



Sailing
Racing

Social
Events

Cruise
Outs

Cruise
In's

Managed by Club
Volunteers



Sierra Point Yacht Club

Spyglass Newsletter – February 2017

Website: <http://www.sierrapointyc.org>

The fun yacht club of the San Francisco Bay Join the family



Contents:

1. Editor's update
2. Commodore's update for February
3. Club general update
4. Events Calendar
5. Cruise out update for 2017
6. Beer can race update
7. Web site update from Frank Gurnee
8. Members boating 'bits and pieces' swap or sale
9. Brit expression of the month – A tot of rum

1. Editor's update

I cannot believe we are into February 2017 already and with all of the election and new administration drama, I have to admit I am feeling very unsettled right now as the executive orders and sensitive immigration issues are stirring up much emotion and protests, quite rightly so, as many innocent as well as professional people have been affected. All of this is not new to me unfortunately. I was transferred to the US 40 years ago on assignment working for a UK based subsidiary of a Silicon Valley IT company and they asked me to stay on permanently in California which initiated a 10 year process to

include the L1, H1, green card, and finally citizenship. Fortunately, my company paid all the legal fees. What still irks me to this day is the term the Immigration and Naturalization Service used to name me. They referred to me as an 'Alien' throughout the process. I even wrote a letter to the IEEE magazine (the IT standards magazine of the US) complaining of the use of the term 'Alien' – even used it in their magazine to refer to 'foreign engineers'. Their response: "well, if you don't like the term, then return to your own country". Oh well!

I returned to the US from the UK on a roundabout route, taking the Cunard Liner Queen Victoria from Southampton to Fort Lauderdale, where I spent a week in Florida, driving down to Key West, visiting friends, and most importantly, visiting the Catalina Yacht manufacturing plant in Largo where I was given a tour of the plant and even met and chatted with the chief designer – Gerry Douglass. My main interest was the series 5 Catalina 385. I will do a writeup on the visit for the next edition.

Also, while I was in Largo visited an old work colleague Jon Harms who several years ago formed a company to develop a new magnetic levitation (mag-lev) technology for a new breed of Electric motor. Alternator, and mag lev bearings. I am working with Jon on a marine wind turbine generator based on his technology and will also do a writeup on this.

I am still very short on member articles to include in each month's edition of Spyglass. I am at the pleading stage now and ask our members to think up some good sailing (or even land) articles to submit by the last week of each month. Please send to me at nigelbaker10@yahoo.com

2. Commodore's Commentary for February

January was a light wind and wet weather month. I am glad we are getting rain in quantity, at least in the northern (read – "Our") part of the state to fill our reservoirs and ski slopes. Between storms we are having light winds and calm waters for boating which is its own sort of pleasure.

Back at the yacht club this is the planning season – Christmas decorations are put away and various groups and committees are busy planning for the year ahead. Whether you are a racer, cruise-outer, or just a socializer – events are being planned.

If you have questions about events or how you can participate don't hesitate to contact me or one of the other members of our Board of Directors.

Quincy Bragg
commodore@sierrapointyc.org

3. Club general update

The modifications to the deck are just about complete (I think) and so special thanks must go to Jack and Jay and other team members that have helped in this task. I do know that Jack and Jay have put in many hours of sweat and toil to build the new wall, door, and serving hatch – the mods are looking great. Their work has saved the club a lot of money that would have been spent on contractor fee's. So, when you next see jack and Jay in the club, please say thanks to them and 'stand them a round' Now, how do we fix the leaks in the awning

We are also seeing a trickle of new member applications which is good for the club. I feel that, with new members being introduced, and with a mix of age groups – not just as old farts, we have a very good growing member family knit that know how to mix and have fun – both boating and social.

4. Events calendar

The Club Super Bowl tradition continues this Sunday featuring the popular Crab fest hosted by Kathy McCormac. This is a very popular event and so places are limited. Please contact Sarah for sign up. Many thanks to Kathy and Sarah for the hard work in organizing this fun event.

Sunday February 5th : KICK OFF : 3pm
Appetizers throughout the Game
Half Time : Fresh
Dungeness Crab,
Pasta and Salad



Host :
Kathy McCormac Admission : \$30 per person

This is always a sell out and the crabs must be ordered by Jan 27th. Sign up and invite your friends and family.
Please register by going to
<http://www.SierraPointYC.org/calendar> and clicking on the event
If you have problems
Contact : Sarah FitzGerald : ASarahFitz@gmail.com
415-412-7510

**S.P.Y.C.
SUPER BOWL
PARTY**

February monthly dinner update kindly provided by Sarah:

This month's monthly dinner will be held on February 18th and will feature a grand spaghettiata hosted by Katie and Dylan with music by Johnny Escobedo and El Guajiro. Appetisers start at 6pm, dinner at 7pm, and music at 8pm; **don't miss Katie and Dylan's delicious faire. Please register before noon on the day of the event.**

You may register on the website:

www.sierrapointyc.org/calendar and clicking on the event, by sending an email to ASarahfitz@gmail.com, or a telephone message (415) 412 7510

**SPYC Dinner
Grand Spaghetтата
February 18th**
Appetizers : 6 pm : Dinner : 7 pm : Music : 8 pm

Katie Harrison, aided by Dylan Garret, is celebrating her Italian heritage by cooking her family's favorite recipes, all from scratch.

Pesto alla genovese
Bolognese
Vegetarian option involving walnuts, garlic and cream
Baked zucchini
Caprese Salad
Tiramisu



**Music
back by popular demand
Johnny Escobedo
and El Guajiro**

Cost : Adult - \$20 : Child - \$12
(12 and under) \$5 surcharge for walk-ins

Please register before noon on the day of the event. You may register on the website (<http://www.SierraPointYC.org/calendar> and clicking on the event), by sending an email (ASarahFitz@gmail.com), or a telephone message (415 412 7510). Please get the info to me somehow. There will be a \$5 surcharge each if you are not registered

5. Cruise Out Update for 2017

Our illustrious Cruise director Kathy Stern has been working hard to work with recommended Yacht clubs to develop our Cruise out agenda for this year. And also thanks to Patrick Lyden for organizing the traditional South Beach cruise out in July. From Kathy:

“Ahoy there mateys!” (she has been hanging around me for too long). “Get ready for the best cruise out season of the decade by going to our website www.sierrapointyc.org and click on cruising and then sign up for each voyage on the cruise out calendar.

We have confirmed trips to 6 bay area yacht clubs so far: **St Francis, Petaluma, South Beach, Richmond, Golden Gate (no dogs allowed, sorry), and Half Moon Bay.** Most of the clubs/marina’s have limited space so do not think about it for too long and sign up while slips are available. If Golden Gate fills up we can help you reserve a slip at the San Francisco city marina right next door if you like, and they also allow dogs.

Our reservation system is new this year. You will need to complete the quick sign up form for each cruise you want to take by clicking on a link on the calendar – the one on the cruising page. If you have trouble navigating it or do not have access to a computer, call or text me at 773-459-3745. Check the cruising calendar and web page periodically for additions and changes so that you do not miss out.

Cruising is one of the most popular and fun activities for Sierra Point YC members and a great way for newer members to get to know folks. Jack found a new tracking app called ‘friend locator’ that we hope to use this year to add to the fun and keep each other safe out in the Bay. Check it out.

Let’s go sailing!”

Kathy Stern, Fleet Captain

6. Beer can race update

It’s early for racing but I am starting to think seriously about this year’s program. In some ways this season will be like so many in the past – every Tuesday from May to August, generally brisk conditions with the odd floater or blow-out – but also I need to update all parts of the program and look to the participants for suggestions. There are procedural issues like the rules (RRS revisions this year) and the courses, but also the after-race issues: what’s for dinner and what about the prizes? I would like to get some feedback from participants and volunteers on the post-race dinner and what/how prizes are awarded. Sometimes change is good, sometimes not so much, But if people don’t express their opinions I won’t know what to push for. Let me know if you have thoughts for changes we can make as I will be starting to plan for the new season this month.

Quincy Bragg

racing@sierrapointyc.org



7. Web site Update from Frank Gurnee

When we switched to ClubExpress and changed our website, I grabbed a picture of the marina and put it on the home page. It doesn't even show the Club! This needs to be updated. Do you have a pic of the Club or the area that would spruce up our home page? Or something else that would be a good Home page sight? Send it along and we will try to improve things.

We have an FAQ on the website, listed on the main menu. The items therein were remnants from the old site. See anything missing? Have anything to add? Send me a note.

The last FAQ entry points to a Forum on How to Use the Website. I haven't updated that in a long time, but am always glad to include stuff that's hard to do or non-intuitive. Let me know if you have something that should be included.

Frank Gurnee

webmaster@sierrapointyc.org

8. Members boating 'bits and pieces' swap or sale

Although not a boating item, the following item for bits and pieces can be used on a boat.

Katie Harrison is offering a classic radio from restoration hardware. The radio works great, the CD player on top not so much.

Good for a handy person who might know how to fix that part of it. If interested, contact Katie on katiekiki13@gmail.com



9. Brit expression of the month

'A tot (grog) of rum'.

A little history summary: in the British Royal Navy, a sailor's daily ration of alcohol was introduced in the period before the Napoleonic Wars, predominantly to allay fears in battle, also to help combat scurvy. The original alcohol drink was beer, then wine, and lastly very strong rum (95.5 proof), the latter called the rum ration which became commonly called 'a tot of rum, or grog.

At a specific time of day on Royal Navy ships at sea, the call was made - "Up spirits" between 11am and noon and the rum ration was served from a special barrel known as the 'rum tub', and the special barrel had brass letters saying 'The Queen, god bless her'. Depending on rank, the 'tot' was served either neat or diluted with water. A common cry at rum ration time from the sailors was "stand fast the holy ghost"

Much to the disgust of the sailors, the rum ration ritual on board ship was abolished by the government in July 1970 on the premise that drinking strong alcohol on board her majesty's ships was

just not on in the modern navy. I have old Royal Navy mates that almost committed suicide when the rum ration was abolished.