

Sailing
Racing

Social
Events

Cruise
Outs

Cruise
In's

Managed by Club
Volunteers



Sierra Point Yacht Club

Spyglass Newsletter – March 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, the editor is on his travels again. This time to my 'other second home' – Singapore, where I lived and worked for 8 years, and to where I return to each year for a month or more to visit with my dear friends and old work colleagues. I even get a little sailing in with friends at the Changi Sailing club, one of three major sailing clubs in Singapore. One of my sailing club companions here is a Director of the Changi Sailing Club and to leverage this connection, I am thinking of trying to link our two clubs together as reciprocals – I have already been promised a burgee to take back with me for our club. While I sit here in Singapore with a nice glass of red editing this month's edition I thought I would include a brief section detailing the Sailing history here in Singapore.

In this issue I was going to include a section on my visit to the Catalina yacht factory in Largo, Florida as part of my return travel itinerary from the UK in January. I wanted to tour the factory to see first hand the construction techniques of the 5 series Catalina 385. I was given a fascinating tour of the plant by their plant technical director Warren Pandey, and I even got to meet and chat to the chief designer – Gerry Douglas. Why, you may ask, was I visiting the Catalina factory in Florida. Well, I have a hankering for a bigger boat to spend more time on board and sailing and so am ‘investigating’ the purchase of a 5 series 385.

Also included in this month’s issue is a charming article by our very own Katie Harrison, describing the delightful day she enjoyed with Dennis Busse shopping for the monthly dinner...you see Katie, even us old farts still have it in us.

And once again I must emphasize that I need articles from our members –anything boat, or maybe not boat will do, as you are probably getting bored with my stuff all the time. Please send anything to me on: Nigelbaker10@yahoo.com I would also like to kickstart the proposed technical section at some point and so would welcome any boating tech tips to include in next month’s edition, as well as any items for sale.

2. Commodore’s Commentary for March

It’s been a quiet month beside the Bay. Some events at the Club, a fabulous monthly dinner, but mainly waiting for spring. It’s been rain-rain-rain which has been very welcome but not so good for boating.

With spring we will have our annual club clean-up day, beginning of the cruise-out season, cruise-ins beginning in April as we welcome members from other clubs. Watch the calendar on our website for all of these, but we will send you a notice also.

Mark your calendar now for Sunday April 2nd which will be our annual open house in the afternoon. If you are off on winter cruising adventures send us some pictures along with your story – we’re all interested. I’ll have mine in next month’s Spyglass!

Quincy Bragg
commodore@sierrapointyc.org

3. Club general update

Being away for the most part of the last three months, I have been out of touch and no input to me on general club updates, except that we are experiencing a growth of new member applications which is good. Also, the deck is looking great now that the serving hatch wall and door is complete. Great job Jack and Jay.

4. Events calendar

Ah! St Patricks day is fast approaching
And this means it is time for the famous
St Patricks Day monthly dinner of copious
Amounts of Patrick and Nancy's Irish
Corn beef and cabbage. This year assisted by
Galley and Bar crew Jay and Shirley Russell, Dan
And Carmel Gallagher, and Michael Leal. Sign up
early for this dinner event as it is very popular.
Go our website monthly dinner link to reserve
And either pay on the website or at the event.



March 18th
The Famous Lydon
Corn Beef Feast

The Irish Crew:
Nancy and Patrick Lydon
Jay and Shirley Russell
Dan and Carmel Gallagher
Michael Leal

Appertizers : 6pm
Dinner : 7pm
Music : 8pm

Menu
Appertizers
Lydon style corn beef
with carrots and cabbage
all the fixings
potato au gratin
dessert

Jeff Taylor
and
the Brisbane Stars

	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

Breakfasts:

Are still being run on the first Sunday of each month until the summer season starts in May where Breakfasts will be held on each Sunday of the month. Breakfasts start at 8:30am and finish at 11:00am. Please come along and support this great social event and enjoy our scramble eggs, bacon, potatoes, waffles, and fruit. We will also be requesting volunteers during the season to assist in the galley.

Another popular re-occurring event is the weekly Friday evening potluck dinners with music provided and these events are gaining in popularity each week with some very tasty dishes presented. The weekly potluck is also another great venue to catch up with members and guests after the work week.

5. Cruise Outs and Cruise Ins Update for 2017

Cruise out club schedule for 2017 to date include:

St Francis Yacht Club
Petaluma Yacht Club
South Beach Yacht Club
Richmond Yacht Club
Golden Gate Yacht Club (no dogs)
Half Moon Bay Yacht Club

To register go to our website www.sierrapointyc.org and click on cruising and then sign up for each voyage on the cruise out calendar. 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 Kathy Stern at 773-459-3745. Check the cruising calendar and web page periodically for additions and changes so that you do not miss out.

Finally, now that the marina has completed channel and marina dredging, the SPYC can now accommodate Club cruise ins to our club and more information on this event type will be forthcoming. As the cruise min event calendar crystalizes, we will need club volunteers to staff the galley (if we offer a dinner evening), as well as bar staff and of course the best bit –‘social interaction- read: bar talk’ volunteers.

6. Beer can race update

Beer can racing will start in May and Quincy will give more details as the racing season approaches. For further information on the club’s beer can racing season please contact:

Quincy Bragg
racing@sierrapointyc.org

7. My day with Dennis Busse by Katie Harrison

I know I am LONG overdue for a recap of my week at Standing Rock, but in light of more recent yacht club events I figured it’d be more relevant to share a short anecdote which took place between myself and, may I say, one of our most adored yacht club members. This dear friend is the one and only Dennis (Busse!), whom I was privileged to have spent a fun day with leading up to my first yacht club dinner I was hosting.

As we all know by now I’m sure, Mr. Busse recently lost his beloved wife Louigi, (while countless others lost their once in a lifetime friend). Although Dennis has been coping with undoubtedly the deepest loss of his life, fortunately for us his strong heart of gold has allowed him to accept the love and support that his friends have shared with him since Louigi’s passing. It’s also allowed him to be incredibly caring for others as well, in spite of his trying situation.

In a casual conversation at the club a few weeks ago, I shared with Dennis my nearly unshakeable nerves in regards to cooking my first yacht club dinner. With his signature upbeat voice, he generously offered assistance to ME in getting ready for my dinner. I don’t even have the words to describe how remarkable it is for someone in his shoes to offer himself to someone else in need. Just goes to show what a solid human being he is.

Since he has an SUV and a Costco card, two criteria that I lack, he kindly offered to pick me up the day before the club dinner to tackle a majority of the grocery shopping. Neither he nor I had any idea just how much shopping we were actually getting ourselves into!

But first, breakfast. I teased Dennis that his diner of choice shared a resemblance to his own name (“*Denny’s*”)! But he assured me that he shared no stock in the company……. Nonetheless, he treated. It was a nice & relaxing start to our shopping adventure.

With tummies full and various conversations underway, we got to Costco, and I swear to god the humble and friendly swagger of this man is electric! It’s as if the larger than life entrance of Costco is a

visual metaphor of Dennis' own larger than life persona. He has a way of sparking conversation with nearly everyone he meets, much to *their* gain I'm sure. I doubt that anyone who crosses paths with Dennis is quite the same after. He reminds one of a time past, one that certainly must not be forgotten. One where men proudly drove their shiny new cars, wore tailored suits and top hats, bosses drank whiskey at their large wooden desks while making business deals..... you get the picture. Dennis reminds me of that time, yet ever so present in our modern day technology-numbed era.

I knew as soon as we entered Costco, it was going to be a day to remember. Every item he saw somehow sparked a conversation, or reminded him of a story. Only someone so FULL of life could boast of such talent.

I learned many things from Dennis that day. One: just ask for help. It's much easier! I thought women were supposed to be the ones good at that. Well it turns out that Dennis had not just been a proud husband to Louigi for many decades, but also a loving caretaker as well as a business owner; and thus he knew how to get a task done. So when I was walking around like a chicken with my head cut off searching for parmesan cheese, Dennis simply shouted to the nearest food sampler lady "Hey, where can you find the parmesan cheese?" "Oh, just over there sir." Done. Cheese. Check. Onward ho! I learned about myself in that moment that I was actually too proud to ask for help, and Dennis taught me what a waste of time that is!

The other thing that I still have yet to adopt, but that Dennis attempted to impart upon me is, sometimes it's easier to simply stroll up and down each aisle rather than zig zagging across the store like a wild monkey looking for every needle in the haystack. I will admit he is probably right, but well, it turns out I'm also stubborn and hard headed (note from editor – "no, not you Katie").

The last basic and most crucial life lesson that Busse frantically tried to enforce upon me was, *don't leave your phone and wallet on top of the shopping cart while you wander away searching for that perfect package of bocconcini mozzarella.....*

[It is worth mentioning that if you know Dennis remotely well, you know that each of these lessons he shared with me in the sweetest most caring way possible.]

Our stay at Costco much to my delight was short-lived as it turned out their package quantities are sufficient for either 80 people, or a small army. Neither of these applied to me as I would be cooking for no more than 40 total. So, although I did end up buying that \$22 package of pine nuts (& from China, ugh!) as well as the overpriced bag of walnuts, my budget would have been quickly exhausted at that rate.

I felt awful taking up much more of Dennis' time or generosity than I could have anticipated, but he immediately offered that we try the next best option: Lucky's. And so we did. There we had a lot more success, a lot less wandering, but still a good amount of practice staying on top of my cell phone/wallet abandonment habit.

I should mention that each place we stopped that day, one thing I noticed is that Dennis is on one hand like a regular local guy, but he has the air and grace of a celebrity! Each person he greeted, it was as if they had just seen each other moments ago or were picking up an inside joke right where they had left off. And I enjoyed every moment of it. It was like getting a glimpse into his fun world that he generously shares in all of his story telling, except this time I got to live it instead of picture it.

I really have nothing more to say other than that I really enjoyed my day with Dennis, aka Busse.

Thanks Busse for a great day.

Katie

8. The History of Sailing in Singapore

Singapore has always been associated with wind and sail since the early days of the British Empire where Sailing ships carrying cargo and passengers plied the oceans between the West and the East,

and had to pass through the Singapore Straits that linked the two major oceans together. Consequently Singapore was developed into a major hub and trading center and to this day Singapore is still a major shipping hub, although the days of commercial sailing ships have long passed but the waters are still referred to as the Singapore Straits.

Sailing for sport and pleasure in Singapore by Singaporeans only really started to take off around 1956, although some of the English colonials dallied in the sport prior to that date. In 1956 the Singapore Yachting Association was founded with an Englishman – Jack Snowden as it's first president.

The success of this early sailing association prompted the Singapore Government, as a reward, build the National Sailing Center (NSC) on the East Coast, opened in 1997, as a base for Singaporeans to enjoy sailing and to produce international sailing champions.

Sailing was also introduced into school sports activity training programs where structured sail training programs for students were introduced as their extra-curricular activity. A national Optimist class sailing scheme was set up as part of this program with the goal of an Olympic sailing quest; a Singapore team won the world sailing championship in 2005 in a 420 class sailing boat race.

As well as youth sailing programs, three major yacht clubs have evolved in Singapore as well as several sailing centers and marinas. The major yacht clubs are:

The Changi Sailing Club

The Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) Sailing Club

The Republic of Singapore Yacht Club

The club I 'hang out' in while in Singapore is the Changi Sailing Club as I know several members as well as a Board member at the club, and I have crewed on my friends J24 several times over the years. The club is in a nice location on the eastern coast of Singapore, looking out across the estuary that separates Singapore from Malaysia. The picture on the right is a view (my pic) taken from the club looking out across the estuary to the coast of Malaysia. There is a jetty connected to the club with the race committee 'hut' and pontoons on the end. Races held here include class dingy racing as well as bigger boat racing (by big boat I mean classes from J24's to handicapped 30 to 50 footers). The Club has a restaurant that is open to the public as well as a swimming pool for members and guests. As you can imagine, it gets very hot and humid in Singapore, so sailing in the local winds feels like you are being hit with the blast from a huge hair dryer on maximum heat – an extreme change compared to crossing the slot in the Bay in 25 knot winds with the fog rolling in and a 80 thousand ton freighter bearing down on you. Never has a chilled beer (or several) tasted so good after a days sailing in the waters off of Singapore.



9. 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



10. Brit expression of the month

'Full to the Gunwales'

The term 'Gunwales' pronounced 'gunnels' is a term understood to originally refer to the 'gun walls' of sailing man-of-war ships to describe the upper deck level of cannon deployment. The term 'gunwalls' evolved to describe the following:

'The upper edge of a ship's side: in large vessels, the uppermost planking, which covers the timber-heads and reaches from the quarter deck to the forecastle on either side. In small craft, a piece of timber extending round the top side of the hull'

SO. The expressions 'full to the gunwalls' or 'packed to the gunwalls' were first used as literal references to heavily loaded ships. The expressions gradually over time became used in non-nautical use such as: 'the truck was packed to the gunwalls', or in a more understandable phrase for our club members –"the beer cooler was filled to the gunwalls"