



memorial day regatta

*Rich Roberts photos
underthesunphotos.com
Vann Wilson, photo boat captain*

The Melvins prevail as bad luck befalls the Glasers

James Melvin, 14, who abandoned his Naples Sabot for a high-tech catamaran just a couple of years ago, wasn't sure what to expect when he showed up for Alamitos Bay Yacht Club's annual Memorial Day Regatta Saturday and Sunday.

"I really had no idea," he said, "but the wind was pretty good."

It was good enough—a cool 8 to 12 knots under sunny skies both days—to blow him and his well-known dad, Pete Melvin, to a runaway win among eight Formula 18s, with a nod to the their strongest rivals who suffered the worst luck of the 127 boats in 16 classes.

When Pease and Jay Glaser's mast fell down on the first leg of the first race Sunday, the Melvins were



Jay (l.) and Pease Glaser recover their lost mast and sail



Stu Robertson returns to restart but still won the race and the Thistles

on their way to the first of three closing victories in eight races, but it certainly took the heat off.

The Glasers led after the first five races Saturday—and, remarkably, still wound up third overall, thankful that no such fate befell them when they were winning separate silver medals in Olympic Games over the last quarter-century. Their spar collapsed when a shroud shackle failed as they were tacking to the windward mark.

Pete Melvin, a renowned multihull designer-builder and past world A-Cat champion, said, "We kept looking back and wondering, 'Where's the Glasers?' It was very unfortunate."

All three had just competed in the A-Cat North American Championships in Florida a week earlier when

Melvin placed second and the Glasers sixth and eighth, despite another fallen mast that cost Pease two races on one day. She hopes she isn't on a bad roll as she, husband Jay and the Melvins aim for the Formula 18 North Americans at ABYC in September.

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save the date

Summer Concert	June 7
Adopt-A-Beach	June 13
Membership Meeting	June 19
Summer Concert	June 21
Men's Day	June 20
Long Beach Race Week	June 26-28
4th of July Regatta	July 5
Summer Concert	July 5
Summer Concert	July 19
Multihull Regatta	July 25-26

commodore's comments



Wow! May was a big month! June is going to be fabulous! This is going to be a long article, but one I think (hope!) you will enjoy!

Opening Day went very well. Ron Wood (super organized) was in charge of the proceedings and everything ran flawlessly. We had a very large showing. Ron always gives everything his all. Nicole Peoples was in charge of the raft up (very large). She added major innovation such as special burgees for people that displayed their boats. We received white ones this year and the plan is to have blue ones next year, and reciprocate every year so hopefully in 10 years there will be people with 10 burgees of alternating colors. Nice new tradition! Woo Hoo! Nicole also added sausages and a keg of beer for the people displaying their boats on Friday, which she paid for out of her own pocket.

Everybody was encouraged to participate and the beer was cold and flowing until Sunday. I think we all owe Nicole a drink (or more) in the wardroom. Jorge Suarez (always first rate), Chris Ericksen (knows exactly how to get 'er done), and John Williams (always successful) ran the Club Championship. Congrats go out to Stu Robertson and Robin Townsend for winning! I was a spectator for this event and I was very proud to see the level of sailing excellence that we had participating.

The Walt Elliot Regatta, where we defend our Club's title to the ASPBYC Harbor Championship, was won handily this year by Chuck Clay in Cal 20s. Nice job Chuck! This will be our third year in a row of winning this prestigious trophy. I think some of the other Clubs are already planning their attack for next year. We will be ready for them! Nice job to Jon Robinson, Jerry Montgomery (Challenge Chairman) and our Race Management Committee for getting it together and running a fine regatta. Thanks go out to Latham Bell and John Merchant for loaning their boats to visiting yachtsmen and yachtswomen. I think everyone had a great time including the sailors who failed to grab the prize! I had a great time as an inactive participant watching the racing. Personally, I would rather watch good sailboat racing than any other sport on TV. Please feel free to view and admire the trophy in our lobby. It is very fine looking bronze cannon. We intend to keep it here for other Yacht Clubs to visit and appreciate for a long time to come!

Mother's Day Brunch was a very nice event. Bill and Sue McDannel (Dynamic Socially Super Duo) took the reins on this one and made the Club look wonderful. Jeff Merrill and Jon Robinson added their special touches and all went well. Our Staff headed up by Kelly Whitlow went all out arriving early and cooking all sorts of scrumptious delights. In my opinion this is one of the finest events we have. I know my Mother appreciates it. As far as I can see, there is no place that you can have such a fine Mother's Day with friends and without crowds at any price (but we are inexpensive!)

Family movie night was a lot of fun; I think the parents and the kids get great time together. The parents get a great night out with their youngster(s) that does not cost them much with other likeminded adults, while the kids get to hang with their parents and pals. Everybody enjoys a fun movie! You can only love that! Jeff Merrill and John Robinson make this work.

Racin in the Basin is going well. 10-20 boats every Friday! Damon Kunkle is doing a great job getting people down there. I wonder if we are the most active remote control fleet in Southern California? How about California? The United States of America? The world? Go ABYC!!!!!! Woo Hoo!

Memorial Day was a huge success! The Laser Fleet really stepped up as the always do and made this event a monstrous victory. Steve Smith (super human), Jorge Suarez (there is that name again!), Kevin Taugher (all around good guy), and countless others made the event smooth and fabulous. We had another large turnout! This is normally our third largest regatta of the year and there were enough people there to make it our largest. Saturday night we had a blow out party where "The Wilsons" (surprisingly they all went to Wilson High School!) played some great dance and party music. A lot of people got up and worked out their most innovative and ingenious dance moves, as always. I think it can easily be said that a great time was had by all. Way to go Laser Fleet, we can always count on you guys to show us how it is done! That is why you guys are Kings.

The inside ladies rest room has received a desperately needed face lift. This was provided to you by our members listed here at no cost to the Club besides overdue plumbing maintenance. We all owe a debt of gratitude to Chuck and Alicia Stevens (wall surfacing, huge job), Nicole Peoples (carpet), Kelly Asper (project management, painting and supplies), and especially Wayne Noecker. Wayne owns a company that does major finish carpentry or millwork (in a big way). Wayne provided our Club with Caesar Stone, stainless sinks, and faucets for the vanity and dressing counter. Wayne also had his busy employees come down and install everything. It is members like Wayne and our friends listed above, who see a problem that needs to be fixed and step up making our Club run. Everybody needs to realize that it is through volunteers that everything happens around here. We are inexpensive (far, far, far less than any other major Yacht Club I in the area or maybe anywhere) to join and be a member, but it is because



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we do the work and we donate time and expense every once in a while to make things happen (and honestly, that can be fun!) Thanks again Wayne, Chuck, Alicia, Nicole and Kelly for your sacrifice to make our Club better. I could say this to many if not all of you out there, but right now it is their turn! They stood up. Kelly Whitlow, Adam Phelps, and staff also stood up and made an extra effort as always.

Ok I am done talking about May! Are you relieved? May was a great month. Here comes June! Ok hold your breath; I am going to list everything we have going on in June in one sentence. You have; Sabot and Lido Twilights, 505 Super tuning Tuesday work outs, Wet Wednesdays (Where our peeps go and beat up on the sailors from other Clubs), Thirsty Thursdays (more pummeling of other Yacht Clubs), great Happy Hours every Friday (featuring good food, Family Movie Night, Club ABYC, Keel Boat Fleet meeting, and Remote Control Fleet racing), Bridge Night, O'Day area "J" single handed Championship sailed in Lasers, two peninsula summer concerts being held on the grass in front of the Club, Men's Day (Jennifer Kuritz and crew going all out) Long Beach Race Week (where you can race and/or go to the parties!), Junior program, Junior Candy Bar Race, Junior Twilights, Etchells/Cal 20/Laser Fleet racing, new Laser racks are being built (Jon Robinson; King) and great meals being served on our patio every Wednesday and Thursday night.

If you are not getting what I am trying to say here; ABYC is the place to be. Come to where there is no recession and the air is clean and easy to breath.

Thanks everyone for making this all happen. We are lucky to have each other. Let's keep reminding ourselves of that fact and celebrate!

Go ABYC!
Merle

manager's corner



Well, if Memorial Day is an indicator of Regatta's to come, the 2009 season is off to a robust start.

Perfect weather, good sailing winds, and excellent planning by Jorge Suarez and Steven Smith made for another ABYC Regatta extraordinaire.

Our Regatta's really are more than a well organized sailboat race, they truly are (as we said in the 60's) "happening's"

After a long day on the water, participants had an opportunity to have a quick shower, grab a cold beverage, BBQ a steak and listen to the live sounds of the "Wilson's". The Lakers finally decided to show up and play, and presented us with a win, on the road in Denver. A great weekend all around, congratulations to all parties involved.

In typical fashion, we had our share of challenges the past few weeks, the large crane began making unsavory noises during the first day of the Memorial Day Regatta, the upstairs ice machine broke down, and the water-heater for the

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outside bathrooms went on strike. These “maintenance gremlins” always seem to hit us right in the middle of an event or on Sunday evening as the staff and I are heading into our weekend. Go figure...

Membership Meeting, June 19th....we're trying something new. Hosted by the Lido Fleet, under the new leadership of Ed “Spots” Spotsky, we're taking the show OUTSIDE !! That's right, a General Membership Meeting right on our own patio.

Come on down and enjoy the best view in town, a fabulous presentation (see Ed's report) and an outstanding buffet set up in our own Quarterdeck. Jesus, Adam and I will be whippin' up BBQ Chicken, Tri-Tip and a bunch of sides that will rock your epicurean world !!!!

ABYC really IS the place to be.

Now, for a short sermon: The morning after our last Family Movie Night, I was greeted the next morning by an absolute mess upstairs. Popcorn everywhere, stains on the carpet, and what appeared to be soda spilled on the sofa. A scene, certainly not representative of our club, nor what we are attempting to accomplish with FMN.

In an effort to continue these entertaining, affordable and family oriented events, let's ALL take it upon ourselves to help police the area, pick up after ourselves and treat the club with the same respect we have for our own living rooms.

Kelly Whitlow

rear view



Summer is here, I know that for sure because I'm sitting in my beach chair, toes in the sand and watching the tide slowly recede. The bay classes lunch break has just ended on the Saturday of Memorial Day regatta and Sabot and Lidos are slowly port tacking out to the bay barge for the start of race 3. What a wonderful world we have captured at the end of the peninsula, we are so lucky to have this beautiful resort to call home.

Spring Spruce Up was a great success. I was paired with staff commodore Dick Landes to inventory and clean up our sabot dollies. We are missing at least three of our good dollies; if you know where they are please help get them back home, we will need them this summer.

I know that the “sailstice” is in June and the planets may not agree with my pronouncement, but in my mind spring ended with the Mothers Day Bruch – a tremendous affair enjoyed by over 100 people. Sue McDannel was marvelous in organizing the event and we enjoyed two seating's with lots of volunteers pitching in and our ABYC staff doing another superb job. See my separate article about this event in another area of this Sou'Wester.

It is with a tear in my eye that I write to thank all of you who have reached out to the Merrill/Kober/Peterson clan to express condolences for the loss of staff commodore Adra Kober. Adra was an amazing lady, who attended just about every club event and she wasn't volunteering she was asked for advice or consulted for details regarding club matters. She was always here and always involved and surely be missed by all of us. Adra's memorial service will be at ABYC on Friday June 19th at 1:30pm.

Losing Vickie Ericksen and Jeanne Nelson along with Adra in the last couple of weeks has caused me to reflect. We are so blessed to have so many long standing members who have given their hearts and souls to breathe life in to ABYC over many decades and I'm afraid as each sunset makes us another day older we will be seeing more of the older guard set sail – I mention this not to be morbid, but to remind us all how precious life is and how easy it is to take for granted that all of the usual suspects you see around the club will always be there doing their thing...unfortunately nobody knows when they may be coming through the main gate for the last time, so I encourage you to stop your fellow members and chat for a minute, we are so lucky to have such an amazing club house to share with each other.

May was a great month to come down to the club and June will be even better. It's daylight longer, the weekends are officially starting on Friday afternoon and we will soon see the junior program off and running. Come down and take your boat out, sail in twilights, race in a regatta or just go for a day sail. This is a sailing club, you are a sailor, and I promise you the time spent out on the water will refresh your spirit and invigorate your soul – (and cool your skin and race your heart if you capsize – remember, no swimming in the basin!). You can even bring your work with you and fire up your laptop on the patio and surf the web on ABYC's WI-FI while enjoying twilight dinner Wednesdays and Thursdays served from our galley. ABYC is the HOT SPOT – check it out!

Our Friday nights in June feature more of Kelly Whitlow's menu mentoring and Jesus' culinary creations, here's what we have planned:

June 5th – Kelly's Deli! Cold Cuts - Turkey, Ham, Roast Beef
Veggie tray with Carrots, Celery & Broccoli

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Cheese & Crackers

June 12th – Family Movie Night – 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea

BBQ Beef sliders with Onion Rings

June 19th – Jesus’ “Best in the Pacific” Taco Bar

June 26th – Long Beach Race Week party.

If that Friday evening “heavy appetizer” program and our “best-and-cheapest-drinks-in-town” bar doesn’t put a smile on your face I don’t know what will. And speaking of smiles if you see my daughter Elle please ask her to flash you one – she just got her braces off!

“Family Movie Night” is back by overwhelming demand with a classic that has been requested since day one and I finally found it on DVD - “**20,000 Leagues Under The Sea**” says it is G on the back of the jacket; this is a cool flick that will inspire the imagination of young sailors. This film debuted in 1954 and stars Kirk Douglas and James Mason and, of course, is based on the novel by Jules Verne – running time 127 minutes and we’ll start at 6:30. Come climb aboard the *Nautilus* for a spellbinding undersea adventure and meet the mysterious Captain Nemo. We’re going to have sliders (much better than what you can get from a street corner fast food drive thru like Jack’s or Carl’s – come and scarf! The Junior Sabot Nationals committee will meet at 7:00 and the meeting will run for an hour – if you are a volunteer or would like to be we will meet downstairs in the junior room. Parents, thanks very much, the kids were much better behaved in May during “Toy Story”, I’d like to ask two families to volunteer to be responsible for clean up for each of the future showings– when the movie ends we need to have someone chaperone for about 10 minutes supervising sweeping up popcorn and throwing away trash...it won’t take long if we all pitch in!

Do you get the “Weekly Reader” email? If not, why not? Send a request to abycnews@listserv.com and you’ll be signed up – sorry, it’s just that simple. We try to send out an update every Wednesday with breaking news dispersed intermittently. With summer here there will be more to talk about so please email me – jeff.merrill@nordhavn.com or my co-host, Bill McDannel bill@vsysachts.com by Tuesday midnight so we can include your announcements.

When was the last time you logged on to www.abyc.org? We have everything there – our calendar, individual fleet details, regatta results, the Sou’Wester, photos and much, much more – bookmark it and explore all that we offer!

June means the June-ior sailing program starts, the big orientation is Wednesday June 17th – come on down and see what a great summer Brad Schaupter and staff have prepared for our kids. Summer vacation is upon us so a couple of quick reminders for parents and kids who will have the run of the place... Parking – is for regular members only (not for junior members) you must have a sticker and you must leave your car unlocked with the keys on the driver seat. Trash cans are distributed through out the yard; please help keep our club clean. Wash your boat down good and then please turn off the hose and coil it when you are finished. Please return sabot dollies to the sea wall. Have fun and enjoy ABYC during our peak summer season – ABYC is THE place to BE!

This year ABYC hosts the Junior Sabot Nationals – Fleet Captain Jon Robinson and I are the regatta co-chairs – the dates are August 10th – 13th. If you can spare any time during those dates we’d love your help and keep in mind that we will be literally invaded by 100s of young sabot sailors and their families. ABYC is famous for being a great host to large scale events, especially youth championships so please continue to extend your finest ABYC hospitality to our visitors.

Do you know someone who should be an ABYC member? We are always looking to build up our membership and summer usually allows us to find some new faces and re-acquaint with old friends who should join our ranks. Our membership is our strength, as a volunteer club we all need to be recruiting, promoting and participating. The SAC social committee is looking for more help; do you like to be involved in coordinating events? RMC is our race management committee and we are always looking for chase boat drivers, scorers, etc. Please remember we can’t do it without you, help us ramp up our membership and get more involved!

See you around the club...and don’t forget your sunscreen!

Jeff Merrill, Mobile 949.355.4950

long beach **race week**

WANT TO SEE RACE WEEK ACTION CLOSE UP: VOLUNTEER

Interested in participating in the West Coast’s largest regatta? Consider becoming a LBRW volunteer. Join over 100 dedicated volunteers from ABYC and LBYC who staff various committees that make race week such a success.

Contact anyone on the organizing committee; Glenn Selvin, Bobby Frazier, Ken Reiff, Mark or Robin Townsend, Sandy Toscan, Jennifer Kuritz.



fleet captain's log



Walt Elliott Challenge was held on May 9 th this year. ABYC was the defending yacht club. Six Cal 20's competed for the coveted trophy. Our team, skipered by Chuck Clay, won the challenge. We have won this trophy the last three years. Congratulations Chuck and crew, job well done.

The Memorial Day Regatta has just completed. A very well run regatta with over 150 boats. Competitors were treated to fair winds and sunshine. Dinner was Kelly's steak out with salad and baked potato bar. The best deal in town at \$12.00 or any price. Thanks Kelly. The Wilson's, who really rocked, provided the music and a good time was had by all. I have to thank Steve Smith, Jorge Suarez and Kevin Taugher and the Laser and 505 fleets for all of their hard work.

The fleets are active. Lido 14s are out in force on Wednesday nights and Sr. Sabots on Thursday nights. The Lidos are putting 18 – 25 boats on the water on Wednesday nights and the Sr. Sabots are 10 – 15 strong. Congratulations Ed Spotsky and Sheila Eberly.

Fourth of July is close on the horizon. This regatta will be held on Sunday July 5th. and is run by the Juniors. This regatta as in past years will be a pursuit race. We have had good attendance and generally our own members. This is a fun regatta and I encourage you to come down and join us for a great time.

We are at it again. If you have not noticed, an addition to the horizontal Laser rack has been made. In addition the old Laser rack has been modified. The new addition increases our capacity to 28 spots for Lasers and the modification allows Lasers with lock-pits to be used in 7 of those spots.

If you are looking for a slip for the summer, look no further. We have a few spaces left along the rail for \$400 for the summer. These spaces will be good through Labor Day. These are prime locations and one more great way to enjoy the club for the summer.

The fleet is generally in good shape. We are working the whalers as they always need some TLC but this is normal for a fleet as large as ours. Patience is just purrrrrrring along. We are entering our on season for regattas and summer program where we need our boats.

See you around the Club
Jon Robinson

from the pages of history

SOU'WESTER's of the past often ring with topics that are timely ten, twenty, even thirty years later, but they also have echoes of events of the past that are not as they used to be.

THIRTY YEARS AGO:

For those of you who were not here, Men's Day at ABYC was a big darned deal. The 1979 event made the cover of the June, 1979, SOU'WESTER with a truly memorable photo of Sid Exley and Langon Parrill, both in western garb and bandanas around their necks, standing with their arms over each other's shoulders at Men's Day—in which both sailed. There were 72 sailors—yes, 72: that is not a typo—in four divisions from six different yacht clubs on hand.

Back in the day, Men's Day had themes. This one had a western theme; another one I remember had a political theme. Anyway, the regatta was put on by the women of ABYC—dozens of them. They staffed the parking lot, staffed the launch ramp, weighed in and seeded the competitors, ran the races, rescued capsized boats and prepared a theme dinner for one and all. And there was always a skit—based on the theme, of course—the centerpiece of which was the appearance of the "Lady of the Bay," always the Vice Commodore—and presumptive incoming Commodore—in drag, dressed thematically, of course.

Men's Day of 1979 was no different. There is a photograph of Beryl Tasker, who served as co-chair with Marilyn McMahon, dressed up as a dance-hall girl. There were cowboy hats on the tables, done by Margaret Duhamel and Kay Hetherington. Judy Cardinelli and her family did the "chuck wagon dinner." But no news as to who ran the races. And no photo of the Lady.

Oh, yes, the races. Winner in the lightweight division was Steve Washburn; Tom Newton, Jr., took fourth. Kurt Langford won the middleweight division, just ahead of Hank Schofield. Don Barrus was first and Pat McCormick second in the heavyweight division. And winning in the "super weight" division, and winner of the Men's Day Perpetual, was none other than the aforementioned Sid Exley—who turned 72 the next day.

Keith Dodson was busy writing for the SOU'WESTER that month: he had articles on the C-15 fleet and the Laser fleet. The C-15's had sailed in April on Lake Mission Viejo, where ABYC's Ken Green took a first; Ken slipped to second in May to Larry Cohn during the fleet championships. Keith also reported that the ABYC Laser sailors were preparing to host the Laser District 25 Championships in a stand-alone regatta in July. It was to be run on "a slightly different format:" "more races with shorter courses."

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Tom Newton, Sr., was chairman for the 2009 Cal 25 Nationals at ABYC; Fleet V Fleet Captain Bob Kirstine was expecting over 25 boats, including some from the east coast...The Cal 20 fleet project for the year was PATIENCE: they planned to give it a "total refurbishment," including "refinishing...the interior of the cabin plus some cleaning, polishing and painting outside"...Midge Marshall announced that the Galley would not open until 10:30 am on Father's Day, June 17, and would not serve breakfast as there was a Father's Day breakfast scheduled upstairs instead...

TWENTY YEARS AGO:

The 1989 Memorial Day Regatta was the top story in the SOU'WESTER for June of that year: 169 boats were on hand, and a two-page center spread with photos was complimented by a cover photo of Lasers and Lido's tied to the dock. Al Smith won the nine-boat J/24 class ahead of John and Jim Chapman while Olympic medalist Randy Smyth topped Pease Glaser, sailing with Randy's medal-winning crew Jay Glaser, in the nine-boat Tornado class. Keith Ives won a 13-boat Laser division in Alamitos Bay while Brooke Morford took third while Dominic Meo won the Lido 14 "B" division.

Commodore Mike McMahon noted an unfortunate incident during the regatta in his "Commodore's Comments:" outsiders came on the grounds and stole the personal possessions of some of the sailors. Vice Commodore Dick Caley announced the thefts, and later that day "an alert member" apprehended a "young person who was going through gear bags in a member's boat." The police were called and hauled this person away.

Six ABYC Sabotiers went to the Senior Sabot Nationals at Coronado Cays Yacht Club in June, and Peter Gales was top finisher, taking second place; the others racing included Dale Berkihiser, Margaret Caddle, Marilyn McMahon, Mack Mills and Tom Newton.

There were lots of graduations mentioned in the SOU'WESTER: Jenny Berlinger, Pat Deere and Brooke Morford all graduated from high school while Andy Merrill, Mike Zimmerman and the son of Dick and Carol Ramseyer—his name was not given—graduated from the California Maritime Academy, the Naval Academy and the Coast Guard Academy, respectively...Approved for regular membership were Andy Ayale, Tim and Melanie Carter, Larry and Sioux Harvey and Chuck and Leslie Tripp...Stu Robertson won the Lido 14 Fleet Six Championship, topping Charlie Cummings, Don Barrus and Ed Rodriguez; that's three National Champions there, and six points divided the top four finishers of the two-day regatta...

TEN YEARS AGO:

Fleets, fleets, fleets: almost the entire SOU'WESTER for June, 1999, was made up of fleet reports, and there was lots to report. Chris Ericksen, writing the Etchells fleet article, reported on the sale by Larry Harvey and Stan Gibbs of Etchells USA794 and the acquisition of an Australian-built boat, USA965. Doug Jorgensen in old USA126, however, was leading the high-point Etchells Fleet Championship Series after two regattas.

Jorge Suarez reported that six ABYC Laser sailors "and one shore-crew gopher" went to the Laser Midwinters West regatta up at Richmond Yacht Club. Keith Dodson, Bob Falk, Tom Paulling, Kevin Taugher, Chuck Tripp and Vann Wilson were the sailors; Jorge was the gopher. All but one finished in the top half of the 82-boat fleet and did best when the breeze came up into the 18-knot range (earlier in the regatta it had been lightish).

The Junior fleet had been busy on Opening Day. Derek Belisle, Graham Bell, Mara Bell, Chris Clevenger, Daniel Henry and Michael Herman assisted in running the Club Championship Regatta while no fewer than four ABYC Juniors—Jon Bell, Andrew McDade, Michael Oliver and Freddie Stevens—sailed in it. They Juniors were looking forward to the coming summer sailing program, and Mara Bell, Junior reporter, closed out her report by saying, "I'll see you in zee Bay of 'A.'"

Dan Gilboa and Bob Anderson, representing the C-15 fleet, won the aforementioned Club Championship Regatta, sailed in Lido 14's; nine fleets were represented... The Keelboat Fleet cruise to Newport Beach was a bit of a blow-out—literally—as all but one of the sailboats intending to head down sailed into the teeth of a 15-knot southerly and promptly turned back; Bud and Joyce Lorbeer made it down in their powerboat and were soon joined by the rest of the cruise who car-pooled down...Jerry Montgomery, chairman of the 1999 Melges Worlds to be held at ABYC in the fall, put out a call for housing for the International Jury...

A PERSONAL NOTE

Thanks to so many of you who have phoned, sent cards or sent e-mails on the death of my dear wife, Vicki. I am truly touched. It doesn't take the Club Historian to say she will be both missed and remembered.

Chris Ericksen, Club Historian

Sou'Wester DEADLINE

June 20, 2009 is the deadline
for the July Sou'Wester.

the bay clogger

(junior sailing)

Hello ABYC members! The Junior Summer Sailing Program is about to start and we are excited to have one of the best instructing staffs ever. We went with more local talent this year, but have by far some of the most talented sailors and instructors out there. Here is a brief introduction to each of our 2009 summer instructors...

Brad Schaupeter (Program Director) - Brad has been the director of the ABYC Junior Sailing Program for five years and has been coaching/directing junior sailing programs in Michigan and California for the past ten years. He is originally from Grosse Pointe, MI and graduated from Indiana University in 2002 with a B.S. in Business. Brad spends much of his free time as a musician and singer/songwriter for his band "The Silent Partner" (www.thesilentpartner.com) touring around the country. Currently he is working on the follow up to his debut album "Fall Away" which was awarded "L.A. Music Awards Independent Rock Album of the Year" and hopes to release the new album this fall.

Sarah Ryan (Assistant Program Director - Head C3 Race Coach) - This is Sarah's fifth year coaching and her second year as assistant junior sailing director. She is currently in her fourth year of college at Biola University. She is a Liberal Studies major with an emphasis in elementary education, and minor's in both Bible and world history. She has grown up sailing in Alamitos Bay and was the ABF woman's champion for three years. She is active within the Lido 14 fleet with her younger brother Mark.

Eric Nix (Laser Coach) - Originally from Grosse Pointe, Michigan, Eric spent most of his sailing years in Lasers and FJ's and was at one point junior director, Brad Schaupeter's, Laser coach. As a high school student Eric placed top 10 at the High School Singlehanded Nationals, won the Midwest Under 21 Singlehanded Championship, placed top 15 at the Canadian Laser Nationals, and was a nationally ranked heavyweight rower. Eric later went on to sail for St. Mary's College of Maryland's Varsity Team, where he represented the Sea Hawks in numerous single and double handed nationally ranking inter-sectionals. He won the Atlantic Coast Collegiate Singlehanded Championship his freshman year, placed top 20 in the 125 boat US Laser Nationals and top 30 in the 200 boat CORK Laser event. He was also invited to Olympic Development Trainings and has trained with members of the US and Argentinian Olympic teams. Eric's no-nonsense coaching style has helped his junior sailors to go on to win Collegiate National Championships as well as berths on the US Olympic Team.

Ian Paice (Intermediates & Laser Race Coach) - Ian will be coaching his first full summer with ABYC. He has become an avid keel boat sailor and will once again be making an appearance skippering a Gov. Cup 21' in the Governor's Cup match racing event held down at Balboa Yacht Club. He has also sailed competitively in Lasers, FJs, and Sabots. Ian will be graduating from the Poly PACE program this spring.

Mac Mace (Beginners & Sabot A Race Coach) - Mac grew up sailing for Newport Harbor Yacht Club and is coming up to ABYC for his first full summer coaching. He has had a sterling junior sailing career finishing 2nd in the ISAF Youth Worlds Qualifier and placing 5th at Youth Champs in 420's. He and his sister Sally, (also coaching with us this summer) have traveled around the world competing in International 420's and will take a short break this summer to sail in the 420 World Championships in Garda, Italy.

Chuck Ullman (Morning Race Coach & Sabot B Race Coach) - Recently graduated from St. Mary's College in Maryland where he won the national collegiate championship, Chuck is returning for his second year at ABYC. He is a graduate of the Balboa Yacht Club program and has coached at Balboa, Bahia Corinthian and San Francisco Yacht Club. Chuck will be working with our morning extended racing group and the A and B racers in the afternoon alongside several other clinicians.

Russell Olson (Beginners & Sabot C1/C2 Coach) - Russell is currently attending Cal State Long Beach and has been an integral part of our year round staff. Russ is one of the youngest of our instructors to have achieved his Level 2 Instructor certification. In his free time, he enjoys surfing and watching sunsets on the beach.

Sally Mace (Intermediates & Sabot C1/C2 Coach) - Sally currently attends Sage Hill High school and sails out of Newport Harbor Yacht Club in Radials and 420's. She is on Sage Hill's sailing team as well as their varsity volleyball and lacrosse team. She is extremely nurturing with learning students and has an intimate knowledge of the sport of sailing. She placed 2nd overall and was top female at Sabot Nationals 2006. Like her brother Mac, she will be traveling internationally to compete in the 420 World Championships.

Samantha Gebb (Beginner Coach) - Samantha has sailed out of ABYC for nearly 10 years now and is an integral part of our leadership team at ABYC as Junior Commodore. She went to the Bemis National championship alongside Jack Jorgensen last year with aspirations of doing the same this year. She will be coaching our beginner sailors this year and sailing Laser Radials in the afternoon. She is also an avid dancer in her free time.

Laura Newton (Intro to Sailing/Sea Urchin Coach) - Laura is also on the ABYC Junior board and will be joining us as a morning instructor for her third summer. She will be sailing laser radials in the afternoon and coaching Intro to Sailing and Sea Urchins in the morning. Laura is attending Cal State Long Beach in the fall.

Brad Schaupeter



Best of the Best of the Best

The morning of May 2nd was greeted with iron skies. A soft chill breeze blew in from the south-southwest at 5 to 8 miles per hour. Ed Spotsky and his team of Fleet Six volunteers assembled a squadron of perfectly matched Lido 14's to determine yet again who would be crowned the best sailor in the best yacht club in the best sailing country in the world. Races would be round robin style, trading boats between races to eliminate the small differences in the equipment.

Each of ABYC's fleets had selected their champions to represent them in this, the clash of sailing titans. Some fleets held a sail-off to select their champions, as was the case for the Lidos. Some used a point system, as did the Etchells. And some were determined by Beer Pong, as was rumored to have been done in the Snipe fleet.

The sailors were assigned their first boats by luck-of-the-draw. On the committee boat, PRO George Suarez set up a split windward leeward twice around for the first and second races. Race One had Mark and Sarah Ryan, representing the Lidos, jumping out with a perfect start, playing the left side and leading convincingly all around the race course. Fifteen boat lengths back were Jerry Thompson and Mandi Smith for the Snipes battling, and finishing slightly ahead of Stu Robertson and Robin Townsend representing the Cal 20's. These two "masters" were closely pursued by Samantha Gebb and Laura Newton, who had the surprise performance of the day, always in the fray, with excellent boat handling and great speed. This, considering that they trundled from boat to boat lugging bags of lead to make up for their sub-300 pound crew weight. If it wasn't for being on the wrong side of a few shifts, they could have provided some embarrassment to the veterans. Next year!



Samantha Gebb/Laura Newton representing the Juniors sailing upwind.

The second race saw Robertson/Townsend finish first sailing up the middle, hitting every shift perfectly with Ryan/Ryan finishing second. Thompson/Smith's day was over when they grazed the weather pin while in third place. They had to let six boats go by while re-rounding and never could recover.

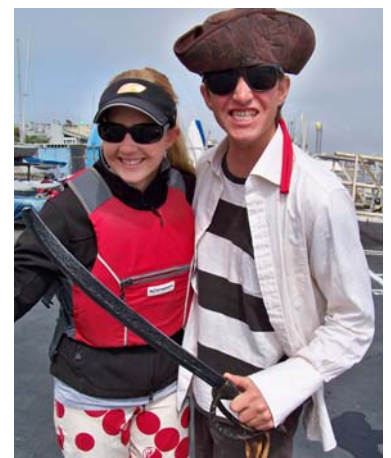
And it all came to the last race. A knock-kneed sexagenarian (that refers to age and not proclivity although in Stu's case...) versus the young guns from fleet six. Suarez sets up a triangle windward leeward for the culmination of the Solar System's most important regatta (considering that liquid water may exist in the Andromeda system, but it is believed that their club championship also involve some form of cannibalism, the winning crew eating the losing crew. Consequently, the Andromedian YC Championships are rarely held. But we digress). Just before the start, the wind freshens and goes slightly left. The pin end becomes favored. Thirty seconds. The fleet sets up to run down the line. Ryan leads the pack. The wily Robertson, however, approaches on port with Gebb slightly underneath. Robertson does a quick circle to bleed some time off and tacks right under Ryan. Ryan sees the strategy and dives to go behind to pop up under Robertson. Ten Seconds before the start. There is just enough time. But as he dives, he finds that Gebb has already set up underneath Robertson. Ryan pulls back up to weather, starts in Robertson's garbage air and never recovers. Robertson covers Ryan for the rest of the race, putting Gebb/Newton in between for insurance. Thompson takes advantage and wins the final race by four boat lengths.

This regatta boasts ABYC's most important prize, the coveted club champion's parking spot. There have been idle rumblings from the throngs ashore that boat selection, namely the Lido 14, might have favored one sailor over another. Those in the know are quick to point out that the Lido 14 is such a high speed, precision sail craft, that on a percentage basis, any small advantage gained from familiarity with the boat really doesn't amount to much during the course of a race. The only legitimate complaints came from the Sabot sailors who keep looking to the gunwales for lateral resistance, the Laser sailors who were completely baffled by a sailboat that has two mains yet only one boom, and the multihull and keelboat sailors who had difficulty all day with their roll tacks. In defense of the club's decision to use Lido 14's, please note that it was not the Lido champion who won, but the Cal 20 champion, a veritable stranger to the Lido. And should further grumbling persist, Stu Robertson has promised to gift the parking spot to one of ABYC's favorite ladies, Isabelle "Sarge" Lounsberry as to shorten her walk to the clubhouse. Hurray for Stu. He's first class.

Thelonius P. Bilgewater



Stu Robertson/Robin Townsend ready to race for the space



Sarah and m'ARRRR'k Ryan dressed for the festivities of Opening Day

She said, "I had never lost a mast on a multihull but I've lost three in the last four weeks."

Overall, the competition heated up as Walter Johnson, with crew Alyssa Aoki, Andrew Kern and Will Boudreau won the Lido 14-A, Finn and Sabot C3 classes, respectively, on tiebreakers, while Jeff and Jeremy Petron of Camarillo, Calif. and Judge Ryan of San Diego dominated the Hobie 16 catamaran and Sabot-A classes.

Johnson, a big boat veteran who started sailing Lidos only four years ago, had seven rivals but had eyes mainly for Jerry Thompson, an old hand in small boats who won the class last year and battled hard this time over the inside course on Alamitos Bay.

"Our whole focus was on Jerry," Johnson said, "[because] he has sailed in this bay for so long. We did well when we got good starts, but it was so shifty that no lead was big enough."

Another familiar winner was Stu Robertson, a Lido veteran who started sailing a three-person Thistle a year ago. He won five of his seven races, including the first race Sunday after starting early and having to restart.

"That was the most amazing race I've even been in," he said.

Rich Roberts



Eric Lidecis lost the Finn title to Andrew Kern on a tiebreaker



Lido-A was this close between Walter Johnson (r.) and 2008 winner Jerry Thompson (l.)



Pete Melvin (l.) and son James, 14, won the Formula 18s going away

memorial day regatta volunteers

One Hundred and thirty-six entries in sixteen separate fleets were graced with an embarrassment of riches in the weather department for the 2009 Alamitos Bay Yacht Club Memorial Day Holiday Regatta. I don't think we could have asked for more as early morning overcast cleared to sunny skies, mild temperatures and 8 to 12 knots of breeze each day.

As this was the first Memorial Day Regatta for ABYC to use on-line registration through *Regatta Network*, we were fairly sure of the final entry tally, but still saw over thirty entries signed-up by **Margaret Jorgensen** Saturday morning.

A volunteer team of more than fifty, culled largely from the host **Laser** and **505** fleets assembled to run the races. Regatta Co-Chairmen **Jorge Suarez** and **Steven Smith** handled racing in the Harbor and the social side of things, while **Kevin Taugher** and his **505** fleet team ran the Bay races.

In the Harbor, **Stacy Jackson** served as PRO assisted by **Chuck Tripp**. On-shore, the all important computer registration and scoring duties were once again expertly handled by **Jim Morford**. The race committee whalers were prepared and equipped by our Port Captain **Dave Meyers**, assisted by **Ed Spotskey** (boning up for his Multihull Regatta Chair duties later this summer), while **George Caddle** —without his reliable yet ailing sidekick **Vern Peterson**— ensured *Patience* was well cared for.

Everything was running smoothly until we learned the club ice machine had broken. Near disaster was averted, as **Kelly, Adam, Rick** et al, ordered a truck load of ice and were last seen hauling trash can size buckets of the cold stuff up the stairs to ensure the beer, wine and cocktails never lost their refreshing chill.

...continued next page

Saturday, following racing, all who cared to participate, lined up for a cook-you-own-steak dinner. Once the steaks were done, diners walked upstairs to enhance their entrees with huge baked potatoes and all the fixings, salad and cookies. Our hired band, *The Wilsons*, performed Rock & Roll standards keeping the party going past 10:30.

Since all fleets in the Harbor completed at least four races Saturday –the Multihulls and Finns completed five races- **Stacy** revised the starting order Sunday to ensure all fleets completed at least seven races for the regatta. For Bay classes on Sunday, **Mike Martin**, assisted by a cadre of his relatives and fellow **505** racers, handled the RC duties.

Speaking of Multihulls, it is nice to see a growing fleet of these speedsters at our events; evidenced by eight Formula 18's and, based at the Claremont Launch Ramp, fifteen of the venerable Hobie 16's joining us for this regatta. Regrettably, the Multihulls did; however, see the dismasting of **Pease** and **Jay Glaser's** F18 on Sunday due to a shroud shackle failure.

Following racing Sunday and adjudication of a few protests by our Head Judge, **Latham Bell** and his team of **Margaret Caddle**, Ernie & Marylyn Baine, we were ready for trophies. The awards this year were brightly colored hot & cold aluminum beverage bottles ordered by **Dawn McKenna** and **Jorge**, as well as the Memorial Day perpetual trophies.

As racers and guests awaited the award ceremony, all were treated to another of **Jesus'** scrumptious buffets of soft tacos and fillings. One guest looked incredulous as she asked me, "is this free?" before digging in. Just another reason they keep coming back to ABYC!

Jorge and I had a great time planning and hosting this event with a long list of ABYC staff and volunteers. Beginning with those already mentioned, we wish to thank **Cliff Mathias** who is always willing to watch the gate. Also, for the all too thankless task of parking and yard management, we thank **Jon Robinson** as well as **Mike Baumann** and **John Massey** who both showed up unannounced to help. On *Patience* we had; **C. J. Crockett**, **Sharon Pearson**, Peter Drasnin, **Judy Mathias**, **Eric Chadwick** and Don Coffin up top, **Sandy Toscan**, **Wayne & Shirley Smith**, **Jerry & Ryan McNaboe** handling the scoring. On the whalers we thank; **Ellen & Jim Kirk**, **Doug Jorgensen**, **Todd Smith**, **Chris Marr**, **Kevin Baumann**, **Max Clemmer**, **Garrett Brown**, **Derek Landeau**, **Palmer Luckey**, while **Vann Wilson** was photo boat captain for **Rich Roberts**.

In the Bay, others helping, in no particular order were; **Rob Waterman**, **Howard Hamlin**, **Andy Zinn**, **Jeff Nelson**, **Hubert Guy**, **Stephanie Martin** and Junior Coaches **Sarah Ryan**, **Chuck Ullman** and **Brad Schaupter**.

Our thanks go out as well for the help and guidance of the ABYC Race Management Committee and especially to the Management and staff of ABYC!

Steven Smith, 2009 ABYC Memorial Day Holiday Regatta Co-Chairman

a different opening day

David McBride photo

One ABYC Member missed the 2009 Opening Day festivities, but still managed to represent the club with distinction. Oscar Krinsky led his team of local amateur sailors to a well earned victory in the A Fleet at the San Diego Yachting Cup this year. After finishing 2nd in 2006 and 2007, and missing the regatta in 2008 due to health issues, Team Chaya finally added a Yachting Cup victory to a list that has included Midwinters, Cal Race Week, Ahmanson Series, PHRF Champs, and many other local races.

Oscar's team has been the most consistent "big" boat in SoCal racing for the past 4 years, to the point where the rating board continues to give more and more time to the competition while taking time from Chaya's rating. The on-the-water performance shows that solid tactics and great boathandling are the factors that actually produce the results.

This year's competition included 70 foot Sleds, a pair of high tech TP52s, custom R/P 50s, and of course Dennis Conner on his Farr 60. Most of the fleet, if not all, employ professionals in their crews and boat preparation. Oscar's dedicated crew perform the boat's maintenance, most deliveries, and crew work with no compensation, a true corinthian program.

Congratulations Oscar!
Sinclair Bishop



mother's day brunch

Jeff Merrill photos

Mother's Day - what a great brunch of ladies!
Close on the heels of our fantastic Easter Brunch the SAC (Social Advisory Committee) led by Sue McDannel hosted a wonderful Sunday Mother's Day Brunch on May 10th!

We served over 140 brunches to parties ranging from couples to 14 packs! Our online registration did not work (we will solve this for the future), but the good old fashioned "call the front office to sign up" program was extremely helpful in letting Kelly Whitlow and team prepare for the large turn out.

Registration was done at the base of the stairs by Pam Merrill, Kathy Robinson and Sheila Maddox. Only a handful of people signed up after the discount deadline and all present had a beautiful morning with bay views and delicious food to make it a festive celebration.

Seating was organized by Jeff Merrill and Jon Robinson and each of the mothers was given a red or yellow rose by Jonn Merrill to make their day that much more special.



Kelly Whitlow working his magic



The Riddick family

waffles, carved turkey, sliced roast beast and we had strawberries to dip in to the chocolate fountain (all of the kids had seconds or thirds at this station!).

The steady flow of people arriving for the first seating could not have been planned better if we tried; there was rarely a line and plenty of seating for all. Commodore Merle Asper and Vice Commodore John Massey were our "pourers of morers" making sure that the Champagne Mimosas never bottomed out.

Bill McDannel was lead carver along with Adam and the serving team included Michelle and Lori VanSkyhock, Elle Merrill, Kelly Asper, Savannah and AJ Robinson, plus Roger and Ann Seapy. Our volunteer staff deserves big kudos, this was a seamless event and the SAC planning showed brightly. If you would like to get involved in the social side of things please get in touch with Jeff Merrill and/or Sue McDannel. SAC meets once a month and we support about ten social events during the course of the year and welcome your help and expertise.

Thanks to all of the moms and dads and children of all ages for making Mother's Day another spring tradition success!

Jeff Merrill, Rear Commodore



John Merrill at the seating desk greeting guests

single-handed area j qualifier

U.S. Single-handed Championship Area J Qualifier

Bringing this event back to Long Beach, ABYC again hosts the US SAILING Area J qualifying regatta for the 2009 US SAILING Single-handed Championship for the O'Day Trophy Saturday June 6th. This event will be contested in Lasers. Winner of this regatta will qualify to compete for the US SAILING Single-handed Championship and O'Day Trophy at the Detroit Yacht Club August 5-9, 2009. This regatta is the fourth of eight scored regattas for 2009 ABYC Laser Fleet Championship points.

Check the ABYC event website for Notice of Race and all details.

walt elliot harbor challenge

Chuck Clay defended the Walt Elliott Harbor Challenge Trophy in a three-race regatta sailed on Saturday, May 9, making 2009 the third consecutive year Alamitos Bay Yacht Club has won and the second consecutive year it has successfully defended.

The Walt Elliott Harbor Challenge Trophy, a brass model of a naval cannon, is competed for among member clubs of the Association of San Pedro Bay Yacht Clubs (ASPBYC), the organization within our area that coordinates racing calendars and maintains the racing marks for all racing sailors in San Pedro Bay. The trophy, deeded by Betty Elliot Field in honor of her late husband Walt Elliott, a long-time member of Los Angeles Yacht Club, is intended "for the purpose of promoting interclub fleet racing on a challenge basis among the member clubs of the Association." Under the Deed of Gift, any member club or association of the ASPBYC may submit a challenge to the yacht club holding the trophy and name the challenging boat; the defending club must choose from among the challenges received and all other ASPBYC clubs and associations are invited to send teams in the same boat. Boats may be one-designs or handicap boats.

In 2009 Long Beach Yacht Club challenged in Cal 20's, and six member clubs and associations—ABYC, Cabrillo Beach Yacht Club, the Long Beach/Los Angeles Women's Sailing Association, Los Angeles Yacht Club, LBYC and Shoreline Yacht Club—sent teams, many in boats chartered by ABYC members. The contest was toughest among the expected clubs—ABYC, CBYC and LBYC—and it was down to the wire. The CBYC team, led by Kenny Dair, was second and LBYC's team, helmed by Scott Birnberg, was third. The LAYC team, helmed by Mike Burch; SYC, helmed by Kevin Seagull; and the LB/LASWA team, helmed by Kathy Reid, rounded out the field.

As defending club, ABYC organized the regatta. Jon Robinson, ABYC Fleet Captain and delegate to the ASPBYC, served as Regatta Chairman; Bob Anderson served as PRO while Margaret Caddle organized the protest committee. ASPBYC Vice-Commodore Ken Griffing was on hand to present the trophy.

Chris Ericksen

ensenada race

The Ensenada Race was run over the weekend of April 24 -26, and if you missed it, you missed a great one. The wind held all night long and 56 boats finished the 125.5 mile race before the sun came up on Saturday morning. Even the last of the non-spinnaker cruising class boats finished by 4:00 PM on Saturday without using their engines. ABYC members were much in evidence among the race volunteers with Mark Townsend being the PRO again this year and bring along a large contingent of ABYC members to staff the three race committee start-line boats and two of the three check-in boats. Several other ABYC members helped with the end of the race in Ensenada.

Several ABYC boats were entered in this year's race with Ed Feo's LOCOMOTION taking 5th in PHRF A Class and Doug Jorgensen's PICANTE taking 2nd in the Sprit A Class. The big ABYC winner was Scott Kramer's HEMOTOMA with his ABYC crew aboard winning the PHRF J Class and coming in 4th Overall out of over 150 boats in the Racing Division.

Congratulations to the ABYC racers and thanks to the ABYC volunteers that made the race a real success. See you next year.

Jerry Montgomery

golden anchor

Are you a member of US SAILING through ABYC's Golden Anchor Program? If not, you should be. ABYC has a long history of support for US SAILING, the national governing body for the sport of sailing. Chuck Kober, past Commodore of ABYC, was president of US SAILING and both Margie Brown and Mike Schoettle are past Vice Presidents. Additionally, a number of ABYC members are active on various US SAILING committees. In the last nine years alone ABYC has run ten US SAILING National Championships and the OLYMPIC Trials for the 2008 OLYMPIC Team.

US SAILING is the effective voice for American sailors in the sometime Byzantine world of international sailing. US SAILING also certifies our summer sailing instructors, our race judges and race officers, publishes the rule book and issues rating certificates for boats competing in off-shore races such as Transpac and the Mexican races.

The easiest and cheapest way to support the sport by becoming a member of US SAILING is through the Golden Anchor Program. Under that program ABYC collects the membership fees and forwards that money to US SAILING. In return ABYC gets a monetary credit for any new or renewing member and the member gets a reduced price on that membership. The savings under the Golden Anchor Program for the youth membership is \$5.00 (\$20 rather than \$25); for individual membership is \$10 (\$50 rather than \$60); and for family membership is \$15 (\$75 rather than \$90). The Golden Anchor Program only allows members to join or renew once a year, and ABYC's renewal date is in August. You will be receiving more information on this program with an upcoming ABYC bill.

This is a great way to support US SAILING and ABYC and as an added incentive this year all members joining US SAILING will receive a copy of the new 2009 – 2012 Racing Rules of Sailing.

Jerry Montgomery

opening day photos

Tracy Conn photos



Bob Senske with his OMG wine glass



Dick and Linda Landes with Margie Brown



Stu Robertson and Robin Townsend accept the Club Championship trophy from Merle Asper and Ron Wood



Stu Robertson, Paul Anctil and Dan Clapp



Ron Fox working on a bottle of champagne



Pat McCormick and Mary Ellen

stag cruise too big to fail

STAG CRUISE DECLARED TOO BIG TO FAIL

Despite an ailing economy, denial of the use of Patience and triple event bookings the weekend of the cruise, event chairman s/c Jim Bateman has declared "the Stag Cruise is too big to fail. It's simply far too important an institution and tradition at ABYC to let anything interfere with its success. We've received strong bi-partisan (i.e. both wives and husbands) support and we are forging ahead with plans to make this year's cruise one for the record books." This year's fall classic will be FRIDAY, SATURDAY and SUNDAY OCTOBER 2nd, 3rd and 4th at the Corsair Yacht Club in beautiful Emerald Bay on Catalina Island.

Jim Bateman

hails from the fleets



We're on deadline for the SOU'WESTER, so this will be short and sweet. The ABYC Etwells turned out for the Memorial Day Regatta in not-too-bad numbers: six entered and five started. Saturday was part of the Fleet Championship Series, and the gang in SPIRIT—Don Burdge, Jim Barber and company—took the day ahead of Rich, Andrew and Alex Vaught. Tim Carter and Chris Ericksen was tied with a two-skipper team, Jim Bateman and Joe Markowitz, sailing Joe's boat. Jeff Powell and Gordon Dudley were there as well, but poor John Chapman entered and was there Saturday morning but could not sail.

Sunday saw only three teams back—Carter/Ericksen, the Vaught Family Sailors and Bateman/Markowitz. And that was the order of finishes for the three races on Sunday, giving the DESPERADO's a one-point edge over the CHICKEN OF BRISTOL at the end with Bateman/Markowitz in third in the standings.

The next Fleet Championship Series race is Sunday, June 14—Flag Day. It should be the usual format: three to four races, probably out in the ocean, and back before too late. Try to make it, will you? I know I will: I'll be in Arizona on business all that week, but I still hope to be there.

Chris Ericksen



The ABYC **Laser** fleet, assisted by the **505** fleet, hosted the 2009 Memorial Day Holiday Regatta. By all accounts the event was an unqualified success due to the efforts of some fifty-two volunteers from the fleets as well as ABYC members and several guests. Please look for a full report on the regatta elsewhere in this issue.

ABYC **Laser** fleet members who volunteered and helped run this regatta each received Participation Points toward the 2009 ABYC **Laser** Fleet Championship, the winner of which qualifies to represent the **Laser** fleet at next years Club Championship Regatta. With three of the eight scored events counted toward the fleet championship complete, **Chris Raab** holds a slight two point lead over **Jorge Suarez** and **Cameron Summers**. Not far behind is **Chuck Tripp**, but there is a long way to go with our next scored event; the **U.S. SAILING Area J Qualifier Regatta** on Saturday June 6th. For more information on this important ladder event, please see a notice in this issue.

Steven Smith, Laser Fleet Co-Captain



The Lido fleet is hosting the Multi-Hull Regatta on July 25/26 this year. Some good news for this event is that the Hobie 16 fleet has made it part of their season long points paying series. This should attract some extra boats. I noticed that 13 hobie 16's registered for Memorial Day, a great turnout. Multi-hulls are always one of the best boats to watch. We are looking forward to this event.

Also, the Lido fleet is working with Kelly to help host the first annual outdoor General Meeting on June 19th. How about a buffet in the Quarterdeck followed with a presentation by Lori Perkins from the Aquarium of the Pacific? The Aquarium loves to educate people about the ocean and has great programs and presentations to share with us all. It should be a fun-casual evening at the Club.

Ed Spotskey, Lido Fleet Captain



Our fleet enjoyed the monthly May race with good wind. We are really getting into some good sailing weather. Results were: Bob Ware in First, Lee Berlinger in Second place, and Mary Riddick and Sheila Eberly tied for Third place.

Our monthly race for June is coming up on June 7. Hope to see all you Sabot sailors out for more fun in the bay.

We are just completing our first month of Twilight racing on Thursday nights. So far we have Lee Berlinger and John Ellis tied for First with 27 points, Chas Merrill in Second place with 30 points, and Tom Newton in Third place with 31 points. We have one more night of sailing for the May Twilights to be continued for the rest of the summer. There has been a great turn-out of sailors for twilights, up to 13 boats so far. We run 2 races starting at 6:00 P.M. followed by a delicious dinner from the galley. Many are practicing for the up-coming Sabot Nationals in San Diego June 13-14th. It sounds like we will have quite a few sailors representing ABYC attending.

A fun event coming up June 20 is the Men's Day Regatta. It begins with a keg opening, followed by RC racing then the guys are divided by weight divisions to race in Sabots. It is always a fun event for both participants and those running the event. Come on down to the club and lend a hand or hop in a Sabot for racing.

Cheers!

Sheila Eberly



Alamitos Bay Yacht Club

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Rich Roberts photo



Hobie start - Memorial Day Regatta

eight bells vicki ericksen

Victoria Whitcomb Ericksen, a lifelong resident of Long Beach, passed away on Friday, May 8, 2009, at the Long Beach Memorial Medical Center after a short illness. She was 59.

Vicki was born August 18, 1949, in Long Beach and graduated from Long Beach Poly High School, where she was editor of the school newspaper, and California State University, Long Beach, where she earned a teaching credential. She worked for many years in industry and for nearly ten years managed the Southern California Yachting Association (SCYA) Service Center in Naples.

Vicki was a member of Alamitos Bay Yacht Club where her husband, Chris, had been Commodore. She served on the race committee and was editor of the *SOU'WESTER*, the club newsletter.

Vicki is survived by her husband of 34 years; her sister, Lucy Whitcomb, of Long Beach; and dozens of cousins and in-laws. In lieu of flowers, please make donations in her name to the Historical Society of Long Beach.

A memorial will be held on Friday, June 5, at 1:30 pm at ABYC.

Chris Ericksen



adra kober

On Monday May 11, our mother Adra Merrill Kober died in Long Beach at the age of 85.

As many of you know, Adra willingly opened her heart and house to friends and strangers alike. She and Chuck hosted dozens of visiting sailors and yachting judges over the years, a tradition Adra maintained even after Chuck's death. She absolutely loved giving parties, and in true Adra spirit she left detailed instructions for one more gathering. A celebration of her life will be held on Friday, June 19th at 1:30 p.m. at Alamitos Bay Yacht Club.

We will remember her always, with much love and laughter.

In Adra's memory, she suggests donations to the Charles Kober Endowment Fund, United States Sailing Center, 5489 E. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, CA 90803-7939; or to Meals on Wheels of Long Beach, Inc., 241 Cedar Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90802.

Bonnie Kober Peterson and Booeey Kober

