in the third race of the event. **Chuck** and a frequent guest at ABYC, Peter Drasnin sailed well enough to move into the tougher Gold Fleet of Masters based on performance earlier in the regatta. Peter placed close behind Chuck in 10th. Congratulations Chris, Chuck and Peter!

ABYC Laser Fleet Gets National Attention

The ABYC **Laser** Fleet received a very nice two-page spread with color photos in the Winter 2008 issue of **The Laser Sailor** magazine. **The Laser Sailor** has grown into a slick, full-color 50 page national/international publication for the International **Laser** Class Association and we are delighted by this recognition of our ABYC Fleet. Photos for the feature were provided by the **Beckham** family, George Griswold and **Rich Roberts** courtesy of his *Under the Sun* photo website. The article described our sailing venue, racing program & activities. The article states, "The best thing about the ABYC Fleet is the healthy and growing mix of female and male Juniors, young adults and Masters racing together."

The last paragraph in the story mentioned the busy summer 2008 **Laser** racing schedule on the west coast. The North American Championships will be contested in San Francisco, followed by the PCC's in Monterey, culminating with the National Championship at ABYC, each on successive weekends. Wow, there's libel to be some tired **Laser** racers after that

Steven Smith, ABYC **Laser** Fleet Captain



The Mercury Messenger

The Mercury Class has over a 55 year history of racing and friendship. More traditionally oriented sailors are drawn to the class due to the boat's durability, active schedule and ease of sailing. The class has been a guest at ABYC's Turkey Day Regatta for several years and has stirred some interest. Currently two ABYC members own Mercurys; Kevin McCarthy #575 and Eric Conn #542. The exciting news is that ABYC will host the 2008 Mercury Nationals August 22-24. We expect a good turnout and invite your participation. Learn more about the Mercury Class; history, specifications, rules, boats for sale, etc. at mercury-sail.com or contact Eric Conn at efconn@yahoo.com or (562) 439-7952.



Alamitos Bay Yacht Club

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Long Beach, California 90803

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more midwinters



Paul Galvez and crew Guillo de la Barro who won the I-14 class as the only ABYC participants in a strong class.

Easter Brunch - March 23rd....reserve by March 16th!



I-14s cross near the leeward gate

Kurt and Anne Wiese led Lido 14s




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