

VALLEJO  YACHT CLUB

THE BINNACLE

PICYA Club of the Year 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009



March 2010

MARCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

VYC Work Party

Calling all members! We need volunteers to help paint the exterior of the clubhouse on March 27th-28th and April 3rd. We will provide lunch and a party afterwards for everyone who participates.



Annual Jiggs Dinner

Join your fellow shipmates on March 13th for a hearty dinner of corned beef and cabbage. This time-honored tradition is VYC's way of saying goodbye to winter and welcoming spring! More information on page 9.



Picture of the Month

Leading the Mardi Gras Parade, Renee' and Bud Morley



Do you have pictures you'd like to see in the next Binnacle? Submit photos to BinnacleEditor@vyc.org.

★★★ Commodore's Report



Winter comes to an end this month! It is time to wash the deck of your vessel, update your registration stickers, check your rigging, and review your required safety equipment for operation and expiration dates where applicable. Vessel Safety checks are performed free of charge by the Coast

Guard Auxiliary and the U.S. Power Squadron. None of the deficiencies are reported to authorities, and the reports are provided to you as an advisory checklist only. Upcoming scheduled inspection dates are posted on the club bulletin board, or you can request a vessel safety check by submitting a request online at our website.

Please start spring by lending a hand as we paint the exterior of our clubhouse on March 27 & 28. Show pride in YOUR club! Sign up on the bulletin board.

Our Website has been updated with exciting new content and a new look. Upcoming events are posted on the front page. Scroll through to see what you are missing. Take a moment to click on the Binnacle link in the navigation bar. You can sign up to receive the Binnacle electronically via email, or read it anytime on our website. Every copy we don't print and mail is over a dollar saved. You all add up quickly! Your feedback is also requested on the type of information you would like to have available online. Submit a website survey by following the links in the menu bar under Information to Website Survey.

Membership in our club is increasing and the dynamics are changing! New members are getting involved in all areas of the club. You can feel the energy in the air. We have over 250 Memberships with over 380 members! 15% of you have been members for 1 year or less. Our goals are aggressive. This critical mass is needed to provide the services the membership demands. However, we are not going to forsake quality for quantity! If you have friends or family that you bring to the club on a semi-regular basis, then ask them to become a member. They are pre-screened by you, thus making the quality of our membership even better.

March 20th is a cruise to China Camp (near San Rafael). We will raft up in the cove and use Dinghy's to transport folks to shore for a B.B.Q. I hope to see you on the water soon.

Christopher Mendonca, Commodore

Reminder to all Members: Your VYC Invoice is due upon receipt. Balances are not to be carried forward. Member's privileges may be suspended for repeat offenders.

Important Notice to all Boat Owners: January marked the beginning of a new biannual cycle of DMV registrations. We still have vessels in the harbor with '09, '07 and prior tags. Pursuant to harbor regulations, please affix updated registration tags and provide a copy of either registration or current USCG documentation along with proof of insurance to the office by 2/25/10.

★★ Voice of the Vice



Plans for YRA are moving along.

Tony Williams is once again in the kitchen for our great barbecue and Lita K is ready for a wonderful breakfast for us.

We still need people to head up committees so please give us a call. This is a huge event and we need help from all our members. If you're a new member please call for ideas on areas to volunteer.

Mount Gay Rum is sponsoring us so be prepared for plenty of Rum. Lets support our sponsor not only at YRA but all year. Think of adding a rum drink at the bar once in while, we would like them back again next year.

Brian Liddle, Vice Commodore

★ Rear Report



Hello fellow Club members!

I'll start with comments about the Crab Feed. One of the great things about events that the Club puts on is that there are so many volunteers to help make them successful and the Crab Feed is a good example. Between the food, bar and auction we were able to raise close to \$10,000 for

the club, some of which goes to help the Learn to Sail program.

This year was my turn to oversee the Crab Feed and it was a great pleasure to work with all the people that volunteered. When you see them, it would be nice if the membership could thank them for donating their effort and time to the club. I am going to try to list everybody that helped (if I miss anyone that worked, I apologize.)

Crabmasters - Bob Emerick and Gary Cicerlo. *Orderingmaster* - Tony Spinetti. *Master of Everything* - Glenn McKeig. *Galleymasters* - Manny and Liz Lorenzana, Bob and Kathy Emerick and Bob Hull. *Signalmaster* - Tom Ochs. *Eventmasters* - Lita Karuzas and Lynn Liddle helped everywhere. *Tablemaster* - Ellie Carroll. *Wranglingmaster* - Jim McCarthy for getting the students from the Cal Maritime Academy. *Swabymasters* - Cal Maritime Academy students. *Emcee/Auctionmaster* - Jack Higgins. Jack does an amazing job for the Learn to Sail auction, and brought in a pirate's trove of booty. *Co-Auctionmasters* - Dale Anderson and Bob and Val McGowan. *Barmaster* - Dave Nadolne and crew. *Clubmaster* - Matt Ceryes was invaluable. Thanks goes out to Pam Bond a very special person to me, without whose help I could not have pulled off this event.

On another note, we have the **Opening Day** at our Club coming up on April 17th, followed by the **Opening Day on the Bay** on April 24th. We need volunteers for these events. It would be great to see your boat in the Opening Day parade in front of the San Francisco waterfront. The theme this year is "Building Bridges".

Jim Glenn, Rear Commodore

Around the Marks Submitted by Gordon Smith, Sail Fleet Captain

"And a tip of the hat to you," or so the saying goes. What am I talking about? Well, let's start with the sponsorship of this year's Great Vallejo Race. Brian and Lynn Liddle have done a great job attracting sponsors for the GVR. Names like Mount Gay Rum (you know, the ones with those famous red hats), West Marine, and Vallejo Boat Works to name a few. By the time you read this, I am sure they will have even more sponsors signed up. As most of you know, Mount Gay rum has sponsored some of the largest and most popular races in the world. Having them here to help us out is a real honor. The hats they give out are world famous and cannot be purchased. They must be earned by racing in one of the races they sponsor. So, if you want one of these collector hats, sign up for the GVR. If you cannot make the race Brian and Lynn are working on a deal to sell some of Mount Gay Rum's neat sailing apparel at the club after the race. Of course, we will be offering our own GVR t-shirts designed by our own Arvel Voss. So, if you want to look sharp for the 2010 racing season, the VYC is place to get your cool sailing duds. I know I don't have to mention that we need a lot of help to make this event a success. Don't be bashful. Step up to the plate and volunteer. A successful GVR helps the club a great deal.

Because of a change in our mid-winter schedule, the results for the February 13th race are not complete yet. We will have them in the next issue of the *Binnacle*. Speaking of mid winters, our final mid-winter race for the 2009-2010 season

2009-2010 Elected & Appointed Officers	
Commodore	Christopher Mendonca
Vice Commodore	Brian Liddle
Rear Commodore	Jim Glenn
Staff Commodore	Eric Jacobsen
Treasurer	Ruben Gabriel
Secretary	Christopher Roop
Port Captain	Bruce Martens
Asst. Port Captain	TBD
Fleet Captain Sail	Gordon Smith
Asst. Fleet Captain Sail	Dave Nadolne
Fleet Captain Power	Arden Perkins
Fleet Captain Cruise	Emanuel Lorenzana
Parliamentarian	P/C Hal Roemmick
Bar Manager	Dave Nadolne
Club Manager	Matthew Ceryes
Board of Directors	
Chairman	Tom Ochs
Director	Jack Vetter
Director	Mike Coleman
Director	Bob Sorum
Director	P/C John Karuzas
Director	Dennis Ronk
Committee Chairpersons	
Binnacle	Pam Bond
	Fran Breeding
	Robbie Gabriel
Social	Jan Jacobsen
Safety	George Ennis
Learn to Sail	Dale Anderson
Membership	Robbie Gabriel
Grounds	Maureen Snoddy
Long Range Planning	Bernard Wormgoor
Historian	Liz Lorenzana
Ship's Store	Jeff Dickey
Safety	George Ennis
House	TBD
Sunshine	TBD
Delegates	
PICYA	Eric Jacobsen, Maggie Sabovich
YRA	Gordon Smith

will be the Tiny Robbins mid-winter race # 5 on March 13th. The first race of our 2010 season will be Wednesday April 7th. Remember we will have three divisions: Division A, spinnaker; Division B, non-spinnaker (phrf 150 and under); and Division C non-spinnaker (phrf 151 and above). April 10th will begin our North Bay Championship Series (race #1) with the Cal Maritime Academy race. If you haven't registered yet, entry forms are available at the club and posted online at www.vyc.org.



Tom Ochs' *Somewhere in Time* leads Frank Gonzales-Mena's *Citlali* during the February midwinter

We are working on another rules seminar and will get a date out as soon as possible. All members are invited, and it is free.

A thanks to all the skippers who attended our February 13th Skippers meeting. I hope you enjoyed it. One piece of great news is that Lita will be doing the honors for the racers again this year. It is really a lot of work to provide food for all of us, so please don't hesitate to mention your appreciation if you see her around the club.

As Bugs Bunny used to say,
"That's all folks!"



**CALLING ALL BLUE WATER
SAILING, COASTAL CRUISING
AND BAY EXPLORING
SWABBIES!**

Share your adventures
with your shipmates.

Submit your stories and photos to
binnacleeditor@vyc.org by the
20th of every month for publication.

Read this month's Swabbie Log on page 6.

We wish you fair winds and following seas!

Meet Our New Members Submitted by Robbie Gabriel, Membership Chair

Louisa and Peter Szasz (Full Membership)



Peter and Louisa spend a lot of time on the water. They have two boats, including a 38 foot Sea Ray at VYC, and a J105 called *One Trick Pony* at the Saint Francis Yacht Club (StFYC).

Peter was born in Budapest, Hungary and immigrated to the US in the late 50's. He is a retired executive from the Semiconductor industry. Peter has been a member at StFYC for 35 years and has served on various committees including; membership, race, and long range planning. For the past 40 years Peter's raced all types of sailboats including Sunfish, Lasers, Fireballs, 505s, J29s, J105s, Santana 35s, Express 37s, Islander 36s and TP 52s. Now as a member at VYC he's interested in helping out with the race committee and learn to sail program.

Louisa is a California girl and comes from a large family, with brothers and sisters from Oregon to Southern California. She is currently a teacher in the Napa Valley School District. Besides being a great cook, Louisa enjoys hiking, boating, traveling and socializing.

They are married 26 years and have one son Robert. who is 25 years old. As a couple, they enjoy skiing, jazz, and good food and wine. Join us in welcoming Louisa and Peter!

Larry and Francesca Loftis (Full Membership)



Introducing Larry and Francesca from Placerville. Placerville? What a commute! At least for the rest of us, but for them it's a good balance of time between riding their 4 horses and coming to a friendly yacht club to stay and enjoy their boat.

They joined VYC to meet fellow boaters and to berth their 1977 Freeport 41, *Desiderata*. *Desiderata* is a relatively new boat for them, which is no surprise with Larry's long history of boat ownership which includes 6 other boats.

Larry has a passion for all things that float since he was a kid. His view is that there is "absolutely nothing better than being on the water and it doesn't matter how shinny, ugly, big or small the boat is". Sound familiar? They are going to fit right in with the club!



Larry was a commercial insurance broker in Los Angeles for 25 years and is now retired. Late last year, they became grandparents for the first time to a baby girl named Ella. Ella's parents live in Washington DC. Congratulations Larry and Francesca!

When you have a chance to meet Larry, be sure to ask him why they named their boat *Desiderata*.

Cherise Petker (Full Membership)



Leapin' Lizards!?! Well, not exactly. Leapin' Lizards is the name of new member, Cherise Petker's 1979 San Juan 28 sailboat. Cherise has enjoyed crewing and socializing with her VYC friends since 1999 and decided that it's finally time to join, especially now with the new membership fee scale.

Cherise started sailing lessons at 11 years old on Lake Ontario outside of Toronto, Canada. This early introduction to sailing has stuck with her ever since. Her future sailing goals include singlehanded coastal cruising and a transatlantic crossing from Florida to the Mediterranean.

Cherise also enjoys skiing, cooking with wine pairing, traveling and volunteer work. She is a talented mosaic artist and has bay area public art installations. If you're interested, you can view her art on her website, www.cherisepetker.com. During the day, Cherise is involved with stock investments in the gold and silver market.

Cherise is looking forward to spending time with her shipmates and learning new sailing techniques from other experienced VYC sailors. She has a great sense of humor and hopes she can give back with some laughs and good memories. Cherise commented on the amount of activities and volunteer involvement at the club stating that "the tenacious attitude of the volunteers, coupled with a true passion for sailing makes for a progressive club" and she would like to join in and get involved wherever help is needed.

We are happy to finally have you aboard as a member Cherise!

Valerie Suzawa (Crew Membership)



Valerie is another VYC learn to sail graduate from 2005. Whenever Valerie's name is mentioned in a circle of sailors, someone in the group will always comment, "that girl can trim a main!". Her long list of sailing experience includes crewing the YRA party circuit, HDA, OYRA, Big Boat and other various weekend regattas, and mid winter racing. This year she's crewing on a Pacific Cup boat to Hawaii. She is also interested in helping out with the VYC race committee.

Valerie lives here in Vallejo and believes that being a member at VYC is a great way to support the community. She grew up in Rhode Island and has always been interested in sailing. Unfortunately it was a 45 minute drive to open water, which was too far away. In college she took one sailing class in an artificial lake. When she moved to the Bay Area in 2004 it provided a wonderful opportunity to pick up a new hobby.

Her other interest is classical music where she plays the violin in a community orchestra in Oakland. She also organizes chamber ensemble groups with friends. Valerie works in the chemical engineering biotech field, where she supports modifications to manufacturing equipment for process improvements and new product introductions. Glad to have you aboard Valerie!

Membership Report Submitted by Robbie Gabriel, Membership Chair

Ruben and I are getting ready to go to the harbor today to work on the boat projects that seem to never end. We are getting our Newport 30 ready for the offshore racing season which starts in just three weeks from writing this article. The minimum equipment list seems like a mile long and we really need to get busy.

I installed "temporary" (rat's nest) wiring which needs new electrical panels. Maybe I'll run into someone who can teach me a thing or two on how to do it. Ruben plans to take a look at our cockpit drains and he's hoping to find Bruce Martins (our resident master Boatwright and expert on everything) who hopefully has a minute to provide us some advice. Thank goodness we have the south working area and the tools to use to finish some other small projects. We also need bring our headsails to the club and lay them out to inspect and fix the sail numbers.

I am sharing our project list, not just for everyone to feel sorry for us, but because this demonstrates another benefit of our club. We don't just have a harbor, we have a community of support and the facilities for all of our "little" boat projects. Just in the last month, three of our prospective members (two of which are now members) commented that they are interested in joining the club because of how friendly our harbor is. They all mentioned that they wouldn't have this type of community at a municipal harbor.

Ruben and I live and work in Benicia which means we are minutes away from the Benicia harbor. By mistake, last year we moved our Newport 30 there because we thought it would be more convenient. We quickly realized that we never went to the boat unless we were leaving to go somewhere, or we had a couple small projects. Our dock neighbors were friendly, but it just wasn't the same. We never just hung out like we do at VYC. It didn't take us long to move back to the VYC harbor.

If you haven't been to your boat in a while, come on down and spend time with your fellow shipmates. Even if you don't have a project (yea right!) enjoy the camaraderie!

Why VYC?

- At 16 you realized you never felt right until the ocean was near.
- You've never felt anything as serene as being on the bow of a sailing boat.
- Life is still good even when the captain is yelling at the crew and you can see all the transoms in front of you in the middle of a race.
- If you stand in the cockpit with your head out you get to see the water and keep your feet warm.
- The damp mattress is worth the drive, week after week.
- The best place you sleep is in a moving boat berth.
- There's always a water view.
- There's a little dog around to pet or avoid.
- There's someone else's kid to swing around.
- The bathroom never stops slowly moving, no matter that every time it's low tide you check out the construction underneath.
- The fireplace goes on with one flip of a switch.
- There's always a hot shower.
- There's always someone else to give advice to.
- There's always someone to give you advice.

You're happier staying at the club eating crackers than driving away to find a meal.

The man who's looks like Santa Clause makes you kiss him on the cheek every time he leaves.

The bartender welcomes you back, then gives you a bad time for staying out too late.

The ex police officer does his drunk test on you, then offers to buy you a drink.

There's always someone to welcome you home at the club.

Everyone else around you loves the water as much as you do.

The motion never stops.



Mary Kraybill, SV Cinnabar

Written and submitted by Mary Kraybill

VYC Cruise News 2010

It's Cruising Time!
Thanks to those shipmates that have stepped up so far!

Jim & Pat McCarthy!!

We need volunteers to set up cruises for each month. Please see Emanuel to pick a month and a destination. Cruises do not have to be to Yacht Clubs or overnight. They can be day cruises or raft ups, you choose. You will coordinate and give info to Emanuel to post. Contact: mannylorenzana@comcast.net (707-334-6603). We appreciate your help.



The Sweetheart Cruise at the Martinez Yacht Club was a great Success. What a crowd! We had a nice dinner with dancing. The cruise over was nice, and the cruise back was a blast! *Seascape* & *OutRAYgeous* raced back by sail. They made it to the Mare Island Strait before becoming motor boats.

Windsome Wench, *Getaway*, *Pretty Penny* and *Sea of Time* also sailed back most of the way until the wind died. *Plases Me* took pictures and will post them soon.

Thanks to Jim & Pat McCarthy and Cruise Captains Manny and Liz Lorenzana for making this another exciting cruise out! And a special thanks to all who participated. Without you this event would not have been as much fun!

Vallejo Yacht Club 2010 Cruise Schedule

March 20th & 21st: China Camp Raft-Up

Sign-up sheet is posted on bulletin board.
Saturday, raft up. Dink over to land and hike and picnic
Saturday night, dinner on boats.
Sunday—on your own.

April 23, 24, 25: Richmond Yacht Club

Sign-up sheet is posted on bulletin board.
Emanuel & Liz, Cruise Captains
Saturday night, dinner—menu to come.
Friday thru Sunday at 10 a.m.

All boats must be out of RYC by 10 a.m. on Sunday as they have a function!

PICYA "Opening Day on the Bay." On Sunday morning of that weekend, we will be sailing past the San Francisco waterfront for Opening Day. The more boats that participate, the more PICYA points we accrue for Club of the Year efforts.
Don't forget your VYC Burgees.

May: Pick your destination

Cruise Captains Needed (contact Manny Lorenzana)

June: Sausalito YC

Cruise Captains Needed (contact Manny Lorenzana)

July: Pick your destination

Cruise Captains Needed (contact Manny Lorenzana)

August: Commodores Cruise

Cruise Captains Needed (contact Manny Lorenzana)

September: Blue Water Cruise

Roger Smith, Cruise Captain

October: Halloween—Solano YC

Emanuel & Liz Lorenzana, Fleet Captain Cruise

The *Carquinez Sail & Power Squadron* will be offering Vessel-Safety Checks at the Vallejo Yacht Club the weekend of March 27-28.



VSCs help boaters ensure that their boats are safe and legal, and are conducted by specially trained examiners.



VSCs are free, and also confidential. If deficiencies are found, no report is made to any law-enforcement agency.



If a vessel passes the VSC, it is awarded a decal to display on deck. The Coast Guard usually considers the fact that a vessel has such a decal when deciding whether to board the vessel.

Vessels may be examined in the water, on the hard, or on trailers, with the exception of wood-hulled vessels which must be examined in the water. On a large vessel, a VSC will take about half an hour. Smaller vessels usually take less time.

"VSCs are an important part of the power squadrons' public-service mission," said VYC member W. J. M. (Mike) Fordyce, Commander of the Power Squadron and also a Vessel Examiner. "Clearly, it's better to make sure that your vessel is up to snuff before you leave the dock."

Sign-up sheets with time slots will be posted on the club bulletin board.



VYC Swabbie Log

submitted by Lee Breeding

Fran and I went on our first VYC cruise-out on President's Day weekend. We left Vallejo at slack tide on Friday evening after the rain finally stopped. Even though we had to motor all the way to Martinez, it was a beautiful

night out on the water. The clouds parted, revealing a starry sky, and the air was warmer than it had been in weeks. We arrived to a quiet marina, tied up and let the dogs play for a while. Excited to see everyone the next morning, we turned in for the night.

Saturday morning we woke up to dense fog and dozens of fishermen getting ready to snag some sturgeon. We ran into the crews of *Curtain Call*, *Lady Hawk*, and *Pleases Me* on the guest dock. After the fog finally lifted, we motored to Benicia to get some gas because the pumps at Martinez were out of service. Just as we finished filling up, a light breeze kicked up, and we followed a group of racers (under sail, this time) out of the Benicia marina. It was turning out to be the most gorgeous day of the year so far! We rode the casual easterly breeze aimlessly around the delta, eventually ending up on the southern side, between the mothball fleet and Mount Diablo. We were reluctant to turn around but excited to see what was happening back at the marina.

Unable to tie stern in because of our outboard motor, we pulled into our assigned slip on A row. A few hours later our keel was in the mud, but it wasn't a big deal; we'd be departing near high tide anyway. After getting squared away, we walked down to the guest dock where the festivities were already underway. If we hadn't been surrounded by boats, I would have sworn we were tailgating at a college football game. It was wonderful to relax and have a few beers on the dock after being exhausted from relaxing on the water all day. Best of all, we got to know some of our fellow club members much better.

Sunday morning, we woke to banging halyards and squeaking fenders. We had some wind to play with! It was a brisk and sometimes gusty breeze early in the morning, but by the time we left, around noon, the wind had settled to about 8 to 10 knots. Still, it was enough to pull the boats home at a gentle pace. We were one of the last boats to leave. We saw *OutRAYgeous* and *Seascope* for a short time, but they quickly rounded the bend out of sight until we got into the strait. We sailed next to *Getaway* and *Lady Hawk* for most of the journey, with *Windsome Wench*, and *Pleases Me* running circles around us, taking pictures.

We felt lucky to have any wind at all, since the forecast didn't call for any. We can't wait to do it again and are giddy about our first summer with our first sailboat. We know that VYC will make it an undeniably rich experience.



Fran & Lee Breeding (*Sea of Time*) enjoying a beautiful day on the water



Some of our fellow sailors on the journey back to Vallejo from Martinez (left to right): Dave Nadolne & Commodore Chris Mendonca on *Getaway*, Dori & Ray McEaney on *OutRAYgeous*, and Ruben & Robbie Gabriel on *Windsome Wench*.

Yallejo Yacht Club February Events

Would you like to see these photo's in color? Sign up to receive the Binnacle on line at www.vyc.org!

Sweetheart Cruise to Martinez Yacht Club

Pictured left to right: VYC boats *Getaway*, *Windsome Wench*, and others rafted together at the Martinez guest dock; Dori and Ray McEneaney; Lee & Fran Breeding; Ken & Gail Hall; Ruben & Robbie Gabriel; VYC members and guests enjoying a beautiful evening on the guest dock before heading to dinner



Mardi Gras

Pictured left to right: Dave Nadolne; Ellie and Scott Carroll with Dori McEneaney, Robbie Gabriel, Liz Lorenzana & Prospective Member Michelle Gandley, Lita and John Karzuzs, Roger Smith, Bernard and Sandra Wormgoor, Nick and Patricia Prasinos



Visit the Photo Gallery at www.vyc.org to view more photographs.

Learn to Sail Report Submitted by Dale Anderson, Program Director



Once again the "Higgins and Val Show" has paid off. After hearing nothing but doom and gloom on the daily news, I expected people to tighten up, but the money just flowed and flowed, to the tune of \$6757.00. This years Crab Feed and Auction (at least as far as LTS is concerned) was the 2nd most successful in recent history. The money raised is to be seed for operating costs, equipment repairs and now Learn to Sails participation in building and maintaining the seawall. The show went off without a hitch.

When I arrived at the club, Pat McCarthy had already started prepping tickets, Jack had set up the displays and Jim McCarthy was supervising, I think? Well, he was standing there holding a drink for someone and watching them work. Pat and Jim have always supported LTS and this night we really needed them. The students from the Maritime Academy that normally would sell raffle tickets were held up in a regatta with no wind and arrived at the club a little later than expected but once they did everything really took off. Thanks to the McCarthys, the McGowans, the students from the Maritime Academy and Jack Higgins, the man with the golden tongue and the number one contributor to the auction, we pulled it off for another year. Pam Bond and Jim Glenn, our new Rear Commodore, were the second largest contributors of auction items with the largest bottles of wine I've ever seen, balloon (from the Carrolls) and limo rides, and even a stay at a Bed and Breakfast in Idaho. Thanks to Commodore Chris for working so hard to promote that Condo and to Bernard who donated his 30 lb. porthole that completely threw the Auctioneers out of their game. Next time we'll need to spend more time on educating ourselves and the audience.

Thanks to everyone that helped make this a success. After saying all that, we do have a problem. When the nite was over and I went back to tally everything I went through the list of all the donated items. I truly couldn't believe what I was seeing. A full 75% of donated items for the auction were brought in by the auctioneer himself, Jack Higgins. That just doesn't make sense. We asked for member donations for months leading up to the auction. What happens when Jack retires or gets tired of doing it all himself. I don't know for now, but we will have to address this before next year. Also thanks to Earl Trumble, Sr. for offering to step in if needed.

Jigg's Dinner—Saturday, March 13, 2010 Submitted by Phyllis Manoogian



It happens every year about this time and now it's just around the corner. Of course, I'm talking about the *Jigg's Dinner*, VYC's traditional St. Patrick's Day celebration. This year we'll be celebrating on Saturday, March 13 with a wee bit of the spirit of the day in the bar at 6 and dinner - corned beef and all the fixings - to be served at 7. Most of the same great collection of volunteers will be preparing this feast so you know it will be delicious.

We're planning some entertainment worthy of the date, but the details are still a bit fuzzy and there's room for more. If you are a retired River Dancer, you can sing an Irish ballad, tell a fantastic Celtic tale, or drive the snakes out of any Locale, send an e-mail to me (phyllismanoogian@yahoo.com) so you can be part of the program. We're trying to keep the costs down, so amateur entertainment, knowing the great talent floating around the club, seemed a great way to go. Our goal is to serve a good portion and circulate with seconds for those who want more. No doggy bags or to go boxes, but we hope you will enjoy all you want as you enjoy the company of your shipmates.



Please email me if you have a March birthday that was not acknowledged in the March, 2009 Binnacle.

Think green and sign up on bulletin board or call the office - the more the merrier!

Jigg's Dinner (A celebration of St. Patrick's Day at Vallejo Yacht Club)

Saturday, March 13, 2010 / \$20/person

6 pm Cocktails

7 pm Dinner — Corned Beef and all the Fixings



PICYA Report Submitted by Maggie Sabovich & Eric Jacobsen, PICYA Delegates

Staff Commodore/PICYA Delegate Eric Jacobsen and VYC Regional Affairs Representative Maggie Sabovich attended the PICYA Delegate's meeting at the Oakland Yacht Club on February 1st. PICYA is the acronym for "Pacific Inter-Club Yacht Association", for those of you who don't know what those letters stand for!

Newly installed PICYA Commodore **Reginald Smith** of the Treasure Island Yacht Club conducted the meeting. The signature event of PICYA, Opening Day on San Francisco Bay, will be held on Sunday, April 25th in San Francisco, and this year's theme is "Building Bridges".

This theme might refer to several clubs working together to decorate one boat (both clubs receiving COTY points), or it could refer to participating yacht clubs inviting representatives from local community organizations to help decorate club boats, and also going along on the boats as guests and enjoying the Opening Day boat parade activities.

Boats can also use the theme literally, using various famous bridges throughout the world in their boat's decoration format. Boat owners will be able to register their boats on the PICYA website soon (PICYA.org). The Committee boat for Opening Day is the Hornblower Yacht "Californian", which will be departing from San Francisco at Pier 3. Newly elected PICYA Rear Commodore **Mia Bernt** will be doing the registration of the decorated boats on the PICYA website. Boats may be decorated with flags and streamers, which will also qualify for COTY points.

The PICYA Leadership Conference was held on Saturday, February 20th, at the Benicia Yacht Club, and VYC was represented by Commodore **Chris Mendonca**, Rear Commodore **Jim Glenn**, Staff Commodore **Eric Jacobsen**, Director/PC **John Karuzas**, Port Captain **Bruce Martens**, VYC Membership Chairman **Robbie Gabriel** and PICYA Regional Affairs Representative **Maggie Sabovich**.

A current Call to Arms is still on the table regarding the proposed Coastal Marina Permit. The letter to protest this Permit has been revised, so all yacht club members must now sign the updated protest letter, which is to be submitted again to Sacramento by PICYA. For those members not attending monthly membership meetings, this ready to print and sign letter is on the PICYA website.



March Birthdays!

- 2 Dan Frederick
- 2 Anna Monahan
- 5 Ron Fowble
- 7 Earl Trumble, Jr.
- 11 Liz Lorenzana
- 12 Brown Noble
- 12 Chris Mendonca
- 13 Mike Coleman
- 14 Vicki Anderson
- 18 Charles Bogue
- 19 Lynn Liddle
- 20 Scott Carroll
- 20 Margot MacKerrow
- 20 Maryanne McLucas
- 20 Gail Sinclair
- 22 Andrew Wilkens
- 23 Bill Campbell
- 28 Robert Burgess
- 30 Rex Adamson
- 31 Don Corkrean

Celebrate your birthday with your shipmates.

Attend a happy hour during your birthday month and receive one free drink!

Historian Corner Submitted by Liz Lorenzana, Club Historian

Hello Shipmates!

(lizlorenzana@comcast.net)

CONGRATS to **Valerie McGowan** of the *ALOHA*. She was the first one to answer last month's trivia question: "What couple was married on their boat at the Vallejo Yacht Club?" The winning answer is **Ken and Gail Hall**. They were married aboard their *Lady Hawk* at the Vallejo Yacht Club in 1995.

Another answer I received from **Nicki Powell-Ford** of the *Rubber Duckies* was not the correct answer but sure worth sharing. Here is her e-mail:

"**Russ and Jane Eichner** had their formal wedding ceremony aboard *Scarlet* (tied to the guest dock) followed by a large party which was open to all members of the club (live music, food, wine, etc.) while he was Commodore. The party was arranged by myself (the then Social Chair). **Jane and Russ** also met at the club when she came down to visit me from Oregon and attend the big "Greek night party" that **Pat Prasinos** and I planned. She made lots of friends, got invited to join a crew for the Baja Ha- Ha, met and married the captain of the boat (**Russ**). But I'm not sure if it counts since they said the did the "legal thing" in front of a judge before the pastor preformed the religious ceremony in the marina.

Anyway, that's an entire romance that was born at the Club and two people who would have never met if it weren't for VYC." - **Nicki Powell-Ford**

My husband and I also met at the Vallejo Yacht Club and were married aboard our boat, *Pleases Me*, last year. So, in addition to the many things the Vallejo Yacht Club has to boast about, we can add ROMANCE to that list!!

Is your birthday missing?
Please contact the VYC Office Manager Matt, at 707-643-1254 and let us know!

Liz Lorenzana gets the **Early Bird Award**

for being first to submit an article this month.



Safety Report Submitted by George Ennis, Safety Officer

The City of Vallejo is struggling with a financial crisis; many of the city's police officers have been laid off or retired. Criminals have seized this opportunity to benefit themselves. This means we, as citizens of the community, must take steps to insure our personal protection.

Most criminals are opportunists, they look for "easy pickings." Prevention and Avoidance can go a long way in deterring criminal acts. Valuable items left out in public view are a magnet for thieves. Leaving cell phones, Ipods, GPS units, and even change in open view in a parked car attracts burglars. Take the items with you, or at least lock them in the trunk. You may be watched while putting items in the trunk and thieves still may break into your trunk.

Using locks or padlocks on your cabin door, companion way, lazarette, dock box, and other storage compartments on your boat can protect your property. Closing your curtains keeps your valuables out of view. Don't leave valuable electronics exposed to view. Remember an unlocked lock is useless. This applies to your house as well.

Your personal safety is more important than your property's safety. Don't challenge someone breaking into your car, let the police do their job. Be a good witness, describing a criminal as medium height, medium build, wearing dark clothes is worthless. Pay attention to details - scars, tattoos, broken noses, funny hairdos, team jerseys, etc. What distinguishes that person from any other person is what you want to remember and report.


Criminals contemplating violent crimes against other people are looking for opportunity and weakness. Most are unwilling to accost a group of people. Be aware of your surroundings! If something doesn't look right it probably isn't. If that little voice in your head says DANGER, pay attention and don't walk or drive into it. Don't walk around in a daze talking on your cell phone, or thinking about something you'll do tomorrow. Do look around and pay attention to who is around you. Have your car keys in your hand, and look inside your car before opening the door. Mentally impaired people and people under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol should be given a wide berth. Remember that youth is not an indication of innocence. Some of the most violent criminals are teenagers.

What about weapons and self-defense courses? This involves personal choice and dedication on the part of the individual. Many weapons are illegal and can land you in jail. Mace and O.C. (pepper) spray don't always work. Karate, Judo, Jujitsu, and Kung fu work for Bruce Lee, but probably won't work for you against a large group of angry drug crazed people. Firearms ownership is a personal issue. If you are not trained or you are hesitant to use one, don't. It requires some skill and training. The courts are harsh against gun use. Don't use lethal force to protect property, only use them to protect your life or the life of another. California has stringent laws regarding concealed carry and gun storage, learn and follow the laws. Don't flaunt the presence of firearms, it invites confrontation or theft. Leave the NRA and "beware of owner" decals in your drawer.

I am not trying to make everyone paranoid, but I am trying to make you aware. If the choice is, "Your money or your life," GIVE them the wallet! Don't think twice; you can replace the money. Remember safety starts at home.

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VYC March 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Straits of Mare Island Rowing Association Meeting 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm	2	3 Ladies Card Game & Bluegrass Jam Ses- sion 12:00-3:00 PM	4 Coast Guard Auxil- iary Meeting (Div. 5)	5 Happy Hour 5:30-9:00 PM	6 CYO! Cook Y'er Own CYO! (Steak & Salmon)
7	8	9 Board of Directors Meeting 7:00-9:00 PM	10 Ladies Card Game & Bluegrass Jam Ses- sion 12:00-3:00 PM	11	12 Happy Hour 5:30-9:00 PM	13 Jiggs Dinner Midwinter Race #5 12:00-3:30 PM
14 Daylight Saving Time Begins	15	16	17 Ladies Card Game & Bluegrass Jam Ses- sion 12:00-3:00 PM	18	19 Happy Hour 5:30-9:00 PM	20 China Camp Cruise-Out & Raft-up
21 China Camp Cruise-Out & Raft-up	22	23	24 Ladies Card Game & Bluegrass Jam Ses- sion 12:00-3:00 PM	25 General Member- ship 7:30-9 PM	26 Happy Hour 5:30-9:00 PM	27 VYC Work Party
28 VYC Work Party	29	30 Speaker's Series (Tentative) 6:30-9:30 PM	31 Ladies Card Game & Bluegrass Jam Ses- sion 12:00-3:00 PM			

First Class

Vallejo Yacht Club

485 Mare Island Way
P.O. Box 311

