



**The South Bay Yacht Club**

Since 1896

# *Slough News*

[www.southbayyachtclub.org](http://www.southbayyachtclub.org)

January 2025



**Thursday, January 9, 2025**

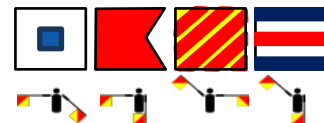
**6pm Board Meeting**

**7pm Member Meeting**

**Please attend!**



First Saturday Kayak Krew from December 7<sup>th</sup>  
and King Tide - Guadalupe Slough and Alviso  
Marina on the 14<sup>th</sup>.



## **2025 Board of Directors**

Commodore: **Lisa Bickford**

Vice Commodore: **Earl Jensen**

Treasurer: **Jim Reid**

Secretary: **Sheila Tost**

Director: **Roy Hays**

Director: **Shirley Reekie**

Port Captain: **Bart Laine**

## Club Calendar – *What's Ahead*

### Every month:

- **Saturday Kayak Krew**, 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday 8am -12pm
- **Sea Scouts**, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays 9:30am – 12:30pm
- **Thirsty Thursday**, 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday 6pm - 9pm
- **Friday with Friends**. Fourth Friday 5pm - 9pm
- **Work Parties**: Every Wednesday 9:30am – 12:30pm and Fourth Saturday 9am - 12pm

Stay tuned - an updated annual calendar will be available in the February issue.

### January 2025

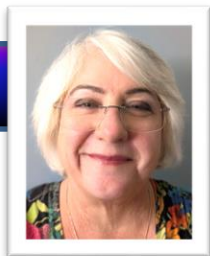
Thurs, Jan 9     Board Meeting 6pm and Member Meeting 7pm

### Welcome New Members!



Inducted at the December 12 board meeting, here are: Jeremy Cormier (spouse Neely was unable to attend), incoming Commodore Lisa Bickford, and new members Steven and Cynthia Kessinger. Welcome aboard!!





## Commodore's Corner

**Lisa Bickford, Commodore** [lisabickford@gmail.com](mailto:lisabickford@gmail.com)

### Happy New Year to all!

Reflecting on 2024, it has been a year of great accomplishments for our club with First Saturday kayaking gaining a lot of support, our solar installation saving us money and helping the environment, the re-piping of the water pipes in the clubhouse making our water cleaner and helping the hot water come faster, a lot of cleanup thanks to the Wednesday work party crew, and a host of other wonderful memories we will all carry into 2025. We lost long time members Bob Andrade and Emmett Dingel this year and gained 12 new member families. The fond memories of our past members and hope for our future propel me into 2025.

Looking forward, I'm excited to see what the new year will bring, both in new events and fun activities, as well as in new friendships and opportunities to learn more about each of you and our shared passion for our club.

At the December Board meeting I announced new Committee Chairs and told everyone that I would follow up on the survey responses and plans for the year ahead. I'm pleased to present the following people as our Committee Chairs for 2025:

<b>Bar</b> Evan von Kugelgen	<b>Galley</b> Gillian Tyndall	<b>House &amp; Grounds</b> Sharon Coate	<b>Storage Yard</b> Samuel Leyva
<b>Barn</b> Dean McCully	<b>Membership &amp; Newsletter</b> Mallory von Kugelgen	<b>Fleet</b> Shirley Reekie	<b>Audit</b> Jeff Barnes
<b>History</b> Edwin El-Kareh	<b>Rentals</b> Roy Hays	<b>Port</b> Bart Laine	<b>Events &amp; Activities</b> Meg Taylor
<b>Nominating</b> TBD ASAP			

I would like to invite every club member to get involved with our club in some way. Choose a committee, come to an event, come kayaking on first Saturday, initiate an activity of your own like a walk along the slough or a trip to another yacht club as a group.

We have limitless options and an entire year of possibilities! Join the fun and make the most of your club membership!

All my best for a wonderful 2025 for you and our Yacht Club family!  
Commodore Lisa

## More from the Commodore

Lisa Bickford, Vice Commodore [lisabickford@gmail.com](mailto:lisabickford@gmail.com)

**What do you want to see us do? What are you willing/able to do?**

**Please take the survey at:**

**<https://southbayyachtclub.org/2025-member-survey>**



### Events for 2025 and Beyond

We have a standard list of events

- First Saturday Kayak Krew
- Second Thurs Board and Club Meetings - Speakers for each month?
- Third Thirsty Thursday Social
- Fourth Friday with Friends Social

Monthly dinner events

New Events hosted by members?

Sailing Lessons

Social activities with other clubs?

### Coming up for 2025 and Beyond

- Storage yard resurfacing
- Barn door repair/replacement
  - Battery backup for solar
- Dock realignment proposal
  - Cupola flagpole repair



## December 7<sup>th</sup> Holiday Party Scrapbook





## Sea Scouts

Shirley Reekie - Skipper, Ship 300 and SBYC Board Member



**300**

**Sea Scout Ship 300, a charter of the SBYC**

December's first meeting was a lesson in weather watching and listening to forecasts. It was rainy and windy. Foul weather gear was deployed. Kayaks were carried over the levee. It started to hail and a report of a tornado was received. Following a quick re-think, kayaks were carried back over the levee in the pouring rain, and everyone went inside and had hot chocolate and brownies. We watched the Safe Swim Defense video, and worked on our Scout Oath, Law, and Sea Promise.

Our second meeting of the month (yet to happen!) will be a visit to the USS Hornet. Ship 300 has been invited by the USS Hornet Amateur Radio Club to visit them on board. We will be given a tour of the recently refurbished radio central, combat information center, the engine room, and several other places around the ship not normally open to the public. After the tour, our Sea Scouts will be invited to use the Hornet's modern radio facilities under the guidance of licensed amateur radio operators. If anyone makes a contact on board the Hornet, they will be given a certificate from the radio club.



### **The USS Hornet Museum is the Bay Area's Premiere Ship Museum**

Come aboard and learn about this great ship's legacy from World War II through the Vietnam War and culminating with the recovery of the Apollo 11 and 12 astronauts, the first two sets of astronauts to walk on the Moon.

For more info on Ship 300, please contact either Skipper Shirley Reekie ([kayakrowsail@gmail.com](mailto:kayakrowsail@gmail.com)) or Committee Chair Lisa Bickford ([lisabickford@gmail.com](mailto:lisabickford@gmail.com))



## PICYA & Regional News

Tim Ellenberger [t.ellenberger@sbcglobal.net](mailto:t.ellenberger@sbcglobal.net)

Ahoy and thanks for stopping by Cap'n Tim's Dock. I've been sitting topside and spinning a yarn or two with our friends from the PICYA and RBOC. Here is what's been whistling in the wind for SBYC.

### **PICYA (Pacific Inter Club Yachting Association)**

Happy 2025 to all, the PICYA is wishing you fair seas and many happy adventures in the New Year! Activity calendars are still being set and they are looking forward to a great year of boating for the over 100 PICYA member clubs...including SBYC!

Next up will be the PICYA Commodore's Ball. This year's gala event will be held on Saturday, January 25th at the Sequoia Yacht Club. All are invited to attend this fun black-tie evening of dining, dancing, and delights. Additional details will be forwarded as they become available.

A note, the PICYA is in the process of changing out the functionality and look of its website. Until that process is completed, the existing website will not show current content.

### **RBOC (Recreational Boaters of California)**

The RBOC has been our primary legislative representative for many years. As this year begins, we have them to thank for keeping our vessel registration fees at a reasonable rate, for their continued opposition to the Delta Conveyance Project and for ensuring that the money we spend on fuel taxes and other fees is targeted towards projects which are of direct benefit to recreational boaters. Thank you RBOC!

### **COTY (Club of the Year Competition)**

Congratulations to SBYC, we crossed the October 14th finish line of the 2024 COTY interclub competition in the middle of Northern California fleet, with a total of 150 points. It was a good year for us and the coming year promises to be even better! Watch the newsletter for black-tie information on upcoming boating outings, community service events and other activities. Many thanks to all who come out for COTY events; you KNOW how much fun that we have! As our club will enter its 129th year in 2025, we are still going strong!

There you have it SBYC... as always; we're the FUN club!



## Safety Officer's Report

Tim Ellenberger [t.ellenberger@sbcglobal.net](mailto:t.ellenberger@sbcglobal.net)

### **Stress-Free Docking** by David Steele, San Jose Sailing Club

The biggest source of anxiety, frustration, hull damage, trial and error, strategizing, discussion and conflict has been docking. I finally found a docking technique that's almost effortless and fail-safe. I'm embarrassed to admit that I stumbled across this technique a few years ago but dismissed it as a hassle to set up (in reality, it isn't).

#### **Using a Stern Bridle for Stress-Free Docking**

**Setup Step 1:** When setting up the boat for docking, set up a line attached to the boat at the mid cleat. Don't have a mid cleat? You can use any mid or forward attachment point such as a shackle on your toe rail, jib fairlead, or even your bow cleat. This is the standing/bitter end.

**Setup Step 2:** Run the line outboard somewhere aft, such as your aft cleat, sheet turning block, etc. This line must run free, so using a snatch block, existing sheet block, shackle, or even running through the middle of the aft cleat horn will work.

**Setup Step 3:** Bring the line to your cockpit sheet winch and give it a few wraps. This is the running end. It only takes a minute or two to set up while getting fenders and lines ready for docking.

**Docking Step 1:** Make sure you have enough slack to lasso your dock cleat (10-15 feet of line in your hands should do it). If you're single handing, place this slack in a location ready to deploy without falling into the water. If you have a helper they will position themselves to lasso the cleat and you will give them slack from the running end on your sheet winch until they have enough.

**Docking Step 2:** Approach your dock as normal, however with this technique you don't have to worry about the boat being too far from the finger to step/jump off, so you can give yourself lots of room and avoid hull scrapes.

**Docking Step 3:** When even with the outermost dock cleat, simply throw the line over it. Just hold the bight in outstretched hands with a coil or two in each hand and toss over the cleat. If you're single handing, you would leave the cockpit briefly to do this and immediately return to the cockpit. If you have a helper, at this point their job is done. If you miss the cleat, no problem, retrieve the slack/bight and toss again. This can easily snag a dock cleat from 6-10 feet away if needed. Be sure the running end is secured/cleated at the winch while doing this step.

**Docking Step 4:** From the cockpit, pull the running end (wrapped around the sheet winch) until the boat is against the dock then cleat it. You can use your winch handle if needed.

**Docking Step 5:** Unless you're docking downwind or the wind is pushing you onto the dock, put your engine in forward idle and the boat will stay against the dock allowing you or your helper to step off safely at your leisure to secure the dock lines. And that's it!

The ability to keep your boat in position against the dock safely while single handing or with crew can greatly decrease risk of injury to yourself, your crew, your boat, your neighbor's boat, the dock, and anything on the dock. While these instructions might seem wordy and complicated when breaking it down, this docking technique is actually simple and easy to execute. Give it a try!



## Yachty Things

### Naughty Cal Corner

By Wind Lass

Have you ever noticed the device in the SBYC parking lot right next to the clubhouse wall? It is about 3' high and painted white, with two handles. Your correspondent, Wind Lass, thought it was time to explain what a windlass is, and the difference between a windlass and a capstan.

Our device was made by the Hyde Windlass Company (active from 1895 to 1969) in Bath, Maine, and it works! If you try it, make sure you wind it the right way, so the ratchet works. The heavy iron pieces drop into and engage on the sprocket so that it can't go backwards. You might want to have a second person help you turn it, to avoid injury, as it is quite hard work. Most likely, ours was used to raise the anchor on a sailing ship. Does anyone know where it came from and/or how the SBYC got it?

The difference between a capstan and a windlass is that a capstan has a vertical axle, and a windlass has a horizontal axle, so that although our "relic" is made by the Hyde Windlass Company, it is in fact a capstan. (They made both!) A modern-day winch, on a keelboat perhaps, is a small form of a capstan.



## Contact & Rental Info

### South Bay Yacht Club

(408) 263-0100

[www.southbayyachtclub.org](http://www.southbayyachtclub.org)

[sbyc.alviso@gmail.com](mailto:sbyc.alviso@gmail.com)

#### Addresses:

- **Mailing:**

PO Box 100  
Alviso, CA 95002

- **Clubhouse:**

1491 Hope Street  
Alviso, CA 95002

### Clubhouse Rentals

Rent the historic South Bay Yacht Club for your next corporate or personal event. This relaxed, rustic location accommodates up to 96 guests. Rental rates are negotiable. A signed Usage Agreement is required for all uses of the Club. Contact the Club Rental Manager at [sbyc.alviso@gmail.com](mailto:sbyc.alviso@gmail.com)



### Who to Contact

at the *South Bay Yacht Club*

#### Commodore & General Questions

Lisa Bickford, Commodore

(408) 398-8398 [lisabickford@gmail.com](mailto:lisabickford@gmail.com)

#### House & Grounds, Storage, Lockers

Earl Jensen, Vice Commodore

(408) 655-9548 [earl\\_jensen@comcast.net](mailto:earl_jensen@comcast.net)

#### Financial Questions

Jim Reid, Treasurer (408) 442-8158 [reidjc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:reidjc@sbcglobal.net)

#### Secretary

Sheila Tost (408) 218-9914 [bradandsheila@yahoo.com](mailto:bradandsheila@yahoo.com)

#### Clubhouse Rental

Roy Hays (408) 502-2022 [roylhays@aol.com](mailto:roylhays@aol.com)

#### Mooring and Docks

Bart Laine, Port Captain (408) 590-6875 (cell)

[bart.laine@gmail.com](mailto:bart.laine@gmail.com)

### Committees:

- **Audit:** Jeff Barnes (503) 730-3508 [jeffbarnes@gmail.com](mailto:jeffbarnes@gmail.com)
- **Bar:** Evan von Kugelgen (408) 221-8132 [vonkugelgen@gmail.com](mailto:vonkugelgen@gmail.com)
- **Barn:** Dean McCully (408) 209-3049 [dean@dmccully.com](mailto:dean@dmccully.com)
- **Events & Activities:** Meg Taylor (408) 410-3124 [megntaylor39@gmail.com](mailto:megntaylor39@gmail.com)
- **Fleet:** Shirley Reekie (408) 460-0398 [kayakrowsail@gmail.com](mailto:kayakrowsail@gmail.com)
- **Galley:** Gillian Tyndall (408) 398-4130 [gillygag@gmail.com](mailto:gillygag@gmail.com)
- **History:** Edwin El-Kareh (408) 774-9300 [edwin@albansdesign.com](mailto:edwin@albansdesign.com)
- **House & Grounds:** Sharon Coate (408) 607-7533 [scoate@gmail.com](mailto:scoate@gmail.com)
- **Membership:** Mallory von Kugelgen (408) 813-3677 [malloryvk@gmail.com](mailto:malloryvk@gmail.com)
- **Storage Yard:** Samuel Levy (408) 203-7925 [slevya408@gmail.com](mailto:slevya408@gmail.com)