



boxing day regatta

*Rich Roberts photos
underthesunphotos.com
Mike Baumann photo boat captain*



Youth has fling at ABYC's breathless Boxing Day

Whether Christmas is just for kids is arguable, but the day after played to the younger set in Alamitos Bay Yacht Club's zephyr-plagued 10th annual Boxing Day Race Saturday.

The event is traditionally raced on the Saturday between Christmas and New Year's Day, but this year it actually happened on Dec. 26, as celebrated throughout the United Kingdom, and was made memorable by its youngest winner, Steven Hopkins, 14 years, and youngest competitor, William Flam, 6 months.

You read that right. The latter made his racing debut as the youngest of three generations on the family Cal 20, along with his grandfather Barney, ABYC friend Ron Wood and William's dad Steve at the tiller with the kid on his lap, bundled up in blue on a wind-starved but chilly afternoon.

"He has to start sometime," Steve Flam said.

They finished only 26th among the 47 starters but second among a handful of Cal 20s in the event that is sailed inside on Alamitos Bay as a casual sort of interlude in ABYC's busy year-round schedule. It's a pursuit race, meaning that the slowest-rated boats—the Naples Sabots—started an hour and 4 minutes ahead of the fastest, a Formula 18 catamaran sailed by ABYC's Olympic silver medalists, Jay and Pease Glaser.

Oddly, they finished 1-2.

Places are determined by the order of boats when the predetermined time runs out, in this case at 3:30 p.m., 2 hours 17 minutes after the first start.

By that time, Hopkins' Sabot was a couple of hundred yards ahead of the Glasers in second place—pretty good handicapping, especially given the quirky conditions offered by frustrating winds of 1 to 3 knots shifting around the compass. The start was below the tower at the entrance to the ABYC basin marina.



The winner: Steven Hopkins, 14

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save the date

Rose Bowl Regatta	January 2-3
Membership Meeting	January 15
Sou'wester Deadline	January 17
Club ABYC	January 29
Family Movie Nighe	February 5
Super Bowl Party	February 7
Membership Meeting	February 19
SWCYA Midwinters	February 20-21
Club ABYC	February 26

commodore's comments



No surprise that Thanksgiving through New Years are busy months on personal social calendars. No different when it comes to club activities. We had no sooner dotted the last "i", and crossed the last "t" on the turkey Day Regatta, when our facility was invaded by the Advanced I-420 Clinic. As soon as we bid farewell to that gang, and picked up the "Lost & Found" donations which included a pair of I-420 spinnakers, we launched into a grand Christmas Tree Decorating Event that was concurrent with a well attended Wine Tasting Party. We were just beginning to build up a head of steam, as we headed to the Annual ABYC Christmas Party and Dinner. All the while, the fleets were doing the things that fleets do best. Party. Sabot and Keelboat Christmas Party, Cal-20 Christmas Party, and the Lido-14 Fleet Christmas Party, which was held on the same evening as the Junior Christmas Float entry into the Annual Alamitos Bay Light Parade.

As I write this, Christmas is still five days away, and that isn't the half of it, as the following day is Mark Townsend's handicap pursuit race, "Boxing Day Regatta", then a week later, Dan Clapp's "Pickup Pot Luck, Put Five Bucks In The Cup, And Don't Dress up" New Years Eve Party. Whew! Time for a relaxing day watching the Rose Parade and a mess of football games. Well, as you catch your breath, here is a reminder, the very next two days is the Annual "Rose Bowl Regatta" for High-School and Collegiate Sailors.

That about sums it up to be our definition of a "Full Service" sailing club. So if you want to finish out the Holiday Season at the club, we have plenty of things to offer you. Just a note behind the scenes, of this apparent whirlwind of activity, is the tireless efforts of club committees. Social Committee, Race Committee, House Committee, Junior Advisory Board, and the Board of Directors. This last week, I attended a Long Beach City Planning Commission meeting with Staff Commodore Ron Woods at which Ron gave testimony in support of the Alamitos Bay Marina Refurbishment Environmental Impact Report. Work on our basin 5, though many years away, is something that we are tracking. Bob Bishop has surveyed the basin and generated a detail plot of our basin as it currently exists.

Our membership committee is chaired by Robin Townsend with Ed Spotsky Board Liaison. They have concluded a detailed audit of our membership. All in all we have marvelous teams in place doing good work. There are classes planned for race related training in many areas. These include, but are not limited to Scoring, Judging, Whaler Driving, Mark Setting to name but a few.

Now, if I can just get a ukulele, and/or String Band Committee going. Playing at the Christmas Party with Wayne Noecker, Jorge Suarez, and Chris Ericksen was a highlight of the season for me. I look forward to more music gatherings this year.

John Massey

manager's corner



Hard to believe, but by the time this issue of the Sou' Wester is out; we'll be ushering in 2010. Where did this year go? As the staff and I gear up for another exciting year here at the club, I would be remiss not to thank a few people for their exceptional effort in 2009.

My staff, the small but mighty force that works tirelessly to ensure ABYC truly IS the place to be. It amazes me to watch this group work with Race Management to help coordinate one of our incredible regatta's, then almost seamlessly, transform the club into an elegant wedding reception venue within hours. Believe me; this doesn't happen with the wave of a magic wand, its teamwork personified.

Many thanks to each and every one of you.

I try not to mention names in my articles in fear that I may leave someone out, but I have to make an exception this month. Sue McDannel, our Social Activity Committee Grande Dame.

ABYC may be known for its world class regattas, but the "off the water" social events have certainly grown in size, stature and style under the guidance of Sue. Sue keeps the SAC team focused on task at hand during our monthly meetings (oh sure, a glass or two of wine helps) and has the unique ability to "volunteer" event chairs before they know what even hit them. Thanks for a great year Sue.

To our members, thank each and every one of you who contributed to the Staff Christmas Fund. Never expected, but always greatly appreciated. One of my favorite times of the year is sharing your gift with the staff at our annual staff Christmas dinner. During such difficult economic times, it never ceases to amaze me how generous our incredible membership can be. From all of us, thank you for your kindness, it means a lot.

Personally, I have so much to be thankful for as we enter the New Year, first, to my wife Debi, who, hasn't seen me home on a weekend for as many years as I can remember, but never once reminds me of that fact. To my daughters Sarah, Kelli and Emily who have endured my years of travel, tradeshow and career changes with unconditional love and support. To my grandkids, Colin, Ava, Chase and the soon to be introduced....Dylan.

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Thanks for the hugs, pictures, mac & cheese, Lego's, goofy outfits, playing dress up, dirt on the walkway, and the weekend visits to Papa's work to look at the big boats. Wish I could package the feelings I have for all of you and share with the world.

Finally, thanks to Nicole Peoples, Jim Bateman, Glenn Selvin, Merle Asper, John Massey and all the Board members whom I've had the privilege of working with.

Alamitos Bay Yacht Club is magical, thanks for letting me be your sorcerer these past three years.

Have a GREAT New Year everybody!!

Kelly Whitlow

viceverses



Happy New Year ABYCers! I'm going to lead with probably the most significant news of 2009, something that is unrivaled in significance and the result of a lot of hard work by a largelist of ABYC volunteers – we got our lease signed with the City of Long Beach! This is the best possible news and should be fantastic in helping us maintain and recruit more members. We all know there are no better sailing waters in the world and there most certainly is not a more convenient location to base a regatta...and as long as we comply with our side of the deal we will be able to enjoy our paradise at the end of the peninsula for several more decades at least. There will be more information to report in the coming weeks concerning the construction projects we are committed to completing to fulfill our part of the agreement...stay tuned and a huge thanks to all of those individuals who made this happen.

And please let me also thank all of those members who have taken action to help us get the yard organized. In the old days (a couple of years ago) we had a yard OGRE – which sounds kind of harsh – to manage the boats in the yard and keep things in line. In the spirit of New Year's Resolutions and giving everyone a fresh start your friendly yard CZAR committee is extending the **Yard Amnesty** from December 31st, 2009 until January 31st, 2009.

We will continue to impound boats that are not stickered or that are not located where they are supposed to be. Please clean up your title work and register with a copy at the office, make sure you pump up your trailer tires, have a legible ABYC sticker on your boat (not your trailer) get your CF registration current, etc.

To simplify, here are the New Years resolutions I'd like to see more members adopt...

- 1) Sail your boat at least every six months.
- 2) Fix up your trailer so that it works (this will help you achieve the objective of launching so you can sail every six months).
- 3) Register your boat with the DMV and put your current CF numbers on your bows.
- 4) Affix a legible ABYC sticker on your boat and get an ABYC sticker for any BIC, kayak, sailboard or other "extra" boat you are squeezing into your space and get it off the ground please.

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2008/9 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS			
Commodore jfmasseysr@mac.com	John Massey	Lease Oversight kuritz@earthlink.net	Jennifer Kuritz
Vice Commodore jeff.merrill@nordhavn.com	Jeff Merrill	Treasurer	George Kornhoff/Mary Montz
Rear Commodore sanilex@verizon.net	Jon Robinson	Junior Rear Commodore	Marissa Golison
Jr. Staff Commodore merleasper@verizon.net	Merle Asper	Fleet Surgeon	Dr. Allan Rosenberg
Fleet Captain michael_baumann@mac.com	Mike Baumann	Judge Advocate	Tom Ramsey
Secretary ken.m.reiff@gmail.com	Ken Reiff	Port Captain	Dave Myers
Directors		Sou'wester Editor/Layout	Sharon Pearson
Junior Program jamesbgrubbs@msn.com	Jim Grubbs	ABYC	Phone (562) 434-9955
			Fax (562) 434-2267
Membership/Volunteers espotman@aol.com	Ed Spotskey		Homepage www.abyc.org
			Email abyc@abyc.org

5) Put your name on your trailer and boat and gear – especially Seitech dollies.

Members whose boats and/or trailers or other gear are in violation of yard rules on February 1st may be subjected to enforcement of club yard rules – which can lead to removal – please help me avoid that unpleasant and really unnecessary chore.

It's probably going to rain again some time soon (maybe even cats and dogs). Is your boat covered and/or angled to drain? Sabots on the ground level are you keel up to block rain or keel down to collect water – and cats?

In the glass case outside of the main office we have posted:

The yard waiting list

The authorized visitor permit parking

The impound list.

We want to get as many members sailing as we can. We want a clean and attractive yard with boats and trailers clearly identifiable and in good clean shape. Please come down to the club and check on your property. We don't want to impound your boat or upset you because we are enforcing OUR rules. While you are down here, launch your boat and go for a sail. Take two hours and enjoy the bay, you'll get your six month requirement out of the way and might surprise yourself with how much fun you have being out on the water.

Members, this is officially your **THIRD NOTICE** and third chance to get your personal property (boats and gear) stored at the club in order.

We are one month closer to our March, 2010 auction to get rid of the boats that are not in compliance and empty our Lost and Found cupboard.

Here's to a great New Year in 2010! Make it a point to visit ABYC more often. Spring is right around the corner and with our traditional year round sailing weather don't forget that just about every day ABYC is THE place to be!

If you have any questions about your boat(s), trailer(s), dollies or other gear in the yard please email me jeff.merrill@nordhavn.com (put "ABYC Yard" in the subject line) or call me on my cell phone 949.355.4950. We want all members to enjoy the yard, please help us clean it up and get it organized. Thank you and see you at the club!

Jeff Merrill

rearview



ABYC Wine Tasting reduces unneeded inventory and benefits members. On Friday December 4 ABYC held a wine tasting to reduce leftover wine inventories. We had two tables a \$2.00 and a \$6.00 table. Needless to say the \$2.00 table cleared out fast. The \$6.00 table took a while to get started and when it was a little over half depleted Kelly dropped the price to \$5.00 wine started to move faster. Then he dropped the price to \$4.00 and the remainder of the wine left. The event moved over 200 bottles of wine and made way for new wines that were being offered at the tasting. We also had cheese, crackers and dark chocolate to compliment the wines. This was an adult event that was well received and we look forward to more of the same.

On Sunday December 13, ABYC held their annual Christmas Party. We had games and crafts for the kids along with Santa. Santa was a big hit for both young and old, and many pictures were taken. Dinner was great with both turkey and prime rib being served. After dinner we sang carols with Chris Erichsen and his quartet. We had approximately 150 in attendance and everyone had fun.

On Saturday December 19, 2009 our juniors participated in the Naples Christmas Parade. They decorated the start barge and drove it through the canals of Naples. When I saw them everyone was having a great time.

Boxing Day Regatta December 26. This is a traditional British holiday and has been celebrated for many years at ABYC with a regatta. This was a pursuit race and everyone seemed to have lots of fun.

New Years Eve with Dan and Norma. This event was a great low-key event for both young and old. Food, drink, games and good conversation prevailed during the evening.

Those of you who attended know how much fun this event was.

Look for new Galley hours. The following will be our new Galley hours for the next few months:

- Weekend Galley hours 9:00 am to 2:00 pm
- Deli Sandwiches, snacks, soup or chili available
- All beverages available
- Minimal staffing, may need to contact front office for service

This will be for nonevent weekends.

Upcoming events are January Rose bowl Regatta on the 2nd and 3rd, Keelboat Potluck on the 8th, senior sabot race on the 10th, Laser fleet race on the 17th, and Etchells and Cal 20 fleet races on the 24th.

On January 15 the Keelboat and Senior Sabot Fleets will host the General Membership meeting. The guest speaker will be Chris Ericksen, our club historian. Chris always offers an entertaining and very informative presentation. This will be no exception; Chris will give a history of the geology and peoples of Southern California pre 1900. He will focus on Alamitos Bay. I am looking forward to this presentation.

Look for Club ABYC on January 29 at 7:30 pm. Look for the entertainment in the Weekly Reader. Remember the Weekly Reader has all of the events that the club is putting on that week and it will include the latest information.

See you around the club

Jon Robinson

board droppings



The Board met on December 16th with all members in attendance except Jeff Merrill who was out of town on business.

Ed Spotskey and Membership Chairman Robin Townsend presented an audit of the Club's membership. Approved for posting as a Regular member was Mike Falconer and approved for Regular membership was James Vorhis and Bill Sweaza.

Club Manager Kelly Whitlow announced that the galley would be on winter hours following the Turkey Day Regatta. The galley will be open from 9:00 to 2:00. A limited menu of cold sandwiches, hot soup or chili and cold beverages will be available. Any member requesting something from the galley should go to the Club office. There had been considerable plumbing problems with the Club bar and after Turkey Day Regatta the bar was removed, the plumbing repaired and the bar replaced.

The family of Langdon Parrill has requested that in his memory, donations be made to the Alamitos Bay Yacht Club Junior fund.

Kelly Whitlow, on behalf of the staff, thanked the members for their generous donations to the Christmas fund.

Jim Morford

from the pages of history

A new year but recurring themes in the pages of the SOU'WESTER from the past. One of them has to do with yard rules.

THIRTY YEARS AGO:

Starting in late 1979, the SOU'WESTER began running a feature called "Notes from the Board." The report in the SOU'WESTER of January, 1980, reported an interesting change in practice regarding the usage of boats in the storage yard. Then, as now, yard rules required a boat to be used or face eviction; the problem then—as now—was verifying usage. The Board determined that every trailered boat would be "tagged to determine use data," and each user was asked to notify the club office if they were using their boat. Boats not used by Labor Day 1980 would be removed.

Apparently there was lots of activity in the Sabot racks, too. First of all, new identifying numbers had been issued to Sabots in the racks; however, if a boat did not have its number affixed by January 12, it was subject to removal from the rack and the rack could be reassigned. In an effort to get the boats out racing, the Senior Sabots had instituted a series of rules seminars under the leadership of Ann and Roger Bloemeke; the sessions would be held before each month's racing. And there was also a new division in Sabot fleet races: sailors weighing over 190 pounds and not considered a Senior Sabot "A" was eligible for the "Heavy Cruiser" division; evidently Dennis Raden, Mike McDade and Eric Conn had qualified and sailed in December.

Robin Lounsberry had decorated the clubhouse for the holidays. In his "Commodore's Comments," Gary Winterrowd judged her efforts as "fantastic." "Did you see the swinging Santa hanging in the stairwell," he asked, "the festive tree decorations and the snowmen/ladies for the tables?" Robin herself credited "all her tremendous helpers;" among them were Cathy Black, Ross Butcher, Kerry Turner and "old mom"—her mother Isabelle—without whose help "we would never have finished."

A lovely note from the Commodore reported on the memorial services for Llewellyn Bixby IV—"Bix" to all who knew him; Gary repeated the verse from Paul's Second Letter to Timothy that was read at the service: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith"...the Club Manager—and the Board—recognized the work of

Tick Weber and Ted Matson for their fabrication and installation of the new gate and of Roland Duquette for a project to overhaul the club's communication equipment...planning for the third annual Super Bowl Party was underway, directed by "3M:" Mike McDade, Steve Moffett and Pat McCormick...

TWENTY YEARS AGO:

An entire page of the SOU'WESTER of January, 1990, was dedicated to a new concept in boat storage in the west yard, presented by ABYC East Yard Chairman Bruce Golison: "Dense Pack." Since it was evidently impossible to definitively prove which boats were not being used, the plan was to place boats which usage was deemed less than others bow to bow in three rows adjacent to the south wall; in return, with one day's notice to the ABYC office, a boat whose owner wanted to sail the boat could have it removed from Dense Pack and spotted near the hoist by the ABYC staff. The yard would gain two additional spots per row and more income.

Vice Commodore Norma Clapp was chair of ABYC's portion of the 1990 Southern California Yachting Association (SCYA) Midwinter Regatta and announced that SCYA would offer a ten per cent discount to members of a fleet (ten entries minimum) that entered in advance and all together. ABYC would be hosting Olympic dinghies—470, Finn and Flying Dutchman—in addition to the Cal 20, C-15, I-14, Laser II, Lido 14 and Snipe classes. Marietta Jones would be "serving her famous spaghetti dinner"—then a Midwinter tradition—after racing on Saturday.

Both the Senior Sabot and Lido 14 columns reported on the combined Sabot/Lido Christmas Party held at ABYC. Dinner was done by the Sabotier team of Isabelle Lounsberry and Mike and Marilyn McMahan while a Lido crew led by Pat Aumann and Shirley LaFontaine did decorations. Over one hundred attendees dined on Chicken Wellington, wild rice and gingered carrots and danced to the music of Bruce Gifford's Casuals. Lido 14 Fleet Captain Served as master of ceremonies.

ABYC member Suzanne Worthington and her crew in the Catalina 30 "BLEW BY YOU," which included Robin and Mark Townsend, Jody Ramsey and Kathy Webb, won the Long Beach Yacht Club Women's Skippers' Series; their reward was presentation of the "BROADSIDE" trophy, a crystal Tiffany sailboat...ABYC's entry in the 1989 Naples Christmas Boat Parade won first place in the small-boat division; Eric Conn was the brains behind the display, with Lynda Fox, Stacy Conn and Keith and Claudia Dodson among the adults on the crew...Commodore Dick Caley reported on ABYC's enrollment in the United States Yacht Racing Union (USYRU) Golden Anchor program, whereby ABYC members could pay their USYRU dues through the yacht club at a discounted rate and ABYC would earn credit for each membership towards the purchase of manuals and insurance from USYRU; the program still exists and ABYC is still enrolled.

TEN YEARS AGO:

The SOU'WESTER for January, 2000, was certified as "Y2K Ready" in reference to concerns of a decade ago that computers around the world would crash at the turn of the calendar. The cover bore the date "January, 1900," however, and featured a photo of a model of the sloop RELIANCE was printed over a report that a defense syndicate headed by "Cornelius Vanderbilt and William Rockefeller...have commissioned premier boat designer Nathanael Herreshoff to build what will be a spectacular 143-foot-long sailboat carrying in excess of 16,000 square feet of sail."

There was a lot of fleet news in the newsletter. The Sabotier Fleet reported on the election of Carl Reynolds as Fleet Captain for the new year; Dennis Kasper was the new captain of the Keel Boat Fleet while Jorge Suarez was to lead the Snipe fleet. ABYC's two one-design keelboat fleets, the Cal 20's and the Etchells, reported on taking part in the Seal Beach Yacht Club Sunday Sailors' Series in November and December, and both reported on regattas in the Bay: the Cal 20's at the Long Beach Yacht Club Cal 20 Fun Day sailed in December and the Etchells' own Super Bowl Regatta coming up in January.

While Turkey Day for 1999 had been reported the month before, Turkey Day of 1962 was reported on in Ann Exley's "From The Pages of History" column. Drawing from clippings out of both the Long Beach Press-Telegram and the Marina News, Ann reported that ABYC members won in 16 of the 20 classes and divisions competing; among the winners were Don Adams in Snipe, Bob Chubb in Thistle, Bud Horton in Skimmer, Chuck Kober in Dragon, Marilyn McMahan in Senior Naples Sabot, Steve Mulhollen in Penguin, Rod Ogilby in National One-Design, Joe Riddick in P-Cat and Hank Schofield in Lehman 10.

Hoping to inject some enthusiasm into the Friday-night Happy Hour, ABYC Director Kevin Ellis announced they'd be signing up "Happy Hour Hosts" to plan special events for Happy Hour intended to get better attendance; while Happy Hour was still hosted by volunteers, professional bartenders were making their appearance at the hosted evenings...Commodore Jim Morford reported not only on the "huge success" of the ABYC Christmas Party and that the ABYC New Year's Eve Party had been a "sellout" but on a memorable Keel Boat Fleet Christmas party...

Chris Ericksen, Club Historian

Sou'Wester DEADLINE

January 17, 2010 is the deadline
for the February Sou'Wester.

the bay clogger

(junior sailing)

Happy New Year ABYC members! We have an exciting season ahead of us as we prepare for our spring sailing program and work hard to put together another great summer.

The ABYC Junior Sailing Spring Program will commence on Jan. 23rd for our lasers and on Feb. 14th for our sabot sailors. There are sign up forms now uploaded online at <http://www.fleetracing.net> (click on the ABYC Jr. Program link) or you will be able to pick up forms in the main office of ABYC. We will be having our regular 6 clinic program with a new and revised advanced sabot clinic program on Friday afternoons starting in March. We did a test run of this program last spring and had great response and results, so we will be opening it up to A and B sabot sailors this spring. This affords us the ability to work more closely with our upper level racers in preparing them for Sabot Nationals which will be held this year in Mission Bay.

In other exciting news, our summer program hiring is slowly coming together as we piece our coaching staff together. We are pleased to have Mark Gaudio - sabot extraordinaire, as our full time summer Sabot A coach and Eric Nix returning as our summer laser coach. Both are exceptionally experienced sailors and coaches and will be great assets to our program. We also will be having a separate orientation for the racing program participants which will help to clarify and focus the quickly expanding group in a common direction. More exciting announcements will be coming soon as the program development is solidified.

Turkey Day Wrap Up

The Turkey Day Regatta had mild but reasonable breeze with 30 of our sailors competing. We saw some bright spots from our A fleet with Matt McDermaid and Steven Hopkins jockeying for 4th and 5th place in a very competitive fleet of 18. Their results were very consistent placing in the top 8 nearly every race. It paid off on the first day, but as a other sailors had a good second day, they fell to 6th (Steven) and 7th (Matt) overall, separated by only a point; still a very formidable finish considering the quality of this fleet's young sailors.

In the B fleet, we saw rising stars Johnny Blumberg and Richard Bell each sail with moments of brilliance as they both grabbed some 2nd place finishes and had several top 10 finishes. Johnny was in the top 3 after the first day, but had one too many throw out worthy races and fell in the end to 7th place overall (a month after getting 2nd place at Mission Bay's Jr. Commodore Cup). He was followed closely by Richard Bell who was just two points behind Johnny.

Our C1 fleet saw Kai Jensen, who has been pummeling since he got a new boat, show up in the top portion of the fleet again. We saw a similar situation with newcomer Joseph Hou in the C2 fleet who has been on a roll and finished 4th in this regatta. Even more exciting, we saw Jacob Warren have somewhat of a breakthrough performance and finish 3rd overall after a great second day filled with top 3 finishes.

Finally, the C3 fleet saw the sole fleet winner from our group, Adam Elsharhawy, sail a great event after being on a tear the last few regattas. He finished 2nd at Corinthian Cup and 3rd at ABYC's Jr. Invitational and finally won it outright this time. Welcome to the C2 fleet Adam and congratulations to all our sailors for sailing so well!

Brad Schaupteter, ABYC Jr. Sailing Director

membership

report

As your new membership chair, I wish to give you the following report. We have just processed 2 new regular members, Bill Swezea and his fiance Suzy Galen and James Vorhis. Please give them a warm welcome when you see them at the club and show them ABYC's famous hospitality.

Another applicant, Mike and Lynne Falconer are in the process of applying for membership and have been posted for 30 days. They are onboard already to work on race committee for Boxing Day!

We have room for new members and I encourage all of you to consider this when speaking to friends or colleagues who may wish to become part of the ABYC family. With an increased emphasis on social activities and opportunities to be involved in race management and well as sailing we have a great deal to offer all family members both on and off the water.

The anchor membership waiting list is as follows:

- 1) Don Wilson
- 2) Lee Berlinger
- 3) Dave Ellis
- 4) Michael Cahan

I am always available to help you through the paperwork and other requirements for membership, so give me a call if you have a prospective new member.

Robin Townsend

Hopkins said, "I had an OK start, but when I was getting down there [to the first mark off Long Beach YC] the wind was shifting and I thought, 'This isn't good,' since I usually don't do well in light winds."

He did fine. Although his comfortable lead at the first weather mark appeared in jeopardy when he stalled out downwind in the incoming current, he soon was able to tack free of the stream. For the rest of the race, even when the breeze became steady, though still light, no other boats threatened his lead.

Hopkins, who sails on the local Wilson High School team, was introduced to sailing by his grandfather, Joe D'Amico, a veteran Lido 14 and Finn campaigner who lives in Sequim, Wash. D'Amico taught Steven, according to his dad Ginn, that "anybody can sail in heavy wind, but it takes a good sailor to win in light wind."

Even when you're racing a slower boat against Olympic silver medalists.

Top finishers

1. Steven Hopkins, Alamos Bay YC, Naples Sabot.
2. Pease and Jay Glaser, ABYC, Formula 18 catamaran.
3. Dan Gilboa/John Gresham, ABYC, Lido 14.
4. Bruce Golison, ABYC, Lido 14.
5. Bill Johnson, Cabrillo Beach YC, Admiralty 30.

Complete results and photo gallery at: abyc.org
Rich Roberts



Are we really moving?



The Flams were out in force



Cal 20s set up for their start



Too wispy for spinnakers



Glaser's cat drifts past Shields

boxing day wrap up

John Massey photos

Boxing Day...That's a Wrap

As the horn sounded at 3:30pm to end the 2009 Boxing Day regatta, so also ended the first decade of racing at ABYC for the new millennium. This years Boxing Day was the tenth, and the first year for a new perpetual. At the end of last years race, a vintage Sampson Post, donated to the club by Marty Bowman, was selected as the appropriate Trophy for the event. Dave Rustigan decided he was going to "get right on it" and build a base, and after eleven months and two weeks of planning, got his saw out! Two weeks of feverish carpentry ensued, and on the Day of the race the new Trophy made its first public appearance, with the paint still drying. When questioned about the "livery" of the new trophy, I think livery best describes the paint colors; white with green and red bands for mounting the winners' names, Dave responded "Everything else in the trophy case is either shiny or varnished, I wanted my trophy to stand out." It does!

Pease and Jay Glaser summed up many peoples feelings, "It's a fun regatta, you get to chat with friends you haven't seen since you drifted passed them last year at Boxing Day."

For those of you interested in the detailed action of the day, see Rich Roberts article elsewhere in this edition. Rich says it all in his own inimitable style.

The past winners of Boxing Day will have their names engraved on the trophy, joining this years winner Steven Hopkins.

PAST WINNERS OF THE BOXING DAY PURSUIT

- 2000 - ? ? ? ? ? - Naples Sabot
- 2001 - Tom Newton Jr. - Cal 20
- 2002 - Barney Flam - Cal 20
- 2003 - Bruce Golison - Santana 20
- 2004 - Robin Townsend - Naples Sabot Sr.
- 2005 - Jerry Montgomery - Etchells
- 2006 - Chris Raab - Finn
- 2007 - Eric Conn - Mercury 18
- 2008 - Jerry Thompson - Snipe
- 2009 - Steven Hopkins - Naples Sabot Jr.

My records are not all they should be; can anyone remember who won the first year.

Mark Townsend



Winner, Steven Hopkins with Mark Townsend and new Boxing Day Perpetual Trophy



The Rustigan's on Cardinal Sin



Robin Townsend sailing toward the club at the end of the day

christmas party 2009

Ron Wood photos

Santa arrived early in the season at the ABYC Christmas party bringing the excited children train whistles in honor of our train hobbyist commodore, John Massey. John had also arrived early that day and set up his model railroad which was making its way around the Christmas tree to the tune of the many small train whistlers. But this was not the only thing in place to entertain the young ones, event chair, Dawn McKenna, arranged for Christmas crafts to keep small hands busy while awaiting the arrival of the man in red!

Then came the big moment, the very experienced bearded gentleman, know to adults as staff commodore Jim Morford, made his grand entrance. Not only did he distribute train whistles, but posed for photos with all comers. The photos were taken this year by another staff commodore, Ron Woods, with plenty of help from assistant and wife Elaine.

Meanwhile, Jesus, Kelly and the rest of the ABYC staff were whipping up the savory Christmas feast. There was something for everyone including Kelly's famous roast beef, turkey with the fixings and even hot dogs for those so inclined. ABYC juniors, giving their "elders" a much-appreciated break, served the delicious meal to the hungry crowd.

To end the evening on a positive note, the traditional Christmas carol sing-a-long was lead by the traditional Chris Ericksen and his back up singers and players, John Massey, Jorge Suarez and Wayne Noecker. Everyone agreed that the party was lots of fun and a big success!

Sue McDannel



Brett Peoples & Santa have a chat



Buddies...Alan Peoples, Jacob Warren and Bradley Clinton with Santa



John and Stacy Massey



The Fox and Peoples Family



The Flams with William and Santa



Shelby Stordahl shares a secret with Santa



The Rice Family

race management seminar

US Sailing Race Management Seminar

February 13, 2010

The seminar begins with check in at 08:00 AM and finish about 5:00 PM. Continental breakfast, lunch, class, all class materials and test are included in your fee. The Basic Seminar meets the seminar and testing requirements for US Sailing Club Race Officer. Cost of the seminar will be \$45 for US Sailing members and \$75 for non members. A special introductory 6 month US Sailing membership is available at sign up for \$30. You save \$30 on the seminar with your membership.

Mark Townsend

wine tasting and tree trimming

On December 4, 2009 ABYC hosted a wine tasting. The event was held to reduce wine inventory that was left over from various events. These were wines that are not regularly offered at ABYC and took up storage space and resources. It was time for this inventory to go. Some 200 bottles of wines made up this inventory. Our two liquor purveyors offered their services as experts on the inventory and a short list of wines that are available in our price range for the club. This event would also allow not only reduction in inventory but also allow us to get an opinion of those wines.



We planned to have this event during happy hour and after the Tree Trimming to attract as many members as possible. We had a great turnout. We had two tables, a \$2.00 table and a \$6.00 table. The \$2.00 table went



immediately. The larger \$6.00 table went slowly while members tasted not only the wines available for sail but also those that were being offered as possible new wines for our bar and Happy Hours. To help the event along we had cheese, crackers and dark chocolate. As the evening progressed sales of the \$6.00 table slowed so we dropped the price to \$5.00 per bottle. This moved more bottles and by the end of the evening

the remainder of the wine was dropped to \$4.00 per bottle.

I saw several members leave with more than one case of wine. Every one said that they had a great time and would like to do this again. We moved the inventory that we wanted to move and the members got a good value. More importantly we gained some good feedback for new additions to our wine offering at the bar for Happy Hours and other club events. I think that this event was a real success and I intend to have more of these.

Jon Robinson

naples boat parade

California Dreamin

Last night two brave souls (Bryan Warren & Chris Peoples) took 11 juniors on a 3 hour tour of Alamos Bay as an entrant in the Naples Boat Parade. After last years freeze out we were all California Dreamin of some balmy weather and we got it. With nary a need for over coats, I saw some in shorts and tee shirts, life was great.

We lit up the barge with white and multi colored lights with an inflatable Santa and Penguin on vacation on the bow and a sail boat on the stern. We also had some surf boards tied to the side. Vacationing, sailing and surfing are our ideas of "California Dreamin"

I want to thank everyone who came out to lend a hand in decorating the barge. The Babcock's, Kevin Baumann, The Bloemekes, The Elsharhawys, Brian MacLean, The Peoples and The Warrens. Thank you to Kelli Clinton for the use of her surf boards and Rear Commodore Jon Robinson for the use of his generator and as always the awesome ABYC staff.

I could not have pulled this off with out you I truly appreciate you all.

Kirsten Warren, Chairperson Naples Boat Parade



catalina

ROCKS!

2010 Catalina Island Conservancy Ball

Save the Date

April 10, 2010

Sponsorships on sale now!

General tickets on sale February 1st.

www.catalinaconservancy.org

Seal Rock



Photo by David Marotta

hails from the the fleets



The Fleet to be in!

The Cal 20 Fleet Fun Run this year should have been called the “Raining Cats and Dogs Run.” Thirteen sailors played in the rain; some wore four layers of foulies and still got drenched!! Here’s how **Chuck Clay** related the race: “First race was sailed in south breeze about 7-9 knots of wind

with a double windward leeward course. **Keith Ives** and **Chuck Stevens** had a good start and sailed to the left side of the course and rounded in first. **Chuck Clay** sailing with King Harbor Cal 20 sailor **Brad Knox** gave it their best to catch **Ives/Stevens** but had to settle for a second, while **Chris Rabb** sailing with **Dave Crockett** and **Kenny Dair** in the third spot followed by **Jeff Ives** and **Phil Soma** then **Craig Fletcher** and **Randy Smith**; then to round out the fleet was **Stu Robertson** and **Paul Anctil**.

Race two was sailed in similar conditions with **Craig Fletcher** and **Randy Smith** winning the start and never looking back to take Race 2 with **Rabb** in second and **Ives** in third and **Clay** to follow up with 4th and Robertson in 5th. **Jeff Ives** had a good race and was in the top of the fleet at the weather mark, but ran into light wind and had to settle for a 6th.

Race Three was a triple windward leeward course in about the same wind with **Ives** taking the start and going all the way. **Fletcher** was trying to catch him but to no avail to take second with **Clay** in 3rd then **Rabb** followed by **Robertson** then **Jeff Ives**.

Race Four was a double windward leeward course and the wind still from the south around 8 knots, once again **Ives** had a good start and sailed a good clean race to take the bullet, followed by **Rabb** for second. On the down wind leg to the finish **Fletcher** was ahead of **Clay** but at the last minute **Clay** threw in a fake jibe and passed **Fletcher** in the last 40 yards to take third.

Typically we only have four races for the fun run, but everyone was ready for another race. At this point we had no rain, but there was a front moving in and the rain was on its way! Going into the fifth race Ives had 6, **Rabb** had 11, **Clay** and **Fletcher** were tied with 12, and then Robertson with 21 and to round out the fleet it was Jeff Ives with 22. Very close to say the least.

Now it is raining but **Clay** got off to a good start with **Rabb** on his weather hip going left. Ives was on the right side hoping to add another bullet to his score. **Rabb** tacked off of **Clay** leaving a little room on the left which played in **Clay’s** favor rounding the weather mark in first followed by **Rabb** then Ives followed by **Fletcher** and **Jeff Ives**. **Robertson** had some problems and decided to sail in and take a DNF.

Final results were **Ives** with 9, **Clay** and **Rabb** tied with 13, but **Clay** wins on the tie breaker then rounding out the top with **Fletcher** with 16, then **Jeff Ives** and **Stu Robertson** tied with 27 but **Jeff Ives** taking it on the tie breaker.

Results for the Fun Run:

OWNER	SAIL NO.	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	TOTAL
Keith Ives/Chuck Stevens	56	1	3	1	1	3	9
Chuck Clay/Brad Knox	26	2	4	3	3	1	13
Dave Crockett/Chris Rabb/Kenny Dair	6	3	2	4	2	2	13
Craig Fletcher/Randy Smith	101	5	1	2	4	4	16
Jeff Ives/Phil Soma	373	4	6	6	6	5	27
Stu Robertson/Paul Anctil	37	6	5	5	5	DNF	27

January 24th will be our first Cal20/Etchells Fleet Race for the year, a good warm up for the Midwinters, February 21 and 22. We’re looking forward to great turnout this year for Midwinters!!!!

Patty Nash, Cal 20 Fleet Captain



Last year was quite a year for some of us in the Etchells fleet: we had kids going to college, kids getting married, the birth of grandchildren and the death of a spouse. Over this all loomed an economy that effected us all in one way or another. We determined the fleet champion but in the fewest number of races and with the least number of participants in recent memory.

But the “green shoots” of recovery are to be seen in the Etchells fleet, if not everywhere else. The fleet’s participation in the Long Beach Yacht Club Holiday Invitational Regatta on Sunday, December 6, was fifty per cent greater than that of the other fleet, a handicap fleet (although there were probably more people on the four PHRF boats than on the six Etchells). And only a last-minute scratch by one entrant kept this regatta from being the best-attended regatta all year for the ABYC Etchells.

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Jerry Montgomery, the new Etchells Fleet Captain whose brainstorm was the idea of racing with LBYC, won the regatta. Well, race, actually: we had one triangle-windward-leeward race of about ten miles or so in length. And it was slow: while the weather was lovely, the wind was fickle; you'd be lifted in one minute and headed deep in another.

Greg Sims and Doug Menezes were late entrants and sailed two-up, but they persevered and finished in second place. The DESPERADO's were third in their first race together since the Fourth of July, just ahead of the fourth-place gang in SPIRIT. Jeff Powell and Gordon Dudley started but did not finish the race, and the CHICKEN OF BRISTOL was a no-show but entered.

The serious racing starts early in the year as the 2010 Worlds Qualifying Series kicks off during a fleet regatta on Sunday, January 24. The only races required for our fleet under class rules is this series; and, with the 2010 Worlds scheduled for early in the summer in Ireland, the series needs to get started early. It'll finish early, too, during the 2010 SCYA Midwinter Regatta in February.

In between, however, Alamitos Bay Etchells Fleet 18 will reenact the annual winter classic, the Super Bowl Regatta. Scheduled for Sunday, February 7, this event happens inside Alamitos Bay the morning of the football game. Thrills and spills—and groundings and collisions—are in the history of this event. Watch for more on this as the date nears.

Chris Ericksen



The ABYC Laser Fleet is hosting the General Membership Meeting on Friday evening February 19th. Our guest speaker for the evening is **Mr. Tai Tseng, Water Treatment Superintendent for the Long Beach Water Department.**

Hopefully by then we'll be enjoying a rainy El Niño winter season and our water worries will have been calmed for the moment; however, Mr. Tseng will address our more realistic Southern California long term water issues and tell us about the **Water Desalination Project in Long Beach.** We expect this to be an enlightening evening as we learn about the opportunities and challenges of a Water Desalination Project in Long Beach and elsewhere.

This Membership Meeting is on the eve of the SCYA Midwinter Regatta, so tell all your friends and guests arriving for the regatta to join us for dinner and an interesting presentation.

2010 ABYC Laser & Radial Fleet Championship

In an effort to encourage participation in ABYC hosted regattas, reward high placement in these events and promote membership in the International Laser Class Association North American Region, the 2010 ABYC Laser and Laser Radial Fleet Championship will be determined by results and participation in the following ABYC regattas:

- *E.E. Manning Series Regatta*
- *Olympic Classes Regatta*
- *Memorial Day Holiday Regatta*
- *4th of July Holiday Regatta*
- *ABYC Multi-Hull Regatta: Note: ABYC Laser Fleet is charged with running this regatta. Each ABYC Laser Fleet member will receive ten (10) Fleet Championship Participation Points for each day of participation in management of this event.*
- *Laser District 25 Championship/ABYC Labor Day Holiday Regatta*
- *Charity Regatta*
- *Halloween Regatta*
- *Turkey Day Regatta*

Competitors earn points in reverse order of their placing in a race, i.e. the first place finisher will receive points equal to the total number of competitors in the race, second place finisher will receive one (1) less point, etc. To encourage participation, each racer will receive points equal to half the total number of competitors in the regatta.

Competitors with the highest combined total of Place and Participation points will be the respective fleet champions and earn the privilege to be ABYC Laser Fleet representatives in the 2011 ABYC Club Championship.

Long Beach Yacht Club Hosting Laser Races in Alamitos Bay

A new development for the winter season is a series of *Laser Fun Races* hosted by Long Beach Yacht Club (LBYC). The races are held once per month. There is a five dollar (\$5) entry fee which includes hot soup afterwards at LBYC.

There was a nice turn out of ABYC Laser racers for the inaugural event in November, so this series can be a nice way for both beginning and experienced *Laser* and *Laser Radial* sailors to polish their boat handling skills in the off season.

For more information and to sign-up for the races, contact Whit Batchelor LBYC Sailing Director (562) 598-9401 Ext. 115 jrsailing@lbyc.org Cell: (619) 813-9759

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ABYC to Host 2010 Laser Masters North American Championship

Hello all current and or want to be, *Laser* and *Laser Radial* racers. If you are 35 years or older and interested in a good test of your sailboat racing prowess, consider planning to race with us in the 2010 *Laser Masters North American Championship* to be held at ABYC next August.

There is plenty of time to dust off and upgrade or purchase a *Laser* or *Radial* and start practicing for the regatta. Our venue and reputation for fine summertime racing will draw a first rate collection of *Laser Masters* competing together in age groups; 35-44, 45-54, 55-64 and 65 and over (Note: 65 and over racers compete in *Radials*, all other groups have the choice and can even switch rigs for each day if they wish).

We expect a good turn-out and a terrific regatta, so come join us!

Steven Smith, ABYC Laser Fleet Co-Captain



KEEL BOAT FLEET ON WATCH

I've said it before and I'll say it again, no group is the equal of the Keel Boat/Sabotier Fleets when it comes to having a party! All the ingredients were there, Rhonda at the piano playing old favorites and leading the carols, Joe and Judy with the games, loads of great hors d'oeuvres and of course a super turnout of members from near and far. Just one of the best.

The January 8th Keel Boat Fleet meeting is our next event. Bob Chubb will present a program of his last holiday abroad with his great former friend Jeanne Reid, who passed away recently. The program promises to be 'bitter sweet' so don't miss it. The meeting's format will be our usual cocktail hour at 1800 hours, pot luck dinner at 1900 hours with the program to follow dinner. Judy Mathias and Carol Reynolds will give us an up date on the February Armchair Cruise, (annual play house theater night).

January 15th will see our combined fleets, (Keel Boat and Sabotiers), being the duty fleet for the ABYC general meeting. I think the dinner servers have already volunteered and been selected but please come and support the program that Judy Mathias has put together. Chris Ericksen is the speaker and has an outstanding narration of the land that our Yacht Club rests on and the surrounding areas. Chris starts way back with the geology and the native Indians then brings up to the present. This is a fantastic evening so don't miss it. Check the ABYC web site for time. We lost one of our very active members and good friend to all, Jeanne Reid. We will miss Jeanne with her clip board marching up and down the beach organizing the Pinewood model sail boat regatta, scoring the results and handing out the prizes.

See you there

George



Felt like it was going to snow...at least on Sunday December 6th it did. Seven brave Sabotiers, after much reluctance, set out to rig their boats and spend, what turned out to be, a wonderful day of racing. The winds were light, and the currents were unpredictable. Thankfully

no rescues were made from the frigid waters.

1st place John Ellis

2nd place Bob Ware

3rd place Mary Riddick

Boats were put away, and sailors met in the Quarter Deck for wine and stories about the day's racing. A short meeting disclosed that plans for our January meeting duties and Sabot National's are coming along nicely thanks to the efforts of our fleet members! A letter from Barbara Gabriel was read expressing her thoughts about her time with us here at ABYC, as the contrasts from her life in Bend, Oregon. It was nice to hear from her.

After the meeting we enjoyed beef tamales, rice and black beans courtesy of Jesus which were delicious. We also loved the decorative carrot cakes set out on a platter with a cherry on top!

Sabot and Keel Boat Fleet Christmas Party turned out to be a fabulous evening of food, wine, and good friends. Gifts this year were purchased toys which Sheila Eberly will be donating to Orangewood Children's Home, (great idea!). We had the usual 50/50 drawing which paid off for, sorry, a visitor from another yacht club who was around the corner in the bar! For the fourth year straight, Rhonda Rubio treated us to beautiful piano playing for the entire evening, bringing in whole new atmosphere of sophistication to the to ABYC.

This year we played a new game where tables were teamed up to match identities to statements. To be truthful, it remains a bit unclear who was who, although I think I got the part about which Sabot sailor spent some time in San Quentin! Sources report that winners of this game included July Mathias and Margaret Caddle. Thanks to Joe Riddick for all his hard work putting together this entertainment!

Dianne Gonzales



Alamitos Bay Yacht Club

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more christmas party



The Meyers family



The Morford family



Jon and Kathy Robinson

Ron Wood photos

JANUARY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22ND

CHRIS ERICKSEN, HISTORIAN EXTRAORDINAIRE

Chris will present a fascinating journey back in time, highlighting the history of Alamitos Bay before 1900. He will cover the geological formation of Southern California, the San Gabriel river channel and Alamitos Bay and include the history of land grants, ranchos and Indians too!!

THIS IS NOT YOUR USUAL ABYC HISTORY LESSON BUT A BIGGER AND BROADER ERICKSEN SPECIAL YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS. MARK YOUR CALENDARS!