



abyc wins parade award

Thank you to everyone who painted, stapled, sawed, floated through the canals and supported the entry of the ABYC Christmas float. I am pleased to announce that ABYC won "Best Theme" for a huge collective effort. Awards were presented on January 22nd at LBYC. And thank you to all the members, leaning over the seawall in Naples who gave the float loads of ABYC encouragement! Ed Spotsky tells me there were even a couple of standing ovations from people floating by in Duffy boats. Yeah team...rest up for next year!!!

On the construction committee:

Bennie Schwegler	Chuck Hardin	Latham Bell	Chuck Clay	Dave Crockett
Ed Spotsky	Steve Kuritz	Mark Townsend		

On the water committee:

Ed Spotsky	Lori Vanskylock
Rob, Marie, Tommy and Karina Stropky (new members and what an introduction)	
Rick, Kelly and Riley Manning (that's our very own Rick)	

Robin Townsend

Kevin Oules photo



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save the date

Ukelele Lessons	February 5 & 19
Swing Dance Lessons	February 7
SCYA Midwinter Regatta	February 15-16
BOD/SAC/RM Meetings	February 19
Membership Meeting	February 21
Rat Pack Party	February 22
SCYA Manning Regatta	March 1-2
St. Pat's Happy Hour	March 14

commodore's compass



January has typically been a quiet month at ABYC, but not this year! We started the month with a “Come as your New Year’s Resolution” happy hour. I’m not sure what John Gresham’s resolution is but Dana Bell is going to eat more veggies and Amanda Wayne is going to work-out. Steve and I wore our Mt. Gay hats as we hope to do more racing this year. The following Friday was our first Swing Dancing class. Steve and I had a blast and, no I didn’t need steel toed shoes. We’re really looking forward to the next few classes so we can dance at the Rat Pack party in February. We’re all going to look great on that dance floor. Be sure to look at the calendar for future dance classes.

The Ukulele classes were a hit, too. Over 40 people showed up for the first session (and I know a few of us weren’t there). I hope that the Uke Group will play some songs for us at the Labor Day regatta skipper’s meeting to get everyone in the mood for the Luau.

Thank you to the Keelboat and Sr. Sabot fleets for hosting the January General Membership Meeting. Our speakers were Glenn Estrella, Senior Construction Manager for Transystems and Edward Heaton, Construction Manager with Bellingham Marine. They answered many questions about the Basin 5 refurbishment project. Many thanks to Sue Crockett for organizing the Australian Auction and Chuck Hardin for putting together the slide show of the club’s original construction. The auction raised over \$80 for the junior fund.

Patience and Whaler training was organized by Steve Smith, Bob Anderson and Latham Bell. Bob and Latham gave good presentations about Patience and how to handle setting marks from a whaler. After the presentation, we moved over to the boats and practiced. On Patience, after we review the boat’s set up and safety equipment (where is that towing line?). We explored the cold start button, batteries, oil levels and starting procedures. Just putting up sails seems much easier. We practiced leaving the dock, anchoring and the correct approach into the dock. The whaler teams practiced driving, setting a mark and dragging a mark both forward and backward. Later, we tried setting a mark in a specific position (much easier said than done). I think we all learned a lot and had fun. Our next regatta is Mid-Winters so we’ll try to get the new trainees out with our experienced operators.

At the Board meeting we had a special presentation from Ron Wood and John Merchant on the yard repaving project. They recommended and we approved a motion to hire United Paving Company for the yard project. So, we’re well on our way to repaving the yard. Please see Chuck’s article for more information about what needs to be done in preparation. We are working on a plan for moving the Sabots, Laser and small dinghies onto the lawn and patio during the construction. Keel boats will be moved across the street into the city parking lot. Please come down and make sure you’re boat’s trailer is in good working order! At the meeting, we approved three new members and three additional new applications for posting. Cindy Heavrin and Ed Spotskey recommended a new member promotion which was approved. For each new member inquiry you supply, you will become eligible for a drawing for \$250 ABYC bucks. Please see Cindy’s article for more information on the promotion.

Congratulations to Mark Townsend for being awarded the Mort Bloom trophy by SCYA for excellence in race management. Lucky us, Mark has agreed to offer a series of rules seminars once a month during Happy Hour the dates and times of classes to be announced in the Weekly Reader.

Finally, we are working on sending out the reciprocal cards to the Southern California yacht clubs. If you are planning to travel this year and want to visit another club, please let me know so that we can send a reciprocal card. (I know some members of the A-Cat fleet are traveling to Takapuna, New Zealand so we’ve sent a card.)

Jennifer Kuritz

viceerses



Shake, Rattle, and Roll!!!! That is what has been going on down at ABYC with the new basin going in. If you haven’t been down this past month (shame on you!) you are going to see a big difference in the basin. Most of the docks are in and boy do they look GREAT. The City still has lots of work to do to get them all hooked up and ready for occupancy, but they are on target for April 1st and in time for Opening Day!

Your yard committee has been burning the candle at both ends getting the asphalt company selected, and I am pleased to announce that the bid was awarded to United Paving Company. United has performed work in the past at the club so they know the “lay of the land”, and the yard committee made the recommendation to the Board which was voted on and passed. This was a crucial step in securing a company while staying on schedule, which is very aggressive.

I have asked that every member that has a boat in the yard to come down and make sure that the tires are all pumped up, and the extra stuff that has accumulated on your trailer and around the boat gets picked up so we can easily

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move your boat. Last month, I wrote in my article that if we have to pump tires and clean up your area you would be getting hit in the back pocket with a \$100.00 fee. Once again, this fee is to encourage you to come down to your boat and see what is going on with the basin rebuild. As of this writing we do not have a concrete date on when we will start, but it will be coming up very soon, so don't wait to get your boat ready to move if you haven't already done so. Keep an eye out for the weekly reader for all updates.

Your Social Advisory Committee (SAC) has been very busy with planning and putting on events. If you missed the first swing-dancing event, you were left out standing on the sidelines. There were about 40 couples cutting the rug and about 25 people watching from the bar. The next one will be on February 7th (right when the SW is released) so come on down and be part of the fun. On January 15th, we had ukulele lessons that filled the house with about 35 students in attendance-even Merle was strumming away! The big daddy social event Rat Pack is right around the corner on February 22nd. This is a fun event to get all dressed up for, play casino games, have some good food and socialize with your fellow members. Remember that the proceeds from the raffle will benefit our Jr. Program, which is a win win for everyone!

Come on down to the club and see the progress on the basin, or even better bring down a friend that may be interested in becoming a member. Remember that we have a reduced initiation fee of only \$500.00 bucks to join the best club on the face of the earth!

ABYC is THE place to BE...
 Chuck Clay

Got Sails?



The Juniors are collecting old sails to recycle into duffle bags and other gear. Clean out your boat and garage! Simply drop off your old sails in the designated collection bin in the junior room.

Sou'Wester DEADLINE
 February 22, 2014 is the deadline for the March 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.

2013/14 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS			
Commodore kuritz@earthlink.net	Jennifer Kuritz	Treasurer	Nicole Peoples
Vice Commodore chuckc@internationalaero.com	Chuck Clay	Junior Commodores	Emily Golison
Rear Commodore jlrgbell@msn.com	Latham Bell	Fleet Surgeon	Angela Allbright
Jr. Staff Commodore michael_baumann@mac.com	Mike Baumann	Judge Advocate	Tom Ramsey
Fleet Captain smith_c_s@sbcglobal.net	Steve Smith	Fleet Chaplain	Don Reiman
Secretary captmac@earthlink.net	Jeff McDermaid	Port Captain	Dave Myers/Kevin Brown
Directors		Sou'wester Editor/Layout sharonpea@aol.com	Sharon Pearson
Junior Program dmichaelis2000@aol.com	Dave Michaelis	Weekly Reader	Glenn Selvin glenn@commercialrelocationcompany.com
Membership cmheavrin@verizon.net	Cindy Heavrin	ABYC	Phone (562) 434-9955 Homepage www.abyc.org Email abyc.abyc@gmail.com
Volunteers anctilnonstop@verizon.net	Paul Anctil		



Ok, so who lost or won their bet on whether or not I managed to get my article in on time? I would like to start by saying thank you to all the members of the Social Advisory Committee! Under the guidance of Kathy Robinson and Sue McDannel many great social events have happened and are planned!

I cannot believe how many of you are learning to swing dance! There were 70 of you there on a Friday night plus those of use that you were entertaining!

21 musically talented Ukulele strummers were plucking their string on Wednesday NIGHT! The Port, Luff, Starboard tournament is just around the corner as well as the incredible Rat Pack Party!

Come on down and join the fun! Remember ABYC is not just for sailing it's for fun with friends and family!

On a dirtier note, the basin and yard are grinding along on time! Soon we will have new docks, dinghy ramp, and wings on the hoists. Before we can do the yard though we will have to move **all the boats in the yard!** I am planning on taking my boat home over the time the yard is being resurfaced to give it that preseason tender loving care it so deserves. I would suggest that all those that possibly can should do the same. Your yacht will love you and so will the many volunteers that will have to move it out and then back in. I am sure they will do their best to be very careful but after the first 100 moves....Remember, you trailer needs to be able to move, the water and small animals need to be removed, and the tires need to be pumped up!

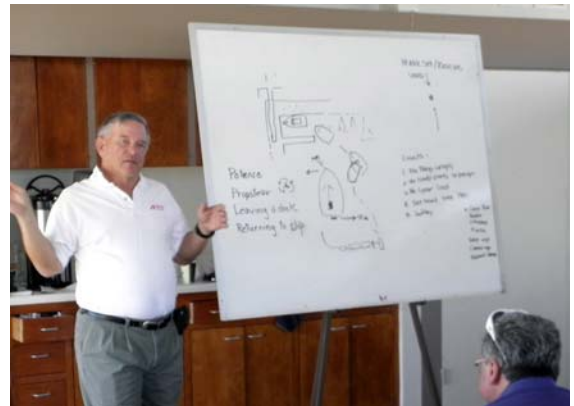
Remember, ABYC is the place to be!
Latham Bell

fleet captain's log



Patience and Whaler Orientation and Training Day

It felt like summer Saturday January 18th when twenty ABYC members assembled to learn about the operation of our principal race committee boat, *Patience* and our fleet of whalers. **Bob Anderson** started the day in the Quarterdeck with a chalk-talk overview of the power and steering characteristics of *Patience*.



Latham Bell followed with an extensive clinic on the safe operation of a whaler including; the set-up and placement of race marks, how to move marks, how to assist sailors in distress and more. A worthwhile session for anyone participating in race management.



After the classroom sessions, we drove to Long Beach Yacht Club where **George Caddle** and **Eric Redmond** had *Patience* and a few of our whalers washed off and warmed-up on the Long Dock. Once there, the group split up for sessions on *Patience* and on two whalers.

On *Patience* students were briefed on important systems and operations by **Bob Anderson** and fellow instructors **Steve Kuritz** and **David Kofahl**, before setting out to practice maneuvering in open water and returning to take turns landing at the dock.

Latham Bell and **Jennifer Kuritz** briefed two groups before heading out on whalers to practice mark assembly

and placement in the Bay.

Once back on the Long Dock, course leader, **Bob Anderson**, informed the students they would receive a follow-up quiz to complete via e-mail, while all hands were on-board to reload equipment on *Patience*, give her a wash-off and put her covers back in place.

It was great to see such a turn-out of members interested in becoming involved with the tools to run our races at ABYC. From all indications, instruction



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on the day was worthwhile, especially **Latham's** safety briefing and for those who got the chance to understand the skill required to maneuver *Patience* in close proximity to docks and other obstructions. With the larger than expected attendance this year, look for another *Patience* and whaler orientation class around NFL playoff time next year.

A big thank you goes out to our instructors; **Bob, Latham, Steve, David** and **Jennifer** as well as **George** and **Eric** for getting our boats and equipment prepared.



Fix-up Fundraiser

As you know, ABYC is a fun and busy place when we are conducting regattas as well as our Junior and other sailing programs. All this activity requires the use of our whalers and various club-owned *Lasers*, *Flying Juniors*, *Sabots* and our accompanying dollies and trailers. As these photos show, our equipment is showing inevitable wear and tear.



Please join me in contributing to our Fix-up Fundraiser to help ensure our whalers, *Sabots*, *Flying Juniors* and *Lasers* are up to date, clean and ready for our members and guests use and enjoyment.

We want to be proud of the image we project through our activities, clubhouse, grounds and equipment. Your contributions will be used to enhance our club's current yet lean budget to purchase needed fittings, hardware, paint, etc., and make our fleet the best it can be.

Here's our plan. **Allie** has determined several *Lasers*, and a *Flying Junior* are derelict and beyond repair. These boats will be stripped of usable parts and hardware to either sell or use on other boats in our fleet. After that, the boats will be cut up and destroyed. In addition, we own a vintage *Vanguard 1420* which will be cleaned and prepared to sell (see below).

We'll track progress of the Fix-up Fundraiser in the *Sou'Wester* and *The Weekly Reader* using the Beaufort Wind Speed Scale:

Calm	\$500	Light Air	\$750
Light Breeze	\$1000	Gentle Breeze	\$1250
Moderate Breeze	\$1500	Fresh Breeze	\$1750
Strong Breeze	\$2000	Near Gale	\$2250
Gale	\$2500	Strong Gale	\$2750
Storm	\$3000	Violet Storm	\$3500
Hurricane	\$4000		

With contributions to date, we're up to a *Light Breeze*, so please help us get this effort up to *Hurricane* force. Make your checks out to; Alamos Bay Yacht Club, mark your check: Fix-up Fundraiser and send your check to the attention of **Jenny LaForce** in the ABYC office. For those who wish, we will publish your name and amount given in the *Sou'Wester*. If you wish to give for a specific boat, part or project, please let us know with your contribution.

Thank You

ABYC Whaler, Trailer & Vanguard I420 FOR SALE

After an evaluation of club-owned power boats, trailers and sailboats, we are culling our fleet. We sent Whaler Five off to a salvage outfit and now Whaler Four, stripped to a bare hull and on a trailer, is up For Sale and sitting in the parking lot across the street, unless it has already been sold.



17 ft. Former Whaler Four & Trailer. Asking \$500

We also have a *Vanguard I420* available for sale.
14 ft. Vanguard I420. Make an Offer.

Please let me know if you are interested in acquiring Whaler Four & trailer or the I420: smith_c_s@sbcglobal.net



Lasers Wanted for ABYC Junior Racing Program

Allie has generated a great deal of interest in a racing program for *Lasers* and *Laser Radials* (see the *Laser Fleet* report elsewhere in this *Sou'Wester* for notice of a *Laser Racing Clinic* Saturday January 25th). This program can grow; however, the program needs access to additional *Lasers* for interested sailors to use and or charter. We see a good number of *Lasers* in various states of readiness in the ABYC boatyard. Several look like they have not seen saltwater in some time.

If you have a *Laser* sitting unused in the boatyard, backyard or garage and would like to give it a new home, please let Allie know. We will gladly accept donations, but please feel free to make us an offer to purchase.

Growing our *Laser* racing program can lead to additional members and generation of revenue with charter fees from racers who want to race at ABYC but cannot bring their boat.

Please contact Allie if you have a *Laser* you wish to part with: abyc.jrprogram@gmail.com

We are grateful for your consideration!

Association of San Pedro Bay Yacht Clubs Meeting

We were informed at the January meeting that all ASPBYC maintained racing marks (yellow spars) are in place and just in need of some cleaning. To help keep them clean, ASPBYC is installing spikes to discourage birds from using the marks as a resting spot.

ABYC is hosting the next ASPBYC meeting on Monday February 3rd.

So long 'till next month

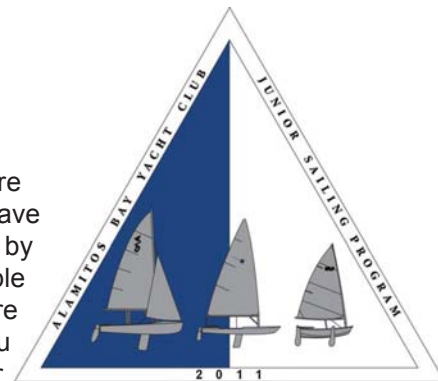
Steven Smith



the bay clogger (junior sailing)

Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls!

It's that time of year. Our spring season is currently underway!! Our sailors are enjoying the beautiful weather and longer days on the water. The coaches have taken it upon themselves to visit some schools so if you see a boat on campus, stop by and say hi! Don't forget to bring your friends with you. The goal is to get lots of fun people out sailing and enjoying every little bit of what beautiful Alamitos Bay has to offer. There are still lots of great opportunities to get out there and hang with friends so if you missed the registration deadline, it's not too late to jump in on the action. We offer classes for beginners as well as advanced sailors. Send an email to abycjrprogram@gmail.com for more information or go online to www.abycjrprogram.com and check out our Spring Sabots/Lasers and High School Sailing Programs.



ABYC

Good news! We are looking to get our Adult Sailing Classes underway once the basin reconstruction is finished. More information regarding those classes will be made available in the near future. Stay tuned.

Allie Blecher



Wilson High School Sailing Team and their coaches pose for a picture on campus with school Principal. Left to right: Cameron Thompson, Ryan Schack, Jack Berg, Sawyer Gibbs, Coach Shane Young, Coach Allie Blecher, Alan Peoples, Kyle Cater, Alexis Hall, Alex Van Dyke, Wilson Principal Sandy Blazer, and Riley Gibbs. Photo credit: Eric Berg

junior board

Thank you to all of the juniors who helped with the club's Christmas party in December. We had crafters, food servers and elves who helped Santa with the gift giving. For community service the juniors are scheduling beach cleanups for the year so look for these on the club calendar. These are a great way to earn two hours of community service while you enjoy the beach with your friends. The juniors would love to help your scout troop earn a sailing or ocean-related badge so please contact a junior board member if you would like to schedule your group. The Juniors host the April general meeting, so come on down with your family and friends to enjoy a relaxing evening at the club. For summer, we hope to host vintage bake sales at some of the bigger regattas, as well as a summer celebration bonfire in August. Our sail recycling continues. We shipped off big batches in November and January to Sea Bags of Maine. Please look for items for sale in the club boutique, at general meetings and other events. If you have a custom bag in mind, please contact jen@golison.com.

Jenn Golison

junior perspective

orange bowl

On Christmas Day Quinn Wilson, Willie McBride, and I flew to Florida for the 2013 Orange Bowl and 29er Nationals. Nationals were also the 2014 ISAF Youth World Qualifier. Orange Bowl was the first event from December 27th through the 30th. During Orange Bowl there were great conditions, and even though it was raining the whole time the wind was solid and we were able to get in a ton of awesome racing. Our goal for Orange Bowl was to learn as much as possible about the venue and what our weaknesses and strengths were relative to the competition. Then we would make adjustments and when Nationals came along we would be ready strategically.

On the first day of Orange Bowl the conditions were very shifty and unpredictable, but we still scored two races. The second day was very windy and we completed three good races. In these windier conditions more of the teams were competitive because some of the more experienced teams were also heavier and they were really giving us a run for our money. That second day we learned a lot about how to be faster in breeze, which helped a lot as the final day of Nationals was very windy and we really put all of the lessons we learned together and were much faster in that kind of wind than ever before.

On the third day of Orange Bowl the wind came from a new direction, from the ocean. This caused large waves even though the wind was pretty light. Nick and Kai were very fast in those conditions and we battled with them all day. After three days of different conditions we were winning by quiet a bit as we were luckily the most consistent across all the different wind conditions. When we woke up to no wind on the final day, and after waiting until two in the afternoon, the race committee cancelled racing for the day. That gave us two days of rest so we took advantage and did some final checks of our boat and relaxed with some pool time, movies and eating.

On the first day of Nationals the wind was very cloud driven. The wind never really got over 12 knots, but whenever a big rain cloud came over the course the wind would get a little windier and shift to which ever direction the cloud was coming from. At the beginning of the day there was not much cloud action at all, but we soon found out that the left side of the course was paying dramatically. After two bullets to start the day we were feeling pretty happy with our speed and we thought we knew what was going on with the wind; however, as we set up for the third race Nick and Kai began aggressively match racing, which was to be expected. They forced us to the right side of the course and stayed with us to maintain control. As it turned out we were both passed by the guys on the left and by the time we got to the first mark we were in 5th and Nick and Kai were right in front of us in 4th.

We both knew that Nick and Kai did not care what they finished in that race as long as they beat us, so it

turned into an intense match race between for another full two laps. We passed them downwind then they passed us back. Then we passed them upwind then they got us at the windward mark by just a hair. We had one more downwind to the finish, and they were in front. We tried to stay right behind them but the waves were quite big without any consistent pattern and were causing havoc with our ability to stay drafting. We gybed out and tried to get the race in the middle of the course so we could turn it into a gybing dual. They had gained a little on us but after we made them do a couple of gybes we were right up behind them again. We did two more quick gybes and got our bow ahead of them. Now they were right behind us. We tried a fake gybe and they went for it and gybed away. We continued out and when they came back on port we gybed right on them. We did one more gybe to the finish, crossed them to finish about a half a boat length in front. It was a really great race. Thanks to Nick and Kai for some awesome match racing.

The third day we had very consistent breeze and it steadily got windier throughout the day. The wind was very hard to predict and we ended up choosing the wrong side the first race and got smoked by Nick and Kai. We were worried we were not fast enough and a little nervousness set in so we made some changes to our set up to find a bit more speed. That helped. We won the second race and the third race, which made us feel a lot better. The Last race was much windier, probably above 15 knots. We rounded the first mark leading with Max Brill and Zach Malcom close behind. We were worried about them because they are very fast downwind and they passed us on the last downwind leg of the first race early that day. We worked hard to defend and ended up winning the last race of the day.

On the final day of Nationals the wind forecast was well over 25 knots. As we sailed out to the starting line before the first race the wind was in the high teens and building. We had an idea that the left would be favored because the wind was coming from the city so after we checked the line and we realized the pin was favored, we decided to start at the pin and go left. At about a minute to go to the start we were near the pin and there were about 5 boats underneath us. By that point it was getting pretty windy and a lot of the boats were out of control. At about 15 seconds the other boats were still really far from the line so we reached over them and by the time the gun went off we were at full speed right at the pin and going left. Scott Ewing and Geronimo Nores are very fast when the wind gets up in the 20 knot range. Immediately after the start they were right on our hip. We both dragged out to the left side of the course and we were able to finally pinched them off. They tacked out to sail back to the middle of the course and we waited about another 10 seconds before we tacked. By that time both of us were really far in front of the rest of the fleet. We dragged all the back to lay line and tacked just in front of Scott and Geronimo. We rounded the first mark leading and then we extended quite a bit on the downwind and had a very

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nice lead at the bottom mark. We held on to our lead the next two legs and won the race. The second race was just about the same as the first race with Scott and Geronimo close behind. After winning the second race we sealed up the regatta and were the new National Champions and were going to Youth Worlds.

Even though we did not have to sail the last race we decided to sail it anyway and by the time we got to the first mark it was getting very windy and it started to become a survival race. We were winning half way through the race, but we couldn't match the speed of Scott and Geronimo. They passed us upwind and they

went on to win the final race.

After winning both Orange bowl and Nationals we were super happy. It was especially cool for me because this was my first time qualifying for Youth Worlds, and especially exciting for Quinn to get his third trip.

We have countless thanks to all of our supporters: Our parents, our awesome coach Willie McBride, John Papadopoulos for taking care of our boats, ABYC and many more.

Riley Gibbs

rose bowl

This years junior sailing came to a great start with the Rose Bowl Regatta in the beginning of January. Hosted by our local US Sailing Center and USC, the regatta took place right at the end of the Belmont Shore Pier. I was surprised with how many different colleges and high schools had attended the regatta, not only colleges from the west coast but up and down the east coast as well. The level of experience also ranged widely, although most people have been sailors their whole life, a few had started just months before. Fortunately a majority of our Team Wilson members have been sailing for years.

The first day started with minimal wind and multiple postponements but by the middle of the day we finally started a race. Along with skipper Sawyer Gibbs, we were able to battle our way through the 1st rotation with a very close mid-fleet finish and another close finish resulting with an 8th. After our races our B-Team consisting of team

captain Riley Gibbs and Trent Turigliatto went out but unfortunately did not finish as they had planned.

On the second day there was the same lack of wind, but unfortunately coming offshore causing an even longer postponement. After many hours of waiting the A-Team went back out with Sawyer as skipper. After a slow race they finished with a 13th, and the next race a mid-fleet. After more wait the B-Team went out with Riley still skippering and Alex Van Dyke as crew. Doing better than they had the day before, Riley finished with an 11th and 9th. In the end, we finished with a 17th, lower than we wanted but still a great practice for upcoming regattas in San Francisco and Santa Barbara. Overall I had a great experience at the regatta although only being able to sail one day. It was also fun to support not only my team, but also Poly High School and Diamond Bar.

Ryan Schack

membership report

The first swing dance lesson on Friday, January 10th, was a lot of fun with over 50 dancers learning the steps! It was a great opportunity to invite potential members down to the club and John Gresham did just that and signed up not only 1 but 2 new members to join ABYC that night. Don't miss the last swing dance lesson on Friday, February 7th!

The first ukulele lesson on January 15th was a blast! 30 ukulele players were in attendance and Commodore Jennifer Kuritz had a feeling the crowd was going to be big and moved the board of directors meeting to the quarter deck and the ukuleles from the quarter deck up to the main clubhouse. Laughter and music could be heard echoing throughout the building! The classes continue monthly on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays from 6:30 until 8:00p.m. The cost is \$5.00 per session. Invite a guest to these activities and come have some fun!

The "Membership Drive" was announced at the January general membership meeting, and in case you missed it....WIN \$250 ABYC BUCKS!! Yes the ABYC Bucks are back, and there are 2 ways for ABYC members to win. Do you know someone that qualifies as a Regular Member and is interested in joining ABYC? Have them fill out an ABYC Membership Inquiry Form and turn it in before March 21, and you will be eligible for the drawing for \$250 ABYC BUCKS. But wait, it gets better...if you sponsor a Regular Member by March 21 you will get 3 chances in the drawing for \$250 ABYC BUCKS. (Note: ABYC Bucks limited use for food, beverages, merchandise only.)



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The discounted initiation fee of \$500 for regular members is still in effect, and this is a great opportunity to invite potential new members to ABYC, join in some of the fun activities on the calendar and if your guests are interested in becoming members you could win some BUCKS!!

New Member Orientation meetings have started under the direction of Commodore Jennifer Kuritz, and will be scheduled once a month for new members. The first meeting in January went well, and was extended to all new members that joined ABYC in 2013. These meetings give the new members an opportunity to meet Club Officers, get an overview of club activities and receive information about ABYC and how the club works.

The board of directors has approved the following 3 members for posting: Chris Cranner, Regular Member, sponsor John Gresham; Donald "Kim" McRae, Regular Member, sponsor John Gresham; and Dariusz (Darek) Buczynski, Regular Member, sponsor Chuck Clay.

Congratulations to Suzanne Dobson, Jennie McCarthy, and Dillon Graveline, who were approved by the board for membership. Welcome aboard! Congratulations to David and Lisa Sall who were presented their burgee at January's membership meeting.

If you have a candidate for membership that would like a tour of the club or want to get started in the membership application process, contact Membership Chairman Dana Bell at danafbell@cs.com or Cindy Heavrin at cmheavrin@verizon.net.

Cindy Heavrin



New Members David & Lisa Sall with Membership Chair Cindy Heavrin, sponsor Dominic Mao and Commodore Jennifer Kuritz

memories of the 72nd st sliders

As the L. B. breakwater moved east (towards the end of the 1940's), the only surfing spot left in L.B. was the end of the peninsula at 72nd Place and the Alamitos Bay channel entrance.

As young teenagers on the peninsula, our hero was a WWII vet who was a lifeguard at 72nd Place during the summer and a student on the GI Bill at U.S.C. during the school year. His name is Bob Gravage, AKA Hammerhead. During the summer, Hammer and his dog Corky lived in his truck, which was converted to a camper in the parking lot at 72nd. He would use the facilities at the lifeguard station and the public rest room. As a young teenager, Hammer honed his surfing skills in the pre-breakwater days in downtown L. B. and at Long Beach's big wave flood control break. He was a participant in the first U.S. Surfing Championship held in L.B. in the mid 30's, won by fellow lifeguard John Olson. He and his surfing friends surfed 72nd Place, the "Bay Channel" and Seal Beach's "Ray Bay", which is the exit of the San Gabriel River. Watching these wave riders fueled the interest of the Peninsula Gremmies.

One day I showed up with a 120 lb. redwood/pine surfboard and Dean Ashbrook showed up with an equally heavy board. Hammer took one look and said, "The only one who could surf that would be Mighty Joe Young. From that day on, I became "Mighty Joe" and Dean became "Man Mountain". Hammer told us, "You guys get together 10 or 15 dollars each and we will go get some material and make you a real board." Well, four of us (Joe Riddick, Dean Ashbrook, Bob Chubb, and Don Reiman) did, and Hammer took us to General Veneer Lumber Yard in South Gate, and got us some balsa and redwood. With tools from the lifeguard workshop in Jack Chubb's back yard, Hammer glued and shaped with a draw knife, saw, and plane. The result: 4 beautiful balsa/redwood surfboards.

Our little group surfed from the west jetty in front of 72nd Place, the center channel, to Seal Beach. A good ride all the way under the bridge (the bridge that used to exist over the Alamitos Bay Entrance and the San Gabriel River), also the East Jetty into Ray Bay and the warm water of the San Gabriel River.

This group of four, plus a few more interested participants formed The 72nd St. Sliders Surf Club on the peninsula.

When the two spots in L.B. were not breaking we would climb across the west channel jetty to the east channel jetty and into Seal Beach Ray Bay. The water was warmed up by the outflow of the power plant into the San G. River, which was great in the pre-wet suit days, but the sting rays liked it also. The last wave of the day was rode as far up the river as you could, so you could lessen the paddle back to 72nd. One day Jimmy Montigue, on his last ride up the river hopped off his board in knee-deep water, got hit by a ray, hopped to the other foot and got hit by another. Both feet ended up in a bucket of ammonia water at the 72nd Place Station, which was the prescribed treatment of the day in 1947.

The next few years, when autos entered the picture, our surfing horizons broadened. Across the Ocean Ave. bridge to Seal Beach: became a short cut to PCH. Tin Can Beach (Bolsa Chica State Beach), The Pipe at The Cliffs (Huntington Cliffs), The Huntington Pier, with an occasional "Sano"(San Onofre) trip became the new choices.

The 72nd St. Sliders of the late 1940's as a club died a natural death as the balsa redwood planks of that era evolved into the Fiber-glassed balsa boards of the '50's. The Pier Shooters were born!

72nd Street Sliders R.I.P.

by Joe Riddick (Laguna Place), slightly edited by Merle Asper

See photos on insert

hails from the fleets



ABYC *Laser* Fleet Hosts the U.S. Coast Guard for February Membership Meeting
The **Friday February 21st** General Membership Meeting will feature a presentation by members of the Coast Guard Sector Los Angeles Command Center, including a member of our own *Laser* Fleet, **Rodion Mazin**, about Coast Guard history and their local roles and missions. Our guests will also entertain questions from the audience.



United States Coast Guard
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

An audio visual presentation by our guests about the history and role of our Coast Guard will follow the traditional cocktail hour, delicious buffet dinner and General Membership Meeting.

We hope all our ABYC families and friends will set aside the date to enjoy an evening with fellow ABYC members and show your support for the men and women serving around the globe in our **United States Coast Guard**.

Laser Masters Winter Series at ABYC and Mission Bay YC

ABYC hosts the first of back to back *Laser* Masters (35 years and older) Regattas in February:

- The first is the SCYA Midwinter Regatta February 15-16 at ABYC.
 - The second is the California *Laser* Masters Regatta at Mission Bay Yacht Club in San Diego February 22-23.
- Mission Bay YC is also hosting a *Laser* Racing Clinic on Friday February 21 from 1100-1600.

These regattas precede the Manning Regatta at ABYC March 1-2, so here's a chance for us *Laser* Masters to get a good *Laser* racing fix over three consecutive weekends.

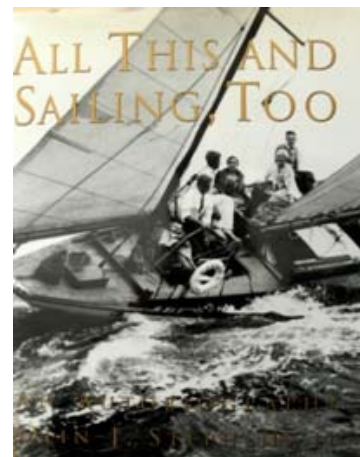
book review

ALL THIS AND SAILING, TOO An Autobiography by: Olin J. Stephens II

"Olin Stephens is the most successful yacht and boat designer of the twentieth century, a legend in his own time almost from the day in 1931 when he and his brother Rod and father Roderick Sr. finished a transatlantic race to England in the revolutionary 52' yawl *Dorade* a full two days ahead of the competition."¹ Not bad for a boat designed and built in the 1930's that was the overall winner of the 2013 *Transpac* Race to Hawaii. If you want to know more about *Dorade* and the evolution of yacht design from J Boats to 12 meters and more, pick up this beautifully illustrated book (don't you love the helmsman on the cover wearing an oxford shirt and necktie?). The book covers all aspects of Mr. Stephen's rich life through World War II and the America's Cup races in Newport RI. There's also an interesting section on the craft the Stephen's brothers designed for the war effort. All in all, an enjoyable overview of yachting in the 20th century.

¹From the dust jacket of *ALL THIS AND SAILING, TOO* ©1999 by Mystic Seaport Museum Inc.

Steven Smith, ABYC *Laser* Fleet Co-Captain



catalina cruise

It's not too early to mark your calendars for the 2014 ABYC Catalina cruise at Two Harbors. The dates this Year will be August 15, 16, and 17. Yon Carpenter and Pat McCormick are co chairs.

Perhaps we should have scheduled it for January with the 80 degree weather we have been having! Yon has offered to lead a snorkeling tour of big fisherman's cove to swim with the leopard sharks. They are benign and no shark cage is required!

Tom Ramsey has already volunteered to host us for drinks and snacks on his beautiful grand banks Encore again. Thanks Tom.

So no excuses, mark your calendar and be there for a great cruise.

Come a little earlier and stay a little longer.

Pat and Yon



Alamitos Bay Yacht Club

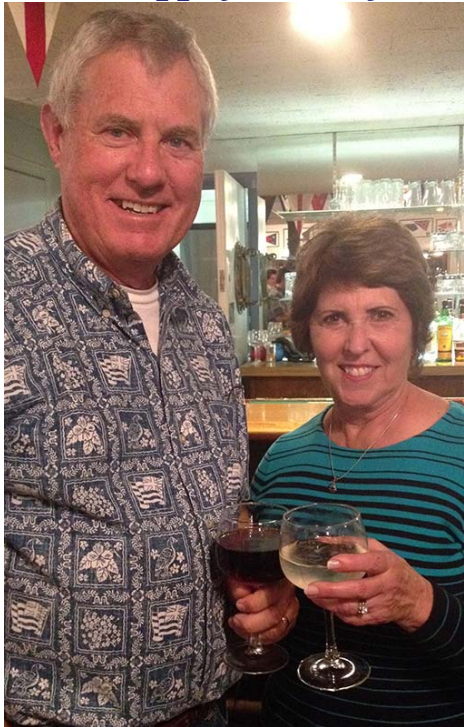
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Drink of the Month

Don & Chris Taugher
"The Happily Ever After"



1 oz pomegranate liqueur
2 oz vodka
1 oz pink grapefruit juice
Coarse sugar for rimming
1000 tons of Love

eight bells

I'm sad to announce that long-time member Bud Lorbeer passed on January 30. Bud joined ABYC in August 1960 and was an active member for many years. We will fly the missing member flag in his honor.

Jennifer Kuritz

late breaking news



neffie.smugmug.com 2014
Bobbie Peterson (with Latham Bill) was the big winner of the SLP Tournament! Details next month.



Jesus gets into the action