



2008 halloween regatta

Stephanie Munn Gwinn photos

It was a dark and stormy night. A werewolf, beetlejuice, two bees', a butterfly, a robot, a cheer leader, a cat, some witches and a devil were spooking the boat yard. And, the Joker was spotted on an A-Cat somewhere near the weather mark... No, actually, the day started with thick fog and no wind at all! PRO's flew the "cat in the hat" (postponement flag) on-shore for a half hour before proceeding to the racecourse. Fortunately, the sun came out and a warm wind blew allowing both the inside and outside courses to run three races and finish on time.



Robin Townsend and scary new friend

I'd like to thank my right-hand gal Judy Mathias for helping organize the staff the regatta. We had many great volunteers from the duty fleets, which were the Keelboats and Senior Sabots. On Patience, we had Co-PRO Steve Kuritz, Judy Mathias, Eleanor Beland, Robin Townsend, Nancy Buchannon, Sharon Pearson, Margaret Caddle, Stephanie Munn and our fearful driver George Caddle. Outside whalers were staffed by Mickey Beland, Dave Myers, Barry Simonson, Bob Wright, Ken Reiff and our Board Liaison/Co-PRO Mike Baumann.

Inside, we had a last minute substitution for PROs as Marc Schryer had to tend to a work emergency. But, Jeff Merrill and Doug Jorgenson jumped in and took running the races in stride. On the starting barge with Jeff and Doug were Jinx Ellis and Don Wilson. Finishing barge was staffed by Sue Crockett (in a fantastic wig and make-up), Mary Riddick and Mac Mills. Inside whalers were staffed by Joe Riddick, Sheila Eberly and John Ellis.

On shore, we had a lot of help as well. Donna Massey with Judy Mathias and Sheila Eberly ran registration, while Jim Morford, Sandy Toscan, Sharon Pearson and Mark Townsend worked diligently with the new on-line registration system and completed scoring. On-line registration was a great success with over half the competitors using it to register. (Don't forget this will be our standard going forward, so take advantage of the discount and register on-line!) Latham Bell volunteered to run protest committee, but was delighted that none were filed.

Upstairs Dianne Gonzales and Rose Brooks helped with decorations and set-up for trophies and the costume contest. THANK YOU ALL!!

The Costume Contest was fun with the Robot Bradley Clinton taking top honors. I'd like to thank Ginger Luckey for bringing wonderful cookies and helping to organize the fun!

Kelly Whitlow and his team did a wonderful job helping with equipment and putting on great hors'd ouvers of chili and other snacks.

Jennifer Kuritz



Bradley Clinton, as a robot, won the costume contest

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save the date

Membership Meeting	Nov21
Turkey Day Regatta	Nov 22-23
CISA/420 Clinic	Nov 28-30
Christmas Party	Dec 14
Boxing Day Regatta	Dec 27

commodore's comments



This is it! This is my first article as Commodore! How exciting!

Before I mention the installation, I would like to say that we have numerous really great things happening right now. We are doing a complete remake of our directory/yearbook (please get your updates in as soon as possible!) We are updating the policy manual (which has been out of print and circulation for some time.) We are implementing online registration for our regattas. We are streamlining the regatta management process. We are updating a lot of the maintenance. Landscaping is getting a facelift. We recently got in several containers in the yard, one for the junior equipment and one for the race equipment, making everything more organized and easier to use. In January we will be hosting a seminar telling us about all of the changes in the racing rules of sailing. Believe it or not, there are other things! All this is in addition to all of the great things we normally do! I urge you to get involved with any and all of these happenings, it is exciting! We are going places...quickly. Read the Sou'Wester from cover to cover, read your email updates, and visit our website frequently, because we will be keeping you informed. You will not want to miss a moment of it.

The installation was a huge success. Many thanks go to many people, but especially Alicia Stevens and my wife Kelly for putting it all together. The Junior Board checked everybody in and were out and about in fine style. Kelly Whitlow and staff also went far above the call of duty. Adam, Tory, Rick and Art were at hand and taking care of everything in fine style. Fun, fun, and fun. There was a lot of dancing and merry making. Energy was present that made the event full of life. Thanks to all of you that attended, you were excellent.

Here is my speech; I believe you will find it interesting (if not, I don't want to know!); (When reading this, try to stay concentrated, I know I did!)

Thank you to all the people listed on the program, without your dedication and support, none of this around us would happen. You are really great and you do always go above and beyond the call of duty.

Thank you to the Glenn and Jim for your support and advice.

Thanks to all of the Commodores that came before for laying the foundation for this great Club. I am honored to follow in your footsteps.

Thanks to Kelly Asper for her ongoing support and finally, thanks to my Mom, Nancy Asper, who took me to sailing classes 35 years ago.

As the Commodore of Alamitos Bay Yacht Club, I would like to welcome you to your home away from home.

Since its founding in 1924, ABYC has been recognized as one of the most active small boat and one-design racing clubs in the country. We hold regattas both large and small, at both club level and world championship level. Our sailors participate at the highest plane and our regattas are known for their excellence. Please know that as a member of ABYC, you rub shoulders with the people that make things happen in the sailing world.

We pride ourselves on being community oriented. We strive to bring people to sailing and promote the sport whenever possible. Our Junior Program is proactive. If a child has an interest in sailing and the parent seeks out our program, then that child could possibly end up sailing in the Olympics or win a national or international title. It has happened many times and it will continue to happen because of our volunteers and staff that care. Regardless of sailing excellence, the child will learn life lessons that they will take with them to whatever pursuit they encounter. There is no legacy greater for ABYC or for you as a member.

We are a volunteer oriented Club, consequently nothing happens without your participation. As a member, I urge you to get involved. By volunteering, not only will you make the gears turn for the Club, but you will meet many people and discover interests that you did not know you had. Get on a committee boat for a regatta or help run a social event. Take charge of anything that strikes you as interesting. We need you, but you will win in the long run. It is fun to be a part of something that is successful!

Finally, I would like to say that you should just enjoy ABYC as your place on Alamitos Bay. Take a seat. Grab something to eat at our galley. Enjoy the activities on the bay. Go Sailing. Go to the beach. Just enjoy yourself and make the most out of life.

Participating in what is happening here will make your life better. Always know this: ABYC is your home away from home. Thanks, let's make this a great year!

Go ABYC!

Merle Asper

Sou'Wester DEADLINE

November 21, 2008 is the deadline
for the December Sou'Wester.

vice commodore's notes



The watch- word for November is "TURKEY DAY". I emphasize this because my partner in crime, Jeff Merrill, heads up the racing portion event, while I will be ashore at the direction Sue McDannel and Diane Bateman of the "Social Advisory Committee." These two energetic souls are wizards at pulling together all the loose ends of such an event and still retain a grand and sometimes wicked sense of humor. To work with them is an absolute delight. That said, each would vie to be the first to express the need for members to assist in executing the annual Turkey Day dinner, which is now a highlight of the local Fall sailing season. At any one time a dozen or so members are working expediting food, serving food, carving, managing the deserts, turning tables, and cleanup squad. So, including backup and relief a minimum of 20 volunteers are needed. Now, mind you, that's above and beyond

Sue and Diane, who will be doing their version of the Sorcerer's Apprentice as they direct and keep order over the whole affair. This is our volunteer call to members, and especially you new family members, to jump into this classic club event. We are not much different than your Thanksgiving dinner at home. During table set up and decorating, there will probably be a football game on the Hi-Def television plus sodas and snacks. Sound familiar? This is your club, and I know of no better way to get involved than through volunteer events such as this.

John Massey

fleet captain's log



If you do not already know who I am, my name is Jon Robinson and I am your new Fleet Captain. I am honored to serve as your Fleet Captain this year and look forward to maintaining the fleet and working with race management. I have to thank Jeff Merrill and John Massey for the diligent and hard work they have done for the last two years with our fleet. The whalers are in good shape and we are working on making them better. Patience has gone through a rehab of the engine and is in back in operation. She went for a sea trial on 10/22/08 and passed with flying colors. Some of the whalers have been up graded and I have talked with Kelly about continuing with the good work the staff has done.

Halloween Regatta is this weekend and seems to be well organized. Online registration seems to be working well. We expect a few problems but so far they do not seem to be a major issue. Turkey Day Regatta is right around the corner and the NOR and online registration should be up soon. There are still open spots for volunteers still available so do not be bashful. We can use the help and this is a fun regatta. If you want to sail the regatta you can still help with the parking lot, hoist, or ramp and then rig and go racing. This is a great regatta to get into the Holiday spirit. For more information call Jeff Merrill or me.

See you around the club.

Jon Robinson

See Patience photos on page 9

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Lots of pumpkins around, it's full on fall!
 We just had a great gathering at the Installation dinner to welcome in our new commodore, Merle Asper. The transition of flag officers and assembly of the new Board of Directors is in place. I'm looking forward to serving as your Rear Commodore (with all of the jokes about the title already rolling in, thank you very much!).

My job in the coming year is focused on the social aspect of ABYC and I'm very lucky to have Sue McDannel heading up the Social Advisory Committee again with husband Bill McDannel as the Bar Czar. There are a lot of events that occur annually and many that pop up randomly, each needs proper planning and preparation and our SAC is here to help insure that events run smoothly.

Please take advantage of the monthly SAC meetings, which coincide with Race Management and if you are organizing a regatta or event please plan to sit in with each committee to let everyone know about your event so that we can help get the word out.

All events that occur at ABYC are posted on our website and we have a very solid calendar, please get in the habit of checking on line to see what is going on. If you would like to sponsor an event (like a wedding) please coordinate with club manager, Kelly Whitlow and be sure to get your dates secured well in advance.

The ABYC website is mastered by Rob Rice and his sister Sue. We have made some minor updates and this too is an area that I hope to make even more valuable in the coming months. If you have any ideas and/or would like to help out with the website please let me know.

I had a fun time recently helping PRO Jim Drury with the Ladies Day regatta. It was great to be out on the bay barge for starts, then jump into the whaler for mark moving and course patrol. We had 26 senior sabots out for the day, evenly divided between ladies and gentlemen and I was reminded how much fun it is to help run the races (though nothing beats getting out on the water to compete!).

Turkey Day will be right upon us when you read this. Our biggest event is well organized and we host hundreds of boats. If you are sailing, here's to a great regatta. If you are available to help by volunteering – even if it is just a couple of hours in the morning to help with parking, the ramp, hoists, etc. we can really use your help. ABYC is famous for hosting world class events, this has a lot to do with the organizational structure we have in place, but is mostly due to the quality and dedication of our volunteers – thank you all for pitching in when you can.

December will be a busy month with Fleet parties and our annual Holiday festivities, please come down to the club to see all of your friends and celebrate the completion of another fine year.

See you at the club!

Jeff Merrill – mobile 949.355.4950

from the pages of history

The November SOU'WESTER, now as then, is often filled with info on changes of watch—both the yacht club and many fleets held elections in the fall and new leaders took over in November. So whether it's an outgoing Fleet Captain thanking his supporters or an incoming Commodore outlining his or her plans, the three editions of the SOU'WESTER reviewed here share that.

THIRTY YEARS AGO:

The SOU'WESTER for November, 1978, must have had a new editor, although I don't know who it was: there was a new masthead and some new graphics. It was still produced in the same quarter-sheet size—the pages were 5-1/2" wide by 8-1/2" tall—and was still printed in blue; the only photo was the cover. But there was something new: pages from the USYRU appeals book had been copied and somehow reproduced—no mean feat in the days when the SOU'WESTER was printed in from a cut stencil on a mimeograph machine.

Dave Crockett was the new Commodore and identified the "simple" goals for ABYC: "to run excellent races, social events and junior programs and, most importantly, to enjoy our club." Several other new names appeared as event or committee chairs, including Marietta Jones, Social Coordinator; Terry Smith, Programs; and Mike McDade and Steve Moffett, Roster. New Fleet Captains included Tony Fallon in Senior Sabots, Austin Ford in the Keel Boat Fleet and Bill Winkler for the Cal 20's.

A wonderful article was posted under the C-15 fleet banner by Terri Clapp—now Terri Bishop. She and her mother Norma had participated in the Yamaha 15/Coronado 15 International Friendship Regatta. The Yamaha 15 was the Japanese version of the C-15, built by Yamaha under license; the regatta was sailed on a salt-water lake near Hamamatsu, where the 470 Worlds had been held the year before. They were treated "like Queens" by Yamaha Corporation and had a chance to visit Kyoto, the ancient capital, and Nara, the religious center; they had a great time "meeting and making new friends, eating unusual foods and visiting a beautiful country." They caught the tail end of a typhoon and the heavy air worked against them: they ended up in seventh place; the racing was fine, said Terri, as "starboard is a universal word"—but she did report having trouble "trying to remember the Japanese words for 'room at the mark' and 'leeward boat.'"

Andy Merrill was reported as having been awarded the Frances Dixon Nason Trophy as the ABYC junior who “exhibited the best sportsmanship in keeping with Corinthian yachting tradition”...Adra Kober made a “clean sweep” of the perpetuals at Ladies’ Day, winning both the Christina S. Wagner Perpetual as best-performing ABYC entrant and the Mrs. Richard L. Russell, Sr., Trophy as the best-performing entrant overall...sixty Cal 20 Fleet One members from both ABYC and Long Beach Yacht Club enjoyed a seminar that included both on-the-water and indoor instruction and practice; the instructor was a new kid on the coaching scene, a former Yale sailing-team captain and sailing All-American named Dave Perry.

TWENTY YEARS AGO:

Allison Jolly, the ABYC member who became the first-ever woman to win an Olympic gold medal in sailing, graced the cover of the November, 1988, SOU’WESTER in a photo of her being carried on the shoulders of her teammates, Olympic Star silver medalists Mark Reynolds and Hal Haenel. Her husband, Mark Elliot, wrote a two-page story of the events leading up to that moment, recounting dealing with Korean measurers, big breezes and protests from the French team.

Coincidentally, the Olympic were the subject of Ann Exley’s “From the Pages of History” column that month—the 1932 Olympics. An elimination series was held in Skimmers on Alamitos Bay that summer for members of both ABYC and the Leeway Sailing Club to see who would progress to the next level; neither winner went to the Games, but the winner of the Elimination Series did sail the Olympic Monotype dinghy—which looked remarkably like a Snowbird—in the Olympic Regatta at Newport Beach later that year. ABYC member John Biby, Jr., was on the crew of the gold-medal-winning 8-Metre, ANGELITA, skippered by Owen Churchill and sailed in San Pedro Bay; but most memorable for Ann was watching a team from Cal win the gold medal in coxed eights—that’s rowing—on the recently completed Marine Stadium in Long Beach.

Ladies’ Day got a big splash in the SOU’WESTER, with photos of Marty Bowman, Margie Brown and Winnie Wills making the paper. Winnie was tops in the “B” fleet while Margaret Caddle was second in the “A’s” and earned the Christina S. Wagner Perpetual; she was touched out by Betty Barr of San Diego Yacht Club, who was awarded the Mrs. Richard L. Russell, Sr., Trophy. Among the volunteers running the event were Chris Caswell (publicity), Clyde Ellerman (parking and launching assistance), Chris Ericksen (trophies) and Tony Fallon (racing); Gordon Brown was chairman.

A list of committee chairs for the coming year was printed in the SOU’WESTER. Among those accepting assignments were Margaret Caddle, Perpetual Trophies; Marietta Jones, Protocol; Jerry Montgomery, Membership; Bonnie Parker, Master Calendar; Sharon Pearson, Debra Liesy and Melanie Carter, Roster; and Allan Rosenberg, Challenge Coordinator...Norm Nicholson, just moved back from Sacramento, was selected to be the new Cal 20 Fleet Captain while Raleigh Moffett accepted the same position for the Keel Boat Fleet; Stan Church took over the Lido 14 fleet and Mack Mills the Senior Sabots...new members included Grant and Ann Hill—Grant had been a Yachting member before marriage and was converting to Regular membership; also posted for membership was a youngster named Kevin Taugher.

TEN YEARS AGO:

A photograph of the officers and directors of Alamitos Bay Yacht Club for the 1998-99 year were shown on the cover of the SOU’WESTER of November 1998. Commodore Ted Flood identified his three areas of “personal emphasis” for the year would be finance, long-range planning and the Junior program. Among the winners of service awards for the year were Robin and Mark Townsend, separately receiving the Ted Matson Memorial Service Award and the Sidney T. Exley Commodore’s Trophy, respectively; Andrew McDade was presented the Frances Dixon Nason Perpetual while Freddie Stevens won the Don L. Adams Memorial Trophy as outstanding junior.

There was some interesting news that might fall under the subject of “governmental relations.” After a good deal of meetings with representatives of the City of Long Beach Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine, a committee led by Jim Morford arranged for ABYC members to have the first shot at slips in Basin Five. For years treated as just another part of the Alamitos Bay Marina, this would allow ABYC members now in the Marina to transfer or new applicants to request a spot in Basin Five; it also gave ABYC members precedence over non-ABYC members. In the course of the negotiations it was found that two Peninsula residents who are not members of ABYC had been waiting for a spot in Basin Five and had declined spots in other basins so as to wait for an available slip; all sides agreed that these two folks should remain at the top of the list and get the first two available slips.

The saga of the SOU’WESTER masthead, introduced the previous month as an attempt to, “in the true spirit of politics...create a controversy where one doesn’t exist”, continued. Apparently fourteen votes among the over 500 regular readers responded; thirteen favored the new, more flowery design while one submitted a nostalgic cover from the mid-Seventies that would not pass muster in the less-tolerant Nineties. The editors had not a single vote in favor of the existing masthead, so did what often happens when things don’t turn out the way they wanted: they agreed to keep the polling going for at least another month.

The New Year’s Eve party, not a big hit in recent years, was being replaced by a New Year’s Eve family sleepover, hosted by ABYC Rear Commodore Dave and C.J. Crockett that it would include a “Mary Smith dinner” the night of and a Rose Parade breakfast the morning after; “don’t forget your Phi’s and ‘45’ records,” the ad continued...travel was the topic of the Etchells fleet report as one team of ABYC Etchells (Jerry Montgomery, Bob Anderson and Jim MacLeod) had been to the Etchells Worlds in Marblehead while another team (Tim Carter, Chris Ericksen and the aforementioned Jim MacLeod) went to the Etchells North Americans at The San Francisco Yacht Club; neither team did particularly well...

Chris Ericksen, Club Historian

the bay clogger

(junior sailing)

The weekend of October 11th and 12th was Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club's "Corinthian Cup". The event brought incredibly strange and strong breeze from all directions gusting to 15 knots one minute after it was under 5 knots.

The first day at least was obviously heavy breeze and the 'C' sailors ended up sailing off the dock just off BCYC in a tight channel that made racing feel slightly similar to rush hour on the 405 while the Lasers, A's and B's headed out into the heavy stuff in the Balboa Bay main channel. The second day however was not so predictable as wind was fairly mellow in the early afternoon, yet shifted up to 90 degrees in the course of 5 minutes. Then after the first race was finished, it hit. Just as Instructor Chuck Ullman and I coached one student, we saw another about to gybe right in the midst of "the big one" of puffs. As we yelled in slow motion "nooooo!" the boat went over like a football lineman had just tackled it. Of course the victim, Noah LaBarba, handled it like a champ and stayed out for the one more race they let the C sailors do in the heavy stuff, and a good thing he did as he ended up pulling out a 3rd place finish for the last race while most of his fleet went over and finished 3rd overall in the regatta at his first C1 event ever!

Unfortunately none of the C2's and C3's, who were also in the main channel fared quite so well. They fought their way through survival mode as all available coaches came to their rescue and eventually all made it in. At the end of the regatta, the sailors made it through just fine with smiles on their faces despite muddy masts and matted down hair from getting dunked one too many times by some aggressive puffs.

Some of the amazing performances included Noah LaBarba's 3rd place finish in his first C1 regatta, Nigel Lipps 1st place finish in his first C2 regatta, Steven Hopkins 3rd place finish in B's (one of the biggest fleets at the regatta), and Andrew MacLean's narrow but formidable victory for 1st place in the Laser Radial fleet. We also saw some great breakthroughs from our C3 sailors Will Boudreau, Cameron Thompson and Lauren Thompson who all grabbed a few top 5 finishes in a fleet of 28 as well as our other radial sailor Dugan Farrell who was one of only four radials that stayed out through the end of the last day. Matt McDermid, who was one of the sailors who got dunked fairly often saw himself sailing very well while he could stay upright nabbing several top 3 finishes as did Bradley Clinton in C2's.

At the end of the day, ABYC found itself once again coming up a little short in winning the Corinthian Cup overall and coming in 2nd place for the third year in a row. :- (Oh well, there's always next year and it was a fun event!

Brad Schaupter, ABYC Junior Sailing Director



Corinthian Cup Winners (from Left to Right) Dugan Farrell, Steven

a junior perspective

Each month Marc Schryer invites a Junior sailor to write something for the So'wester...this month he selected Samantha Gebb, a 16year-old who sails 420s, Sabots and is our Junior Rear Commodore.

The 2008-2009 Junior Board was recently installed, and we are all very enthusiastic about the coming year. We have a few big events on the calendar that we are already starting to prepare for. At the Halloween Regatta, we will work in conjunction with the Senior Sabot fleet to present awards for best costumes and provide Halloween treats for all sailors after racing.

Organizing volunteers for decorating and riding on our float in the Naples Boat Parade is our next undertaking. This year's theme is "The Naples Spirit—Joy of Giving". We are thinking of a creative way to incorporate this into our entry. We will also help with the ABYC Christmas party later that month.

4th of July Regatta will be run by the Junior Board along with the Snipe fleet next year. We are hoping to get a large junior turnout for both volunteering and racing, since the regatta occurs during the junior summer sailing program.

The Junior Board's main goal for this year is to help junior sailors become fully aware of what is available to them as they move on from Sabots. As much as we love our Sabots, there comes a time when we get a little too tall to efficiently roll tack in an eight-foot dinghy, and the quirky little boats can't quite satiate our desire for speed. Interest is beginning to grow in Long Beach for higher-performance dinghies, and we would like the entire junior sailing community to get involved. There is a plethora of junior sailing opportunities after sabots, from local to international events. There are also many different fleets to participate in, including high school sailing in CFJs, single-handed boats like Lasers, and double-handed boats such as 420s and 29ers. We are preparing a presentation for the April general meeting, where we will talk more in depth about boats, regattas, and our own personal experiences.

The Junior Board is very excited and looking forward to what we hope will be a wonderful year!

Samantha Gebb, Jr. Rear Commodore

member news

John Williams Receives US Sailing's CREW Award.

The CREW award was first presented in spring 2002 as the result of reinforcing the close working partnership at US Sailing between staff members and volunteers. CREW stands for:

C stands for **Commitment** to exceptional service

R is for **Respecting** fellow CREW members

E stands for **Expecting Excellence** as a standard

W is for **Working** together in a responsible consistent fashion.

The following text was read into the record at the recent US Sailing Fall Meeting, back east:

John Strassman (US Sailing)- Today we're honoring a C.R.E.W. member who epitomizes the above values both as a national and local volunteer. Beyond his service record, this individual receives today's CREW award because of the consistent way in which he works within our organization.

The award winner was selected from among a number of nominees, and I should mention that we take nominations year-round on the website (in the Awards section) as well as at the meetings.

Since he became involved with US SAILING as the Multihull Area D representative, he has served as the Alter Cup chairman, Multihull Council vice chairman and is presently the Multihull Council chairman. An active sailor, he campaigns an F-18 catamaran and is currently competing in the F18 North Americans. He has been instrumental in keeping the Alter Cup and Youth Championships viable events. One of the present concerns that he is working on is the re-establishment of a multihull event in the Olympics. He is actively involved with multihull issues both in the US and internationally. He lives in California with his wife and daughter and is a member of the Alamitos Bay Yacht Club. He is the winning crew of the 2007 US Multihull Sailing Championship for the Alter Cup.

Respect is his watchword! Fellow Multihull Council members have witnessed him calm the stormy waters during a raging multihull meeting by using his candor, coupled with honest, constructive criticism.

He is also a voice of reason and looks for win-win solutions. He works well with all individuals with whom he has contact. US SAILING is lucky to have such a devoted individual in its ranks.

Please join me in congratulating our CREW award winner, John Williams.

We at ABYC also congratulate John. For those who have as yet to meet John, you soon will. He is our current membership chairman.

John Massey



John Williams

annual fleet captains' meeting

The first Tuesday in October is our traditional Fleet Captains Meeting. Each of the active fleets in the club sends their fleet captain and we sit around to plan out responsibilities for the upcoming year.

ABYC has a number of active fleets and a very busy schedule of regattas and membership meetings that the individual fleets take turns hosting.

The 2009 Calendar is filled in as we go around the room month by month to make sure we don't have any conflicts. This year we had over twenty people sitting in at the table and thanks to the efforts of staff commodore Chris Ericksen (our calendar guru) and incoming commodore Merle Asper, we had a lively discussion filling in the events for 2009.

An ice cream break occurred after the first hour to supplement low blood sugar levels before finalizing the duty fleet regatta commitments and membership meeting schedules.

This year we had Sue McDannell give a quick summary of how the SAC – Social Advisory Committee can help fleets plan for events and a summary of how the RMC – Race Management Committee, lead this year by Jim Drury both work together to coordinate all of our successful regattas and social events.

As an ABYC sailor you are a member of a fleet and your fleet captain was in attendance to represent you. We are a volunteer club and each fleet plays a very active role – spread out over the course of the year – to make sure that each event hosted by ABYC is superb.

If you get a request from your fleet to volunteer please say YES, we need your help and it is fun to get out on the water and drive a whaler, or help in the registration and scoring rooms to make sure we have accurate results. Typically your fleet isn't sailing in the events you help sponsor so come out to pitch in and share in the camaraderie.

Jon Robinson is the new ABYC Fleet Captain and he will be coordinating all of the events in 2009 with the support of Port Captain Dave Myers and our amazing club staff including Kelly Whitlow, Rick Rose and Adam Phelps. We have new containers to house our marks, ground tackle, and flags – so please come out to the east yard and see how things have been reorganized.

Thanks to all of the 2008 Fleet Captains for a great year and welcome to the new FC's for 2009 – we appreciate your efforts and will be there to support you. Check out the Fleets tab on ABYC.org for a complete list of all 10 active fleets and for direct contact information on individual fleet captains.

Jeff Merrill

commodore's installation (aka the prom)

Tracy Conn photos

Installation Evening is a smashing success!

It was time to don a blue blazer, pin the crest on your breast pocket and figure out how to secure a tie around your neck using something other than a bowline when we had our ABYC Installation Dinner on Saturday October 18th. Another chapter in the book of ABYC has been officially opened with the installation of the 2008- 2009 board of directors.

Congratulations to the stars of this years event, long time board member Merle Asper is our new commodore and both he and his lovely wife Kelly did an awesome job of decorating the club and insuring a great turn out for the fall festivities.

The set up on Install-eve is a traditional get together where all of the board of directors meet along with key family and friends to help with the set up for the gala gathering the following night. This year we were busy admiring and organizing the new silverware – a gift from staff commodore Nicole Moffett-Peoples – in fact incoming vice commodore John Massey was seen scrubbing off adhesive on a few stubborn spoons while others were busy folding napkins and getting the knives facing the correct way.

On Saturday guests arrived and were greeted by most of our new junior board of directors including new jr. rear commodore Samantha Gebb and her associates including Laura and Alex Newton, Palmer and Ginger Luckey, Marissa Golison and Elle Merrill.

The installation dinner is MC'd by the outgoing junior staff commodore, Jim Bateman, in this go-around, and the program kept a nice pace with plenty of fun and impromptu banter. After a welcome by Bateman and the pledge of allegiance conducted by Jonn Merrill, a catered dinner was served – a great salad, shrimp and steak, and a fabulous dessert.

Dinner was highlighted by floating candles – in large glass cylinders – the fun part was watching some of our finest engineers trying to reignite snuffed candles which seemed to be trained to capsize and sizzle with every attempt.

Glenn Selvin in his final role as commodore was superb in his assessments and recommendations for Merle and the new board. Awards were presented to several outstanding ABYC members. Among the award winners who were present:

Don and Chris Taugher – Stan and Elise Church Perpetual

Jim Morford – Ted Matson Memorial Service Award

Ryan McNaboe – Francis Dixon Nason Sportsmanship Award

Steve Smith - Sidney T Exley Trophy

Dave Myers – Port Captain the Order of the Green Propeller

Special recognition was given to members who recruited two or more new ABYC members in 2008 and will now have their names inscribed on the Commodores Council plaque.

The new board of directors were introduced and were given their appropriate flags and magnetic name tags (which came in handy as the evening got later) and had their lapel pins snapped in place by their spouses.

The new board is enthusiastic and experienced. 2008 is wrapping up quickly and the club is looking strong going into 2009. After the awards and installation of officers the music started up and dancing took over. Thanks to the nearly 150 people - members, family and friends who attended and to our wonderful staff for helping to coordinate and host this wonderful celebration.

Jeff Merrill



Dave Myers "hanging" Glenn Selvin



Glenn and Carol Selvin



Merle and Kelly Asper

...continued next page

more prom photos

Tracy Conn photos



Glenn Selvin and Jim Morford



Mike and Betty Baumann



Steve Smith and Glenn Selvin



Barney Flam



Ryan McNaboe and Glenn Selvin

patience photos

George Caddle photos



halloween regatta photos

...from page 1

George Caddle and Stephanie Munn
Gwinn Photos



Merle Asper presents Terry Bishop and Vicki Vaught with the Lido B 2nd place trophy



Stephanie Munn Gwinn, Ellie Beland and Margaret Caddle were scorers on Patience



Cal 20 start

charity regatta

2nd Annual Charity Regatta a SUCCESS!!! THANKS TO ALL WHO SUPPORTED, PARTICIPATED and JOINED IN THE EXCITEMENT OF THIS COMMUNITY SERVICE EVENT!!! Each of the eight Long Beach Yacht Clubs who sponsor this event to benefit The Children's Clinic can be so proud of their participation to make this regatta grow and represent the community in this most positive way. It is a pleasure to see how many are able to compete and are willing to support the event by doing something they love. The children and their families, the doctors and the staff of The Children's Clinic do appreciate your continuing support of this community event.

It always takes lots of people to make an event a success and this one is no exception.

I would like to share with you the names of Alamitos Bay Yacht Club members who helped with this 22nd Annual Charity Regatta, and when you see them give them a high five, they represented your Club with honor. I am always so proud of our members. They helped in a many different ways and they are: Melanie Carter, Jean Nash and Bill, George Kornhoff and Barbara Hare, Evie Belisle, Bobbie Peterson, Carol Reynolds, Mary Riddick, Mary Montz, Donna Massey, Patty Nash, Kathy and Jon Robinson. Jim Morford, Mark Schryer, Jinx Ellis. Others were: Kelli and Greg Clinton, Sue and John Brennan, Carol Kofahl, Sharon Pearson, Independent Junior parent Gretchen Boudreau, Dan Clapp, Dr. Maria Chandler, Doug Jorgensern, Richard Vaught, Kate and Peter Bishop and many others who donated to the event. Thank you to all of the Fall Series entrants and their parents. The ABYC racing

fleets who supported the event were: Sabot - A, B, C1, C2, C3; Laser, Laser Radial, Lido 14, Cal 20, Echells, Schock 35, and PHRF.

The Children's Clinic volunteers were Diane Nchols, Erika Hainley and Emily Scholtz.

The overall chairman of the event is Seal Beach Yacht Club member, Steve Murphy who also raced his Schock 35, JoAnn. Thank you, Steve. The next to last group of people I wish to express thanks to, is the fabulous staff of Alamitos Bay Yacht Club: Manager Kelly Whitlow, Sheila Mattox, Liza Fernandez, Julissa Fernandez, Roberto Rodriguez, Rick Rose, Adam Phelps, Jeffery Hernandez, and Jesus Espinosa. Come down to the Club and let them know how much you appreciate their contribution to the success of ABYC.

Finally - The Board of Directors of Alamitos Bay Yacht Club our thanks for your continued support of this community service event that has been happening every year since 1987!

Norma Clapp, ABYC Representative



online entries & success

Jon Robinson photo

ABYC Halloween Regatta is an online success! Our first official ABYC club regatta using the Regatta Network online registration program was a great success. Thanks to all of you out there who went to abyc.org to click on the Halloween regatta and then went right on in to sign up. Online registration was wonderful for helping us staff up and plan for Halloween and our head scorer Jim Morford may turn into a Peninsula version of the Maytag repairman if everyone continues to sign up in advance and make his job easier.

Many competitors commented on how easy the process was and also enjoyed seeing who the other participants were.

Remember, ABYC no longer accepts phone call, fax or mailed in entries. You can sign up online and charge to your credit card or ABYC club account. As always, day of regatta registration is available at ABYC, but you will not be able to get the early registration discount.

Turkey Day is up next, we would love to have everyone sign up online - please go to the ABYC website or call Jeff Merrill 949.355.4950 if you have questions or need help.

Jeff Merrill



Donna Massey was happy with the less frantic pace of the entry window due to online entries

hails from the fleets



KEEL BOAT FLEET ON WATCH

With the Holidays upon us time just seems to fly ever faster. Before you know it the Christmas Party will be here and Joe Riddick will be putting on another of his great parties for the Keel Boat and Sabotier Fleets. I know Judy Mathias has already contacted the same wonderful piano player we have been so fortunate to have for several years. So mark December 12th on your calendar as this is always the best party of the season.

November 14th is our next Fleet meeting but I doubt that you will get your November Sou'Wester before the meeting. Joe has asked me to pass along a couple of things he will discuss at this meeting. The Keel Boat Fleet is in charge of the January General Meeting of ABYC. Joe will be looking for any and all suggestions for a program for that night. Anyone that knows someone who has gone on an unusual trip, and would share it with the general membership, please contact Joe ASAP. Joe will also be looking for volunteers to serve the dinner.

Dues are due. Send \$10 to Sue Brennan. Please check and see if you have sent your dues in to Sue. This is something we all tend to overlook but our dues pay for several functions including the Christmas Party plus printing and postage for all the notices that Bob Chubb sends out.

See you at the November meeting and at the Christmas Party.

George C.



We are on the official ABYC schedule for next year, yeah!!! It will be Friday evenings during Daylight Savings Time, and a couple of weekend days while in the off-season.

Damon Kunkle has agreed to take-on this social fleet captain's role. "I experienced complete nirvana at ABYC, and you can too", said Damon Kunkle during a recent discussion about the future of the Nirvana fleet. I think with all of our help and ideas this fleet can be more than it is right now. We need to make sure we figure out how to get the sailors that are not participating much to come out. With over 90 boats in the club we should easily get 20 each Friday. This year was anywhere between 5 and 18.

The racing format is a two lap (sausage) race, usually a downwind start, 1 minute start sequence, with anywhere between 6 and 15 races per evening. Seriously, we get a lot of starting practice and lots of laps. If you just come out and sail one evening you will learn more about sailing these things than weeks sailing by yourself. If you wait â until you are readyâ you will never get better.

There are some really good sailors out most Fridays. They are generous and will help you with your boat. Some of the best are Don Shirley, Keith Ives, Jeff Ives, and Damon Kunkle. They all have plenty of experience with these boats and can usually look at your boat and tell you what you need.

There will be a clinic and boat tuning session sometime before the next sailing season in the Spring. Until then, the Sunday racing dates are being decided. Look for the Sunday dates in future editions of the Sou'wester.

Dan DeLave



Alamitos Bay Yacht Club

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John Massey photo



Our frugal Commodore's ride

Ladies Day regatta

Ladies Day event a great success!
Many will not immediately think of Ladies Day when the term "fall classic" is used, but this annual event has the calendar legacy to qualify. Sabot sailors from San Diego to San Pedro converged on ABYC on Sunday October 19th to enjoy an Indian Summer Day on the Bay.

Though billed as Ladies Day this event includes gentlemen too. Registration in the Quarterdeck was complimented by rolls, coffee and juice and before the skippers meeting chief scorer Jim Morford had logged in 26 entrants – equally divided between men and women.

PRO Jim Drury held the skippers meeting and due to the size of the classes Ladies A and Ladies B were combined for the first start followed by Men's and Men's novice in the second start.

Two races of double windward leeward courses earned the competitors a quick "mercy break" at the dock and then it was out for the finale – also a double sausage. The racing was close in both fleets. We saw multiple lead changes and the course worked great with the leeward mark above the start line and the finish above the windward mark...worked great as long as you were counting, we saw the leader of the Ladies A round W and head down wind, when she should have sailed on ahead and crossed the finish with an easy first (I'll let her remain anonymous as this could and has happened to many of us) but she recovered nicely with a smile on her face and still managed to finish that race near the top of the fleet.

All of the racers had a fun day out on the water. I'd like to give special mention to our tireless Port Captain Dave Myers who sailed his rescued "beater" sabot – one he purchased for under \$100 at the ABYC sabot impound auction - and got a full day of racing in. This event is already on the calendar for 2009 – please plan on joining the saboteers!

Staffing the Bay barge for starts and finishes were Jim and Lynn Drury plus Tom Mendenhall with whaler duties performed by Bruce Wasson and Jeff Merrill.

After racing the group retired to the second level for trophy presentation and a light dinner. Thanks to everyone involved for a wonderful event!

Jane McNaboe won the Christina S. Wagner perpetual for the top finish by an ABYC lady and Jane Kenny won the Ruth M. Russell perpetual for the best performance by a lady..

The final standings were:

Ladies A:

- 1) Jane Kenny – San Diego YC
- 2) Betty Becker - San Diego YC
- 3) Aimee Graham – San Diego YC
- 4) Jane McNaboe – Alamitos Bay Yacht Club

Ladies B:

- 1) Nancy Heim – Dana West YC
- 2) Jennifer Kuritz – Alamitos Bay Yacht Club
- 3) Judy Mathias – Alamitos Bay Yacht Club

Gentlemen:

- 1) Eric Heim – Dana Point YC
- 2) Lee Berlinger – Alamitos Bay Yacht Club
- 3) Geves Kenny – San Diego YC

Novice

- 1) Scott Atwood – Alamitos Bay Yacht Club
- 2) Steve Kuritz – Alamitos Bay Yacht Club
- 3) Vern Gilbert – Mission Bay YC

Special thanks to Nancy Mellon for the trophy photos!
Jeff Merrill



Jeff Merrill presents Jane McNaboe with the Christina S Wagner Perpetual