



Sailing
Racing

Social
Events

Cruise
Outs

Cruise
In's

Managed by Club
Volunteers



Sierra Point Yacht Club

Spyglass Newsletter – January 2017

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, 2016 is fast drawing to a close, and probably a good job too. This has been a bad year for the passing of some famous and popular stars. We have just this last few days lost George Michael, our beloved UK pop singer, and now Debbie Reynolds, just one day after her daughter – Carrie Fisher passed away. I am hoping for a more positive 2017, although I am dreading the first year of the 'Trump' presidency.

As for me, I am still in the UK and have been incapacitated these last two weeks with one of the worst head/chest/flu viruses I have endured for well over 20 years and only just climbing out of the depths of this thing. Very nasty and many people here on the Island are down with it. I need to be better by

January 5th as that is the day I start my return journey back to the US on the Cunarder Queen Victoria from Southampton to Fort Lauderdale. Spending a week in Florida to get some sun, a visit to the Catalina Yacht factory (a story here), and catching up with old friends. Then flight back from Tampa to San Jose (United Katie).

As well as our Commodore's update and events update, this issue includes an interesting article from Frank Solinsky on his and his wife's trip to Chesapeake Bay and a cruise out Raft-up on the Bay. The cruise-out planning for 2017 is underway by Kathy Stern and we will hopefully have agenda updates in the next edition.

I do not have enough data imputed from members yet to include sections on technical tips and items for swap or sale. SO PLEASE, send in articles and tech tip/sales input to me on Nigelbaker10@yahoo.com to make Spyglass a success

2. Commodore's Commentary for January 2017

Commodore's Commentary for January 2017

The last part of my title is the tricky part – 2017. The beginning of a new year, even if, like a birthday, the date is just a number, is as good a time as any to pause and look ahead at life's daily and longer term challenges to see if there is a better way to face them. Do we figure out how to get more done or get the important things done better? Do we change direction or change the whole course? I am not one for resolutions, rather I would like to see what I can do to improve my life and the lives of those around me in ways that I think I can actually achieve. Like remember to write "2017" on the few checks I still write.

This year I plan to do more sailing. As some of you know my house project has pretty much been running my life for the last year but now it's done and sailing is high on my list. We took one of our Christmas house guests for a sail on the Wednesday before Christmas and it was a wonderful trip. Not a lot of wind (so we had to motor part way up and back) but we had smooth water and the current going our way in both directions so we made it to the Golden Gate Bridge. Our guest got pictures of himself with the underside of the Bridge in the background which he immediately sent to his various family members, who were suitably impressed. It was a little chilly but we dressed properly and were comfortable in the light winds. So, more of that this year!

Looking ahead for the year there will be lots of activity at SPYC:

- Sunday Breakfast on the first Monday of each month (Note – in January it will be the 8th which is the second Sunday) and starting weekly in May. A good breakfast for a good price so if you haven't been check it out.
- Monthly dinners are always fun and there is a very good one coming in January. Watch the club calendar on our website for dates.
- Cruise-outs are being developed and scheduled as time goes on so, again, check the calendar. These are mainly spring and summer through October and you will receive email notices as the dates come up. Always a good time!
- Beer Can Racing starts the first Tuesday in May and continues through the end of August. It is not too early to start tuning up your boat (and crew) for the season. This is a great activity for improving your sailing skills as well.
- Best of all is that there will be NO DREDGING THIS YEAR in the marina! Whoopee!

In 2016 we re-decorated the club interior with new paint, new lighting, new furniture, and acoustical panels to improve the sound. All these have been great improvements to the

quality of the space, organized and executed by volunteers. If you have suggestions for other improvements we can make let me or another member of the Board know and we'll talk about it.

Quincy Bragg

3. Club general update

I have received no club general updates to broadcast this month

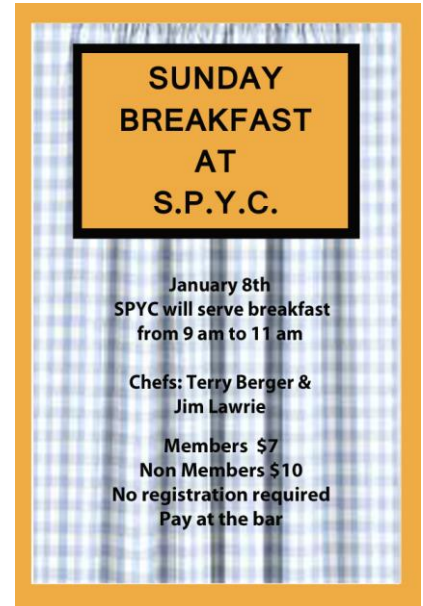
4. Events calendar

Club Breakfasts

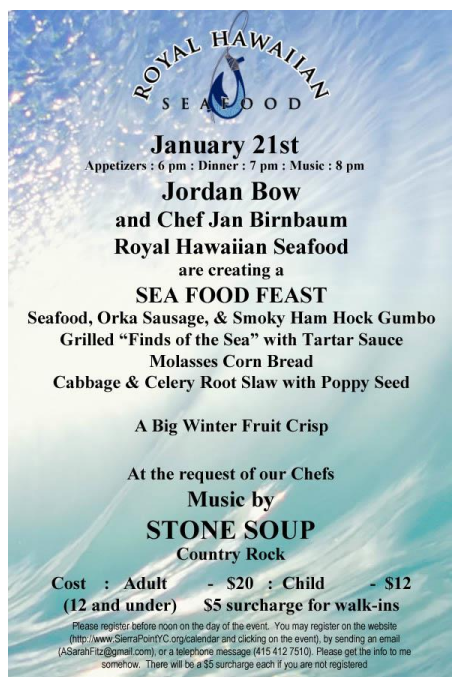
I am pleased to announce that Terry Berger and Jim Lawrie have now taken over the Sunday breakfast management duties. Many thanks to Kathy and other volunteers for keeping the Sunday breakfast tradition alive. The first breakfast of 2017 will be held on January 8th. For the months of January to April, Sunday breakfast will be held on the first Sunday of each month. From May until the end of August Sunday breakfast will be held on every Sunday during each month. Terry and Jim will also solicit new chef volunteers and will announce volunteers after the first of the year.

Sunday breakfast serving hours will be from 9:00am until 11:00am, and pricing will be set to \$7 for members and \$10 for non-members.

Please support Terry and Jim and come enjoy our breakfast get-togethers on Sunday's. It is a great way to enjoy a good breakfast at the club and catch up (gossip).



Monthly Dinner



The New Year's dinner season starts on January 21st with a very special dinner created by Jordan Bow of Royal Hawaiian Seafood.

Jordan is creating this special treat of a meal for us because he feels passionately about the oceans and the food they gift us with. He wants to promote appreciation of responsibly produced seafood. This is a delicious way to raise awareness of safety and sustainability issues. Many thanks to Jordan and to Chef Jan Birnbaum for providing positive (and delectable) avenues of action to contribute to the development of sustainable seafood production and distribution.

Jordan felt the band "Stone Soup" would perfectly pair with our dinner. This is a band that has never played for us before. Come and hear them. Let me or Jerry have feed back about bands that you would like to hear again. We are putting the the season together at the moment.

FYI: except November and December the club dinners are on the third Saturday of the month. Come and talk to me about cooking for an event. The schedule is open at present!

Be there or be square

Sarah FitzGerald

Event coordinator

ASarahFitz@gmail.com

5. Chesapeake Bay Nonsuch gathering

Last October, Judy and I travelled to the Chesapeake Bay for a Nonsuch gathering on Solomon's Island which is on the south side of the Chesapeake, an hour out of Annapolis. Prior to going to the group, we stopped and saw my 80 year old cousin who took us up for a flight in his totally restored 1947 Stinson Voyager. As you pilots know, it is a 'taildragger'. Beautiful flight that really gave us a feeling of the area.

My cousin's wife is from the Park family of 'watermen'. Watermen were people that worked on the water as fishermen for the last 200 years or so. The Park's in particular were responsible for building most of the 'Skipjacks' in the area. Michener's Chesapeake goes into this in more detail. It was fascinating to see these watermen 'fish' for crab in front of my cousin's house. One man in a 40' fishing boat going back and forth over a 'longline' which is a mile-long fishing line with baited hooks every 30'. This line comes up over a roller; the crab hangs on to the bait until it is out of the water. The 'waterman' grabs it with a net before it drops back.

The other fascinating story is the way they get oysters. They use large 45 to 50' sloops that are called Skipjacks which are very wide and shallow. In the old days, there could be no motors on these boats when they were fishing. Therefore, they installed an 8' pram dingy on the back of the boat and put a large V8 car engine in it with a huge propeller. The front of the dingy is tied to the back of the sloop. There were ropes tied to the back of the dingy so that they could steer – you have to see it to believe it but it does work quite well.

We went out sailing in a 30' Nonsuch, similar to ours but in a lot better shape. We originally bought our Nonsuch back here (though it was sight unseen with a good survey), and we met a few people that knew the boat. It was a warm day and we had good wind. I had always thought that the bay was all shallow but most of the water we sailed over was over 60 feet deep and one area was 125 feet deep and it was only about 50 feet away from dry land. We had 30 NonSuch yachts out on this sailing trip on the Bay for lunch and a photo shoot. We did a raft-up (my first) and one lady, well into her 70's, went up a mast for a photo shot – absolutely great people that were warm and welcoming.

I will say that we more sailboats and power boats in a few hours than we would see in 10 years in California. We also saw 5 different museums where they have fantastic facilities for rebuilding wooden boats, teaching young people all about sailing and the water, also preserving history. Each one has a large group of all age people who seem to have a great time getting together and enjoying themselves. The only place I know anything like this is the Myron Spaulding yard in Sausalito.

Frank Solinsky

F



NonSuch raft up



Paddleboat mail delivery



Fort McHenry

6. English expression of the month

“Have a butchers”. Means to look at something. Example: “can I have a butchers at your new boat mate”