

The



VALLEJO YACHT CLUB

BINNACLE

May-June 2023

Founded 1900

www.VYC.org

P.I.C.Y.A. Club of the Year in 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006!



Sail back from the South Beach Cruise Out

June 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 U.S. Coast Auxiliary meeting - Steve Johnson - 707-205-6108 7:30 - 9:30pm	2 Friday night Dinner 5:30 - 8pm	3 North Bay Series Race 1 - 4pm
4	5 OFFICE CLOSED Monday Night NFL & MLB - Fun & Games... 6 - 9:30pm SOMIRA 6 - 8pm	6	7 Wed Nite Beer Can Race and Dinner \$15 6 - 9pm	8 Coast Guard Auxillary Flotilla 51 (Commander Phil Craig 707-260-4596, Ron Nathan 707-980-6935) 7:30am - 9:30pm	9 Friday night Dinner - 5:30 - 8pm	10
11	12 OFFICE CLOSED Monday Night Fun & Games... 6 - 9:30pm	13 Appoint Budget Committee Appoint Nomination Committee Board of Directors Meeting 7 - 9pm	14 Nominating Committee meets Wed Nite Beer Can Race and Dinner \$15 6 - 9pm	15	16 Delta Cruise Friday night Dinner and New Member Long Table 5:30 - 8pm	17 Delta Cruise Society of Forensic Engineers and Scientists Luncheon 11:30am - 2pm
18 Father's Day Delta Cruise Father's Day Brunch 10am - 1pm	19 OFFICE CLOSED Monday Night NFL & MLB - Fun & Games... 6 - 9:30pm	20 Delta Cruise	21 Delta Cruise VHS 60th Class Reunion Mtg 2 - 3pm Wed Nite Beer Can Race and Dinner \$15 6 - 9pm	22 Delta Cruise	23 Delta Cruise Sail A Small Boat Day 12 - 2:00pm Friday night Dinner 5:30 - 8pm	24 Delta Cruise Learn to Sail weekend class 9am - 3pm
25 Delta Cruise Learn to Sail weekend class 9am - 3pm	26 OFFICE CLOSED Learn to Sail wkday 9am -3pm, Sorooptimist Officer Installation "B" 5:30 - 9:30pm, Monday Night NFL & MLB - Fun & Games... 6pm - 9:30pm	27 Learn to Sail week day 9am - 3pm	28 Learn to Sail week day 9am - 3pm Wed Nite Beer Can Race and Dinner \$15 6 - 9pm	29 Learn to Sail week day 9am - 3pm GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 7:30 - 8:30pm	30 Learn to Sail week day 9am - 3pm Friday night Dinner 5:30 - 8pm	JULY 1 Learn to Sail week day 9am - 3pm
2 Learn to Sail week day 9am - 3pm	3 Learn to Sail week day 9am - 3pm Monday Night NFL & MLB - Fun & Games... 6 - 9:30pm	4 OFFICE CLOSED - Independence Day Learn to Sail weekend class 9am - 3pm Fireworks & Potluck 5 - 10pm	5 Wed Nite Beer Can Race and Dinner \$15 6 - 9pm	6 U.S. Coast Auxiliary meeting - Steve Johnson - 707-205-6108 7:30 - 9:30pm	7 Friday night Dinner 5:30 - 8pm	8

Special Events

Tuesday, June 13th, 7 - 9:00 PMBoard of Director's Meeting
 June 16th - June 25thDelta Cruise Out
 Friday, June 25th, Noon - 2 PMSail a Small Boat Day
 Saturday, June 24th - Sunday, June 25thLearn to Sail Weekend Class
 Monday, June 26th- Friday June 30thLearn to Sail Week Day Class

Monday Night Fun and Games 6 - 9 PM
 Wednesday Night Racing & Dinners 5:30 - 8:30 PM
 Friday Night Dinners 5:30 - 8 PM



COMMODORE REPORT Jeremy Haydock

Greetings Shipmates!

Wow! We did it! We successfully pulled off yet another amazing Great Vallejo Race!

We pulled it off because of an incredible amount of hard work and coordination from our dedicated membership, who showed up and put in the hours to make this event happen.

Even though overall attendance was down from previous years due to 2 other major events on the bay (AC Cup foiling sailboat racing and the annual boat show), we still actually generated a profit, which, all things considered, is really quite impressive!

I want to extend a note of thanks and appreciation to all our amazing volunteers who worked tirelessly both in the planning and execution of this event. This is one of the great things I love about our club, we pull together, and somehow, each year, we make this large event happen.

I have heard many notes of thanks and appreciation from the various skippers and crew who raced, all of them saying this is their favorite event of the year that they participated in. We even had one crew who came all the way from Hawaii just to do this event!!

June is traditionally a fairly busy month with lots going on. We have the Delta cruise, which starts on Friday, June 16th, and goes through till June 25th. There are multiple stops at various marinas throughout the delta. If you have ever wanted to explore the Delta but are unsure where to go and how to navigate the often tricky waters, this is the perfect event for you.

We also have our Father's Day brunch happening on June 18th. I bet many of our members will be out sailing their boats for Father's Day. We also have a new event, "Sail a small boat day," on Friday, June 23,

from Noon to 2:00. This is an opportunity for anyone, member, or nonmember, to get in one of our El Toro's or Pico boats and go for a day sail.

Of course, our big event of the summer is our Learn to Sail program. This program is one of the most popular and successful programs the club operates. We have taught hundreds of people the joys of sailing through this program, with many staying on and becoming active club members. In fact, when you register and pay for the week-long Learn to Sail program, we credit the fees towards membership, so someone could potentially become a member almost for free by taking the program. Last year we had many of the Learn to Sail alumni become full club members. Another amazing aspect of this program is that all our instructors are volunteers. Many of our volunteers have been teaching this program for decades! We have a vast amount of sailing knowledge and experience within our dedicated group of Learn to Sail instructors. Heck, I took the program years ago when I joined the club, just to brush up on my sailing skills. Plus, sailing a small boat is so dang fun and rewarding!

This year the Learn to Sail program will have two courses.

One course is a 2-weekend class on June 24 and 25th, and the next weekend on July 1st and July 2nd.

The other course offered is a weeklong intensive training program starting June 26 and going through to June 30th.

Once again, I thank all our amazing members who volunteered for the Great Vallejo Race. The race was a success because of you, and we can't thank you all enough.

Respectfully and with gratitude,

Jeremy Haydock
Commodore, commodore@vyc.org

SHIP'S STORE REPORT



Hello Shipmates,

Thank you to all volunteers who have signed up and helped at the Great Vallejo Race. It was a fun time, and I appreciated all the help!

Do you need a new Burgee? I have them for sale in the Ship's Store. I try to be at the store on Wednesdays and Fridays and on Saturdays when there is a function. I need help because I cannot always be there, so if you are looking for something to volunteer for at the club, please see me or Mike or Arv in the office.

Happy Boating and fair winds,
Barbara Brown,
Ship's Store Chairperson

Calling All Volunteers!

We are looking for two power boats on the water between VYC and Mare Island Brewing Company during the 4th of July festivities that would be able and willing to retrieve any drones in the event any fall into the water. The show runs from approximately 9:00 - 9:30 PM.

If you are interested in volunteering your time, please contact:
Rebecca Kotch, Mare Island Brewing, at
Rebecca.Kotch@MareIslandCo.com OR
Tory Weisman, Sky Elements Drones, at
Tory@skyelementsdrones.com for more details.

Thank you!
Shelee Loughmiller, VYC Member and
Community & Volunteer Coordinator, City of Vallejo



VICE COMMODORE Scott Green

May Report

Greetings, shipmates, friends, and colleagues!

Oh my, oh my! How time flies! My brain spins at the thought that, at the time of writing this, it's already time for the Great Vallejo Race. I cannot express my gratitude loudly enough for all those folks who have beared with me through this! We all know that the event cannot be pulled off by one person, but we also know that we can't really force anyone to help. Yet, people have helped.... immensely!

The list of specific folks who've been helping on the planning committee is a little long for this submission, but I expressly do want to thank Irene O'Brien, Mike Read, and Jennifer Charvez for keeping me on task amidst all the other demands placed on my days. Without

that focus, I would've gone nuts Maybe I am nuts and just don't realize it. I'm sure I started losing it right in the middle of the fun of the cruise out to Point San Pablo Yacht Club a couple of weekends ago! Thank you, Noble!

In any case, add on top of this all the classes I've had to do for my Coast Guard license, and yes, Scott was busy. And then I got the infamous COVID. Nevertheless, things kept moving forward, and so, here we are, two weeks out from the Club's biggest event. And thus, by the time May 8th rolls around, I will be out to sea and reminiscing about all the hard work you all put in to make this famous event a great one for the history books.

Humbly, with boundless appreciation,
Your Vice Commodore, Scott

Chairman of the Board Message: Honor Bar Issues and Concerns

Hello Shipmates,

For years, members of VYC have enjoyed the convenience of an honor bar. During a recent Bay Area meeting of club managers and officers, a state liquor license official gave a presentation covering new laws and regulations and discussed their impact on honor bars. As has been announced in the Binnacle and talked about at club meetings, anyone that wishes to serve themselves a beverage from the bar, when there isn't a bartender on duty needs to take an online class, an open book test, and pay for a certificate. The club can help you accomplish all this and reimburse you for the cost.

The question has been asked, "What if I see someone serving themselves or others drinks, and they are not on the list of certified persons." What you need to do in this case is simply note the time and date of the infraction and notify the office by

leaving a voice mail on the club phone, emailing the office with the information, or if the office is open, stop in and provide the information. You don't even need to get a name. The office staff will take appropriate action. It is important that no one takes it upon themselves to police the situation by approaching the person and pointing out their error. We don't want confrontation in the bar or hurt feelings. The BOD will handle the situation.

There will be some challenges as we adjust to these new regulations, laws, and rules. With everyone's cooperation, we will successfully adapt to these new rules, thereby ensuring that we benefit from an honor bar in the future. We are sailors we can handle changes in the wind and an occasional blow.

Sincerely,

Elvin Valverde
Chairman of the Board

Welcome, New Members!

We welcome new members to the club on the third Friday of every month.

Please join us for our new member dinners and make a new friend or two For our seasoned members, please extend a warm welcome and introduce yourself to our new clubmates.



Shelee Loughmiller



Christopher Baker

GALLEY REPORT

Jim Glenn

Join us for delicious Friday night dinners. Friday, June 16th is our new member, long table dinner.

Please stop on by, enjoy some killer BBQ ribs, and welcome new clubmates to VYC!

Friday,

June 2nd
PASTA NIGHT
 Spaghetti with meatballs
 Lemony chicken alfredo
 Green beans
 Salad
 Bread
 Dessert

Friday,

June 9th
 Buttery garlic pork tenderloin
 Butternut squash au gratin
 Salad
 Bread
 Dessert

Friday,

June 16th
 Barbeque ribs
 Potato salad corn on the cob
 Cornbread
 Dessert

Friday,

June 23rd
 Cook your own steak with Norm's help
 Baked potato
 Salad
 Dessert

Friday,

June 30th
 Enchilada pie
 Rice
 Jicama mango slaw
 Bread
 Dessert



SAFETY REPORT

It comes like a thief in the night and strikes before you know what's happening. It's dehydration, and we are all much closer to this than we realize.

Dehydration is the absence of a sufficient amount of water in your body. According to medical statistics, 75 percent of Americans are chronically dehydrated, with the average American drinking only 2.5 cups of water daily instead of the recommended 4 liters. Have you ever felt thirsty? Then you're already dehydrated. Mild dehydration can lead to dizziness, fatigue, flushed skin, headache, impaired physical performance, and confusion. More extreme dehydration can even cause problems like labored breathing, increased body temperature, poor blood circulation, seizures, and loss of consciousness. It may lead to life-threatening issues like heart problems and heatstroke.

Of course, physical exertion and sweating can lead to dehydration. Coffee, alcohol, salty foods, and certain medications, such as diuretics and some blood pressure medications, also can lead to dehydration, generally because they cause you to urinate more. When we go out on our boats, we need to ensure we have plenty of water for all on board—beer and soda won't get the job done. A few hours of sun and wind in the cockpit of a sailboat can dry you out rapidly—and remember that most of us are chronically dehydrated to begin with, so it won't take long to become moderately to severely dehydrated.

The best way to beat dehydration is to drink water before you get thirsty . . . and keep drinking. If you're thirsty, you're already mildly dehydrated. Remember the symptoms listed above. Don't risk your well-being when help can be hours away.

Respectfully submitted by Deb Rocchild with help from P/C Ken Leslie

THE MAN IN THE ARENA

This article is for those in the club that raise their hand and volunteer to serve as an officer, member of the board of directors or take on any number of the volunteer projects that keep the club going. It is also for those that watch. In 2021, I decided to hike a portion of the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT). I watched hours of YouTube videos about strategy, equipment, and challenges. My goal was to hike north 100 miles from the Mexican-US border to Warner Springs. To train, I took my daily walks downtown with my wife Jennifer and our dog Bo wearing a 25 lbs. pack. I hiked the hills of Benicia with a 35-pound pack to build my stamina and even slept a few nights on the floor.

Early on April 5th, 2022, Jennifer dropped me off at the border near Campo, California. We took pictures at the border fence as all hikers do, shared a kiss and a hug, then I stepped off on my adventure.

Because of the drought, water was scarce. For the first 20 miles, there was only one source of water, and that was at mile 4.3.

The trail was busy with hikers, mostly young, mostly traveling solo. Portions of the first section were steep and rocky. There was almost no shade, and where it existed, three to four hikers were huddled together, sharing a break from the sun. I camped at mile 11.5 along with other hikers. The talk that evening was of an unexpected heat advisory beginning the next day. Many hikers said they were skipping dinner because they didn't want to use water for cooking. I skipped dinner because I was exhausted; a cliff bar would do. Some talked of getting off the trail and hanging out in town to wait out the heat. I was still working and didn't have the luxury of time. At the first light of day two, I began the 8.5 miles to a lake and campground at mile 20. Day two consisted of a descent of 800 feet into a canyon and then a 1200-foot climb out. My drinking water was getting low and was warm. The 1200-foot climb out of the canyon was on the southern shadeless side of the mountain and subject to full sun exposure. I was physically and mentally exhausted. With less than two miles to the lake, I called Jennifer and asked her to get me a hotel room. She would drive up that night and join me, then we would return to our daughter's house in Altadena. On the phone, I couldn't hold back my tears. I felt like a failure and

a fool. Heat, terrain, age, a heavy pack, scarcity of water, and unrealistic ambition had defeated me.

From the lake, I caught a ride to the hotel. I was scratched up, dehydrated, and not thinking clearly. My good Samaritan driver asked if I needed to go to the hospital.

A friend called while recovering at my daughter's house, not knowing I had quit. After I shared my story, he sent me a link to a speech given in Paris by Teddy Roosevelt in April 1910. The speech was short but powerful. The speech is known as the Man in the Arena speech. It was the exact kind of message I needed at the time.

"It is not the critic who counts, not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."

After the heat passed, I returned to the trail. I took it slower, and the weather was favorable to hikers in their sixties. I hiked a total of 42 miles before I had to return to work. I credit my decision to return to the trail to my friend's encouraging words and Teddy Roosevelt's speech.

At VYC and in life, encourage each other, especially those who volunteer to enter the arena. Your words are powerful. The product of their service will be better because of your encouragement.

Elvin Valverde
Chairman of the Board

Happy Birthday

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Jeff Ellis	5/01
Ken Leslie P/C	5/01
Jay Lund	5/01
Donna Seabrooks	5/01
Maurice Campbell	5/02
Justin Walker	5/08
Tim Dellas	5/08
Leon Garcia	5/09
Adam Paul	5/10
Valerie Suzawa	5/11
Jaclyn Clark	5/14
Wesley Eifert	5/15
Christopher Baker	5/15
John Baldwin	5/16
Vladlen Pogorelov	5/16
Kerry Ahearn	5/16
Harold Helbock	5/17
Deborah Rocchild	5/18
William Pallas	5/19
Julie Modenos	5/20
Ferenc Lazar	5/21
Richard 'Ricky' Bastien P/C	5/22
Scott Green	5/22
Chris Platzter	5/23
Jimmy Verrett Jr.	5/23
Cameron Kriens P/C	5/25
Josh Hunter	5/25
Caroline Miller	5/27
Jim Mueller	5/28
Rick Hernandez	5/29

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Dennis Folsom	6/01
Robin Manning	6/02
Leon Lucchesi	6/04
Lidiya Kukovic	6/06
David Britt	6/07
James Finley	6/08
Joel Sorum	6/09
Pamela Feldman	6/10
Laura Mullet	6/10
Joanmarie Nicora	6/10
Dustin Hayes	6/12
James Hildebrand	6/14
Jamie Bauah	6/14
Mason Nichols	6/15
Janet Pecorella	6/15
Curtis Ewing	6/16
Harry Hemsley	6/16
Tom Jermin III	6/17
Mark Kozy	6/17
Debbie Ewing	6/18
Steve Stewart	6/18
Jan 'Hennie' Cloete	6/19
Rex Reyes	6/19
Janet Alexander	6/20
Rachel Novak	6/20
Anita Daniels	6/24
Reagan Hayes	6/24
Mark Lemke	6/24
Norm Owens	6/24
Mary Stamschror	6/24
Christina Natividad	6/27
David Sweet	6/28
Kimball Sargeant	6/29
Tom Ochs	6/30
Kim Alan Rheauly	6/30

Great Vallejo Race

The Great Vallejo Race, one of the largest inland regattas in the US, was held on May 6th and 7th. There were 96 vessels registered for this two-day, down-and-back race. Racers were greeted at the dock with a steel drum band, cold drinks, and smiling faces at the hospitality desk. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped set up, run the race, parked boats, poured drinks, cooked, cleaned, etc. Another year is in the books for us!



Photo Credit to Ken Marshall

Opening Day at VYC

Thank you to everyone who attended the 2023 Opening Day at VYC. It's sure to be a great year for the club and all the boaters who enjoy the waters!



Ducky race at Opening Day



Blessing of the Fleet

PICYA May Report

by Maggie Sabovich, VYC PICYA Delegate

The Monday, April 3rd PICYA Delegate meeting was hosted by the Sacramento Yacht Club, both in person and virtually on Zoom. Master of ceremonies was our Commodore, Larry Mayne, who provided the attending delegates with a schedule of upcoming events.

The next PICYA regular Delegates' meeting and Awards dinner is scheduled for Monday, May 8th, at the Oyster Point Yacht Club, both in person and in Zoom format. Awards for the best-decorated boats will be presented, and a wonderful dinner is expected to accompany the festivities.

2023's PICYA Opening Day on the Bay took place on Sunday, April 30, from 8 AM to 2 PM at the newly renamed "Luxe Cruises and Events" (previously "Commodore Cruises"), located at 2394 Mariner Square Drive in Alameda. We hope many of you were able to decorate your boats and were able to join us for our Annual Opening Day Boat Parade along the San Francisco waterfront. Everyone loved their cruise on Luxe Cruise's boat, "Cabernet Sauvignon," including the gourmet luncheon served and the bird's eye view of the Annual Boat Parade.

This year's Annual Lipton Cup races will be hosted by the San Francisco Yacht Club the weekend of June 16-June 18th. Go to the <http://www.picya.org> website for all the information on this event.

On Sunday, September 30th, PICYA's Annual Margot Brown Wheelchair Regatta to benefit veterans with a trip around the Bay on our delegates' volunteered boats will occur once more at the Encinal Yacht Club on the Alameda Estuary. Many veterans are confined to wheelchairs, so we need members with power boats to volunteer to take the vets out on the Bay for a two-hour boat tour of the Oakland Estuary and the Bay along the San Francisco waterfront. On their return, there will be a great hamburger/hotdog barbecue luncheon ready for vets, boat owners, and volunteers alike on the Encinal Yacht Club lawn, with accompanying live music for all.

Please mark your calendars and VOLUNTEER!

Recreational Boaters of California (RBOC) News:

RBOC is advocating for the Governor and Legislature to Adopt Recommendations on Boating Taxes & Fees in the State's Budget California's boating community and industry together support the dedication and utilization of boater fees and taxes for programs and services that directly benefit boaters. As a part of our ongoing advocacy efforts on this issue, RBOC and several like-minded boating organizations wrote to State Parks Director Quintero and other officials to re-affirm our interests, concerns, and requests as the state budget for FY 2023-2024 is being developed before the start of that fiscal year on July 1.

We appreciate the decision made by the Governor and Legislature within the state budget for the current fiscal year to refrain from significantly increasing boat registration fees and convening a stakeholder process to provide a path to expanded opportunities for all Californians to enjoy on-the-water recreation in the years ahead.

This process allowed all interested parties and the state to review the expenditure of more than \$100 million each year in fuel tax dollars attributable to boat owners. Within that review, we were able to assess a need to determine the most effective and efficient use of those funds, to identify approaches for increasing the disproportionately small percentage of those monies currently directed to boating programs, and to enhance the financial participation of non-boaters who benefit from the current and future programs.

We anticipate that the Governor's May Budget Revise may propose one or more solutions to the Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund [HWRF] deficiency. We urge the administration and the Legislature to ensure that the recommendations developed through this stakeholder process are incorporated. They include:

- A comprehensive report on the economic impact of recreational boating in California.
- The enhanced participation and financial contribution of non-boating stakeholders and beneficiaries benefitting from current and future programs and services.
- The enhancement of the statutory authority and role of the Commission to provide not only advice but also consent on the Division's loans and grants from the HWRF.
- The identification of approaches that can be taken to meet the new challenges identified through the stakeholder engagement process, such as the number of abandoned and derelict vessels not currently addressed by the existing SAVE grant program.

PICYA Report ... continued

- The enhancement of the Division’s administration of essential programs.
- The identification of efficiencies and improvements to programs that are not attracting the desired number of recipients due to statutory requirements that may be out-of-date, obsolete, or non-competitive.
- Encouragement of Californians to take advantage of the unique and diverse on-the-water opportunities that exist throughout the state.
- A return of significant amount of the motor vehicle fuel taxes directly generated by recreational boaters to the HWRF.
- An identification and expenditure of other funds for grants directed to beach erosion control.
- As appropriate, a vessel registration fee adjustment that is reasonable and that corresponds to the revenues and savings that are recommended above.

With the dedicated leadership provided by members of the Boating and Waterways Commission and the personnel at the Division of Boating and Waterways, the boating community engaged in the extensive stakeholder process with optimism that the recommendations would inform budgetary decisions and policy initiatives to enhance unique California’s on-the-water opportunities for all Californians.

The process concluded at the end of last year by submitting each subcommittee’s report to the Division of Boating and Waterways and the Department of Parks and Recreation.

We are urging the administration and the Legislature to incorporate the recommendations into the May budget revision and related budget legislation that will be released in the near future.

Cruise Out

Join us for one of the many cruise-outs planned for 2023! This is a great opportunity to travel with your fellow shipmates and experience different yacht clubs across the Bay area.

COMPLETED CRUISES – A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!

February 24th-26th-Sweetheart’s Cruise to Martinez Yacht Club
 March 17th-19th - Loch Lomond Yacht Club – LLYC is having a St. Patrick’s Day Party!
 April 14th-16th-Point San Pablo Yacht Club • May 19th-21st - South Beach Yacht Club

UPCOMING CRUISES

June 16th-25th - Annual Delta Cruise • July 14th-16th - Petaluma Yacht Club
 August 11th-13th - Commodores Cruise to San Francisco Yacht Club • September 9th-18th - Bluewater Cruise



Sail back from the South Beach Cruise Out



Cruise Out Dinner at South Beach



The Lone Toilet

If you have ever driven out Highway 37 toward Sears Point raceway, have you noticed when you go over the Sonoma Creek bridge, you look out to the north and see an outhouse sitting on the marsh?

This is the last remains of the Tubbs Island community that was a duck hunting stop-off in the early part of the twentieth century. The outhouse is called The Lone Toilet on Google Maps and was featured in an episode of Bartell's Backroads. It has quite the background, as does the namesake of the bridge, which is the "Fresh Air Jansen Bridge." Dick Jansen lived there in an Ark until about 1950, where he supplied duck decoys to the hunters for the yearly migration of the birds of the Pacific flyway.

There was a small community of arks there that mostly housed farmers, rail line workers, and other bohemian artists of the day. As his cabin was built pre-1920s, as one can imagine, there was a still there producing moonshine in addition to the decoys for the hunters to enjoy while traipsing through the muddy marshes after the waterfowl. A guy has got to make a little extra on the side somehow.

The decoys that he made were all hand carved and very detailed. There are some stories about hunters sneaking up on the decoys and shooting at them as they were so realistic. As such, many of these surviving collectible pieces have BB holes in them.

Duck hunting in the early part of the century was a very popular sport, and some of the duck clubs built in the area were quite elaborate. Many of these hunters would supply the marketplaces of the surrounding area with ducks for dinners as it was a profitable item at the time, and the marshland was full of critters. Hunters would bring over 250 birds at a time to market from this seemingly inexhaustible source until the decline in the population in the 1950s.

As the Pacific Fly slowly shifted east toward the Sacramento Valley, the waterfowl went with it. On the positive side, the flyway is starting to return due to conservation efforts in the San Pablo wetland areas. Jansen got his nickname Fresh Air by sleeping on the decks of the sailing vessels and salmon boats of the time when he worked on them as a merchant seaman.

He was also a bridge tender for the rail line that goes across the wetlands and lived on the ark about a half mile from the bridge. The rail line is still there and usable. It starts in Napa Junction and ends in Sonoma, where there is a switching station which eventually ends up in Petaluma. When the bridge was built in 1966, CalTrans changed the name of the bridge from "Fresh Air Dick Jansen Bridge" to "Fresh Air Jansen Bridge," and I wonder why?! 😊

Now, the only thing that is left of that community is the privy in the middle of the marshland, and who knows what stories it could tell. Highway 37 was opened in 1917 and covered 21 miles from what is now Highway 101 all the way to Vallejo. The final stage, the last ten miles to Vallejo, was built by a private enterprise and operated as a toll road from 1928 through 1938, and administered by the Golden Gate Ferry system, when it was purchased by the state.

The road will change back to a toll road by about 2027 when road improvements should be completed to alleviate traffic congestion. So, when you drive over Sonoma Creek the next time, you will know how and why the Lone Toilet exists.

By the way, there is a day-use facility there, but I would only recommend it to those with excellent driving skills, as getting on and off of the highway is challenging at worst.

Tom Ochs, Club Historian

2022 - 2023 Elected & Appointed Officers

Commodore Jeremy Haydock
 Vice Commodore Scott Green
 Rear Commodore Hugo Knef
 Staff Commodore Matt Hendricksen
 Treasurer & Dredge Fund Project Manager ... Bob Lockhart
 Secretary Samantha Fordyce
 Port Captain, Administrative Arv Voss
 Port Captain, Dock Maintenance
 and Engineering Jeff Ruzler
 Fleet Captain, Cruise Noble Brown
 Fleet Captain, Sail Mark Littlefield and Denny Mosher
 Fleet Captain, Power TBD
 Fleet Chaplain Bob Reeves
 Fleet Surgeon Fred Von Steiff, MD
 Safety Chair Deb Rocchild
 Learn to Sail Chair Dale Anderson
 Membership Chair Mark Ashworth
 Ship's Store Chair Barbara Brown
 Galley Chair & Social Chair Jim Glenn
 Long Range Planning Chair Ken Leslie
 Grounds Chair Clare Harmon

House Chair Matt Mack
 Club Historian Tom Ochs
 Community Liason Chair and
 VYC Social Media Chair Julique Lewis Haydock
 Binnacle Editor Amy Hendricksen
 Webmaster Matt Hendricksen
 Bar Managers Michael Read and Arv Voss
 Club Manager Arv Voss
 Financial Manager Michael Read

Board of Directors

Chairman of the Board Elvin Valverde
 Director Gail Ashworth
 Director Geoff Lambert
 Director Bob Lockhart
 Director Jeff Ruzler
 Director and Parliamentarian Bill Sweitzer

Delegates

PICYA Maggie Sabovich
 YRA TBD



VALLEJO YACHT CLUB
 485 Mare Island Way
 Vallejo, CA 94590

First Class

