

Sou' Wester



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82nd annual midwinter regatta

Rich Roberts photos



Let's hear it for the midlife sailors at ABYC Midwinters

Alamitos Bay Yacht Club's branch of the Southern California Yachting Association's 82nd annual Midwinter Regatta Saturday and Sunday was one for the aged.

Jeff Newsome, 59, won the Formula 18 catamaran class but needed a tiebreaking win in the last of five races to edge fellow ABYC members James Melvin, 16, and his dad and crew Pete Melvin, who was on brief leave from his lead role with the America's Cup catamaran design team in New Zealand.

Chuck Tripp, 55 and also ABYC, won the Laser Masters class, the regatta's largest fleet with 12 boats. Four rivals had better basic scores—before the class figured in their handicaps. When Laser sailors turn 35, they qualify for a handicap that improves by five placing points every 10 years.



“The reason I won is that I'm older than these other guys and they have to give me points,” Tripp said, smiling without apology.

There more than 600 boats at 30 racing venues along the Southern California coast and as far east as Arizona. ABYC had 59 boats in nine classes, enjoying brilliant sunshine on what Tripp described as “a chamber of commerce day,” although the wind never topped 7 knots and thermometers flirted with 60 degrees—balmy by current U.S. weather patterns.

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save the date

Manning Regatta	March 5-6
Family Movie Night	March 8
Membership Meeting	March 18
Olympic Classes Regatta	March 19-20
Club ABYC/Wine Tasting/Boutique	March 25
Adopt a Beach	March 27
Spring Spruce Up	April 9
Membership Meeting	April 22



As I write this month's "Compass" I am re-energized by the vitality of ABYC. **Pam** and I raced our Lido 14 in the SCYA Mid-Winters regatta and had a blast. The weekend started with our Friday night General Membership meeting hosted by the Laser fleet and we had a wicked storm with several gusty squalls pummeling the club and grounds as we all enjoyed the sanctuary of the second deck. The hearty sailors arrived Saturday morning to forecasted rains and though we did have a few squalls, the "men-against-the-sea" conditions never quite materialized and it was a beautiful day to sail. Sunday saw no rain and light, moderate, shifty breezed that were a good test of boat speed, smarts and luck. The Sunday evening trophy presentation was well attended and once again ABYC showed what a great place we are to hold a regatta. Special thanks to Regatta Chairman **RC Mike Baumann**, Harbor PRO **Mark Townsend** and co-Bay PRO's **Marc Schryer** and **Roger Patterson** from Mission Bay YC. **SC Jerry Montgomery** representing SCYA (he wears lots of hats) joined us to hand out the awards.

One of the highlights of February was our Super Bowl Party on Sunday the 6th. **Kelly Asper** put together a great event that turned ABYC into a family friendly sports restaurant for the day – thanks to all who attended and both **Kelly and Merle Asper** and the SAC team for making this such a wonderful event. **Kelly Whitlow** and staff did a great job of making sure we were all well fed and had great reception on out televisions for the game.

Your Board of Directors met on February 16th. We approved 7 new members and posted two new applicants – our Fleet Membership Challenge and Construction discount promotion ends in March so please let us know which of your friends should be a member - we would like to recruit them. There are ABYC membership application packets at the office (on the front office ledge or ask **Sheila Mattox**). The same forms are available on our website and if you have any questions or want some help getting a new member signed up please contact membership Director **Jim Grubbs** and membership Chair, **Terri Bishop**.

Remember, our goal in 2011 is to go over 400 members – we have to work hard every month if we are going to achieve this and we can only do this if EVERY member participates. Just let us know who we should be courting and we'll do the rest.

The February 18th General Membership meeting was another well attended event, thanks to all of you who braved a monsoony evening to enjoy a wonderful Chinese food dinner hosted by our Laser fleet. We learned more about the history and future of our own sailing waters, East San Pedro Bay and had a large turnout. If you haven't been down to the Club to attend a General Membership you are missing out. Thanks to Laser Fleet co-captains **Jorge Suarez** and **Steve Smith** and the large tribe of Laser sailors for a wonderful evening.

The online roster has been accessed by 85% of our members – if you are in the 15% who hasn't given it a test drive you are missing out. Please update your roster contact details so we can print out hard copies for our non-internet comfortable members and put accurate information into their hands by the end of March. If you have any questions call Sheila – you will be impressed with what a useful tool this has become. We have also recently begun to add the standard yearbook sections to our Members only site – our goal being to have everything available from your keyboard, wherever you are!

Our Club House construction is flying along. The house restrooms are dry walled and the tiling process is moving right along. Next we will be getting our commode, sink and shower fixtures plumbed and by the time you read this it is my hope that the wonderful outdoor port-a-potties will be gone and the good old days of indoor plumbing will be back in business. The Quarterdeck restrooms are on track and about two weeks behind the club house.

Our *Elevator* shaft is framed and we are waiting for OTIS to deliver our vertical chariot. Right now OTIS has the elevator and we've got the shaft... Plans have just been announced to have a ribbon cutting ceremony at 3:00pm on Opening Day so please join us for this historic occasion.

I'd like to thank **VC Jon Robinson** and **Sheila Mattox** for getting all of the POS ABYC card Member seniority stickers mailed out in the February billing. If you didn't get yours (or didn't look closely in the envelope) please call **Sheila**.

Our traditional Honorary Memberships have been mailed out to many good neighbors, fellow local commodores, community leaders and special local government officials. Please introduce yourself to people you don't recognize who are enjoying the Club; you might be saying hello to a celebrity!

Summer is right around the corner. Come bail out your boat and go for a sail, check your rigging and get ready for a wonderful season of fun activities and sailboat races. Check our online calendar to stay current with all that is going on and just keep thinking of excuses to come down and enjoy our oasis at the end of the Peninsula.

The current fiscal year race to October 2011 finds us with a beautiful take down at the leeward mark and a nice clean rounding powered up with speed and flying our #3 in the steady breeze and the crew heavy-hiking on the rail. We are smokin' along on port tack lifter up 10 degrees from our last upwind leg.

I am available by cell phone 949.355.4950 and email jeffcmerrill@gmail.com and always welcome your ideas and suggestions. Thank you! "ABYC is the place to BE"

Jeff Merrill



Welcome to the last month of winter. The wind is blowing the rain is raining and the port-a-potties are gone. We will be finishing up the Quarter Deck heads shortly and all restrooms will be on line by OCR. I want to thank you for your understanding of our situation and hope it was not much of an inconvenience. I know for a fact that it was not a lot of fun to walk through the wind and rain to use the facilities.

The outcome is spectacular. The bathrooms look great thanks to the work of Kathy Black and Stacy Conn. The tile is has a classy look and the facilities are very functional. There is even a shower in the ladies Quarter Deck restroom. We have been fortunate to have found Richard Borden, our contractor. He has done a very good job of keeping the subs and the project on track. Along with John (that's John with an h) Merchant, Larry Kidd, and Kelly, Richard has worked through several

bumps in the road of construction. I would like to thank John, Larry and Kelly for watching over this project and moving it along in a timely manner. John and Larry also have taken on the responsibility of what John calls a Job Jar. This is a list of the things that need to be done around the clubhouse and in the yard. You will be seeing some upgrading as the year progresses but first we need to finish the construction.

To finish the construction we will need to complete the installation of the infamous elevator. We were originally told that the elevator would take 8 weeks to deliver after placing the order and 1 week to install. That changed to 12 weeks to deliver and 2 weeks to install. Now the elevator will be delivered around March 20 and completed in the first week of April. Once the elevator is completed the State Inspector must OK the elevator before it is put in use. I hoped that we could have it available for Spring Spruce up but I think that it will be more like Opening Day for any ribbon cutting. So come down to the club Opening Day a little early (3:00 pm) for the ribbon cutting ceremony. There will be more about that in April's report.

If you have not noticed we have 8 new bar tables and 16 new stools. This will offer more comfort while you are at the club. These tables will not only be used in the bar but also on the deck around the outside of the 2nd story but also along the patio rail during social events. I think that you will be amazed at the comfort and the view from this new addition. Enjoy.

SPRING SPRUCE UP — Spring Spruce Up will be **APRIL 9TH**. Plan to come to the club on Saturday April 9th. We have many projects to do before Opening Day. Check in around 8:30 am and work will begin around 9:00 am and finish up around 12:30 pm. We will have hot dogs and hamburgers for lunch after we finish and there might even be drinks available. This

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Sou'Wester DEADLINE

March 20, 2011 is the deadline for the April Sou'Wester.

Help us to Help you!

Please keep your e-mail address current with merle@aspermail.com to receive all of the weekly news and events. Thank you.

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year Spring Spruce Up is early since Opening Day is early, April 30th, and I hope the weather holds. At any rate I think that it will be fun getting together with friends and putting a little work into the club.

The yard is in good shape but needs a little rearrangement. We are coming up on a new season for sailing and a summer of fun. First I want to remind you about the summer Rail Rider program. It will run from April 1 to September 30. Complete details are in my Rail Rider article.

Once the construction is completed I will be rearranging the East Yard. This will give us room for dense packing keelboats and small boats. This will be called the Valet Program, which will allow you to call up in advance and have your boat made available to sail. I will have more about this program in my April report.

As I stated in my February report, last January we had our annual audit by the County of Los Angeles. There seems to be a new sheriff in town. The auditor did not cite boat owners but warned that they needed to have CF numbers and current registrations. We will be helping you in the next few months by alerting you to out of date registrations and missing CF numbers. Please be aware that the state is looking for any way to bring in more money and they will be checking for these deficiencies either in the yard or on the water.

If you have any questions about any of the programs please call Sheila at 434-9955. She and I speak several times per week and I will be available to help.

Looking to the future, I will continue make regular yard walks. Work toward better yard and house security. Make more boat storage available to members. Upgrade facilities to better serve the membership.

See you around the club.

Jon Robinson

rearview



As I write this, we have just finished another rainy regatta (SCYA Mid-Winters), and I am **SO** looking forward to our regular weather, so we can use the best spot in the bay, our club patio. Many thanks to Sue McDannel and the SAC group for the Chili Cook-off. Sue set up a very creative event. Having a public voting that ended up relying on, well, let's call it peer pressure, as much as culinary skill was a lot of fun. If you were there, you know.

Our goal for the year is to have a social aspect to each one of our invitational regattas. Expect more food, more music, and more fun. By all means we encourage you to enter the regattas, but if you can't race, you know that you are always welcome to the social events after racing.

We are always looking for creative input for our club events. If you have some event you are interested in, or have an idea for our parties, please contact Sue McDannel or myself.

Cheers!

Mike Baumann

fleet captain's log



Wow, what a fun weekend! Midwinter Regatta posed some challenges this past weekend. First, THANK YOU Mike Baumann for putting together a fantastic regatta (and hiring a great band for the Chili Cook-off party). Staffing Midwinter was quite a chore as there was no duty fleet. Mike was able to put together a great team. Thank you to our PROs Mark Townsend, Marc Schryer and guest PRO Roger Patterson from Mission Bay YC. Both inside and outside venues had great races in interesting conditions.

I volunteered to work on Patience and learned a few things this weekend. Saturday, our first race started in approx. 18 kts. In our enthusiasm, we ran course 3 (three times around) for several fleets thinking that in the strong breeze it would be a great race. Well, the wind dropped off to about 5 kts. so the race committee had plenty of time to eat a nice lunch. For the second race, we were a little more rational with the course length and race two ran without any problems. Just prior to starting race 3, the wind shifted from 210 to 160 and a very big water spout formed off the Long Beach entrance to the breakwater followed by a very dark and menacing band of clouds. Mark Townsend and Chris Eriksen were discussing what to do, as both thought the wind would shift and build strength when the front came closer. Queries were made to a LAYC coach boat anchored off hurricane gulch, but at that time they were not experiencing any extreme weather. The whaler's reconfigured our race course to the new wind direction and we began the sequence to start the F-18 fleet. Just as we raised the "P" flag there was a huge clap of thunder and, yes, the strength of wind built very rapidly. A huge squall with heavy wind was headed right at the race course. Mark decided it was time to abandon racing for the day. Judy Mathias and I scrambled to find the "A" flag so that we could cancel the sequence and post the "AP" over "A" (*races not started are postponed — no more racing today*). Alas, we couldn't find the "A" flag. Meanwhile, time was ticking and the "P" flag had been lowered and we were within 30 seconds of the start. Mark

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asked us to pull out the "H" flag, which Judy immediately found but we were unable to post in time for the start. Instead, we flew the "Postponement" flag and blew horns within 2 seconds of the start. Understandably, the F-18 fleet didn't understand our signal and started. Immediately afterward, we were able to blow additional sound signals and post the "AP" over "H" signal (*aces not started are postponed further signals ashore*) to send the remaining fleets home. At that moment, the front arrived with heavy rain and gusty wind! With very quick action, Mark was able to radio all whalers to abandon. All race equipment was pulled and the whalers followed the fleet back to the dock. On Patience, we scrambled trying to put equipment away, pull the anchor and get below before the worst of it hit. Not a pretty picture. However, Steve Smith said it was the best sail-in he'd had in a long time. By the time we were back at the dock, we were greeted by a full rainbow and clearing skies.

Sunday, was much more subdued, which was a good thing as we only have five of us on Patience. However, with all of us on the top deck, we were able to complete simultaneous starts and finishes! We ran three races under beautiful vistas of Catalina and snow capped mountains all around Los Angeles. A picture postcard day!

Inside the Bay, Marc Schryer reported similar happenings and having a great time with Roger Patterson. Marc and Roger were also doing a stellar job running races with a limited number of volunteers. Marc wanted to thank and acknowledge Kevin Baumann for his volunteerism. Over the weekend, Kevin handled volunteer check-in, parking control, weather mark set boat, scoring and signal flags. Thank you, Kevin!

What's next?? Manning Regatta hosted by the Etchell's and Multihull fleets is coming up at the beginning of March. Rich Vaught and Ken Frost are working very hard to staff the regatta. If you have a free weekend and would like to volunteer, please give them a call. Mid-March is the Olympic Classes Regatta. This regatta has no host fleet, so we are looking for volunteers. Please contact Ken Reiff if you are available.

On the equipment front, Bob Anderson and Dave Kofahl installed new battery cables in Patience. Patience had her annual inspection and engine tune-up and the mechanic had noted that the cables needed replacing. Otherwise, Patience was given a clean bill of health. Rick has been working his way through the whaler fleet so that all boats have received engine service. Outrage has had a valve job and operated nicely all weekend. By Manning Regatta, the entire fleet should be in good operating order. We are working on a list of projects for Spring Spruce-Up. We need to new bottom paint on some of the whalers, some fiberglass work on others and an overall scrub on the entire fleet. Some of these jobs are all day or two day jobs, so if you have the skills, please plan on helping us!

Jennifer Kuritz

manager's corner



A man fell overboard from his little sailboat, and was thrashing around in the water when another boat pulled up.

"Jump in, we'll save you" - they screamed.

"No" cried the drowning man, "God will save me".

The scene was repeated twice more and then a helicopter hovered over the man.

"We came to rescue you" yelled the pilot.

"No, God will save me" was the response again.

The man drowned, and as he crossed the Pearly Gates, he ran straight to Jesus.

"I placed my faith in You, and You let me drown!

"Hey!" said Jesus. "I sent three boats and a helicopter".

I've been in one sailboat in the almost (5) years I've been Club Manager here at ABYC. Staff Commodore Glenn Selvin and his crew invited me along in their Capri 25 to "crew" in a small Regatta. I remember heading out the jetty wanting just to NOT embarrass myself, and hopefully keep my breakfast burrito right where it belonged....in stomach. I can recall heading out to the area where other boats had gathered anticipating my first Regatta start, but something much different happened before I would experience that joyful moment...they started eating lunch. I remember saying to Glenn, "I thought we were going sailboat racing", he said, "We are, but the start isn't for an hour, relax and have something to eat". I, say, "Well Glenn, I must have missed the memo, because I've already eaten and now, where bobbing and swaying and bobbing and swaying, and it doesn't feel like I'm sailing, and my breakfast burrito is talking to me" So, for what seemed like a lifetime, Glenn and the boys laughed, ate and talked race strategy. I stood at the front of the Capri, gazing at the shoreline, wondering what the odds were I could actually make the swim back to shore fully clothed, and beach myself like an injured seal next to the club.

Well...the long and short of the story is...we did start the race, we actually won our division, and I had a pretty nice first time sailing experience. Then came this past Sunday....Commodore Merrill finds me at the club and announces, "change your shoe's, leave your wallet and cell phone in your office, we're going sailing" The list of excuses began to rush through my head like a tsunami, he didn't want to listen. "Hey I said, I have a club to run, I can't be out there goofing off with you" "See you on the ramp in 5 minutes he says" Sometimes, I hate chain of command.

Not wanting to disappoint the Commodore, I jump into action and raid the Lost & Found. Find myself a pair of rubber

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boots, a long sleeve shirt and a Mt Gay hat. Lookin' good....ready for action. Gather my staff and leave them with one final order. If I'm not back in an hour, get in a whaler and no matter what ANYBODY says, get me back on dry land.

So, with all the grace of a water buffalo attempting to cross a frozen lake, I climb aboard a Lido 14. First thing I notice...no apparent seating...no cup holder. Here we go again, I'm going sailing. The next several minutes went something like this: Jeff "sit here" Kelly "where? There's no seat" Jeff, "there across from me" Kelly "you mean the area where there is no seat?" Jeff, "yes". We are not yet out of Basin 5, and I'm in full panic mode. As we clear the entrance to the Basin, fifteen Jr. Sabot sailors are heading right for us. Jeff says "take the tiller, head toward that buoy, and try not to hit anybody" Kelly, "tiller?" You get the picture.

Jeff says, "keep your eye on the little ribbon on the sail, that will tell you how we're doing" I say, "Not hitting a kid in a sabot tells me how we're doing, If you don't mind, I'll look straight ahead" No sooner are the words out of my mouth, the boat accelerates at what can only be describe as Mach Speed. Listing (hiking, I'm told later) on its side, and Jeff now is half in the boat, half out. RELEASE THE MAIN...RELEASE THE MAIN!! Jeff shouts, as he is now more out of the boat than in. I say, "I'd love too, if I knew what in the hell your talking about", "The big line...release it from the cleat" Jeff, in a slight voice of panic exclaims. I'm now thinking, perhaps a short skippers meeting might have been in order prior to me climbing into this foreign object. Finally, I grasp the larger, non colored line and give it a healthy yank, let the line slowly release from my grip, and walla, the boat settles back down, and Jeff joins me once again **inside** the boat. We are now heading miraculously toward our destination...a buoy that we are going to turn about, and make our way back to the club. Jeff says, "make your turn, don't hit the buoy, and change position to the other side of the boat" I say, "Ok, but if I don't duck, the wooden pole that is attached to the sail will hit me in the face" Jeff says, "exactly...so **duck**" With all the gymnastic prowess of Nadia Comaneci, I avoid the buoy, make the turn, duck, relocate to the non seating area on the other side of the boat, and we're headin' home.



WOW...do I have a whole new appreciation for sailing and the teamwork and multi-tasking necessary to 1. Not hit other boats 2. Not get capsized, and 3. Did I mention not capsize?

Thanks Commodore, I'll hang my boots in the closet, hat on a hook and get ready for my next sailing adventure. Is it time for a Mt Gay and Diet Coke?

Kelly Whitlow

from the pages of history

As this is written, the aches and pains collected from my being in a whaler during the Midwinter Regatta at ABYC are fresh. We saw a gloriously bright and sunny day on Sunday; but Saturday was, as Bob Anderson might put it, "sporty:" racing was called off when a squall complete with thunder and waterspouts started to sweep into the racing area. Midwinters is a common theme of the March **SOU'WESTER**, and it came up this month again.

THIRTY YEARS AGO:

Both Commodore Langdon Parrill and Vice Commodore Adra Kober—she served as regatta chair—commented the 1981 SCYA Midwinter Regatta in the pages of the **SOU'WESTER** of March, 1981. There were 173 entries in nine classes and 13 divisions (there were "A" and "B" divisions for Lido 14s, Snipes, Cal 20s and C-15s), of which 66 were keelboats; of that number half were J/24s. This was the largest turnout ever for a Midwinters at ABYC, and nearly twice as large as the turnout at any other host venue that year.

The weather was reported as "summer-like," with light breezes. Mike McDade ran races from **PATIENCE** in the harbor while Don Brackenbury ran races for Lido 14s and Cyclones in the bay. Among the **PATIENCE** team was Jon Lounsberry; in the whaler teams were "lots of Marrs: Ernie, Patrick and Michael," while brother Pat was on the race-committee boat.

The weather was a bit more dicey for the Turnbuckle Tightener a week or two later. It was to have been what we used to call a "one-day, two-day" regatta: racing in the harbor one day, racing on the Bay the other. Saturday was the harbor day, and it was blowing over twenty knots in rain in the morning; the race committee—led by Eric Conn and the Snipe fleet—selected a 12-nautical-mile course for the keelboats (no dinghies were permitted to go out) that finished at the flagpole at the club, started the race—and immediately headed for the barn. But Sunday was worse: it was raining buckets and blowing over thirty; there were reports of "whitecaps in the parking lot," and racing was cancelled

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The SCYA Manning Regatta was held at ABYC in 1981; the Manning Trophy seems to have gone to ABYC member Kevin Dumain in Naples Sabot, thereby insuring that the 1982 Manning would be sailed at ABYC...the annual St. Patrick's Day party was being planned by the usual suspects of "3 M & L:" Mike McDade, Steve Moffett, Pat McCormick and Lance Seaman...as reported last month, Men's Day in 1981 was being planned by Robin Lounsbury and Cathy Black and their assistants; it is not clear who chose this name, but the women running the event were referred to as "Sand Dollies".

TWENTY YEARS AGO:

Let me paraphrase the lead paragraph for the Midwinters article in the SOU'WESTER of March, 1991 (which is not plagiarism, as I wrote it): "A visiting International 14 sailor summed up the ABYC portion of the...Midwinter Regatta best when he said, 'Great regatta—only next time, average out the wind on Saturday and Sunday.'" It was lovely but light on Saturday and blew like stink on Sunday. Nevertheless, there were 159 boats in eight classes, making it the largest of the venues for the event.

The duty fleet was the ABYC Race Management Committee, led by Ron Fox; Langdon Parrill ran races in the harbor and George Caddle ran 'em on the Bay. The largest single class in the entire Midwinter Regatta was the Snipe class at ABYC, won by Jay and Jackie Golison; there were also 32 J/24s there, as this was a qualifier for the J/24 Worlds. One sailor—Alan Laflin in the I-14 class—was sailing in his 28th consecutive Midwinters and took fifth in the Fourteens.

There was an interesting flyer in the SOU'WESTER this month, announcing the auction sale of two Naples Sabots formerly owned by ABYC Staff Commodore Tony Fallon and his wife Barbara; the two had been tragically lost in a midair accident over the Pacific. Barbara's boat had been lovingly built by Ron Fox and his Phoenix Boat crew; I don't remember the name of her boat, but I do remember that Tony's San Jose was named "Sisu," which is a Finnish word that translates to "guts" and is said to embody the national spirit of the Finnish people (Tony was of Finnish ancestry). Proceeds of the sale went to the ABYC Junior Fund, which reflected the interest the Fallon's had for the ABYC Junior Program.

Speaking of the ABYC Junior Program, there was lots in the offing for the 1991 season, including several "Luff-ins;" these were one-day Naples Sabot regattas held in various places where Sabots sailed. There was also a fun event in the planning stage, the Junior Family Picnic Race; set to be held in April, there was evidently a parents-versus-children race scheduled as part of the festivities.

The Lido fleet article noted the passing of the legendary W.D. "Bill" Schock, the father of the Lido 14, in February; his son Steve is now a member of ABYC...the cool weather for the Midwinter Regatta led to a record-breaking weekend for the ABYC Boatique, according to Boatique chair Jane Kidd; sweaters and sweatshirts were the big movers, with most being sailed to visitors from out of town. Sue Crockett was leading the committee planning the 1991 International Yacht Racing Union (IYRU) World Women's Sailing Championship Regatta to be held at ABYC in September; volunteers and housing for the women were being sought.

TEN YEARS AGO:

There was no Midwinters article in the SOU'WESTER in March, 2001; presumably the regatta fell after the SOU'WESTER deadline. There was plenty of other racing news, however. The Etchells Fleet sailed in what was reported as the "Fifth Annual Super Bowl Regatta" on Super Bowl Sunday; sailed in the Bay, seven boats raced. Kevin Ellis and Paul Ancil, new owners of USA143, won the event with Jorge Suarez as crew.

There was another exiting day of racing reported. There was a new series at ABYC in 2001, the Turnbuckle Tightener Series; intended as a low-impact event, it was decided to race Etchells, Cal 20s and A-cats not in the harbor but in the west end of Alamitos Bay over near Leeway and the Sailing Center on the first race day in January. The first race was sailed in very light conditions, but when the breeze got into the ten-knot range the race course got really, really small. There were no collisions but lots of excitement, especially when an Etchells had to take a two-turns penalty among the Cal 20s and A-cats.

Sixteen ABYC Staff Commodores attended the Opening Day of the Los Angeles Yacht Club to salute LAYC Commodore Tom Ramsey, himself an ABYC Staff Commodore. A highlight of the day was the win by Jerry Montgomery in PATRIOT of the Keating Coffee Trophy at the LAYC Opening Day Regatta, with a crew made up entirely of ABYC Staff Commodores; on the team were Pat Bixby, David Crockett, Dave Dorrans, Chris Ericksen, Dick Landes, Steve Moffett, Al Nelson and John Weiss.

ABYC Fleet Captain Kevin Ellis announced that a new starting system would be put into effect with the publication of the new Racing Rules of Sailing for 2001-2004; the system was being reviewed by the ABYC Race Management Committee for implementation in the spring...it was announced that ABYC would receive the 2000 One-Design Regatta Award from the US SAILING One-Design Class Council at the spring meeting of US SAILING in Charlotte, North Carolina...among the trophy winners at the January Lido fleet regatta was the family of Mike and Betty Baumann—the whole family: sons Glenn and Kevin raced with mom and dad and actually won Race Two...

Chris Ericksen, Club Historian



the bay clogger (junior sailing)



A BYC Takes home 1st in A's and B's at Midwinter's!

Alan Peoples was excited to try out his new Christmas gift at this year's SCYA Midwinter Regatta; a brand new Phoenix sabot! He knew it would be fast, but no one expected it to be this fast. Alan had just come back from a sailing hiatus after a strenuous Sabot Nationals and a few fall regattas. He decided to take a break after he finished in the top four in the C1's at Fall Gold Cup back in September. He had earned it after battling with over 30 C1's and finally moving on to the B fleet. The challenges of course were going to be much larger in the B fleet. After all, it had taken him over a year to get out of the C1's. Surely,

he was prepared for a tough battle, perhaps starting off at the back of the fleet his first time in it. But whether it was the new boat, the well deserved break, or just the confidence the new boat brought about, Alan didn't spend much time in the back of the B's at all. In fact, he moved right to the front, winning the entire event on a tie breaker using consistency as his ally (all top 6 finishes). Whether he went in with the goal of winning the event or not, he did and we could not be prouder of him and this huge accomplishment!

On a similar note, we have seen rising star, Matt McDermaid, constantly battling in the top three sailors in A's at regatta after regatta and always falling just short of the win. Often times he's found leading the event after the first day and slowly loses ground on the second day to just barely miss getting the 1st place overall. This was the weekend for breaking stereotypes though as Matt didn't start off winning the regatta, but he would finish it that way. He traded spots with Mission Bay's Max Brill in most races giving up the early edge to him. In the end however, they were the two lone front runners. Matt hung in close and on the second day and strung together three bullets to grab the win with a tie breaker. A huge victory for a hard working sailor - watch out world, here comes little Mac!!



Alan Peoples (center)

Congratulations also to Kai Jensen who placed 3rd in Sabot B's (just five points away from Alan) as well as Nick Odegard and Steven Hopkins who represented us down in Mission Bay in Laser Radials. They got 7th and 13th respectively. Congratulations to all of our sailors!!

Complete Results at: http://www.nhyc.org/files/11_SCYAMidwinter_Results.html

ABYC Juniors are at the front of nearly all SCYYRA series!

Jack Jorgensen is currently in 2nd in the SCYYRA Perry Series (C420) and 3rd overall in the Shadden Series (CFJ). Riley Gibbs and Matt McDermaid sit alone at the top of the North Series standings (sabots) as well. These series are four regattas over the course of the fall, winter, and spring and represent consistency in attendance and outstanding sailing. Of all the SCYYRA events, these series are a few of the remaining trophies that ABYC has not had their name on in over two decades. Nick Odegard and Steven Hopkins are in 9th and 13th respectively in the Frost Series (Laser Radials) as well. All results are posted at www.scyra.org and there is one more regatta for all four of the series.

2011 Spring Junior Program

The Spring Junior Program has started off with a bang. We have over 45 sailors signed up for our sabot program and our Ocean Advanced Racing (OAR) Clinics have gone off without a hitch and great participation for our older racers. There is still time to sign up for the remaining five clinics by picking up forms from the front office or downloading them from www.fleetracing.net.

Used Boats for Sale

If you know of a sabot, laser, CFJ or C420 for sale or if you're interested in buying one, email me the listing and I will be put together a list for our parent base. Please include desired price or buying range and as many specifics about the boat as possible. It is much easier to find the right homes for boats if we know what is included, what type of boat it is and how much the asking price is. **Email listings to abyc.jrprogram@gmail.com!**

ABYC Juniors are on Facebook?!?!

Well, when there's a movie about it and countries without roads have Facebook, it's time to give in and start our group page. We're planning on using it to allow parents, sailors and coaches to upload photos from events and get updates about clinics and upcoming events. You can check us out online at www.facebook.com/ABYCJrProgram.

Cal State Long Beach Starts a Sailing Team!

I'm not sure how many years it's been since Cal State Long Beach has had a team, but they have officially started one up this year and have been practicing Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays out on Alamitos Bay and going to regattas. Many of our local coaching staff including Laura Newton are on the team and they are looking for more recruits, so if you know someone who is interested in joining a collegiate sailing team that goes to Cal State Long Beach, get a hold of Laura Newton (secretary) or Shane Young (president) at csulbsailingteam@gmail.com. They are also trying to raise money for racing sails/boats and are able to accept tax deductible donations. Again, email them if you are interested in helping them get the ball rolling.

The current status is that they have 5-8 regular members and had 92 signups for their email list during a spring club fair at CSULB. 13 of those interested came out to the last two Fridays for introductory sessions.

You can get more consistent updates from them on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Csulb-Sailing-Team/128032483934417>

Brad Schaupter

membership challenge

A BYC Fleet Challenge

Laser Fleet makes its move. Lido Fleet caught on wrong side of course...

At the February membership meeting Jim Grubbs gave the **Fleet Membership Challenge Score**: Lido's – 4 new members, Cal 20's – 2 new members, Finn's — 1 new member, Catamarans – 1 new member, Laser's — 1 new member and Jr. Sabots – 1 new member.

However since Friday night's meeting the **Lasers** have made a big move — THREE applications are beating to the finish line.

LOSER-VILLE

THE FLEET **loser-ville** winner is too close to call. The contenders for the **loser-ville** dance are: Etchells, Snipe, Keelboats, 505's, Moths, I 14s, Nirvana radio control fleet and Sr. Sabots, all at 0 new members.

TIME IS RUNNING OUT! ONLY **31 days** remaining to get a new member in OR practice your **LOSER-VILLE DANCE!**

Remember, there will be free drinks to the winning fleet at the Membership Challenge Appreciation Party trophy presentation and WE all can watch the loser-ville fleet captain do their dance...AND YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE.....

ABYC Fleet Membership Challenge 2011

January 1 - March 31, 2011 The first annual FLEET Membership Challenge

All ABYC fleets (Duty racing fleets, active fleets and social fleets as listed on our website) will compete for the FLEET MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE TROPHY.

Membership drive and though only one fleet will be the ultimate winner, all fleets can win an invitation to attend the exclusive Membership Challenge Appreciation Party hosted by the Board of Directors at the end of this promotion (a date in June or July is being explored).

To qualify to attend the Membership Challenge Appreciation Party each fleet shall have recruited three (3) new regular members by March 31, 2011.

A point schedule for the Fleet Membership Challenges as follows:

Independent Junior : 1 point (Note: a waiting list may be created if applications exceed bylaws maximum)

Yachting 1 or 2 : 2 points

Regular Family Member : 3 points

DON'T STOP THERE! The more new members your fleet brings into the ABYC family the better your fleet's chance at winning the coveted Fleet Membership Challenge Trophy. The winning fleet will be that fleet that totals the largest point total (minimum of 3 regular members must be included in that score).

The fleet that brings in the most new members (as determined by the point schedule) during January 1 - March 31st will receive:

- 1. Hosted BAR at Membership Challenge Appreciation Party.**
- 2. Fleet name on Membership Challenge perpetual trophy**
- 3. Free rail rider spot for one boat from July 1 – September 30th, 2011**

For the sorry fleet that is incapable of bringing in any new members, that fleet will be required to:

- 1) Participate in Speech and Choral Singing Lessons given by the esteemed S/C Chris Ericksen.
- 2) **AND, the losing Fleet Captain will be asked to perform the "Loser-Ville Dance" (all meant in good fun!)** at the

Membership Challenge Appreciation Party. Note: Any fleet gaining at least one point will not have to do this dance even if they finish last.

After the March 31 deadline the Fleet Membership challenge will be determined by which fleet secured the most membership points (minimum of 3 new regular members). Fine print rules...The applications must be received by Membership chairs with completed questionnaires ready for Board of Director approval and posting to count. Final results will be announced after the June Board of Directors meeting allowing time for all membership applicants to be posted, approved and initiation fees paid.

Please contact Jim Grubbs or Terri Bishop for more details. Good luck!

Jim Grubbs and Terri Bishop

sea shepherds at abyc

The junior board is hosting April's general membership meeting, and the guest speaker will be a representative from The Sea Shepherd Conservation Society. The popular show "Whale Wars" documents their campaign against Japanese whaling under the leadership of Paul Watson. They were recently successful in sending the Japanese whaling ships home by using aggressive tactics and fast boats. This should be a very interesting presentation on their current campaigns and marine ecology in general.

more midwinter regatta

...from page 1

Two veterans, Gary Lee and Dan Denning, from San Diego's Mission Bay Yacht Club, won the hyperactive 505 class, albeit in the absence of two class world champions from ABYC, Mike Martin and Howard Hamlin.

Lee, 59, said he has been sailing 505s only "four or five years . . . we didn't beat Mike or Howie today, but he did OK for a couple of old guys."

Tripp suggested that age and the experience it brings sometimes works in a sailor's favor.

"What was a benefit to us was the current coming across the course," Tripp said. "I think it was the L.A. River coming down."



Tripp sensed that the Los Angeles River flowing into the ocean from greater Los Angeles after a rainstorm becomes a significant current across the Long Beach outer harbor, where the races were run, and makes laying the windward marks tricky.

Older guys know those things.

The race committee abandoned racing Saturday's activity after two races when a waterspout was sighted and brief electrical storm crashed across the harbor, leaving the Melvins in front in the F/18s overnight with a first and a second, with Newsome buried with a fourth and a fifth.

That changed dramatically Sunday when the Melvins had to restart the next race, scrambling for third place as Newsome launched a sweep of Sunday's three races and was able to discard his earlier fifth place after the last race.

Complete ABYC results: <http://www.abyc.org/upload/SCYAMidWinters.htm>

Rich Roberts

chili cook-off 2010

Judy Bliss photo

Chili—short for chili con carne—is described in the dictionary as a spicy stew of beef and red chilies or chili powder, often with beans and tomatoes. This description proved to be way too narrow for the 16 chefs that entered the ABYC first annual Chili Cook-off. Chili tasters were tantalized with chili containing way more diverse and creative ingredients. From Kelly's pork green chili, to the sirloin steak and turkey chilies, oh and let's not forget the third place winning vegetarian chili, and the white chicken chili, our taste buds were delighted.

Winners of the chili cook-off were determined by taster's ballots; if you paid to taste, you were given a ballot. There were reports of some heavy campaigning among the fleets and some of the contestants, but the contest was done in the spirit of camaraderie and good tasty fun. The very exuberant first place winner was Marilyn Spencer with her "Green Flash Chili." Second place went to a team of Bob and Peter Bishop with their "Number 1 Chili." Third place was the aforementioned vegetarian chili (unfortunately the chili mistress failed to get the name of the young lady who created it.)

During and after the chili sampling entertainment was provided by the very danceable band, "Another Fine Mess." This band was a welcome addition to the variety of entertainment available at ABYC. The band received many compliments on their sound and the selections played.

This entire event proved to be a big hit with the crowd, many of whom had just come for the party. The general consensus was that we definitely should have a Second Annual Midwinter Chili Cook-off!

Sue McDannel



Marilyn Spencer with first place trophy

railriders

The Rail Rides Again

This is the second year of the Rail Rider Program. This is the easiest and most expeditious way of enjoying one of the greatest values of our club, our location. In addition, when you are done sailing, it is convenient to put your boat away and enjoy the social events afterward. This is particularly true in this summer Block because of the twilight dinners and social events put on by the fleets. Make your membership in ABYC an asset.

To become a Rail Rider is simple. You need to be on the small boat list. You need to fill out the paper work that you can get from Sheila in the office. Pay your money in advance. Get a tag and a spot assigned for your boat and enjoy the benefits of being a Rail Rider.

The next Block for the Rail Rider Program is April through September. This is a six month Block and is in the prime time of the year. The price for this Block is \$750 for 6 months paid in advance. See Sheila and she can get you signed up before the summer fun starts.

Jon Robinson

junior fund

The ABYC junior Fund has some ambitious goals for 2011. We are looking to; buy 3 FJ's for our charter fleet to enhance our popular double handed program, fund FJ storage in the yard, refurbish junior whalers, and obtain an additional sabot trailer.

These goals are being accomplished through the generous monthly donations of ABYC members. There has been a box to check to donate \$5 a month on your bill.

Beginning in April you will find three boxes with options to donate the historical \$5 a month or \$7.50 or \$10. This is a small monthly amount to help benefit our very successful junior program. I encourage members who have been donating to consider giving just a little bit more and those who are not donating to consider giving it a try. You can call the office and let them know or just check the box.

Pat McCormick, Junior Program Board Liaison

welcome new member



New member Paul O'Sullivan receives his burgee from Jeff Merrill at the February Membership meeting.

wine tasting

Club ABYC
Wine Tasting & Boutique
Friday March 25th, 1800

Club ABYC gets down to business in March, with the return of wine tasting, and boutique.

But don't be fooled into believing it's all "*Oh what a nice fruity Viognier, I think I'll have a slice of Wensleydale now*". No dear friends, we have work to do! We will be selecting what wines the ABYC bar will serve for the summer!



That's right, you decide, you get to drink it.

If you are interested in participating in the boutique, please contact Sue McDannel (562) 431-9907

olympic classes

Rich Roberts photo

Olympic Classes Regatta!
March 19-20th
Burger Bar &

Entertainment, Saturday @ 1700
The road to the 2012 Sailing Olympics in England might start right here! Olympic classes and ISAF Youth classes only (420, 470, 29er, 49er, Finn, Laser, Laser Radial, RS:X, Star, Yngling).

You need not be an Olympic Sailor to participate.

We are kicking off the summer (well spring) season. Enjoy our BBQ'd burgers and sandwiches, meet friends, tell lies, laugh, enjoy the music!

- Notice of Race appearing soon on ABYC website
- Contact Ken Reiff or Jim Drury for more info



super bowl party

Jeff Merrill photos

ABYC's Super Bowl Party turned out to be more of a Beer Pong Party! The table was a hit! Thank You Chris Raab for donating it to The Club!

Special thanks to the XLV Party helpers: Jorge Suarez – football pool; Paul Makielski - beer pong referee; Elle Merrill – face painting

The party was super fun! Almost 100 people attended. We had plenty of football, food and fun times! Looking forward to Super Bowl XLVI at ABYC!

Kelly Asper



Chas Merrill, Ed Spotskey and mom Joan Spotskey



Jorge Suarez and Kelly Asper calculating squares



Pau Makelski, Beer Pong official

eight bells

It is my sad duty to report that Ray Klein passed away on January 27th in Melbourne, Australia. Ray and his wife Shirley were attending the Australian Open tennis championship for the 15th year in a row. Ray and Shirley were married 51 years and Ray was ABYC's commodore in 1968. The Klein's have made Long Beach their home since the 1950s and were actively involved with ABYC for many, many years. Ray is survived by his wife Shirley, son Jack and daughter Margeaux. Ray's memorial service was held at ABYC on Sunday February 27th. On behalf of the entire ABYC membership and yachting friends of the Klein's we send our condolences to the family.

Jeff Merrill

It is my sad duty to report that long time ABYC member, Thornton Hamlin, passed away on February 15th. The memorial service was held on Friday, February 18th. The Hamlin family was fortunate to be with Thornton on his last windward leg and were holding his hand as he sailed towards the finish line. One tough sailor. I am sending this note with my deepest sympathy and condolences to the family on behalf of the members of ABYC.

Jeff Merrill

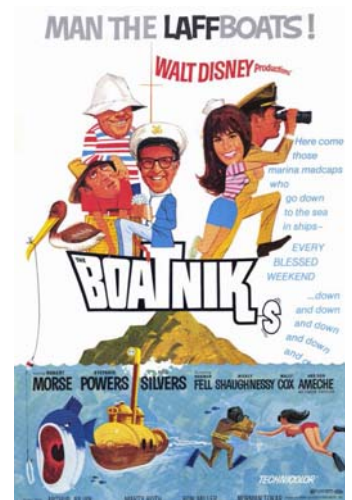
family movie night

Family Movie Night Returns!
April 8th 1830
Disney's The Boatniks

A silly farce with a connection to the sailors here at ABYC
Stephanie Powers and Robert Morse are out to thwart a band of jewel thieves, armed with nothing more than a **Lido 14!**

The film was shot in Newport Harbor, and many of our member should be able to recognize the youth sailors of the day (1970) that were circling around in Sabots, Lido's and Lasers as the "background" for most of the scenes.

We will have a contest to see who can name the most ~~old~~ *middle aged* sailors in and boats the film.



hails from the fleets



On a gorgeous Winter day 8 Nirvana “thumbers” met at El Dorado Park for a very competitive series of nine races. One of the park’s lakes is an established model sailboat racing venue. Fixed marks, proper courses and moderate but shifty breezes made for a great day of sailing. To avoid frequency conflicts and to be able to participate in every race 5 of the 8 boats have converted to the Spektrum 2.4 mhz transmitter and receiver.

Results: 1st Don Shirley, 2nd Eric Conn, 3th Keith Ives. Other skippers included who enjoyed the day where; Dustin Arnold, Latham Bell, Damon Kunkle, Grant Hill and Chris Wells.

As Spring approaches more races are planned. Nirvana skippers be sure I (efconn@yahoo.com) have your email address in order to notify you of upcoming races. Come join the fun!

Eric Conn



ABYC’s Etchells Fleet has been racing on Alamitos Bay on Super Bowl Sunday morning for as long as I can remember— and I have a really long memory. Tim Carter and I got our boat from Jerry Montgomery in 1998, and I’m pretty sure the event had been going on since before then; I remember well racing one such regatta with Dennis Peterson in USA662 before Tim and I owned USA491; it was a non-spinnaker event that year, and I remember bringing my Lido whisker pole along to use on the runs (it didn’t help).

Over the years we have had as many as ten boats in the crowded waters of Alamitos Bay, sometimes with Cal 20s as well. We have seen flat calms, strong breezes, rain, sunshine and wind from every quadrant. We have had groundings and more than a few collisions. And we have run the races out of the Bay Barge, a whaler and maybe even PATIENCE one year.

This year we had four boats, glorious weather and no carnage of any kind: no collisions, groundings or injuries. We shared the bay with a dozen or more Lasers. And we even had downwind starts.

In the absence of our Fleet Captains, Fleet Secretary/Treasurer Gordon Dudley gave up his spot on his boat to run the races. Working with ABYC Staff Commodore (and former Etchells owner) Jim Bateman, they worked out a series of courses that started off wind on a line between mark X in the Bay and the rebuilt finishing platform at the northwest end of Basin Five. As you might imagine, timing was a little off: there were general recalls in two of the four races as the fleet got a little over committed a little early. But it was a ton of fun.

Steve Moffett returned to the Etchells fleet with a crackerjack crew of former Etchells Fleet Champion Pat McCormick and friend Kristy Parr. They slipped to second place in the first heat behind the slightly more-recently involved team of Tim Carter and Chris Ericksen with Mike Baumann as crew, but dominated thereafter by winning all three remaining races and the event. The DESPERADOs were second in all the rest of the races. Jeff Powell grabbed Pat Kelly and Dave Myers and managed to take third place ahead of Chris Wells, racing again with partner Dan Dooros (and another person whom I’ve forgotten).

Here are the results:

OWNER	SAIL NO.	RACE 1	RACE 2	RACE 3	RACE 4	TOTALS
Moffett	USA653	2	1	1	1	5
Carter/Ericksen	USA491	1	2	2	2	7
Dudley/Powell	USA531	3	3	4	3	13
Wells/Hardy/Dooros	USA488	4	4	3	DNS/5	16

The sail numbers shown, by the way, are not the ones on display on race day: two of the teams had second-hand sails purchased from the fleet’s most reliable source for sails—Bruce Golison and Steve Flam. “Thanks” barely can express the fleet’s appreciation of the job Gordon and Jim did in figuring out great races, running good starts and keeping track of everyone. Good fun.

The SCYA Midwinter Regatta will have come and gone by the time you read this. While in past years this has not been a very strong Etchells event, what with so many other classes to be sailed (and usually some of us ending up on a race committee somewhere), this year Midwinters is part of the Fleet Championship Series. And the SCYA Manning Regatta for dinghies will be held around the time this edition of the SOU’WESTER hits the streets; the Etchells are the duty fleet.

Chris Ericksen

hails from the fleets



Febuary ABYC Membership Meeting

The ABYC *Laser* Fleet hosted the February General Membership Meeting on a cold, blustery and rainy Friday evening. A tasty selection of Chinese delicacies was served up by Jesus and Roberto to universal acclaim from the attendees. Thanks for the suggestion Kelly! After dinner and the Membership Meeting, **Jorge Suarez** (who solicited and arranged for) introduced our speakers for the evening; Ms. Monica Eichler, Coastal Section Project Manager and her associate, Mr. Joe Ryan, Coastal Engineer, both representing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Ms. Eichler's topic was the East San Pedro Bay Ecosystem Restoration Study. Supplemented with a brief *Power Point* presentation, Ms. Eichler described the goals and challenges of the proposed study, including the fact funds for the study have yet to be found. Mr. Ryan added context to the evening presentation with a brief slide presentation on the history of San Pedro Bay and surroundings. Mr. Ryan's talk was enhanced as several audience members, who were very much alive when some events took place, spoke up to add detail and confirmation. An extra enhancement to the evening was the impossible to ignore howl of storm force winds which at times actually shook the club house. Of note was an expressed opinion of the audience that any clean-up or restoration of San Pedro Bay was contingent on cleaning-up the effluent from the Los Angeles River into the Bay (see note from Chuck Tripp in the Midwinters *Laser* Masters report below). Unfortunately, the L.A. River is not controlled by the Army Corps, so this topic was left to further discussion in another venue.

My thanks for an enjoyable evening go again to Kelly and the ABYC staff as well as *Laser* fleet members and others who volunteered to help: **Kevin Taugher, Vann Wilson, Chuck Tripp, Jorge Suarez, Nigel Morris, Jim Drury, Bob Anderson, Jamie McGhee** and guest Chris Crosley.

2011 SCYA Midwinters *Laser* Masters Compete at ABYC

Ten older and somewhat grayer *Laser* racers competed in the *Laser* Masters fleet of the 2011 SCYA Midwinters Regatta at ABYC President's Day weekend. This year we were joined by a nowhere near Master (ages 35 and older), ABYC's young ace racer, **Mark Ryan**. With the collective attitude of, the more the merrier, we Masters invited Mark to join us for some fun on the water with the understanding his finishes would be noted but not scored.

Rain squalls, thunderstorms, waterspouts and chilly temperatures were predicted for Saturday, but all looked sunny as we sailed out to the traditional ABYC race area, but on the way we encountered 20 knot plus winds. This did not look promising for the day; however, the wind squall was short lived and two races were held in light to only moderate hiking conditions. A closely competitive group emerged in the first races with **Jay Golison** taking first in race one and **Kevin Taugher** first in race two. As we awaited the starting signals for race three, we all could see a rapidly approaching dark gray squall line forming over Long Beach Harbor headed our way. By this time some racers headed for the barn as the temperature was making it a bit chilly on the water. The Race Committee (RC) was obviously trying to decide what to do and after hearing a few peals of thunder, they abandoned racing for the day. Having called it a day shortly before the RC cancelled racing, I was now just ahead of the squall, planning at high speed across flat water back to ABYC. Looking behind me I saw the impressive squall with dozens of boats just in front of or totally obscured by the rain...quite a sight, wish I'd had a camera. Finishing in order after two races Saturday were; ABYC's **Chuck Tripp, Kevin, Jay, Vann Wilson** and Sanji Kohli from Cal YC.



Masters' start

Sunday morning featured blue skies and puffy clouds but no predictions of what we saw on Saturday. We did; however, encounter wonderful sailing conditions with light to moderate hiking conditions all day. We did encounter a somewhat stronger than normal current condition. To quote **Chuck Tripp** from an interview by Race Correspondent **Rich Roberts**, "Tripp suggested that age and the experience it brings sometimes works in a sailor's favor. "What was a benefit to us was the current coming across the course," Tripp said. "I think it was the L.A. River coming down." Tripp sensed that the Los Angeles River flowing into the ocean from greater Los Angeles after a rainstorm becomes a significant current across the Long Beach outer harbor, where the races were run, and makes laying the windward marks tricky.

The fleets were sent on three races around a windward-leeward course in quick succession. The top five racers from day one continued to dominate the standings on day two with **Kevin** winning all three races on straight scores; however, once the Masters handicaps were applied, **Chuck Tripp** emerged the regatta winner by three points. Quoting further from the Rich Roberts' interview, "The reason I won is that I'm older than these other guys and they have to give me points," Tripp said, smiling without apology.

Factoring-in Masters Handicaps, the top five racers following **Chuck & Kevin** were; **Jay, Vann** and Sanji. Other ABYC racers following in order were; **Bruce Johnston**, your author, **Jorge Suarez** and **Sumeet Patel**. We were also joined by Chris Crosley from Las Vegas who not only raced, but helped with serving chores at the Friday night Membership Meeting...thanks Chris.

Steven Smith, ABYC Laser Fleet Co-Captain

...continued next page

Lasers Join Etchell's on Super Bowl Sunday

L The ABYC Laser fleet was scheduled to have a fleet race/starting practice on Super Bowl Sunday. The idea was to go off of Seal Beach, set some marks, and have as many races as possible before the Super Bowl Party. However, there was the fear of no wind! Not that the Lasers wouldn't sail, we didn't want to paddle our boats in!

As fleet captain, I knew that the Etchell's were having their Super Bowl Regatta in the bay. I consulted a famous local Etchell's sailor and world renowned PRO ("CE") to discuss the possibilities of having the small single handed dinghy sailing along side the sleek, fast, and beautiful keel boats in the bay. We both envisioned disasters and agreed that it was not a very good idea! CE and I had a premonition that it would happen anyway, just to be proven wrong!

Sunday morning arrived but the wind did not! All eight Lasers thought it would be fun to sail in the bay notwithstanding the Etchell's. Co- PRO's for the event, Gordon Dudley and Jim Bateman thought it was a wonderful idea! They also had a great format: starts and finishes between the scoring shack and X mark (which called for downwind starts and upwind finishes), custom race courses for the occasion, and the right to make up a course if they wanted to, which they did! In the light breeze, the Etchell's started first and except for a few windward-leeward meetings, the Lasers stayed away from Etchell's and Etchell's stayed away from the Lasers!

My lesson learned! We were proven wrong! Five races, no disasters, smiles all around! Back at the Club in time to rig, clean up, and join the festivities! Thank you Jim, Gordon, and the Etchell's fleet for allowing us to join in the fun! Congratulations to Vann Wilson for winning the event!

Jorge Suarez



KEEL BOAT FLEET ON WATCH

Lots of fun at the Long Beach Play House Keel Boat Armchair Cruise organized by Judy Mathias and Carol Reynolds. The play was a comedy, 'Moon Over Buffalo', and had all the ingredients for a classic farce. The obvious enjoyment of the cast putting on the play carried over to the audience and set the tone for the evening. The fact that the proceeds went to The Children's League made the evening that much better.

Susan and Ron Long plus Bob Ware are responsible for the next meeting of the Keel Boat Fleet on Friday, March 11. They have arranged for Instructors from the ABYC Junior Program to tell us about their Summer and Winter Clinics. This will be a great time to find out all about this vital part of our yacht club. The evening schedule is: Cocktails at 6 PM. Dinner at 7PM and the meeting to follow. The usual potluck dinner, bring enough to share with eight, please bring a serving utensil.

PLEASE put on your calendar the Friday April 29 date for the 'Vern Peterson Memorial Shoreline Yacht Club Cruise'. The place is Shoreline Yacht Club in the downtown marina and the schedule is as follows: Dockside cocktails by Vern's son Eric Peterson's trawler at 4:45 PM, (please BYOB and a small hors d'oeuvre), with dinner to follow at Shoreline Yacht Club. Maps and further information from georgemaggie@verizon.net.

See you there

George

Jane McNaboe photo

N The Sabotiers had another great Sabot Sunday with 9 sailors.

Three races were run by the Ellis/McNaboe/Kuritz family. PRO Steve Kuritz led the Race Committee with Jinx Ellis and Jane Ellis-McNaboe helping on the barge and Jerry McNaboe in the whaler. Beautiful weather with mixed winds from mixed directions, a challenge for both the race committee and sailors.

We were happy to welcome back Tom Newton, who has not forgotten how to make his Sabot go fast. Tom finished three races with 4 points and took first place for the day. He was followed by Lee Berlinger and Bob Ware, both with 9 points. Lee took second place after the tie-breaker. A nice social hour and Lasagna dinner followed the racing.

Our next Senior Sabot Sunday will be on March 13. We have had some people express an interest in joining us in a 'B' Fleet and we are very happy to accommodate any new sailors. Please join us!

Jane McNaboe



7603 is Lee Berlinger and 8343 is Tom Newton



Alamitos Bay Yacht Club

7201 East Ocean Boulevard
Long Beach, California 90803

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Judy Bliss photo



Jorge & Staphanie enjoying the music at the Chili Cook Off party

Reggie photo



Visiting by the fire at Chili Cook Off



New carpet on upper deck

Jeff Merrill photo



Jon Robinson and Sheils Maddux working on the stickers for our membership cards. Remember to affix the sticker to your card. Your POS card will now become your membership card.

march meeting

March General Membership Meeting
Hosted by Multi-hull & 5o5 Fleets
Friday March 18th (1800 Dinner -1900 Meeting)

A very special program:

Our own PETE MELVIN, now with Team New Zealand, will be talking about the current America's Cup.

Come and hear about the latest technology, the political intrigue, and why multi-hulls are taking over the world.



Champagne Easter Brunch

Sunday, April 24



Adults \$19 ~ Kids \$10
(Age 5 & under eat free!)