



## isaf youth world *qualifier*

*Rich Roberts photos  
underthesunphotos.com  
Jim Drury photo boat captain*



*Boys International 420s ride a fair southwesterly downwind with downtown Long Beach in the background*

### **F**air wind carries Youth winners on to Brazil

Finally, a gentle sea breeze arrived on the third and last day of the 2009 US Sailing ISAF Youth World Qualifier and US Youth Multihull Championship in time to sweep a group of America's best young sailors along to the 39th Volvo Youth Sailing ISAF World Championship at Buzios, Brazil July 9-18.

"It hasn't sunk in yet," said Marissa Lihan, 17, of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. "I guess I'll have to start learning Portuguese."

She who won the girls Laser Radial class on a tiebreaker with Emily Billing, 17, of Clearwater, Fla., but only after a wrenching protest hearing about an improper life jacket.

Other winners were Chris Barnard, 17, of Newport Beach, in boys Laser Radials; Morgan Kiss, 15, Holland, Mich., and crew Laura McKenna, 17, Palo Alto, Calif., in Club 420s; and Korbin Kirk, 14, Long Beach, and crew Daniel Segerblom, 13, Costa Mesa, Calif., in Hobie 16s.

The latter youngsters, neither of whom had ever sailed a catamaran until two weeks ago, also collected the national Youth Multihull title for the Arthur J. Stevens Trophy.

More than three hours after racing concluded, Ian Liberty, 16, Colts Neck, N.J., and crew Alexander Whipple, 17, Plandome, N.Y., won the Boys International 420 title after frontrunners Judge Ryan, San Diego, and crew Chris Segerblom, Costa Mesa, lost a request for redress. They were disqualified for starting early without returning in the first race Monday, dropping them to third place overall.

There were 79 competitors from 11 states age 19 or younger competing in the event hosted by the Alamitos Bay Yacht Club the Martin Luther King weekend.



*Marissa Lihan won Laser Radials, but you won't see this life jacket again*



*Morgan Kiss and Laura McKenna (5773) won 3 of 7 races in Club 420s*

## inside

Commodore's Comments .....	2
Rear View .....	2-4
Manager .....	4-5
Fleet Captain's Log .....	5
Pages of History .....	6-7
Junior Sailing .....	8
Membership Report .....	9
Adopt-A-Beach .....	9
CNN Reporter Sails a Laser .....	10
Hails from the Fleets .....	13-15

*...continued page 12*

## save the date

Family Movie Night .....	Feb 6
Membership Meeting .....	Feb 20
Midwinter Regatta .....	Feb 21-22
Club ABYC .....	Feb 27
Family Movie Nighe .....	Mar 6
Manning Regatta .....	Mar 7-8
Membership Meeting .....	Mar 20

# commodore's comments



**F**ebruary! Generally the coldest month of the year, but if it is anything like January, we've got it made. Historical names for February include the Anglo-Saxon terms Solmonath (mud month) and Kale-monath (named for cabbage, they probably ate a lot of it pickled) as well as Charlemagne's designation Hornung (I don't know what that means, but I don't think it is complimentary!) In Finnish, the month is called helmikuu, meaning "month of the pearl"; when snow melts on tree branches, it forms droplets, and as these freeze again, they are like pearls of ice. That is a nice thought! Enough said!

January went extremely well. The Rose Bowl Regatta for college and high school age kids was extremely successful. Read the report (Thanks to Rich Roberts!) on our website if you have not already. Mike Bauman and crew took the bull by the horns and kept everything well organized. The ISAF Youth Worlds Qualifier and US Youth Multihull Championship Regatta also went off with a bang. Again we have excellent reports on our webpage. Steve Smith and Yvonne Galvez worked hard to make it all happen. I must say that the talent we have on our race committees is truly world class. I have had the pleasure to be present for more than a few international events here and abroad and I can easily say that our race committee volunteers are among the best in the world (whether or not they are paid!). Thanks you guys and gals for bringing honor to our Club in yet another way!

I would also like to point out that two of our superstars recently were recognized by the Association of San Pedro Bay Yacht Clubs (ASPBYC) for their outstanding achievements. Steve Smith received "Yachtsman of the Year for 2008" and Sharron Pearson received "Yachtswoman of the year for 2008". These trophies represent the tremendous achievements these two have given to the yachting committee of San Pedro Bay. We are more than fortunate to have these people on our team. Way to go guys! We are proud of you!

Midwinter regatta is coming up. Jeff Merrill and John Williams are in charge of it, which means it is going to be first rate, like everything these guys do. Please contact them if you would like to be a part of the excitement.

Small issue: We have a problem in the yard and there a number of member's boats and trailers that are not properly marked. People have been asked time and again to perform this task. Board members and Yard Czars have taken their time to perform this task for people. This has not worked. Boats continue not to be marked. The board of directors has decided to implement a new plan where boats that do not have their ABYC registration sticker on the transom and the tag on the tongue of their trailer will be fined \$5.00 for each infraction. This will start in February, so please get down to the Club and sticker your boat and tag your trailer.

We had our first family movie night in January. It was a tremendous turnout! I think young and old had a lot of fun. As a group we had a great time. We have another one scheduled for February and it should also fun! Free dinner, free movie, camaraderie of your friends and family at ABYC, and inexpensive drinks. How can you beat that?!

Don't forget about Club ABYC. The last Friday of every month we have a band play. This month it will be "The Wilsons". They are local superstars that all went to Wilson High at the same time. The music is fun to dance to and I am sure that everyone will have a great time. See our website for more info.

Life is great at ABYC, no matter what is happening in the rest of the world. I urge you to come down and use this great Club of ours. Even if you are not sailing, come down and enjoy your friends and family here and enjoy our on-the-water atmosphere. You will have a great time! Go ABYC!

*Merle*

## rearview



**A**BYC is THE place to BE, now more than ever! Your club is active and vibrant even during winter.

The Boxing Day regatta found me as photo boat driver for Rich Roberts (hey, I was the Board Liaison and Team Townsend had things so well organized I wasn't needed ashore). Rich had a great article in our last Sou'Wester – what a great way to wind down the year. Plan on being there in December, 2009 for the 9<sup>th</sup> annual – this is a great way to spend a day at the club.

On that note of planning dates and looking ahead I encourage you to click on to our abyc.org website calendar (which has just been updated) and come down to your club to participate in the plethora of activities and events that are posted..



*Steve Smith*

*Sharon Pearson*

SCYA Mid Winters is coming up. Regatta Chairman John Williams (who is also our membership chairman and does about thirty three other volunteer acts around the club) has us ready to play host to a large contingent of sailors. If you are not sailing, please give John a call at 562.343.5085 and let him know about your availability to help (one day or two) on land or at sea. Volunteering is one of those ABYC traditions that sets us apart from so many other clubs. We are always looking for new faces, it's a chance for you to make new acquaintances and while you are pitching in you'll get a behind the scenes look at how ABYC consistently excels at putting on regattas.

Your Social Advisory Committee (SAC) is another volunteer group that is looking for some help. If you like to plan events or just want to get more involved on the shore side of things please call me or email Sue McDannel [bsmcdannel@hotmail.com](mailto:bsmcdannel@hotmail.com). We have Friday night happy hours going well with Bill McDannel our "Bar Czar" offering free dinners and drink specials most Friday nights (small fee for dinner during Membership meetings with programs) and I just want to make sure that you read that word FREE – why wouldn't you come down to the best yacht club at the end of any peninsula in the world and leave the work week in your car, come up stairs, get a drink for cheap, get dinner for FREE and gaze at the ocean...at Catalina...at pelicans...and hang out with your pals. This is an unbeatable deal, come take advantage of it.

Here are the dinner menus for the March Friday nights:

- March 6th Chili and Hot Dogs – **Family Movie Night**
- March 13th Chinese Chicken Salad/Spring Rolls –
- March 20th Chicken Picatta/ Pasta/Salad –**General Member Meeting**
- March 27th Taco/Enchilada Bar – **Club ABYC**

The SAC is also in the planning stage for our annual spring brunches – Easter and Mother's Day – we need help and we need you to make reservations if you plan to attend – more next month, but check the club calendar and pencil in those dates for your family.

Commodore Asper played host to our Super Bowl Party on February 1<sup>st</sup> and the Keel Boat /Senior Sabot fleets organized our January General Membership dinner and program. Didn't make the Super Bowl event, but I can tell you that we had over 100 people in attendance at the screening of the Transpac 2007 movie – I'm sorry if you missed it and if you were there you did see some great sailing shots (and a couple of cameos of famous ABYC sailors – hint Scott and Lisa) as well as a touching tribute to Wendy Siegal.

Keep informed of ABYC happenings by subscribing to our list serve email blasts. These come out at least once a week and are intended to promote and advise so you know what to expect. To join in send an email to [abycnews@listserve.com](mailto:abycnews@listserve.com). If you have something that you would like to include please email and put ABYC in the subject line so that your note doesn't get lost in my Spam.

The Board has come up with a promotion to convert junior members to family members. Contact John Williams or Director Bob Anderson to learn more – this is a time sensitive promotion and we would like to see a dozen or so families who are at the club anyway join our ranks as regular family members.

...continued page 4

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“Family Movie Night” was a hit, and by the time this edition is printed we will have had our first two showings. We’ve gone from the large flat screen upstairs to our projector and screen and it is a great way to spend some time with friends and family. If you have a suggestion for a G movie, please let me know. And dinner is FREE.

February’s membership meeting (Friday the 23<sup>rd</sup>) is hosted by the Laser fleet. Come on down!

On a personal note I’m pleased to announce that Staff Commodore Adra Kober (aka my aunt) is back home and resting and very pleased to be back on the bay. She really appreciates all the cards and visits, thank you.

We are almost through winter, come down and bail out your boat, get ready for the time change that is our early announcement that twilights are around the corner...

See you at the club!

Jeff Merrill – mobile 949.355.4950



Family Movie Night crowd

## manager's **corner**



**B**oy, what a start to the New Year here at ABYC. Huge Regatta’s, several clinics, a couple of wedding receptions and unfortunately a few memorial services, AND we’re not even out of January yet.

With all that going on, we’ve even managed to complete a couple of major maintenance projects as well. The exterior steps have been replaced, and several of the major support beams around the perimeter of the club have been replaced or repaired. Many thanks to Larry Kidd and his crew for expediting the work on the support beams.

Rick and Adam have completed work in their new “office” adjacent to the East Yard, and the new storage containers for the Jr. Program and Race Committee are shaping up.

The men’s restroom in the main clubhouse has a fresh coat of paint and the women’s restroom is ready for some serious attention. One of our challenges is to find enough “downtime” to effectively complete projects and still be functional for Regatta’s, clinics and all of our social events.

Before we get too far into the New Year, I want to take a moment and personally thank my staff for their Herculean efforts and accomplishments in 2008. Very few weekends went by last year where the club wasn’t filled with members, guest, coaches, clinics, boats, trailers, and sailors.

Much goes on *behind the scenes* during these busy weekends, and it’s the preplanning and tireless efforts of your ABYC staff that makes or breaks the success of these events.

I’m sure most of you have witnessed the sometimes under-appreciated Galley Gang feverously building breakfast burritos, pouring coffee and making fresh sandwiches for sailors, coaches and volunteers. Once the boats hit the water, the same group begins preparation for the lunch rush.

I don’t know how they do it out of such a small work environment, but somehow they seem to accommodate every hungry member and guest who visits our club. Thanks guys!!

Now, something new, every month I’m going to highlight a member of the ABYC team, and ask them a few questions. Hopefully it will be a way for members to get to know the staff more personally, and gain a little insight into who they really are.

Our first interview is with long time employee Sheila Mattox, so here we go.....

**KW** “So, Sheila, this October you will have been employed at ABYC for an unprecedented 30 years. To what, do you credit your longevity?”

**SM** “The members!! They are the nicest, friendliest, down to earth people I have had the pleasure of associating with.”

**KW** “In your 30 year tenure, what are a few of the significant changes you’ve witnessed here at ABYC?”

**SM** “The increase in female sailors. Thirty years ago, you saw very few female sailors competing in Regattas”

**KW** “What do you enjoy most about your position here at ABYC?”

**SM** “The fact that my bosses (Board of Directors) change every year. They bring in their own ideas, thoughts and ways of doing things”

**KW** “Ok Sheila, you’re Commodore for a Day, what changes would you make here at ABYC?”

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**SM** "I would enlarge the Galley, make it three times the size it is now, and update the equipment"

**KW** "Do you remember your first day of work?"

**SM** "Yes, and I remember having second thoughts about working at a "yacht club", I was concerned the members would be snooty, but after meeting Dave Crockett (outgoing Commodore) and Gary Winterrowd (incoming Commodore) I knew my fears were way off base"

**KW** "In thirty years of working at a yacht club, tell us about your sailing experience."

**SM** "I have been on a Cal 20 twice, and on Patience (the first one) twice, and I DIDN'T get sea sick"

**KW** "Ok Sheila, fill in the blank... If I was not working at ABYC as bookkeeper, I would probably be....."

**SM** "God Only Knows"

**KW** "Tell us something very few people know about Sheila Mattox"

**SM** " I was born in Chicago, and raised in Indiana."

**KW** "What does Sheila do for entertainment when not working?"

**SM** "I enjoy number and word puzzles, crocheting, reading and video games"

**KW** "Alright Sheila, in closing, any words of wisdom?"

**SM** "Treat others as you would like to be treated"

Thanks Sheila, and thanks for the thirty years.  
*Kelly Whitlow, General Manager*

## fleet captain's log



Race management is doing a great job. We have just completed two youth regattas. Rose Bowl regatta was a big success run by the SCYYRA and the U.S. Sailing Center, headed up by Mike Segerblom and his crew. We played host to some 50+ high schools and 27 colleges. Racing was intense with many of ABYC's youth sailors participating. Dinner is a Saturday event and this year was no exception. Some 400+ people were served and a great presentation was put on with by each of the college teams presenting their programs in 5 minute time slots.

Another youth regatta was just concluded for the ISAF World Qualifier. This is a regatta for youth to qualify for the ISAF Worlds held this year in Brazil. Steve Smith chaired this regatta and did a superb job. He ran 2 circles outside. One was for the Laser Radial boys and girls and the other was for the girls in Club 420s and the boys in International 420's and the multihulls in Hobie 16's. These participants are some of the best youth sailors in the country and the sailing was very intense.

We are looking forward to Midwinters next month with Manning and OCR to follow in March. We are still looking for volunteers for both regattas so go on our web sight and call the regatta chairs for the regatta that you want to participate. This is great fun if you are not sailing in any of these regattas.

Our fleet is stronger than ever. Patience has 20 hours running time since the overhaul and she is purring like a kitten. She proved her worth in both of the youth regattas and we look forward for her service for many years to come.

The rest of our fleet is in good shape. We are continuing to refurbish the older whalers to keep our fleet looking good as well as serviceable.

The container for the race committee equipment is complete. I am sure that as time goes on there will be more adjustment to the interior but it is very serviceable now. I would like the thank Robin Townsend, Mark Townsend, Bob Chubb and Dave Rustigan for the hard work.

ABYC has a great tradition for incredible race management and part of that is protest committee and judging. We are still looking for some volunteers. This is an important part of race management. We need you.

See you around the club  
*Jon Robinson*

**Sou'Wester DEADLINE**  
 February 21, 2009 is the deadline  
 for the March Sou'Wester.

**SCYA Midwinter Regatta**  
**February 21st - 22nd**

Follow the link at [abyc.org](http://abyc.org) for the  
 NOR and entry information

# from the pages of history

The SOU'WESTER's of the past speak to us of times past, of course, but also of the continuation of events and groups into this day—as well as names familiar to ABYC in the 21st Century.

## **THIRTY YEARS AGO:**

The first article in the SOU'WESTER for February, 1979, led off with congratulations. ABYC Staff Commodore Dick Landes had recently been installed as Commodore of a group then called the Yacht Club Association of Los Angeles and Long Beach Harbors, which had the unpronounceable acronym of YCALALBH. The “harbor association,” as it was—and is—more familiarly known, gathered yacht clubs from San Pedro to Huntington Harbour primarily to coordinate yacht-club racing calendars to seek to avoid conflicts. “It is an honor for Dick,” said ABYC Commodore Dave Crockett in his “Commodore’s Comments,” “and his leadership will benefit the Association and Alamitos Bay Yacht Club.”

The list of sailors racing in the first Senior Sabot regatta of the year was long and illustrious. A total of 26 adults in three divisions turned out. First in the “A” division was Tom Newton, Jr., just ahead of Bernice Weiss in second place; others racing included Bob Ware, Al Nelson, Peter Gales, Clif Mathias and Lee Berlinger. Adra Kober was top “B” racer; among her competition was Sid Exley, who took third. The top “C” sailor was Tony Fallon; he finished ahead of Tom Newton, Sr., “Shorty” Campbell, Tick Weber and Henry Weiss.

The aforementioned Peter Gales was then the International 14 Fleet Champion; he and crew Rowell Greene had received their trophies at the annual fleet dinner in January. At the same event John Hsu was elected Fleet Captain, and Tick and Georgette Weber were voted the first-ever Associate members of the I-14 fleet. The fleet was looking forward to the first big regatta of the year, the SCYA Midwinters; sailors from as far away as Annapolis were expected to attend.

ABYC’s Port Captain in 1979 was Rod Ogilby, and he was seeking some donations to the ABYC racing program: two double blocks, one a becket block, for half-inch line and “one old winch handle like (for) a jib halyard winch”...separately, a call was sent out by Rod for members to donate their “dearly beloved books on yachting;” the goal was to create a lending library for members...in a sign of the times, disco-dancing classes were to be held in February, March and April; so popular they were that two different series, one on twelve consecutive Tuesday nights and another on Wednesday nights, were scheduled...

## **TWENTY YEARS AGO:**

The YCALALBH was again mentioned right in the front of the SOU'WESTER in February, 1988. ABYC Staff Commodore Dave Dorrans had just stepped down as “harbor association” commodore, and the association named ABYC member Don Brown winner of their Yachtsman of the Year award while ABYC member Allison Jolly, first-ever winner of the Women’s 470 gold medal, was named Yachtswoman of the Year. As an aside, in January, 2009, two other ABYC members—Steve Smith and Sharon Pearson—were similarly honored, while another ABYC Staff Commodore, John Merchant, stepped down as commodore of the same association.

The New Year’s Eve Party was a big hit: nearly 200 people attended the event, called the “best New Year’s party ever” by Norma Clapp. An outfit called Casino de Paris was hired to supply gambling equipment, which included a roulette wheel, two big dice tables for craps and a dozen blackjack tables complete with chips, chairs and cards; ABYC members served as blackjack dealers and pit bosses. Pam and Charlie Cummings were in charge of the event, which included dancing to the music of “Mr. Bzzz;” the dinner of chicken cordon bleu was topped off by an after-midnight Continental breakfast.

The two SCYA regattas—the Midwinters and the Manning—were looming on the near horizon, and a few of the fleet articles referred to one or the other. Chris Reno reported that the J/24 fleet was expecting a large turnout for Midwinters as the J/24 Western Regional Championship would be sailed two weeks afterwards—and then a week later the fleet would be running the Manning. Mack Mills reported in the Senior Sabot column that the Kober Perpetual Trophy, previously awarded to the winner of the “Tournament of Champions” regatta, had been re-deeded to the winner of the Naples Sabot class at the Manning; a key feature of this regatta that led to Chuck and Adra Kober’s rededication was that juniors and seniors sail together and against each other.

Among the new members of ABYC pictured in the SOU'WESTER was Keith Dodson; formerly a junior sailor and then a Yachting member, Keith and his wife Claudia were moving into Regular membership status...among the ABYC members signed up for the Keel Boat Fleet’s cruise of the Grenadines in May were Norma and Dan Clapp, Dave and Sue Crockett, Clif and Judy Mathias and Sharon Pearson...while history repeats, it is hoped that an incident from 1933 reported in Ann Exley’s “From the Pages of History” column will not: “A motion was made and seconded that a donation of \$25.00 be made to the Southern California Yachting Association and a letter accompany same explaining that due to the financial condition existing throughout, our club would not be able to donate its usual quota this year”...

## **TEN YEARS AGO:**

Poor Ted Flood: the then-Commodore reported falling into the trap of SOU'WESTER deadlines in his “Commodore’s Comments” of February, 1999. “I’m finding it’s very tricky to forecast the outcome of events that occur after the SOU'WESTER deadline,” he wrote, when “I thanked Dave and C.J. Crockett and all of the volunteers who helped them with the New Year’s Eve festivities.” The problem was that, with four days to go, an event that required 110 attendees to break even had eight reservations—and was cancelled after Ted had written his article.

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There was a lot of Junior news. Latham Bell, then the ABYC Director responsible for junior activities, ran an article outlining the plans for the 1999 summer program. Set to begin on June 22 and run until August 6, programs included Sea Urchins; beginning and intermediate sailing, intermediate and advanced racing, a Laser program and even a “yachting” program for older juniors less interested in racing but more interested in sailing as a pastime. Mimicking a then-popular tune, Mara Bell, the Junior Rear Commodore, wrote in her always breezy Junior Column that “we’re going to sail like it’s 1999.” After reporting that four ABYC sailors had competed in a windy Rose Bowl Regatta and mentioning the upcoming events, she closed her column with the following invocation: “Neptune, King of the Sea, grant that our hulls may always be smooth and our sails last forever!”

The Lido fleet column, “Lido Lines,” contributed by Maggie Waterman, was always a fun read. After her fleet ran the Turnbuckle Tightener Regatta, Maggie reported that the fictional answer man “Mister Lido” received the following question: “What is a turnbuckle” and “why do I want it tightened?” The answer—with only a little double entendre included—surely led to smiles as Mister Lido reported a turnbuckle as “a form of coupling.”

Congratulations were passed on to Steve and Elaine Bloemeke on the birth of their son Cameron, who was born in December; conversely, the recent passing of long-time member Betty Tebbetts was noted, as was the heart health of several members who had recently undergone heart surgery or pacemaker implantation...Ann Exley’s column, “From the Pages of History,” reported that the 1959 SCYA Midwinter Regatta was sailed at Los Angeles Yacht Club, Cabrillo Beach Yacht Club and ABYC; among the winners at ABYC was young Eric Conn in his Naples Sabot, “Storm Along,” racing in the Sabot II division...

*Chris Ericksen, Club Historian*

## a junior perspective

Each month Marc Schryer invites a Junior sailor to write something for the So'wester...this month he selected Matt McDermaid a 13 year old Laser sailor.

### ABYC 8<sup>th</sup> Graders Compete in Rose Bowl Regatta

On the first weekend in January, ABYC was the site for the annual Rose Bowl Regatta. Twenty-four college sailing teams from across the country and fifty-two high school teams from northern and southern California competed in FJs. Each team consisted of a minimum of 4 sailors, two skippers and two crews. Most teams had many more team members, substitute skippers and crews, should one team need a lighter or heavier crew or need to replace a struggling skipper. Racing was divided into two areas, the large bay area near ABYC and the small bay near the US Sailing Center. High school sailing is unique in that 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are allowed to compete in many high school regattas representing the high school they WILL be attending in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. ABYC Juniors Ellie Merrill, Sunny Scarbrough, John McInerney, Matt McDermaid, Dugan Farrell, Kevin Leddy, Steven Hopkins, Claire Paice, and Alex Newton, all 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, participated. Ellie, Sunny, John sailed for Los Alamitos High School. Matt, Dugan, Kevin represented Huntington Beach High School. Claire and Alex sailed for Long Beach Poly, and Steven, Wilson High School.

After twenty-four light wind races over two days in bitter cold to wonderfully sunny weather, both Los Alamitos and Huntington Beach High School teams emerged with big smiles on their faces. Los Alamitos HS finished 7<sup>th</sup> overall, Huntington Beach HS 9<sup>th</sup>, in the 26 team silver division, very, very respectable.

Many thanks go out to the great ABYC instructors, US Sailing Center coaches, and the extremely supportive parents that made all this possible.

*Matt McDermaid*

## bail before you sail

The other weekend I was patrolling the sabot racks and noticed that many of the lower level sabots are “sunny side up” and had filled with water due to the rains. Director Bob Anderson and I took a few minutes to bail out as many as we could, but please consider this a friendly reminder to come down to the club and check your sabot...in fact Lidos, Finns, C-15s and other boats in the yard may be similarly effected if you are not positioned with a good drainage angle or your boat cover has been compromised. If you have a sabot on a Chubby please consider going into “winter mode” – the mosquitoes won’t appreciate it, but it will make your sabot a lot happier.

*Jeff Merrill, Rear Commodore*



*Bob Anderson bailing out sabots.*

# the bay clogger

## (junior sailing)

### **A**BYC Spring Program begins February 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>

Hello ABYC Members and welcome to 2009! There are a host of exciting junior events at ABYC and in Southern California this Spring season and it begins with the ABYC Spring Clinics starting in February. Available in the main office of ABYC or online at the ABYC Jr. Website (<http://www.fleetracing.net>) is the Spring Program flyer and sign up form. The spring clinics entail 5 to 6 clinics and several coached regattas. Additionally, we are working on a match racing event, bringing back the Friday Night Candy Bar Races to compliment the Family Movie Night at ABYC, and other fun ideas for this Spring. Turn in the Spring sign up forms by February 10th to the main office of ABYC (attention to Brad).

#### **SDYC Jr. Invitational (North Series 3 of 4) Wrap Up**

This regatta is usually the lightest attended due to the unusual placement of the event on the calendar, however we had a hardy group of 10 head down for the regatta which was the third of the four part North Series. Our sailors were Gentry Bell, Richard Bell, Bradley Clinton, John Erlinger, Riley Gibbs, Sawyer Gibbs, Beth Golison, Emily Golison, Steven Hopkins, and Matt McDermaid.

The regatta consisted of light and variable winds with an emphasis on the light. There were 3 to 5 minute puffs that were separated by 10 to 15 minute complete losses of wind. The frustration level was high as a race would start with decent wind and end by drifting slowly to a shortened course finish line, but our sailors toughed out the conditions and prevailed.

High points definitely came from the Gibbs boys as both Sawyer and Riley placed 3rd in their respective fleets (B and A) after a first day the left them a decent way off this mark. Beth Golison also saw a trophy by taking 5th in the C3 fleet. This girl was an absolute rocket ship in the light breeze - watch out for her in the coming years! We were all very proud of our first time A racers Matt McDermaid and Steven Hopkins who ended just outside the top 10 in 11th and 12th respectively. This is a huge accomplishment as the A fleet is very tough and shows they are going to be able to hang just fine in this competitive group.

#### **ISAF Youth World Qualifier Wrap Up**

This one was another light air regatta (and three days of it)! But our students who competed did a great job. They included Andrew MacLean, Morgan Mathews, Palmer Luckey, Jack Jorgensen, Ian Fournier and Dugan Farrell.

The best from around the country competed for the top spot to represent the US in the Youth World Championships this summer. The winner of the radial fleet was NHYC/ABYC member Chris Barnard while our 420 coach Mac Mace placed 2nd in the I-420 fleet.

Our group competed nobly doing their best in the light conditions and found themselves often in the mix of the highly competitive fleet. Jack Jorgensen placed the highest from our group with three top 10 finishes the third day of the regatta finishing 16th overall.

*Brad Schaupter, ABYC Junior Sailing Director*

## getting in step

Our beautiful club house was built over 40 years ago and as well as we have looked after her she is showing a few wrinkles and maybe even a gray hair. The two staircases outside our building (one leading up to the kitchen from the east yard) and the other fronting the channel have slowly succumbed to the elements and were bordering on being a liability. So thanks to the great efforts of Larry Kidd and his crew we have not only replaced our rusty old sole scrapers, but we have also increase the angle so that there are two extra steps, making the slope a little easier to ascend. This was not a cheap fix, but deemed necessary by the board, and as we age gracefully it looks like more of these maintenance and repairs will be in the works, if you see something you think is amiss please bring it to the boards' attention. Here's some "before" photos, come down to see the "after" in person.

*Jeff Merrill, Rear Commodore*





# membership report

John Williams photos

February is packed with lots of exciting events – now is a perfect time to bring a guest down and show them our hospitality. For you Junior members out there, the Board has instituted a membership drive to help you convert to a regular membership – convert in the months of February, March or April and receive a \$500 discount!

This month we continued to play catch-up with folks who hadn't yet been introduced to the club as new members – Don and Susan Smith became members last July, and we were happy to see them at the spaghetti dinner hosted by the Keelboat fleet. Looks like two more kids will be under Brad's wing this summer!

Speaking of Juniors, we're very glad to have the first beneficiaries of the 2009 Junior Membership Drive – Russ and Gretchen Boudreau have been very active volunteers in support of their Juniors, and we're pleased they chose to become Regular Members this month. Watch those Boudreau boys – they're fast.

Finally, a big welcome to Garrett Brown who joined us as a Yachting member this month to race Lasers – he is a good addition to the fleet and is doing his part to bring new vitality to ABYC.

*John Williams, Membership Chariman*



*The Boudreau family. Gretchen, Russ, Will and Dana with Jeff Merrill and Merle Asper.*



*Don and Suzie Smith, Hannah and Donny with John Massey.*



*New member Garrett Brown with Merle Asper.*

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## adopt a beach

As many of you may or may not know, ABYC is a strong supporter of clean beaches. For many years, ABYC members, friends, and family members have come together to keep our part of Long Beach clean. This year, ABYC has three dates on the calendar to get out into the fresh air, and roll up our sleeves for the community. There are three dates planned for this year, so mark your calendars, blackberrys, outlook folders, I-phones, whatever planning device you use, and come on down, rain or shine.

The first event will be April 11<sup>th</sup>, (all Saturday mornings), second June 13<sup>th</sup>, and the third, September 19<sup>th</sup>. The September event is a special day as it coincides with the *Coastal Clean Up Day* for the entire state. It only takes a few hours, and we'll make it fun with coffee, pastries, and prizes for the most unique items collected. Supplies will be provided. Also, if any ABYC kids need service hours for volunteer requirements, it's a great way to earn those hours. To help out, please let me know. Thanks for pitching in to help keep our little, but most beautiful part of the world clean. Looking forward to seeing you there!

*Yvonne Galvez mobile (949) 293-4088 or ymgalvez@hotmail.com*



## CNN Reporter Tries His Hand at *Laser* Sailing

Seeing this story referenced in *Scuttlebutt*, and the fact it features the *Laser* seemed a good reason to share it with *Sou'Wester* readers. Although some of this is elementary to experienced sailors, I think nearly everyone has “enjoyed” similar experiences while learning to sail.

Now I don't want anyone contemplating joining the ranks of the ABYC *Laser* Fleet to be in any way discouraged by this story, as you'll see all comes out well in the end. So enjoy this tale and come join the ABYC *Laser* Fleet to see what all the fun is about!

**LONDON, England (CNN)** — I have always dreamed of winning a medal at the Olympic Games — and sailing seemed like a good sport to target.

By choosing sailing, I figured, I wouldn't have to take on people like Michael Phelps in the pool, Usain Bolt on the track or Chris Hoy at the velodrome. I wouldn't need brute strength like weightlifters, the amazing accuracy of target shooters, nor the endurance of a marathon runner.

I have also loved sailing for a long time, and watching the competitors at the Beijing Games I remember thinking to myself — “this can't be *that* hard. Can it?” To test my theory, I traveled to Weymouth and Portland's National Sailing Academy, the venue for the London 2012 Games sailing, to have a go in an Olympic-class *Laser* yacht.



Tough but addictive: CNN writer Mike Steere found out how physically demanding Olympic-class sailing is.

Based in the south of England, boasting consistent wind and wonderful facilities, there could be no better place to launch an Olympic quest. I wanted to hit the speeds reached by Olympic champions Paul Goodison and Ben Ainslie, and I wanted to do it in one day.

After meeting my instructor, Emma Dawson, I was shown a few of the basics in a mock-up boat. I soon discovered that there were plenty of ropes, sorry “sheets,” to worry about and tacking and gybing was going to be no simple task. By the time we headed to the water I was quite nervous, but still feeling confident that my natural ability would see me through. What exactly this ability is, I'm not sure. Perhaps being a New Zealander would give me an advantage?

I certainly felt I was learning from the best. Beijing gold medalist Paul Goodison has taught at this *Sail Laser* school and he races in the same class of boat that I headed out in. Plenty of reason to be buoyant. Little did I know that my childhood dream would soon leave me with a bloodied finger, aching arms and an extremely sore bum — and after just three hours on the water!

Nonetheless, thanks to a patient and very helpful instructor, I was soon moving confidently, albeit with some difficulty making the turns. There

are a number of issues you need to process in your head when you attempt an upwind tack — which requires turning the boat from one side of the wind to the other — or downwind gybe.

My repeated failure to get my head under the boom, problems straightening the rudder, difficulty coordinating my hands with the two ropes and forgetting to tack far enough initially stymied my progress. I'd also forgotten to put my gloves on — meaning the ropes soon slashed through the skin on my hands, leaving the boat covered with drips of blood. Not the ideal start to my Olympic career. However, once I got moving, I got the buzz. In sailing they call it a “lift” — when a gust of wind picks up your boat, stretches the sail and gets you moving quickly across the water.

I remember my first one vividly: I thought the boat was going to tip over and I'd be in the drink. Thankfully Emma had shown me how to deal with this situation. When you get the lift you lean back, right out of the boat to counter the effect of the wind, holding on with your feet under the toe-strap. The ropes (sheets) are in your hand and tightening the mainsheet allows you to reach maximum speed and sail as “high,” or as close to the direction of the wind as you possibly can. This is a complete thrill. I was just inches off the water and fizzing along, with fantastical thoughts of flying past fellow Olympic competitors filling my head.

Though I could confidently catch the wind, turn, and reach a speed that I thought would be within range of even the best — it was oddly while doing this that I realized I really didn't have a hope of making it. Why? Because after a short time I was completely knackered. I challenge anyone who says a sailor is not an athlete to get into a single-handed boat and have a go. It is one of the most physically demanding sports I've tried.

It did not take long before my arms were aching, my bum was sore, my legs were stiff, my back hurt and my hands and wrists felt like they needed some ice. So, I realized that if I wanted to have a chance of making it in sailing then it would take full-time dedication and a lot of skill — and that I may have left it too late, anyway. My already high respect for Olympic sailors like Ben Ainslie skyrocketed. These guys and girls sail races almost without error and at constant top speed. I was making at least one error on almost every turn.

While my gold medal dream may have ended in the *Laser*-class boat at the 2012 Games venue — I also realized you don't have to be an Olympic champion to fully enjoy sailing. It's a sport that lets you experience many of the great things nature has to offer and what's best is that you can do it at your own pace, alone or with others, and your carbon footprint while doing it is virtually zero.

Will I be back out in a boat? For sure. Will I be at the 2012 Olympics? Maybe, but only to watch. <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Getting up to Olympic Speed, CNN.com/World Sport, Mike Steere for CNN, November 20, 2008, <http://www.cnn.com/2008/SPORT/11/20/olympic.speed/>

# boxing day winners

Jeff Merrill photos

Everyone who participates is a winner, and we went 10 deep on trophies for this regatta, but even those who didn't take home any loot were treated to a beautiful day on the water with our snow capped mountains providing the back drop. Rich Roberts is so good at covering our events and so timely that his email report was already published in last month's Sou'Wester, but as Board Liaison for the event I wanted to give a quick report from the trophy presentation.

Mark Townsend and team have really got this event down to a science (an experiment that mutated into a marvelous holiday elixir) and the unusual blend of dinghies and keel boats racing in the bay is a magnificent sight to behold. The "usual suspects" ran the event – thank you volunteers!

Every year the sabots start out first and get a monstrous lead, but slowly get reeled in by the lidos, who get shadowed by the Cal 20s, with a



Jerry Thompson and Mandi Smith, winners of the Boxing Day Regatta with Mark Townsend.

Snipe, Thistle and Etchells all in the mix. It is our version of the bigger fish eating the smaller fish, only to get eaten by a larger fish. We found a beautiful old relic during the recent office shuffling – a bronze towing bit (a bollard?) mounted on a teak block that Jesus and Roberto cleaned up to be presented as the Boxing Day Perpetual (previous winners will be engraved starting with the first event about eight years ago).

The Snipe fleet took top honors with ABYC staff commodore Jerry Thompson and Mandi Smith winning. They were followed closely by ABYC's Stu Robertson, Paul Anctil and Mark Ryan in a Thistle and third place went to John Quale, Mike Corzine and Jack Johnson from Seal Beach Yacht Club in a Cal 29. The top ten finishers included a four Lido 14s, and Etchells, a Mercury and a Cal 20. The top twenty included Lasers, an Olson 30, Formula 18 catamaran and more Lidos and Cal 20s. We had over 60 boats on the

water, many different race leaders at various stages of the event and a fun meal afterwards. What a fantastic last event of the year for 2008.

Jeff Merrill, Rear Commodore

# isaf youth world qualifier

2009 US SAILING ISAF Youth World Qualifier and U.S. Youth Multihull Championship Regatta  
The volunteers and staff of ABYC hosted 109 sailors in 79 boats for the **2009 US SAILING ISAF Youth World Qualifier and U.S. Youth Multihull Championship Regatta** over the M.L. King Holiday weekend. This was a particularly prestigious event as winners in each class competing, (**Laser Radial, I420, C420** and **Hobie 16** w/spinnaker) would be the USA representatives at the 39th Volvo™ Youth Sailing ISAF World Championship 2009 to be held in Buzios BRAZIL July 9-18, 2009. Additionally, winners of the **Hobie 16** class would be the 2009 U.S. Youth Multihull Champions and awarded the Arthur J. Stevens Trophy.

The regatta was sailed in two separate areas with Principal Race Officer (PRO) **Jerry Montgomery** running **Hobie 16's** and **420's** in the traditional ABYC race area, while PRO **Chris Ericksen** ran the **Laser Radials** just outside the breakwater off Seal Beach.

Competition promised to be tough with such a talented field, especially in **420** Boys' and Girls' fleets, as all competitors in these classes had to qualify for this regatta by placing in the top nine positions at the Orange Bowl Regatta held last month in Miami FL...no mean feat in itself.

Warm temperatures but light to nonexistent breezes dominated the first two days of the regatta preventing Jerry from running more than two races while Chris could only manage one short race Saturday. Following the races Saturday, the hungry youngsters gathered for dinner and a raffle of sponsor provided sailing goodies. Sunday saw little improvement in the racing conditions; however, Jerry and Chris managed to run enough races to ensure we had a bona fide regatta.

Monday dawned overcast and the harbor looked like a millpond. Though not optimistic, the Race Committees and racers drifted or were towed out to their respective race areas. The overcast began to clear and along with sun came the best breeze of the regatta giving all competitors a wonderful day of racing.

Despite a beautiful day of sailing, numerous protests and requests for redress kept the Protest Committee occupied after racing on Monday. We were able to award Gold, Silver and Bronze US SAILING Medals to all but two classes

...continued page 12

before sundown; however, the Girls' **Laser Radial** and Boys' **I420** class results were not finalized until the clubhouse and boat yard was nearly vacant.

ABYC was well represented by **Chris Barnhard** who won the Boys' **Laser Radial** class, while **Daniel Segerblom** with skipper Kirk Korbin brought home the Gold in the **Hobie 16** fleet. In the Boys' **420** class, **Chris Segerblom** with skipper Judge Ryan was just squeezed out of the Bronze Medal by a single point. Other ABYC sailors competing in the Boys' **Laser Radial** fleet were; **Jack Jorgensen, Palmer Luckey, Andrew MacLean** and **Dugan Farrell**.

Like all ABYC regattas, volunteers make it happen. Although not possible to list them all, I want to recognize these individuals for their special contributions. **Yvonne Galvez** was my busy, imaginative and detail oriented Board Liaison, **Latham Bell** was our patient Chief Judge ably assisted by **Margaret Caddle** and **Art Engle** in those long protest hearings. On the race course, in addition to our PRO's **Jerry & Chris**, I especially wish to thank **Chas Merrill** and **Don Zinn** who provided us with their boats and race management expertise. On shore, **John Williams** made sure the **Hobie Cats** were ready for the competitors, while **Mike Baumann** was invaluable organizing and storing trailers, directing traffic, policing the beach and just making sure our guests had ready access to their equipment when they needed it.

One other volunteer deserves special recognition. On Monday, **Margaret Jorgensen** came prepared to staff the Volunteer Desk, but when it became clear, yours truly had failed to communicate clearly with ABYC staff, Margaret without hesitation, jumped into the Galley, tied on an apron and made enough breakfast burritos to satisfy 100 plus young sailors and volunteers...thank you Margaret! Due to your selfless effort, I don't believe our guests or volunteers realized we weren't running the Galley with a full complement of our regular staff.

Also worthy of thanks were our regatta sponsors. **Dan Mangus** and a team from **Hobie Cat** shipped, assembled and disassembled ten (and one spare) **Hobie 16's** with spinnakers. **Zack Maxam** from **LaserPerformance** provided a number of **Laser Radials** and **C420's**. ABYC's **Art Vasenius** and **Sailing Pro Shop** representing **Zhik** products and a new product, from **Greg Little** called **BottlePort**, provided give-aways and **BottlePorts** for the Saturday evening raffle. **Dave Dellenbaugh** provided copies of his **Speed&Smarts** newsletter for each competitor and our volunteers.

Thanks to everyone involved for making this another quality ABYC event!  
*Steven Smith, Regatta Chairman*

...from page 1

Although the light, shifty breezes frustrated the fleets like an evil roulette wheel the first two days, Monday's wind filled late but soon settled into a steady southwesterly of 6 to 8 knots that allowed both courses to sail three races for a total of seven, with one throwout.

As is often the case, the top performers did well in all conditions, although some would have preferred whitecaps and heavy hiking.

Barnard, who won three of the first four races and led through the weekend, had to hold off his nearest threat and longtime rival, Oliver Toole, 17, of Santa Barbara, who won the last race as Barnard nailed third for a final three-point edge.

Barnard, who was sixth and ninth in the previous two races, said, "I told myself, 'I know I can dig myself out of it.' But I had to work for it."

Toole said, "I like sailing in the wind, but it probably would have been the same outcome either way."

Kirk and Segerblom, arriving as total multihull rookies, took a crash course in the game in the California Interscholastic Sailing Association (CISA) Multihull Clinic led by A-Cat multi-world champion Pete Melvin at ABYC on the two days before the regatta.

"They were quick learners," Melvin said.

Segerblom said, "We practiced every day after school until it got dark. We were pretty nervous . . ."

"But we knew we had it won," said Kirk, a 2008 U.S. Junior champion, said, "when we won the last race by almost a full leg."

Lihan, one point behind co-leaders Emily Billing and Claire Dennis starting the last day, won Monday's first race and discarded a sixth to take the



*Olympic silver medalists Jay and Pease Glaser worked race committee*



*Oliver O'Toole's last-race win over Chris Barnard (rear) wasn't enough*

...continued next page

lead, held it with a second place and took a fifth to Billing's second in the finale. Each netted 13 points but Lihan won three races to Billing's two.

"I just tried not to think about the pressure," Lihan said. "There was a little match race [between Billing and Dennis] before the start ... I just tried to stay away from it."

But her toughest battle came later, after dark, when the race jury summoned her on a protest by race officials that she wore a life jacket that was not U.S. Coast Guard-approved, as required by the Notice of Race—a rule also ignored by several other competitors.

After a lengthy hearing, Lihan retained her victory with a stern warning to wear a proper life jacket from now on.

Complete results, photos and more at [abyc.org](http://abyc.org)

Rich Roberts



Emily Billing (l.) needed one more boat between her and Lihan (r.)

## hails from the fleets

Jeff Merrill photos

### 2008 Boxing Day Regatta

Nine *Lasers* and *Radials* rigged and launched to compete in the 2008 Boxing Day Regatta. Despite clear blue skies and pleasant temperatures, racers faced challenging sailing conditions. Using handicap ranking, racers were started in reverse order with slower classes starting before swifter designs. This meant *Radials* and *Lasers* started with or behind keelboats and others with larger rigs and made finding clear air, in the light to drifting conditions, a necessity.

With a variety of 63 boats crowded into a meandering course around Alamitos Bay, you were bound to have a cheerful close encounter with nearly everyone at one time or another that afternoon. The sheer variety of boats and competitors made for a fun low-key event as kids, parents and children doubled-up on *Lasers* and *Radials* while some keelboats were packed to the gunwales with crew.

The turnout of 63 boats, nearly all ABYC members, speaks volumes for the popularity of this event run by **Mark Townsend** and his group of volunteers. Despite or maybe because of the zephyr-like winds and unique format, Boxing Day goes to show the fun isn't always in the winning, but just competing and enjoying a wonderful day on the water with friends and family at ABYC.

Steven Smith, ABYC Laser Fleet Co-Captain



Johnny Blumberg & Ginger Luckey, Todd Smith in the background.



Boxing Day Laser start. Left to right; Mark & Mitchell Juranek, Brad & Samantha Thompson, Johnny Blumberg & Ginger Luckey, Steve Smith and Todd Smith.



Mark & Mitchell Juranek #187119 looking for clear air at the windward mark.

# hails from the fleets



**T**he Alamitos Bay Etchells fleet kicked off 2009 in a wonderfully classic Southern California manner: they sailed a regatta in the ocean in wintertime.

While most East Coast Etchells are buried under snow or down in Florida competing in the Jaguar Series (more on that later), we in Southern California can sail in the our home waters in January. And the fleet did just that on a classically beautiful winter day on Saturday, January 10.

Five boats turned out for the regatta, organized by Fleet Captain Rich Vaught and ably run by ABYC Juniors Hilton Beckham and Kate Bishop. It was a light-air affair but a comfortable one: a Santa Ana condition led to both, again a classic wintertime phenomenon.

Fleet Captain Rich, sailing with brother Alan and Bob Bishop, was the top finisher, with two wins in the three races run. The team on SPIRIT, USA126, led by Jim Barber at helm, managed a second-place finish ahead of the third-place team of Chris Wells, Rex Wells and Mark Hardy. A team in USA89 led by Pat Kelly and including Gordon Dudley was fourth while Staff Commodore Jim Bateman took current Commodore Merle Asper with him and ended up in fifth place. Here are the results:

OWNER	SAIL NO.	R-1	R-2	R-3	TOTALS
Vaught/Vaught	USA821	2	1	1	4
Barber	USA126	3	2	2	7
Wells/Wells/Hardy	USA488	1	3	4	8
Kelly	USA89	5	4	3	12
Bateman	USA143	4	5	5	14

The season continues in February with another traditional event, the annual Super Bowl Regatta on Sunday, February 1. This is when the Etchells fleet takes to Alamitos Bay for a morning of racing before retiring to the ABYC Clubhouse to watch the football game. Racing typically starts at eleven o'clock, typically includes light air and close passing and is typically great fun. If you're coming to the game, wander down to see if you can hitch a ride on an Etchells or just watch the event from the beach.

ABYC will again host the Etchells fleet as part of the SCYA Midwinter Regatta in February. This year SCYA has moved the event off the traditional Presidents' Day weekend to the following one, so it will be Saturday and Sunday, February 21 and 22. Midwinters also kicks off the 2009 Fleet Championship Series, with Saturday's scores going into the pot for this yearlong, high-point series. Go to the ABYC website for a link to the SCYA Midwinter website, where the NOR and an entry form can be found; there ought to be a few around the clubhouse, too.

And, in the aforementioned Jaguar Series, the local team led by Bruce Golison pegged a second-place finish in the Sid Doren Memorial Regatta, held the same weekend as the local fleet race. Adding to their third-place finish in the Piana Cup Regatta in December—and to a fall by Piana winners Jud Smith and Dirk Kneulman—Bruce and the boys have moved to the top of the leader board. The next event, the Florida State Championships, will be in early February while the final, Etchells Midwinters East, will be sailed the last weekend of February. Stay tuned for more updates.

*Chris Ericksen*



**S**uper Bowl Regatta Wrap-Up  
Congratulations to Kathy Reed and Cyndi Martinich, and welcome to the A fleet ladies!

Sunday, January 25, 2009 was the annual Super Bowl Regatta, hosted by the Santa Monica Windjammers Yacht Club in Marina Del Rey. The California sunshine came out after a few dreary days of rain, and it brought along with it wind, lots of wind! Fleet six brought four teams that included: Jim Dury/Bruse Wasson, Paul/ John Makielski, Kathy Reed/Cyndi Martinich, and Mark/Sarah Ryan. Overall, the regatta saw a twenty-one lido turn out! With eleven boats competing in the B fleet, Kathy Reed's first place trophy earned her a ticket into the A fleet, congrats Kathy! Team Makielski finished second just behind Kathy with three first place finishes and one unfortunate, failed jib sheet. Good show Paul and John! Jim Dury and Bruse Wasson toughed the breeze that exceeded 25 on some occasions, and sailed a respectable regatta. In the A fleet, team Ryan attempted to get back into the "groove of things" with Mark taking the tiller and sister, Sarah (back from three months in England) happy to crew. After a few too many over early starts, and mishaps, team Ryan finished third overall. Along with three trophies, fleet six brought home the unofficial, official team trophy, for the fleet with the best-combined score! We now have hold of the "Bragging rights" trophy for 2009. Fleet Six knows how to have a good time wherever they go! Happy sailing all!

## Up-coming Events

February has plenty of opportunities to get a head start on the 2009 sailing season!

February 21-22 Midwinter's Regatta at ABYC

February 28- March 1 W.D. Schock Memorial Regatta at NHYC

(stay tuned for a kick off lido clinic and BBQ!)

Huntington Lake: July 11-12, 2009

Mark your calendars for the **High Sierra Regatta** at Huntington Lake. Sarah and Mark Ryan have booked a group campsite at Deer Creek Campground this year. It holds 12 people and is walking distance from the launching area. Plus it is a waterfront site! No excuses! **July 11-12** is the High Sierra Regatta, come on up.

*Sarah Ryan*



## KEEL BOAT FLEET ON WATCH

**J**udy Mathias can surely come up with great ideas. Her latest was having everyone bring their old Keel Boat Fleet pictures from years back to the January Fleet meeting. Lots of pictures and how young everyone looked in them, it was just a terrific look back through memory lane. There were pictures of our various trips including the San Juan Islands with the Caddles, the Caribbean with the Lorbeers, the Holland trip with Bard Heavens and of course the many trips from Santa Barbara to San Diego and all the Islands off our Coast that everyone took turns being the Chairperson in charge for the many great Summers Cruises. All the while we were looking at the pictures Bob Chubb also had his movies of

# hails from the fleets

past trips on the big TV and it was like a three ring circus and just as much fun. The best part of Bob's movies was the 'blind sack race' where the fellow is at the oars with a sack over his head and the gal is telling him which way to the finish line. Lots of 'you never listen to me anyhow' and 'you don't know your right from your left' were among the many comments I remember from the 'good old days'.

By the time you read this article the ABYC General meeting will have gone by but our Fleet along with the Sabotier Fleet were in charge of the entertainment section and we were planning to have Scott Atwood narrate the 2007 Transpac Race which also includes a tribute to our former member, Wendy Siegal.

The Armchair Cruise is Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup> and, as reported in last month's Sou'Wester, will be 'George Washington Slept Here' which promises to be a lot of fun. If you have not been to an Armchair Theater Cruise it's a hoot from start to finish. The entire proceeds of the evening go to the Children's Benefit League and the \$25 per ticket is tax deductible. Plan to get there ahead of time, 7:15 to 7:30, as the members of the League outdo themselves bringing lots of complementary cookies, cakes etc. and the price of wine or coffee is very nominal. Get a group together, any ABYC members Keel Boat members or not, their friends, Club members or not, and get in touch with Carol Reynolds or Judy Mathias who will arrange the tickets. Great cause, great fun. How can you beat that!

Vern and Bobbie Peterson have a firm date for the Spring Cruise, Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup> with more information on the Cruise at the March Keel Boat Fleet meeting. The Spring Cruise features a dockside cocktail party with host boat and a great meal at Shoreline Yacht Club. Mark your calendar.

The next Keel Boat Fleet meeting is Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. We will be turning this day of infamy into a super game party. While yes, we will have our ever abundant pot luck dinner, oh my it's so good, the traditional agenda will be trashed in favor of the following: Cocktails start at 1800, 6 PM to the unwashed, Games start at 1845, again for the unemployed, 6:45 PM, however if you want to grab one more from the bar that's ok as long as you pretend you are mobiling to your seat. Pot luck will start hopefully at 7:30 PM, see I can go along with the crowd. Winners, you are going into two groups, will clutch a bottle of Two Buck Chuck and the losers will have our personal sympathy and first in line for the Pot Luck.

Two of our long time members, Amos and Sybil have gone through a trying time, Amos with a stroke and Sybil with a very serious operation. A letter or call would be in order. John Massey, long time member, lost his wife Donna, an absolutely wonderful person. I feel as though I have lost a vital part of me. Scott Atwood's dad, Wright Atwood, passed away recently. Wright and his wife Marion were on a trip to the Canadian Rockies with Maggie and me and we recall many good memories from that trip.

See you all at the March meeting,  
George C.



**A**fter sailing a landsailer, I consider sailing a sabot like sailing in slow motion. Well,

after another fleet race this month under Santana conditions, I am really starting to believe it! With the wind coming from a direction 90 degrees off our normal direction, our first race was around the speed can off Chrisman's and back. John Ellis and I started on a port tack toward the docks, the rest of the fleet went starboard toward the beach. John and I caught the breeze and were closing in on the mark when the wind totally died and the current was pushing us backwards away from the mark. John was the first boat around the mark and I had to work not to drift into it. The race committee decided to end our suffering early and finished us at the mark. The rest of the fleet was still working its way up from the beach.

After lunch, we had similar conditions. John and I tried the same tack but ended up in the rear of the fleet. We had a little wind the third race with a longer course. The wind didn't hold and those who were more skilled in the drifter category came out on top. Mark Ryan won out with a 6,1,1 and Jane McNaboe was a close second with 3,2,2. John Ellis was third with 1,7,3. Thank you to Robin Townsend, Jinx Ellis, Joe Riddick and Don Wilson for running the races. We enjoyed a delicious dinner after racing provided by Jesus.

Our next fleet race is Sunday, February 8.

The Senior Sabot Fleet bids a fond farewell to Barbara Gabriel with a luncheon at the Club. We will all miss her. She has dedicated many hours and days to scoring for our fleet. Best wishes in your new home Barbara!

*Sheila Eberly*



**T**he first remote control (RC Fleet) "tune-up" session for 2009 will be on Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m. This event is for the preparation to our return to Friday night racing at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> (daylight savings time returns March 6<sup>th</sup>).

Until we meet on February 15<sup>th</sup>, now is a good time to open your cabin top and air-out the servo and battery compartment. Doing this will prevent rust from forming due to any moisture still there from last year. Furthermore, discard those batteries! New AA batteries are needed for a good servo check. Also, if your rudder isn't working, use a screwdriver to detach the rudder, wipe-off the rudder-shaft, and apply chapstick or di-electric grease to the rudder-shaft to lubricate and prevent rust. A faulty rudder servo could also be the cause.

Whatever the issue, or if you have a new boat and need help putting it together, just come-on down. Let's go "Racin' in the Basin"! Also, Nirvana-II RC boats make great Valentine's Day gifts! They last longer than a box of chocolates.

*Damon Kunkle Fleet Captian-Nirvana II*



# Alamitos Bay Yacht Club

7201 East Ocean Boulevard  
Long Beach, California 90803

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*Jorge Suarez photo*



*Girls C420 winners: Heather May, Sally Mace, Laura McKenna, Morgan Kiss, Eliza Richartz and Carly Shevitz.*

*Rich Roberts photos  
underthesunphotos.com  
Jim Drury photo boat captain*



*With Santa Catalina Island 23 n.m. away, racers move out to the course on a clear, bright, crazy Sunday*

**W**e're looking for two volunteers to help resurrect a column that Judy Mathias used to write each month. She called it Driftwood (we like that) and it was member news. Travel, births, deaths, awards, illnesses, accomplishments, etc.

We will keep it as positive as possible while still reporting important events in our members' lives. Bobbie Hodges has offered to help if we can find two more people to assist. We would like to find people who come from different fleets in the club. Please contact me (Sharon Pearson) at [sharonpea@aol.com](mailto:sharonpea@aol.com) to volunteer and we'll get it up

**A**BYC Laser Fleet to Host February Membership Meeting  
Friday evening February 20th, -the day before the SCYA Midwinter Regatta weekend - your ABYC Laser Fleet and supporters are hosting the Membership Meeting. The featured speaker for the February 20, 2009 ABYC Membership meeting is **Mr. J. Christopher Lytle**, Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer Port of Long Beach.

Mr. Lytle has been asked to speak about the Port of Long Beach, its functions, role and importance to the region. Judging by his background, Mr. Lytle promises to be a most interesting presentation as the Port deals with a changing economy and environment.

So, please plan to join us for dinner, our club meeting and an enlightening talk about an important economic engine of Southern California.

*Steven Smith & Jorge Suarez, ABYC Laser Fleet Co-Captains*