



## 2008 christmas party

Tracy Conn photos

### Christmas ABYC Style

**T**was eleven days before Christmas and all through the club,  
 The SAC group was working fingers down to the nub.  
 The second deck was festooned with holly and light,  
 In hopes that the members would come for a bite.  
 The prime rib was cooking the turkey was done,  
 We just needed Santa to add to the fun.  
 When up through the stairway Jim Morford he came,  
 He was dressed up like Santa not looking the same.  
 He had helpers in elf suits, the great "Junior Sailors,"  
 One of their moms must have been an elf tailor.  
 The presents were given the pictures were took,  
 And now for the dinner and applause for the cook!  
 Ann Seapy and helpers served up the big feast,  
 And Commodore Merle carved up the roast beast!  
 If this wasn't enough for a roaring good time,  
 Chris, Wayne and John Massey sang carols that rhyme.  
 So we thank all the helpers and the club staff and Kelly,  
 And the members that came and went home with full bellies!

Sue McDannel



John Massey and Wayne Noecker sing and play back up while Chris Ericksen leads everyone in singing Christmas carols



Santa with elves Lilly Flam and Ginger Luckey. Bridget Luckey (center) is a helper.



Santa with Rob and Karen Rice and Robert and Christine



Merle and Kelly Asper with Santa

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### save the date

Rose Bowl Regatta .....	Jan 2-4
New Rules Seminar .....	Jan 11
ISAF World Youths & Multihull .....	Jan 17-19
SAC/Race Management .....	Jan 14
Membership Meeting .....	Jan 23
Super Bowl Regatta and Party .....	Feb 1

# commodore's comments



January is the first month of the year. January is named for Janus (Ianuarius), the god of the doorway; the name has its beginnings in Roman mythology, coming from the Latin word for door (ianua) - January is the door to the year. Don't worry I did not make this up! I got it from the internet (Wikipedia). Everybody knows everything you find on the internet you can believe!

December was a successful month. Many great parties, the merriment was astounding. Our Christmas Party was another great success. Ann Seapy was heading the charge. The Social Advisory Committee was out in force, covering all of the bases. We are thinking, but not sure that this was another large one, perhaps the largest ever. We had plenty of seats for those that were signed up, but many people that were not signed up arrived. We made room where we could, and some people were nice enough to "hot seat" where as soon as they finished, they got up and made room for others to eat. We will be planning for more people next year. Wayne Noecker, John Massey, and Chris Erickson provided us with some really great music. They started out with Christmas Holiday music and then went into everyone's favorites. We had prime rib and turkey with all of the trimmings. Kelly Whitlow, Adam, Rick, Art, and Tory and other staff were part of team ABYC and as always went above and beyond the call of duty. Good stuff! Santa was there with the help of Jim Morford! Thanks again to all of the participants. This is a tradition that will continue through the millennia.

The Club looked great. Kelly Asper took the lead and really made the place shine. She donated most of the decorations. Thanks go out to the Board, the Woods (Elaine Wood worked for hours on the wreath), the Merchants, the Batemans, the Seapys, the McDannels and the Social Advisory Committee. I know I missed some names. If I missed you, will you remind me and I will buy you a drink at the bar or galley!

We have many great events coming up including the Rose Bowl Regatta for college and High School age kids and the ISAF Youth Worlds Qualifier. The kids participating in these events will be without a doubt some of the best sailors in the world. I always find it interesting that due to our contribution we help make the cogs turn forward for the sport of sailing. There are not many Clubs that can boast this, and as members you and I can be proud of this fact.

As our World continues to fall into this recession, I would like to remind everyone that ABYC is a very friendly, inexpensive place to have some fun. Come down for a burger, Happy Hour, or just a place to hang out. You will find that our pricing and products give you a great value for your money, plus the atmosphere can't be beat! ABYC should be the first place you think to go! Check your email from the Club, read your Sou'wester, and visit our website. You will be informed!

Thanks and see you around the Club!

Go ABYC!

*Merle*

# vice commodore's notes



The out-pouring of concern and support from my ABYC Family has been a rock upon which I can stand to see the future.

I am still gathering my thoughts and as yet am unclear as to just what shape that future might be.

As for the January report, I found myself not inclined to submit one of my grouchy tirades about boat yard procedures or long lost "Traditions". When, by the grace of God, I find myself surrounded by so many caring souls. So a simple report should say that Yard Ogre is hard at work assigning spaces, and considering some relocations for little used boats.

Some things have come to light. Occasionally, folks are being offered spots and deferring for a better spot, and requesting to be held at the top of the Waiting List. This may be one of those "Traditions" that may turn to dust. Because, there was a more venerable "Tradition" that said you should first get your boat into the yard. Then, through constant usage, volunteering, and diligent efforts on behalf of the club's sailing missions, you moved to those better spots when offered. Reminder, as always, boats and trailers that have deteriorated will come under the microscope of the Yard Ogre who has the blessing of the board to generate a red letter requesting removal. Our yard is always under scrutiny by visiting sailors and our own members. Our mission is to actively promote and enjoy sailing. An ill maintained boat reflects loss of interest, and our yard becomes no better than a collection of derelicts. This may sound like a cold wind of discontent. But it is in truth a warm breeze of my love for sailing and the wonderful ABYC family that has been in my heart since 1962.

Thank you all for you cards, thoughts, phone calls, and all manner of expressions of encouragement to me with respects to our loss of Donna. I say our, meaning not only my family, but our ABYC family. Gee... but I do miss her.

*John Massey*



**2**009, feels fine!  
 No rest for the weary...we took a brief interlude after Turkey Day (24 hours before rolling into the CISA clinic) and ABYC did not get the proverbial "long winters nap" as we instead celebrated the holidays with our annual Christmas Party, a couple of Happy Hours and various fleet events, including the juniors participating in the Naples Christmas Parade. We did get 40 winks for Christmas, then woke up straight away with Boxing Day and the Rose Bowl Regatta, the new rules seminar, a CISA multihull clinic with the ISAF youths happening about the time this comes through your mail box. Much thanks to our ABYC staff and membership volunteers – sleep deprived maybe, but we can do this with our eyes closed!

ABYC is an active, vibrant club and our membership is what drives us. We are always looking to convert those regular visitors who enjoy hanging around the club to become full fledged members, if you know someone who is a good candidate please discuss the benefits of being a family member and see if you can recruit them into learning more about the benefits of sailing for ABYC. There are a number of independent juniors with wonderful parents who we would love to have join – one such family is the Boudreau's – sons Will and Dana have been racing sabots for ABYC and now dad and mom, Russ and Gretchen have signed up the whole family – fantastic news, please give them a warm welcome!

One of the highlights of December was our annual Christmas party with a full house, marvelous dinner, holiday decorations and good 'ol St. Nick. It always takes a large group of people to make something like this happen so thank you to everyone who helped out and in particular to Ann Seapy for taking the lead. One interesting lesson learned here, we SOLD OUT! We took advance reservations and filled up, and then several club members made a last minute decision to come down (which is always great, but in this case we were maxed out). We did our best to accommodate everyone (including setting up some last minute tables) but please keep in mind that when there are holiday events with reservations please plan ahead, we would hate to have to turn someone away.

With 2009 opening up a new world with a tight economy, a new president and a little uncertainty as to what is going to happen it is reassuring to have the constant of a known "security blanket". ABYC is your home away from home and we have a great line up of events scheduled to get the New Year going.

Please check out our ABYC website and get into the habit of clicking on our calendar. Not only will this let you know what is coming up, but it also archives past events, with race results and photos, in a way this is our club scrap book and like the Sou'Wester (which is also posted and archived on the website) you can browse and review at your leisure.

Bill McDannel, our Bar Czar is my partner in sending out the ABYC weekly emails. We find this a great tool to distribute information to our membership. For 2009 we are going to try to consolidate our postings and cover several items in one email – think of it as a weekly mini-Sou'Wester that will just talk about things that are coming up or other issues of concern, it won't be a recap of what has already transpired. Our goal is going to be to send this out on Wednesday, so if you have an announcement for the membership please email it to me – jeff.merrill@nordhavn.com or Bill – bsmcdannel@hotmail.com by Tuesday so we can try to include it. The weekly email will try to present a four-week "what's happening" preview so you can plan your own calendar.

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The Social Advisory Committee has been busy getting ready for 2009 SAC helps coordinate all of the social events including planning for our weekly Friday Happy Hours and the once a month General Membership meetings. To encourage more participation on Fridays we are publishing our free dinner menu in advance (but you will have to show up to see what the bar special is!). We are also trying something new on one Friday in January and February – “Family Movie Night”. The first event will be on Jan 16...we are also going to dedicate the last Friday of each month as Club ABYC with live entertainment. So add in Family Movie Night, Club ABYC and our General Membership meeting and three Fridays a month you’ve got built in action – every Friday is a free dinner and the best bar prices in town – most members don’t even know this is happening and we want to make sure you come down and get your fill!

January’s membership meeting (Friday the 23<sup>rd</sup>), is hosted by the Keel Boat fleet. Plans are to show an inspiring 20 minute long video on the TransPac and the presentation will be hosted by ABYC’s own Scott Atwood, a TransPac veteran who will introduce the film and be available to answer questions about the race from the shores of California to the breakers off of Diamondhead. Come on down!

Don’t forget our galley serves delicious meals, but we are not open every weekend during the winter. Look for announcements so that you know when we are cooking – and remember that even if the galley is closed you can check with the front office to see if they can open up and help you at least get some kind of a snack, we don’t want you to be walking around hungry and we understand that you can only eat so many Goldfish up at the bar.

To our membership; a simple reminder, which I will repeat again, make ABYC your home away from home. Get on your bike or in your car and come to 7201 East Ocean (do not pass Go, do not collect \$200). Over the past 80 years we have weathered a few hardships...but the prescription for making it is the same now as it was in the past – come enjoy the camaraderie of sharing time out on the water catching wind in your sails – it’s a proven old time remedy that will serve you well in 2009. Just come down and escape from the real world...at least for a day or two at a time.

In wrapping up it only feels right to honor and acknowledge our omnipresent Vice Commodore John Massey who lost the love of his life and best friend Donna during the holidays. John, we all send our warmest wishes to the entire Massey family and will truly miss having Donna around, she, like you, was always here, always helping out and always had a smile on her face.

See you at the club!

Jeff Merrill – mobile 949.355.4950

**ABYC Friday night January and February Happy Hours**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Dinner</b>	<b>Special event</b>
<b>JANUARY</b>		
2-Jan	Soup	Rose Bowl
9-Jan	Pasta	Keel Boat Fleet Meeting and Potluck
16-Jan	Chili Hot dogs and popcorn for the kids	Family Movie Night Film selection not firm
23-Jan	\$8 Spaghetti	General Membership Meeting Keel boat fleet showing TransPac movie
30-Jan	Taco bar	Club ABYC Flight 6875 Live Band
<b>FEBRUARY</b>		
6-Feb	Chili Hot dogs and popcorn for the kids	Family Movie Night Film selection not firm
13-Feb	Burger sliders	(Valentine eve)
20-Feb	\$8 Chicken Picatta	General Membership Meeting Lasers - Port of LB
27-Feb	Taco Bar	Club ABYC Live Entertainment TBD

# fleet captain's log



**T**urkey Day Regatta was a great success. We had around 320 boats entered and many more dinners served. Mother nature was not quite cooperative with light air and fog. On line registration worked very well given the number of entrants. Thanks to Chris Erichson for his diligent efforts. John Massey and Jeff Merrill were as usual well organized and everything seemed to go off without a hitch. Thanks to Chris, John, Jeff and their incredible volunteers.

Boxing Day is right around the corner and should be a fun regatta. We have our own brand of online registration, which Mark Townsend had established for this regatta and you will find the NOR on the web sight.

We are also looking forward the Rose Bowl Regatta held at ABYC every year. This is the largest high school and college regatta in the world. There will be some 60 high schools and 27 colleges from around the country. This regatta is particularly good for the high schools and colleges since it gives both students and coaches a look at the talent that is available. Saturday night is very good for this since each of the colleges give a 5-minute talk about their program over dinner.

ISAF Youth World Qualifier is coming up. This regatta is to determine our delegate to the ISAF Youth World Regatta in Burios, Brazil this summer. This is the last year that we will be hosting this regatta since it is on a three-year rotation from yacht club to yacht club. The racers will be racing Laser Radials, I-420's, Club 420's and Hobie 16. These are some of the best sailors that the U.S. has to offer.

The Whaler fleet is doing well. We have just finished refurbishing Whaler 5 and she looks good. We are still deciding on what to do with Whalers 1 & 2. These are old Whalers and they may not be worth rehabbing. The determining factor is the cost of rehabilitation of the fiberglass and is the motor worth keeping. I will have more news at a later date. The remainder of the Whalers are ready for duty.

We are looking forward to a great year for regattas and our fleet. I do have one note to say to John Massey that I am personally very sorry for his loss. Donna touched everyone that I knew and she will be missed.

See you around the club  
*Jon Robinson*

## from the pages of history

**A**nother year has begun. New year, new challenges, new opportunities. And yet, history unfolds behind us and beneath us, as a foundation, a backdrop for our future. And from the pages of history, three new years of SOU'WESTER's become blocks in that foundation.

### **THIRTY YEARS AGO:**

SOU'WESTER's in the late Seventies were pretty basic—few photos and a few graphics—but usually included a lot of fleet news. In those days the fleets of ABYC did most of the heavy lifting: they handled work-party projects, staffed regattas, did dinners and had an incredibly active social life in addition to doing fleet races. But the SOU'WESTER of January, 1979, was pretty slim. Must have been the Christmas crush.

David J. Crockett was Commodore, and talked about parties. Diane Parrill had chaired the club's Christmas Party with Isabelle Lounsberry as decoration chair; the First Mates, ABYC's ladies' auxiliary, handled the food-service chores. "I don't know how professionals...could have done any better," he said. The New Year's Eve party was a sellout, "as usual," he reported. Handling the cooking chores were Wynne and Chuck Wardle, Sandy Toscan and Margie Brown.

The Super Bowl Party was set for January 21, and the chairmen—Mike McDade, Pat McCormick and Steve Moffett—were planning to have plenty of TV's set around the clubhouse. Mike was cooking while Pat and Steve staffed the bar. There would be pools for the folks who "enjoy giving your money to Dara Capp;" evidently she'd won two out of the three pools at last year's event.

The Croes, Mary and Max, were apparently quite successful on the racecourse: she won the Senior Sabot fleet race in the "A" fleet while Max was second in the Lido 14 "A's", both on the same day...the series of junior regattas called "Luff Ins" invited Lasers this year; races were scheduled for Huntington Harbour in January and down at Leeway in February, and all ABYC juniors were invited...among the events on the First Mates; calendar for 1979 were a night at Los Alamitos Race Track, a springtime fashion show and a crafts seminar...

### **TWENTY YEARS AGO:**

Santa and a group of children graced the cover of the January, 1989, SOU'WESTER. The edition had a few more photos but lots of text, and in larger type. The ink was blue in those days, which made a good contrast.

The Christmas party had over 300 attendees. Rear Commodore Norma Clapp was in charge; assisting her in food service were Sharon Pearson, Jinx Ellis, Brooke and Jared Morford and Stacy Conn. Among the photos was one of Stacy with Santa, one of the Jim Gamble Puppets performing (puppet shows were regular features of the Christmas party in

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those days) and of Staff Commodore Tony Fallon with Director Chris Ericksen leading Christmas carols. Evidently among the musicians was Doctor Jack Hallatt on the harmonica, but there is not photographic evidence of his performance.

Both the Senior Sabots and Cal 20's apparently had successful fleet Christmas parties, as well. Eighty attended the former event, with Marilyn McMahon and her husband, "Commodore Mike," in charge of the dinner and "fancy deserts" in the clubhouse. About half that many were at the Cal 20 party, also in the clubhouse; the fleet popped for ham and turkey as the main course with fleet members bringing all the others, and a pianist played "light seasonal musical arrangements" for the gathered party-goers.

Ann Exley's "From the Pages of History" column included a reproduction of the "Club Racing Rules" for the summer of 1933; in addition to following the North American Yacht Racing Union (NAYRU) rules, restricted areas included the mooring grounds easterly from the pier at Pier Avenue (now 62nd Place) and near "course buoy no. 4" (wherever that was—maybe in the western end of the Bay). But my favorite part of the column was a story I remember hearing Ann tell. She apparently sailed her first race with her then-beau, Sid, during the 1933 Memorial Day Race. He evidently yelled, "Pull in the jib!" She evidently responded with "an icy stare" and said, "Well, if you are going to talk to me like that, I certainly won't!"

The Super Bowl Party was scheduled to start in the late morning with a flag-football game on the beach across the street before the game; no mention was made as to the presence of paramedics for that...Bud Lorbeer and the Keel Boat Fleet had a springtime cruise in the Grenadines on the drawing board; already three 51-foot Beneteau charter boats and three 43-footers had been spoken for, with two more 43-footers available...the Chapped Cheek Regatta would be held the last weekend in January, kicking off the 1989 racing season; Bay classes would race on Saturday and ocean classes on Sunday, and clam chowder would be served each evening after racing...

#### TEN YEARS AGO:

Plenty of photos were in the SOU'WESTER of January, 1999. The ink was still blue, making for not-the-best photo reproduction, but many were of the recently completed US SAILING Team Racing Championship Regatta for the George R. Hinman Trophy. It had been contested in Vanguard 15's in the Bay. It blew a ton—the anemometer in the clubhouse pegged at forty knots one afternoon—and the umpires in whalers were apparently roaring around the Bay following the action and exceeded "the statutory 54-knot speed limit." Chris Ericksen served as both regatta chair and PRO while George Caddle was assistant PRO; with Chris on an Outrage doing whistle starts and George on Bay Barge taking finishes, they got in 83 races in three days.

Steve Flam wrote a full-page review of the 1998 Turkey Day Regatta, which he subtitled "ten ways to aggravate your ulcer." In addition to naming many of the volunteers he reported on three innovations that year. One was the laying of two courses off the Peninsula. One was run by Bob Anderson in PATIENCE; the other was run by Chris Ericksen in a boat brought over by Seal Beach Yacht Club members Jerry and Sally Dalley, who also served on the race committee. Another innovation was the inclusion of dinner in the entry fee; "while there were some protests we did serve 300 dinners," Steve reported. And the third innovation was the use of a shuttle bus that ran up and down the Peninsula to take folks to and from their cars. "This seemed to get good use," Steve said, and I think it was a worthwhile attempt to improve logistics."

Jeanne Nelson wrote a column entitled, "Friendship" in those days; it included info on passages and happenings involving members. Noted in the January column was the passing of Lance Seaman's mother, the recent eye surgery on Ann Exley and the hospitalization and the illness of Pat Kelly. But the high note had to be the announcement of the wedding of a third-generation ABYC member, Stacy Duman, to George Szabo of San Diego. They were married in a bayside wedding before sailing over to ABYC in a boat in which they had won a regatta (probably a Snipe, but the column did not say) and honeymooned in Tahiti.

Evidently the ongoing turmoil on the SOU'WESTER masthead had been resolved: the "new" masthead would be used and was featured—along with the "old" one—on the cover...I imagine Mara Bell, ABYC's Junior Rear Commodore, was studying the Classics that winter: her Junior Column included quotes from Homer; the prose must have moved her, as she counseled the Juniors to: move with the storm," to "have faith" and to "let go of the things you can't control"...the Etchells fleet was looking forward to a very busy 1989 season, which would include ABYC hosting the Etchells PCC's in July or August...Commodore Ted Flood reported in his "Commodore's Comments" that other events on the racing calendar in 1989 would be the Prindle/NACRA Nationals, the Cal 20 Nationals and the Melges 24 Worlds...

*Chris Ericksen, Club Historian*

## Sou'Wester DEADLINE

January 24, 2009 is the deadline  
for the February Sou'Wester.

# membership report

**H**i folks, from Membership. Happy to report the 30-day posting of John and Liz Wagner, Russ and Gretchen Boudreau, and Garrett Brown this month. If you know any of these fine people, please take a minute to drop me a note and let me know what you think. Even just a line or two is helpful when I stand before the Board to request their approval next month – thanks!

Something that is available to all our members that you may not know about is the ABYC Golden Anchor membership in US SAILING. ABYC members are eligible for substantial savings on annual dues to the Association and our renewals accrue credits for the club to spend on merchandise at the end of the year – things like race management aids, books and even flags and marks. You can join or renew any time – you're not limited by the club's anniversary date, and your renewal date will automatically convert to August 31<sup>st</sup>. Contact Sheila in the office to fill out the very short form – this is especially beneficial for people who have US SAILING memberships that are expiring this month or next.

Glad to see so many people down at the club enjoying the nice weather in between storms!

*John Williams*

## the bay clogger (junior sailing)

**H**ello ABYC members! The Junior Program is now in a state of "fix it" mode and has been focused on painting trailers, assembling laser storage and organizing the new junior program storage unit. Because of the schedule that has become increasingly hectic as the junior program has grown, we find ourselves with a short window where equipment isn't moving around the coast in the months of December and part of January. Our Junior Advisory Board is extremely instrumental in these fix up endeavors along with some very helpful volunteer parents.

The Junior Fund is also extremely instrumental as capital improvements to junior program equipment is most often taken from this fund. In the past few years, the junior program has purchased a 17' whaler, enhanced the 6-pack trailers to carry 9 boats each, purchased a charter sabot rack and much more. It is how we are allowed to continue to grow and improve the things that keep the program running. If you would like to donate to the ABYC Junior Fund, you can drop off a check to the main office made out to "ABYC Junior Fund" or have a donation charged to your account. Thank you also to those who have and continue to donate – it is greatly appreciated!

### **New Junior Whaler Coming!**

The McDade family (Sandy and Andrew) have decided to generously donate their 13' whaler to the junior program recently. The whaler will be named "Junior McDade" and is set to arrive at the club in the coming weeks. It is currently getting the final tune up before it is ready for use to travel regattas and for coaching clinics. Andrew, who was an instrumental part of our junior program as a coach and sailor and Jr. Commodore at ABYC, is now up in Oregon working to become a veterinarian. You can still see Sandy around the club. Thank you so much McDades for helping us out in this amazing way!!!

### **Goodbye Donna, we will miss you...**

We lost a dear friend of the junior program recently. Donna Massey, wife of our beloved Junior Advisory Board member John Massey, has passed away. Donna was extraordinarily helpful and caring to the junior program having personally made mast covers for all of our charter boats and volunteering numerous times along the way. Her grand daughters were/are in the program and her support of the program was so greatly appreciated. More than that, Donna was an incredible woman who could make the roughest day feel a little brighter just by seeing her face. Our greatest condolences are offered to John and her family. We will all miss her so greatly.

*Brad Schaupter, ABYC Junior Sailing Director*

## a junior perspective

*Each month Marc Schryer invites a Junior sailor to write something for the So'wester...last month he selected Samantha Gebb, but the article came in too late so I'll use it this month*

**T**he Halloween regatta was a fun event to be around friends. Not knowing if people were going to sail in costumes, I showed up in a soccer uniform. That way I could claim it was my costume, or, if nobody was wearing costumes, I could claim that I had a soccer game earlier! I, and many others enjoyed the races and ended up not caring what place we were in; we were having fun! After the races, in the upstairs dining room, there was a costume contest. Elle Merrill and Ginger Luckey wore matching bee costumes, Bridget Luckey some hippie bug thing, Steven Hopkins was a cheerleader, Bradley Clinton a robot, and John Merrill was wearing a "werewolf" mask. I bet they were happy after winning giant chocolate bars! The trophy presentation was fun because attached to strings were "hidden" "recycled" trophies. The random trophies were left over from other regattas earlier this year. At the end, everyone had laughed, smiled and had a great time, including me! I got last out of four in my class, so when people asked what place I got, I said "last, but its okay". My dad told me I should just say I got fourth since it sounds better (without lying!) and that's why I love him. I can't wait until next Halloween regatta and all of the fun that will follow it!

*Emily C. Golison, C1 Sabot Jr. Sailor, ABYC*



# my college sailing

**M**y first semester of college sailing at Georgetown University has come and gone more quickly than I thought possible. Practicing, competing, and just hanging out with the Georgetown Sailing Team was one of the best and most memorable aspects of my first semester of college.

Many people had told me that the experiences I would have in college sailing would be some of the best of life...and so far that seems to be the case. We practice four days a week from 3:15 to 6:15 and have morning workouts with Coach Hess twice a week. The amount of time and consistency of practicing is something I had never experienced before, but I feel that it has improved my sailing significantly. Our team is filled with some of the best sailors in the country, so every practice is as tough or tougher than any regatta I compete in on the weekends. Every sailor on the team contributes in a huge way to running a successful practice. As each sailor on the team gets better it pushes the best of our team to step up their game, allowing the team to constantly improve. Many of my weekends this semester were spent sailing at various regattas throughout the east coast. The women's team, for which I usually skipper B division and occasionally skipper A division, traveled up to Harvard, Dartmouth and Yale, as well as more locally to the Naval Academy. What is really great about sailing on the east coast is that there are so many extraordinarily competitive teams in close proximity of each other which is all the better for improving our team's overall competitiveness. Our coaches, Mike Callahan and Alana O'Reilly, are the greatest. They are there for us whenever we need them and both have taught me a lot about how to succeed at college sailing.

Beyond hard practices, great sailing, and victorious regattas, there is the camaraderie of it all and the close friends I've made on the team. We sail, eat, and party together. The Georgetown Sailing Team is made up of some of my best friends at school and I know they're friends that I will have for a lifetime.

My college sailing experience so far has been a memorable one. Probably the most exciting and fulfilling moment of the fall sailing season was starting out the season unranked by the Inter Collegiate Sailing Association and then winning the Women's Atlantic Coast Championship and ending the season ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in the country.

Sydney Bolger

# christmas boat

**O**n a cold and breezy Saturday Dec. 13 evening ABYC fielded a great looking parade entry in the Naples Holiday Boat Parade. The entry consisted of a well decorated Bay Barge for the theme 'The Naples Spirit: the Joy of Giving'. It celebrated 20 years of giving to the Childrens Clinic via the annual Charity Regatta that is hosted every year in large part by ABYC. In addition to holiday decorations the entry featured logos from 8 different years from past Charity Regattas prominently displayed on each side of the barge. A challenging addition to this year's entry included a towed Laser sporting a large banner and lights. This was a challenge in the breezy and cold conditions on the 2 1/2 mile route. Capsize was avoided largely due to superior small boat handling skills that is a staple ABYC skill set. Helpers from this year's parade entry included several sets of parents of younger ABYC Jr. Program participants. Young riders included Jr. Programers Cameron and Derek Bloemeke, Dana and Will Boudreau, Alan Peoples, Peter Bishop, Branden and Clover Stubbert, and Jacob Warren. Adult volunteer riders included driver Russ Boudreau, Laser tender Steve Bloemeke, and technical engineer Chris Peoples.

Thank you to all who helped to make the boat parade a huge success that includes additional volunteer helpers Terri Bishop, Lynda Peoples, Elaine Bloemeke, Gina and Jeff Stubbert, Gretchen Boudreau, Kirsten Warren, Tom Newton, Jon Robinson for the use once again of his generator, Kelli Clinton, Ginger and Palmer Luckey. I apologize if I have left anyone out. Thanks again to all who helped make this a fun and successful project and evening.

*Doug Jorgensen*





# catalina conservancy ball

## Conservancy Ball Sponsorships Now Available Auction Donations Welcome

The 2009 Catalina Island Conservancy Ball – *Take a Hike!* – celebrates the completion of the much anticipated Trans-Catalina Island Trail. Its 27.5-mile path winds through wild and rugged terrain, and offers breathtaking views of Catalina from Avalon to the West End. The Ball highlights the Trans-Catalina Trail's important role in the Conservancy's mission by offering unique opportunities for recreation, alongside our conservation and education programs. **The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Conservancy Ball will be held Saturday, May 2, 2009, in the world famous Avalon Casino Ballroom.**

Sponsorships for *Take a Hike!* are now on sale starting at \$1,500 per couple. This year's Pre-Ball Sponsor Party will be hosted by Blanny Avalon Hagenah at her spectacular Avalon home *Castillo del Mar*. Built in 1932 for Frank Sanborn and his family of Mexico's Sanborn Hermanos Department Store, the stunning 7-level cliffside retreat overlooking Avalon Bay was recently restored by its current Catalina family and is once again a bright and happy Avalon landmark. An added highlight for sponsors at the \$20,000 level will be a private tour of *Castillo del Mar* given by Blanny Avalon Hagenah, a great-granddaughter of William and Ada Wrigley Jr.

To purchase your Ball sponsorship or send details of an auction item, please visit [www.catalinaconservancy.org](http://www.catalinaconservancy.org), scroll down, and click on the image of the Casino.

## hails from the fleets

Bruce Wasson photos

**A**BYC to Host the US SAILING ISAF Youth World Qualifier & U.S. Youth Multihull Championship Regatta

For the second year, ABYC is seeking volunteers to help host the US SAILING ISAF Youth World Qualifier & U.S. Youth Multihull Championship Regatta January 17-19, 2009. This event will be contested in **Laser Radials** for Boys and Girls; **I 420's** for Boys, **C 420's** for Girls and **Hobie 16's** with spinnakers for Boy, Girl or mixed teams.

Winners of this regatta will qualify to represent the U.S.A. at the 39th Volvo™ Youth Sailing ISAF World Championship held in Buzios BRAZIL July 9-18, 2009. Winners in the **Hobie 16** class will also be the 2009 US SAILING Youth Multihull Champions.

ABYC won high praise from competitors and US SAILING for our 2008 event, due in no small part to our enthusiastic cadre of ABYC volunteers. We look forward to such participation again in 2009. If you are interested and can join us for any or all days of this January 17-19 event, please contact me directly via e-mail; [salaor@sbcglobal.net](mailto:salaor@sbcglobal.net) or (310) 849-9779.

### Laser Fleet to Host February Membership Meeting

Friday evening February 20<sup>th</sup>, -the day before the SCYA Midwinter Regatta weekend - your ABYC Laser Fleet and supporters are hosting the Membership Meeting. The Laser Fleet has scheduled a representative from the **Port of Long Beach** to speak and answer questions about the function and future of the **Port of Long Beach**. This promises to be an 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

L<sup>14</sup>

**T**he Year of the Lido At ABYC!

2009 is the year of the Lido at ABYC. Our Fleet is turning 50 years old this year! It's just another reason to party for our fleet! You should join in on the fun! Our fleet is healthy and our calendar is chock full of events for all type of sailors. You really should come join the fun! Unfortunately, all these activities come with a small price to pay. Dues are due for 2009. Being a fleet member has many benefits. Your fleet membership also covers for your Class membership, too. You will also get the "Bow Wave" newsletter, the "E-Newsletter", support our Twilight's se-



ries, fleet championships and much much more! You get a lot of bang for your buck! Come join the fun! Contact **Tracy Conn** for more info!

...continued next page

# hails from the fleets

## Mid Winters

Our opening regatta of the year is coming up really soon! The Mid-Winters Regatta will be on February 21st and 22nd. This is always a big hit for local lido sailors! For one, we get the whole bay to ourselves! That's right, the Sabots are going down south to Newport for Mid Winters {ha ha! Suckers!}. To entice you to come out, Mark and Sarah Ryan are planning a warm-up Clinic/BBQ the Sunday before the regatta. All Lido sailors are invited to come join the fun. A BBQ after the clinic might take place. This will be a good time to reunite with friends, dust off the classic Lido and get back on the water again. Contact Sarah and Mark for more info.

## Jr. Lido World Championships

Your local Lido fleet is proud to announce it is hosting the 2009 Jr. Lido 14 Class Championships at ABYC. The date is Saturday, August 29th. Sarah and Mark Ryan are behind this and are planning several Jr. Clinics before the regatta to get Jr's ready for the big regatta. Everyone is encouraged to participate. There will be a Jr./Jr. fleet {both crew members are Jr's by age} and a Jr./Sr. fleet {a Jr skipper's while a adult crews!}.

Stay tuned in the coming months for more info. One thing is for sure, this is going to be a kick butt regatta!

## Turkey Day All Wrapped Up

The Turkey Day regatta was another kick butt Lido regatta! All in all, we had twenty eight Lidos out in the bay! Wow! Nice job everyone! The fleets were chock full of good sailors. A big congrats goes out to **Dave/Jeanne Smith** for winning the B fleet and moving back up to the A team! Dave/Jeanne are long time Lido sailors from our very own ABYC! Other fleet 6 member finishing well were **John/Liz Bergan**{3rd}, **Paul/John Makielski**{7th} and **Marcel/Jennifer Hughes** {8th}. The regatta also saw **Dan Gilboa/Serena Zaher** finishing 9th! Not bad for their first Lido regatta! Coming in 12th and 15th were **Kahty Reed/Cyndi Martinich** and **Holly Davis/Cindy Hearvrin** respectively.

Fleet 6 did pretty well in the A fleet, too. **Bob Liitle/Bob Sherwood** ended up just behind first place! Coming in 4th was **Ross Nemeroff/Rob Rice, Jr.** followed by **Mark Ryan/Bryce**. This is always a kick back regatta. We hope to see you all there next year!

If you can't get enough Lido news, get on our fleet e-mail list! Contact Ed Sposkey for more info.

*Mark Ryan, Fleet Secretary*



The Cal 20 fleet wants to thanks Mark and Robin Townsend for hosting this year's Holiday Party. The food and drink were wonderful and everyone had a merry time.

The "Help Wanted" sign is still out as fleet one needs a fleet captain for the 2009 season. Call Steve. Have a Happy New Year

*Steve Kuritz*



## KEEL BOAT FLEET ON WATCH

I just don't know how, but every year the Christmas party gets better. First of all there was enough food to feed an army of teenage boys. And of course I didn't want any to go to waste so as usual I over did it. But hey, it's Christmas and we don't have to make any resolutions until New Years, right? Judy Mathias and Maggie Caddle had the game, 'find out which celebrities name is stuck on your back', going in fine style. Joe Riddick, aided by Jinx and John Ellis, provided the '50/50' game with Cliff Mathias holding the winning ticket. John Massey and guitar led all the tables in 'Twelve Days of Christmas' with all tables jumping up to graphically illustrate their verse. No party would be great without our favorite pianist, Rhonda Rubio, who has been with us several years. HOWEVER, the highlight of the whole shebang is the Staff Commodores, and we have quite a few, who get up in the front and sing Christmas Carols. Talk about a group of whomever that can't carry a tune in a bucket and that gives you an idea of the hooting and hollering that went on. I must make one exception to the foregoing group and it was Sue Crockett who not only has a wonderful voice but substituted for, and thereby mercifully, saved everyone from hearing husband Dave sing.

Judy Mathias will conduct our next Keel Boat Fleet meeting and she has come up with a great idea that everyone can contribute to the meeting. It's really very simple, dig in your old photo albums and bring pictures of 'way back when' you and whoever were sailing. The pictures can be of funny things around ABYC or anywhere as long as they have a connection with sailing, cruising or our Keel Boat Fleet. Also on the agenda will be news of the Armchair Cruise. As you recall last year was quite a surprise as the actors never showed up for the play! However we were offered tickets to other plays and let's face it, the whole idea behind the Armchair Cruise is to support the Children's Benefit League. Judy Mathias and Carol Reynolds report that this year's date is Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup> and the play is 'George Washington Slept Here'. Bring your checkbook to the January Keel Boat Fleet meeting, tickets are \$25 and tax deductible. The January meeting will also feature information about the Keel Boat Fleet meeting in March at which time Joe Riddick will have a reprise of the ABYC January general meeting's film which is about the 2007 Transpac and the tribute to Wendy Siegel which you might have missed if you did not make that ABYC general meeting.

*See you there, George C.*



*Turkey Day fog*

# hails from the fleets



**W**e have enjoyed a wonderful year under the leadership of Jennifer Kuritz as our fleet captain for the year of 2008. Thank you Jennifer for all your hard work to keep our fleet running smoothly. Sheila Eberly was inaugurated with the "Seat of Authority" as the new fleet captain for 2009 at the annual Sabot-Keel Boat Christmas Party. We had a great turnout at the Christmas Party from both fleets. There was plenty of delicious food provided by the fleet members. Mary Riddick had asked for more main dishes and we had more than enough to go around, although I think this year we were short on desserts. That was probably a good thing with all the sweets this time of year! We had some entertaining games such as "Who's Name is on My Back?", Nautical Trivia, and a 50-50 Raffle, which helped pay for the use of the club. We enjoyed Christmas music by our favorite pianist, Ms. Rhonda Rubio, with many singing along. We have a great group of people and it's a lot of fun when we all get together!

Our December fleet race was well attended by twelve entrants. Our efficient race committee of Steve Kuritz, Don Wilson, Jinx Ellis and Joe Riddick was able to pull off three races, even in the flukey winds. Good starts and a good eye for spotting the wind shifts was important on a day with wind of 0 to 5 knots. Newcomer, Scott Merrill took first (I think it's in his blood). Bob Ware was only one point behind Scott for second place. John Ellis was third place. He said it was his kind of wind. We enjoyed a delicious dinner after the races provided by Jesus.

Hope to see you all out for Boxing Day, December 27 and our January 11 fleet race on Sunday. We are looking for help for the January 23 General Meeting that we co-host with the Keel Boat Fleet. Come and help out, an interesting program is planned!

*Sheila Eberly*



**I**n looking for last year's January report for the Etchells fleet I couldn't find it. How could it be that I didn't save a copy? Then it dawned on me: last year at this time I was still recovering from surgery. Happy not to be this year.

And I was happy to participate—if briefly—in the last Etchells fleet regatta of 2008 on Saturday, December 13. A total of six Etchells launched under grey skies and building breeze to head out to a race course managed by Ron Wood, Chris Wells and Vicki Vaught. We DESPERADO's were running under more handicaps than usual: not only had it been some time since Tim Carter and I had been in the boat together, we were in the boat together—and without a third.

But we were game. Gladly the first start was recalled; we were fixing something. The restart was pretty sporty: we were profoundly OCS. But we clawed our way

up to the weather mark in not-quite last place with the backstay on in gusty whitecap conditions.

And then we turned the corner. The set was pretty sporty but the gybe was really fun. As we worked up on a three-sail reach the Fun Meter started to waver as the boom end skipped along the wavetops. "Uncleat the boom vang!" Tim said as he used both hands on the spinnaker sheet and hiked out. "With what?" I asked, as I held onto the tiller extension with one hand and the mainsheet with the other, also hiked out.

The leeward mark never did get rounded; as Tim doused the kite I reattached the tiller extension (did I mention that came loose?). We both decided this was God's way to tell us to go home, so we did. We enjoyed an hour of pleasurable sailing on Alamitos Bay from one Second Street Bridge to the other. And we watched the rest of the stragglers stumble in.

Sure enough, only two boats finished the third and last race. One was the regatta winner, Rich Vaught—but they earned it by winning all four races. Rob Rice and Eddie Ureño took second, the only other finisher of Race Three. Jim Bateman was sailing and broke something; John Chapman was sailing and I think he broke something; and Jeff Powell and Gordon Dudley were sailing but I don't know if they broke something or not.

That same weekend, by the way, on a warmer course a continent away, Fleet 18 member Bruce Golison finished third in the Piana Cup Regatta on Biscayne Bay. He was two points behind the winners, past Worlds champions Jud Smith and Dirk Kneulman; and had there been no discarded score, Bruce would have been first. The event was the first of the Jaguar Series.

And thus endeth the 2008 racing season for Alamitos Bay Etchells Fleet 18. The 2009 season starts with a fleet race on Saturday, January 10. The Super Bowl Regatta on Alamitos Bay and the SCYA Midwinter Regatta come in February; the Saturday of Midwinters will be the first of the 2009 Fleet Championship Series.

*Chris Ericksen*



**H**obie Cat of Europe generated a good bit of buzz this month by unveiling the newest F18 at the Paris Boat Show. The new Hobie F18 was designed by Dr. Martin Fischer, who also worked on the Capricorn F18, the ORMA 60 Banque Populaire, Sobedo, and the Groupama maixi-multis. There is currently only a prototype of the boat on the water, but plans to produce the boat are well along as the 2009 season rapidly approaches. It is unclear when the new Hobie will be available in the states, but already die-hard fans in the F18 fleet are asking questions. If it makes it to the US, you can bet it will be at ABYC.

*John Williams*





## Alamitos Bay Yacht Club

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*Tracy Conn with Santa. Hey, who took this photo? Tracy was the photographer for the Christmas Party!! Guess we'll never know.*



## a notefrom Jesus

I would like to thank the members of ABYC for your kind expression of sympathy. Your overwhelming support, generosity and friendship has helped me endure a difficult time that only time will heal.

Your kindness and sympathy will always be remembered by me and my family.

*Jesus Espinoza*



Rich Roberts photos  
underthesunphotos.com  
Jeff Merrill - photo boat captain

## Snipe sailors win ABYC's Boxing Day Regatta

Veteran Snipe class competitor Jerry Thompson and crew Mandi Smith were clear winners among an assortment of 63 larger and smaller boats in Alamitos Bay Yacht Club's ninth annual Boxing Day Regatta, traditionally raced on the Saturday between Christmas and New Year's Day.

It was a pursuit race with the fastest-rated boats playing catch-up after the slowest-rated boats started at 1:05 p.m. until the finishing horn blew 2 hours 25 minutes later at 3:30 p.m. The handicapping looked good. There were five different kinds of boats among the first five finishers: Thompson's Snipe, Stu Robertson's Thistle, John Quale's venerable Cal 29, Chuck Babcock's Lido 14 and Jerry Montgomery's Etchells—three dinghies and two keelboats in that mix alone.

All except Quale, from the local Seal Beach YC, were ABYC members, as were most competitors. A notable exception was Jim Sterner, the Lido 14 class president from Bainbridge Island, Wash., who placed 10th.



Naples Sabot sailors Dana Boudreau (r.) and John McInerney were first to start and led most of the race

looking for the wind . . . ripples and wind lines on the water, plus there was quite a bit of local knowledge about the best places to be on this bay."

Smith figured that since they were sailing one of the smallest boats, they also were lucky that the wind wasn't howling above 20 knots, as it was a day earlier. "Yesterday was nasty," she said. "It was a gorgeous day out there today."

Smith started sailing a Snipe with Thompson only 2 1/2 years ago. They gained on most of their opposition upwind, but as the time ran down they kept looking astern as Robertson, flying a spinnaker from his Thistle on off-wind legs, reined them in steadily.

Then there was a moment of confusion when principal race officer Mark Townsend blew the time horn from a nearby power boat, indicating that the race was over.

"The horn blew and we took the [whisker] pole down," Thompson said. "Then we thought we'd better put it back up."

Good thing they did. To make their victory official, they also had to lead at the next mark, still a half-mile away. They finished about 80 yards in front.

Rich Roberts



As the time horn sounds, Jerry Thompson and crew Mandi Smith celebrate their win

The best to be said about the conditions was that they were picturesque.

A low-hanging winter sun brilliant in a sky cleared by the week's rains illuminated the inner bay venue against a backdrop of snow-covered mountains. As for wind, it ranged from 4 to 5 1/2 knots from all over the compass, often varying by 180 degrees in pockets a few boats lengths apart, making for tricky tactics. The air temperature dipped from 62 to 56 (F.) through the afternoon.

If the race had timed out a half-hour earlier, 11-year-old Sabot sailor Dana Boudreau would have been the winner, but by that time the breeze had settled into a light but steady southwesterly that turned it into a basic speed contest.

Thompson said, "Where we made the big gains was that we were



Christmas spirit lingered on through the Boxing Day Regatta