



Sailing
Racing

Social
Events

Cruise
Outs

Cruise
In's

Managed by Club
Volunteers



Sierra Point Yacht Club

Spyglass Newsletter – November 2016

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

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



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1. Editor's update

Well! This year is fast disappearing. I cannot believe it is almost December already. There are new articles this month including an update on Quincy and Sarah's sailing adventure, Jason and Michelle's visit to the Farallon Islands and our latest cruise-out to Sausalito which was a blast – well, except for my foray into the Sausalito cruising club Saturday night dance full of 'women' where I thought my luck was in.

At the cruise-out, Katie brought up the idea of including a member's buy and sell of boating and other related items – I think this is a good idea and a further idea would be to also include a section on

boating tips from members who have advice and tips for boat maintenance and improvements. I would welcome your thoughts on these new additions.

2. Club general update

Not too much to report this month, except that the deck modifications are coming along well thanks to the hard work undertaken by Jack, Jay and Dennis and other team members. The wall and serving hatch is installed and the swinging door hung on it's hinges. Just some completion work and the mods are ready for action. Already you can feel the difference as there is now less winter wind draft flowing through the deck and making for a more comfy deck to hang out.

3. Events calendar

Winter breakfasts are held on the first Sunday of each month. Please come along and support the breakfast events as they are a great venue for members and guests to get together to catch up.

Our events director Sarah and her husband Quincy have been away on an exciting sailing adventure (update following) and so the December 10th monthly /Christmas dinner event is not yet finalized. A separate email will be broadcast shortly.

4. Cruise Out Update

For the final cruise out of 2016, blessed with gorgeous summer-like weather, thirteen boats made the trip to Sausalito on Veterans' Day with beautiful calm seas and a light wind. (Jack donned his WWII cap in honor of the day). 25 of us gathered on the dock for happy hour and pot luck next to Jay and Shirley Russell's "Grey Pelican" where the food was so plentiful we ran out of places to set it down. We welcomed new members Kenny and Katherine Carvalho and happily caught up with Mike and Lisa Engle who had missed most of the cruising season while they addressed Mike's health issues. After a great feast the more hardy souls (read "younger") headed over to the Sausalito Cruising Club for a night of dancing while the rest of us sat around sipping wine and solving the worlds' most pressing problems. **Nigel insert here: A few of old codgers went to the cruising club dance on Saturday night and – well, a story here for another time)**

On Saturday a large group of us walked over to the construction site of the Matthew Turner Educational Tall Ship for a fascinating guided tour of this vessel which is being built with Douglas Fir and Bronze fastenings. The ship is scheduled for completion in Spring, 2017 and, when launched, will provide educational opportunities, adventures, and inspiration for area students. There were, in fact, several young people working hands-on with the adult volunteers on the ship's construction during our tour. Check out the website: www.educationaltallsjips.org, and go see it for yourself.

Saturday evening 16 of us gathered at the nearby "Le Garage" for a French gastronomic experience. C'est bonne! Outside, the moon was the largest it's been since the 1940's and to be seeing it from the dock at the foot of the beautiful hilly town of Sausalito was breathtaking. During this Thanksgiving season I'm reminded how fortunate we are to have the opportunities afforded by our love of boating. I'm grateful to be living in one of the most beautiful areas in the world where we can enjoy all that the San Francisco Bay has to offer and the friendships forged through these cruise outs and our yacht club connection. I hope more of you will join us on some cruise outs in 2017.

Happy Holidays!

Kathy Stern, Fleet Captain

Cruise out sample pics....happy campers

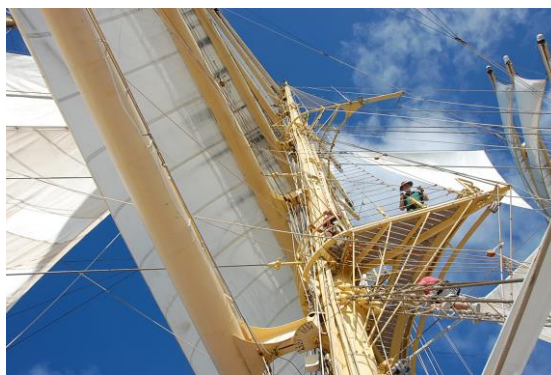


5. Update on Quincy and Sarah's sailing adventure

Commodore Fails To Deliver On Election Promise

This shocking story broke on November 11 when it was discovered that the Commodore had failed to submit an article to the Spyglass by the 10th. He had promised to provide an article every month, by the 10th. In his defense, reliable sources report that he had left town a week after the election for a vacation. They further report that he is having a very good time crossing the Atlantic Ocean in a sailboat. He is apparently having a good time because he doesn't have to do any of the work – it's a really big sailboat and it has a crew. Attached pictures show the boat at the pier in Safi, Morocco, and underway with sails up in a light breeze. Additional pictures show the Commodore trying to redeem his failure to deliver an article to Spyglass by making an appearance of working the ship – climbing the shrouds and keeping a lookout from the crow's nest. Confidential reports are that in fact no actual work was done!

A full report will be provided by WikiLeaks for the December Spyglass.



Quincy Bragg, SPYC Race Committee Chairman racing@sierrapointyc.org

6. Jason and Michelle's exciting visit to the Farallon Islands

Farallon Islands Trip – October 23, 2016

We were lucky enough to be invited to help crew a Kroger 54 (aka: Stillwater) that a friend of ours owns and lives on in Redwood City, CA. Richard Webber is a member of The Farallon Patrol, a fleet of boats that donates their time and watercraft to transporting researchers and their supplies to and from the Farallon Islands, weather permitting. The group is Point Blue Conversation. Their mission is dedicated to advancing nature-based solutions to climate change, habitat loss, and other environmental threats for wildlife and people, through science, partnerships, and outreach.

The Farallones (from the [Spanish](#) *farallón* meaning "pillar" or "sea cliff") are a group of [islands](#) and sea [stacks](#) in the [Gulf of the Farallones](#), off the coast of [San Francisco, California](#), United States. They lie 30 miles (48 km) outside the [Golden Gate](#) and 20 miles (32 km) south of [Point Reyes](#), and are visible from the mainland on clear days. The islands are officially part of the [City and County of San Francisco](#). The only inhabited portion of the islands is on Southeast Farallon Island (SEFI), where researchers from [Point Blue Conservation Science](#) and the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#) stay. The islands are closed to the public so we felt very privileged. The Farallon National Wildlife Refuge is one of 63 National Wildlife Refuges that have congressionally designated wilderness status. In 1974 the **Farallon Wilderness** was established ([Public Law](#) 93-550) and includes all islands except the Southeast Island for a total of 141 acres.

We were initially scheduled to go on Saturday, October 23rd. However, due to the conditions, which I will discuss in a moment, we had to delay

our voyage by one day. We were docked in Richmond at Marina Bay, which we liked very much as it was very quiet and calm, and there is a nice Italian restaurant right there and a few other places within walking distance for breakfast/brunch. The team arrived around 7 am on Sunday. Jason and I were ready to go with our day trip bag of supplies and munchies. Jason helped the team load all of



their equipment and supplies, and we shoved off around 7:45 am for a 4 hour trip. It was a bit chilly going out the gate but a few of us would take turns stepping out on the bow for some sight seeing. Fair seas and wind were a welcomed surprise.

We saw a few harbor porpoises in the bay and just outside the Golden Gate. We also saw many spouts that were determined to be humpbacks. Jason and I have seen many Mola Mola (aka: Sunfish) over the years but nobody else on the boat had so they were really excited to see the strange curious creatures kind of floating about. After the 5th Mola Mola, we thought we were going to drive over one so the captain turned the boat, then we hear one of the researchers scream, "oh my God, it's a leatherback sea turtle!! Stop the boat!!! Stop the boat!!" Apparently, they are very rare to see, especially in these waters. He/She was tagged with a tracking device, and we were able to get some incredible pictures! Everyone was so excited so that was a nice treat. We

were about 9 miles from the Farallones at this point so on we go, still another 1-1.5 hours to go. After about 5 minutes, I spot something else in the water. Wouldn't you know, it was ANOTHER leatherback sea turtle. Except this one wasn't tagged. We radioed on to the person in charge of our trip, who was waiting on the island to be picked up, to check in and give him our ETA. Well, as you know, other people can hear your radio chatter and a few minutes later we hear someone talking about leatherbacks in the Monterrey area (or so they thought). Turns out that there was a sea turtle researcher on a whale-watching trip that was dying to know where they were. So, it was really cool to be able to give him the info and coordinates. He was so surprised to hear their location as well.

We finally arrived on the North side of the South Farallon Island around 12:30 pm. This is not the normal way to get onto the island. The regular access is on the East side, via a crane. Yes, that's right a crane lifts your dinghy about 20 feet up in the air and onto the land. But, it was broken. So, we had to moor the boat and get picked up by dinghy and transported through the thickest, wildest group of California Sea Lions I had ever witnessed. The crew on the dinghy was radioing to the ground crew for the right time to enter the cove in between wave sets. This was why we couldn't go the day before. The seas were so rough that there were 7 foot waves crashing over the landing dock so that would have been a catastrophe. We got off the dinghy without a hitch and had to step over sea lion land mines and up the steps to the staging area where we met our private tour guide, one of the Point Blue volunteers. He took us around the island for about an hour, showing us the 2 houses, the lighthouse and a few of the native species of seabirds, pinnipeds and sharks. Very interesting indeed.

Unfortunately, we did not witness any shark attacks/feedings so that was a bit of a downer but all in all a fantastic trip! We got the fresh researchers off Stillwater and the 4 researchers



A few of the locals hanging out

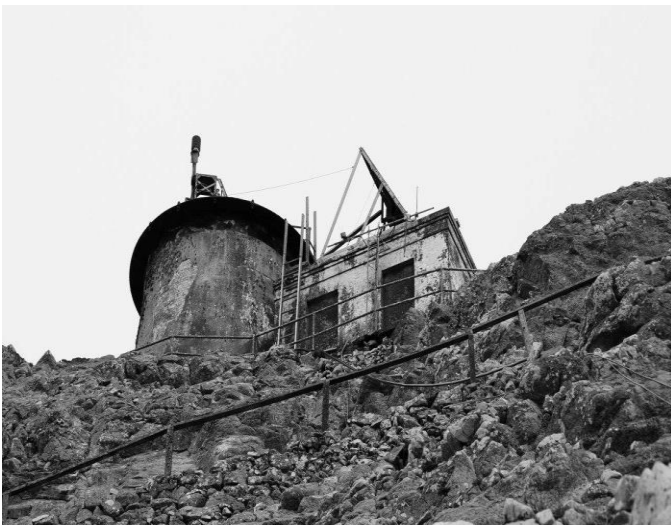
coming off duty. And had a fantastic trip back to the City by the Bay.



Jason Fox and another of Stillwater's crew with our Farallon's guide. Stillwater moored in the background



Michelle Fox on Stillwater, moored at the South Farallon Island.



If you are interested in volunteering your time and/or vessel to the Farallon Patrol, here is the link: <http://www.farallonpatrol.org>. Click on Join the Patrol.

7. English expression of the month

A nod is as good as a wink to a blind horse: A very small hint is enough to convey our Meaning to another person. It is not always necessary to say what we really want to say in an explicit manor