



SIERRA POINT YACHT CLUB

SPYGLASS NEWSLETTER

COMMODORE: Jason Fox **VICE COMMODORE:** Kathy McCormac **REAR COMMODORE:** Tom Bezzina **PORT CAPTAIN:** Sam Colvin **TREASURER:** Terry OConnell **SECRETARY:** John Gunther **FLEET CAPTAIN:** Kathy Stern
PAST COMMODORE: Mitch Cohen **RACING DIRECTOR:** Quincy Bragg **DIRECTORS:** David Byers, Tony Corrollo, Chris Northcutt, Fernando Oliveira & Ozzie Orozco **WEBMASTER:** Frank Gurnee **SPYGLASS EDITOR:** Laura Lara-Brady

VICE COMMODORE

March was a great month at SPYC. First we want to welcome back Russell Whitaker and Nancy Kelly as members, we are happy you returned to the Club. Nancy and Fernando Oliveira made a delicious Paella Dinner for a limited group and we were treated to the guitar playing of our member Ted Davis. It was a wonderful evening!

Sam Colvin has repairs on the deck underway. Members David Howell and Quincy Bragg spent days getting the back floor repaired and freshly painted. Next will be the installation of the gutter on the deck and then in April the replacement canvas!



Sunday Breakfast on April 5th will be Michele Salmon's delicious Eggs Benedict, bring the family for Easter! Remember like all events the success relies on volunteers so if you want to cook breakfast please contact me.

Kathy McCormac
 Vice Commodore
kmccormac@sbcglobal.net



Calendar of Events

Sunday Breakfast
Sunday April 5th
 9:00 am -11:00 am

Weekly Potluck
Fridays in April 6:00 pm

Monthly Dinner
Saturday April 18th

Beer Can Orientation
Sunday April 19th
 11:30- 1:00 pm

Open House Membership
April 19th 2:00-5:00 pm

Oakland YC-Cruise Out
April 24-26th



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Sunday Breakfast

Don't forget to swing by from 9:00 am -11:00 am every first Sunday of each month for some delicious breakfast! Just make sure to ask for a waffle and you'll be hooked! This is the best deal in town: eggs, sausage, bacon, vegetables, fruit, and waffles with choice of coffee or tea. Bring your friends and family along, breakfast is only \$7 for members and \$9 for the public.



LIVING ABOARD A YACHT IN THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY – THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

On I'll start where the dream began, circa 1993. Michelle and I were dating in college in land locked North Carolina, and her family invited me on their vacation to San Francisco and Lake Tahoe to visit family. It was our first or second day,



and we were on a ferry over to Alcatraz and saw this beautiful sailboat with both sails up, cruising towards Angel Island, with the sun on it's side. We watched for as long as we could and said almost simultaneously, "wouldn't that be awesome"?

Through our courtship years, we enjoyed adventurous activities like rock climbing,

snowboarding and horseback riding (well really Michelle rode while I watched). It was only 2 years after we were married that I had the opportunity to take a position in San Francisco. It took about 2 seconds for us to say "heck yeah, let's go live in the city that we fell in love with".

In 2001, I signed up for sailing school at Spinnaker Sailing in Redwood City, where we were living at the time. I learned a lot and even got involved in the

Coast Guard Auxiliary. Michelle would meet me for Beer Can Racing nights, and we'd take boats out for day sails and weekend trips. She's mainly a fair weather sailor but is totally infatuated with cetaceans so she spends most of her time staring off into the water. In 2004, I met someone that was trying to sell their 1974 Catalina 27'. Michelle agreed, and we bought her with Tony Corrollo (new SPYC board member) and named her Oshun, which is the name for The African Goddess of Sweet Waters. We still have her today. She's been all over the bay and even spent a year in Half Moon Bay and a year at Pier 39, enjoying the America's Cup festivities.

We sold our house in RWC in 2007 and moved up to San Francisco, and Oshun's home again in Brisbane at Sierra Point. We've enjoyed many day sails and Beer Can Racing there and met so many wonderful and down to earth people. Shoot forward to September 2014, rent is sky rocketing, people are coming to the Bay Area in droves, and we are thinking "hmmmm... how can we afford to stay here and buy our dream boat"? So, Michelle and I start researching boats and prices and pros and cons of living aboard a boat. First and foremost, how lucky are we that where we live, we can find just about any boat a person could want?

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It pretty much went too fast, we found someone locally that wanted to get a smaller boat because she was just a bit too big for single-handing.... enter Destiny, a 2005 Catalina Morgan 440. She is a BEAUT!! Michael Bell and Diana Bortolussi said they would never talk to us again (or something like that) if we didn't name our dinghy, "Destiny's Child". No need to twist our arms (Michelle and I find coming up with names too exhausting)! Fortunately, Mr. Frisco, our rescue dog, loved hanging out on Oshun (well, he probably more enjoyed just staring at the cats on our neighbors' boat) so it was no biggie to go from chillaxin on a 27' to a 44'. He has really taken to it so well and even has his own fan club! If you're lucky, you might catch him sunbathing, donning his skull and cross bones Doggles. It's quite a sight to behold!

Anyway, back to living aboard full time. It wasn't easy to downsize from a 4 bedroom, 2 bath house with living room, dining room, etc. We sold a lot, donated a bunch and the rest we stuffed into a storage unit. But, so far it's been well worth it! Michelle only complains about not having a dishwasher or a bathtub. Me? I can't think of anything yet (except maybe head maintenance but that goes without saying I guess). In the near future, we plan to take her up and down the West Coast as often as we can. Michelle's boat bucket list: 1) jumping off of Destiny into warm water and 2) having a close (but not too close) encounter with a whale. For now, we will enjoy the best of both worlds – San Francisco and Her Bay!

Jason, Michelle (and Mr. Frisco) Fox

Jason_Fox@us.ibm.com

NEW DECK PAINT!



During the first few days of March a small group of volunteers led by new member David Howell repainted the outside deck on the east side of the club building. This work included pressure washing the deck floor and the railings, priming the south end where much of the floor paint had flaked and peeled, and applying a new coat of paint to the railing and floor. Assisting David were Quincy Bragg and Dennis Lien. It looks great and has improved the general appearance of the deck area. Thanks to all!

Quincy Bragg

mostlyharmlessboat@gmail.com





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A BIT OF A BLOW

Our first cruise-out of the 2015 season began on the windiest, choppiest day of the year, Friday, February 28th. Jack and I set out around 11:00 a.m. for the Ballena Isle Marina on "Sea Fever" with Nancy and Fernando Olivera's "Cheers" and Nigel Baker's "Haven" trailing us. Just a little way out Sea Fever's jib was up and cruising at about 8 knots for much of the 2 hour trip. As Nigel so eloquently put it, there was "a bit of a blow" out there! Great sailing! Three more boats arrived that day and another five on Saturday. We rode out a brief hail storm and "lashing down with rain" (Nigel, again) on Saturday afternoon which left us to enjoy the beautiful sky and glasslike water of the calm after the storm.

The aptly named Cheers was the gathering place for our Friday pot luck and again for the Saturday pre-luau cocktail hour as a few more SPYC members and friends arrived by car. We're so fortunate to enjoy the largess of Nancy and Fernando –great hosts, great cooks and great friends.

Our hosts at Ballena Bay Yacht club went all out with a delicious menu and great live music that encouraged us to

dance off some of the evening's calorie intake. SPYC guests numbered 31 for the dinner and we thank our BBYC friends for their warm welcome and generous hospitality.



*The calm after the storm.
By Ginny Chabre Photographer &
guest of Kathy and Jack*

The calendar has been updated with confirmed cruise-outs to Oakland 4/24 - 4/26, Petaluma 5/22 - 5/25 (Memorial Day/Carnival celebration), Half Moon Bay 9/4 - 9/7, and Sausalito 9/25 - 9/27. Watch for a more

streamlined sign-up process for the entire year's cruises on the SPYC website!

***Check the cruise out calendar on the website for future destinations and update your SPYC profile to show your boat's name and dimensions so we can find it there when you sign up for a cruise.

For those who haven't tried our week-end cruising, most boats arrive at the destination on the Friday of a typical week-end and leave for home port on Sunday morning. Friday happy hour and pot luck is on the dock or one of the boats if the weather cools down. Saturday there's a dinner (for a price) and often a band or special event by the host yacht club. If you're pressed for time you can arrive on Saturday and stay just one night. Many clubs are located near hotels so you can drive or ride your motorcycle over and still participate in the fun. It's a great way to get to know fellow SPYC members better and to meet new folks who love boating and a good time.

Join the cruise out craze!

Kathy Stern, Fleet Captain
kathy4730@gmail.com



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SPYC:dinner:April 18th 2015

appetizers @ 6pm : dinner @ 7pm

HOST: Scott Harms



A Culinary Seafood Delight

Chef George Hawawini of Mangiare Restaurant in San Francisco and Brisbane has offered to act as executive chef for our dinner

MENU

Assorted Sushi Rolls
Antipasto and grilled veggies

Seafood Linguine
Caesar Salad
Garlic Bread

Cup cakes



LIVE MUSIC by Jimmy Leslie
Brisbane's own Jimmy Leslie is creating an acoustic guitar and vocals mix especially for us.

cost : adult \$20 : child \$12

You may register for this event by visiting
<http://www.SierraPointYC.org/calendar> and clicking on the event
contact : Sarah FitzGerald : Sarah@MandevilleGarden.com
415-412-7510

QUINCY AND SARAH SAIL AWAY ON VACATION

In March we spent 2 weeks on friends' sailboat in the Eastern Caribbean; we'll have a write-up with pictures next month. One of the high points was when someone randomly set a race marker about 50 feet from our boat in Falmouth (Antigua); later in the day and again the following day, a group of local club Lasers raced past us to make their turns. We had fun watching as they jockeyed for position at the mark with only limited regard for the rules.

Quincy Bragg and Sarah FitzGerald
qb@cpsteel.com

Open House and Membership

Drive

April 18th : 2pm to 5pm

Live music by 5150

Food : Bar

Come and join in the party and help boost membership. Invite your friends and anyone who might be interested

COAST GUARD AUXILIARY BOATING COURSE

Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 1-9 will be offering an eight hour recreational boating safety class entitled *About Boating Safely* as part of National Safe Boating Week, which is May 16 to May 22. The class will be on Saturday, May 16, from 8:00 to 4:00, at the Sierra Point Yacht Club. Topics covered will include Introduction to Boating, Boating Law, Boat Safety Equipment, Safe Boating, Navigation and Boating Problems. There is no exam, but participants will receive a certificate of completion, which will provide the knowledge needed to obtain a boat license or safety certification in

many states. Many boat insurance companies offer discounts for completing this course. The cost will be \$30 for SPYC members and \$35 for non-members. This includes the book and certificate. Coffee and donuts will be provided. For further information, or to register, contact Gary Kaplan at gkaplan.uscgau@gmail.com.

Gary Kaplan
gkaplan@pobox.com



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RUN-UP BEER CAN RACING

First race of the 2015 season is May 5th at 6:00 p.m. Mark your calendars! This year we have 17 races scheduled from May to August, each one followed by dinner in the clubhouse.

For new participants there will be an introductory seminar Sunday, April 19th from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

where we will review the racing program, the basic rules, and familiarize new racers with how to participate. If you are new to sailboat racing this will provide plenty of basic information to help you join our program.



All the race documents are posted on the club's website – click on "Racing" then "Information" to get started. As in the past, you must register this year even if you were registered last year. The rules are mainly the same as last year with the following notable changes:

- The split between the first race and the second race is now at PHRF 160. Your PHRF is based on the NCPHRF for your boat with some minor adjustments allowed based on information you provide on your registration form. Contact me if you have questions.
- There are 17 races number 1 (May 5) to 17 (August 25): spinnakers will only be permitted in odd

numbered races this year. See part 3.5 of the Sailing Instructions.

Please read the Sailing Instructions carefully; if you have questions or comments let me know.

This year I will be putting particular emphasis on two items:

- Finding places for people who want to crew but have no boat or have not crewed with our races before. We have the "Beer Can Racing Forum" that members can post a message to either asking for a place or asking for additional crew on their boats. You can access the forum from the "Racing Information" page at the website. Every year we have a few people show up looking for a boat to participate with and I plan to make a greater effort this year to place those people. If you have difficulty posting or are not a club member contact me directly and I'll post for you.
- Right of Way violations: Last year I had numerous complaints about

Right of Way violations, some against racers I considered to be experienced and knowledgeable. This year I will be more aggressive about following those up so if you think you have been affected by a violation talk to me after the race and I'll try to figure it out with you as well as discuss it with the other boat. My approach is educational and cooperative and my goal is to improve understanding and communication between racers. More on this next month in the Spyglass.

Finally, we need, as always, volunteers to help run the race program. Please contact me if you are interested, especially if you are a new member because this is a great way to be introduced to the club and one of its most enjoyable activities. We need committee boat help, finish line help, bartending help, and food preparation help.

Contact me to discuss how you can be part of the program.

Quincy Bragg
Race Committee Chair
racing@sierrapointyc.org



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MONTHLY DINNER





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In the previous page you can find some pictures from the very successful St. Patrick's Day Dinner at the marina last month. The dinner, hosted by Nancy and Pat Lydon, was Irish all the way with corned beef and cabbage, roasted carrots, salads, potatoes and more! All this was topped off cheesecakes, chocolate cakes and flan. The band "Valerie Rose" was "fantastic" entertaining us all evening with a great selection of Irish music.

Thanks to all who attended.

Dennis Lien
dennisketch@gmail.com

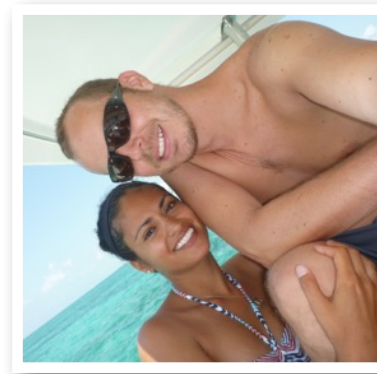
FROM THE EDITOR

Spyglass keeps growing and we would love to hear amore about your interests. We accept a wide range of articles in a number of formats, including pdf, word, and directly on the body of an email. Just keep in mind that any articles sent as a PDF cannot be changed from our end. I usually skim over the content of each article and correct any typos or if an article is too short I might add a couple more lines to it. Also at the end of each article I add a picture of the author (if available) and include their email. That way you can contact the author directly if you have any questions -although we'd love to hear any comments you might have on any of our stories!

This month Mike and I have been keeping busy and enjoying the beautiful weather doing some much needed boat work on Painkiller. We hope to be done putting some epoxy on the deck (although that always takes longer than anyone anticipates), and sanding away to perfection. All in preparation for the big event: painting the deck. Yes we have done it before and it is a

lot of work, but we are slowly inching our way towards a smooth, shiny, and even deck. After that we get to work on the inside of our boat and finally make it

usable...but that is another story.



This month we have great articles, upcoming events, and a shiny new deck! So next time you see any of this month's authors and volunteers, give them a high five (and/or buy them a nice glass of wine!)

Laura Lara-Brady
 Painkiller's Expert Epoxy Skimmer
LLaraBrady@gmail.com



Don't be shy!
 We are looking for
 articles for next
 month's newsletter

*Boat Tours,
 Your comments on articles
 Adventures & Lessons
 Pictures at the marina and/or anything boat related!
 Email your article by the 20th of each month to:
spyglass@sierrapointyc.org*