

**The South Bay Yacht Club**

Since 1888

# *Slough News*

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

December 2024



## **Congratulations and Thank You** to the Newly Elected 2025 Board of Directors

Commodore: **Lisa Bickford**

Treasurer: **Jim Reid**

Director: **Roy Hays**

Port Captain: **Bart Laine**

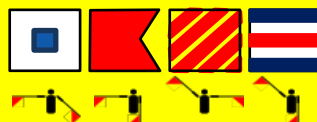
Vice Commodore: **Earl Jensen**

Secretary: **Sheila Tost**

Director: **Shirley Reekie**

**Please join us! Thurs, December 12**  
**6pm Board Meeting ~ 7pm Member Meeting**

with a presentation by South Bay Salt Pond Restoration



## Club Calendar – *What's Ahead*

### Every month:

- **Saturday Kayak Crew**, 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

### December

- Sat, 7            Holiday Party  
                     Cocktails 5pm, Dinner 6pm
- Thurs, 12       **Board Meeting 6pm**  
                     Member Meeting 7pm  
                     **Presentation:** South Bay Salt  
                     Pond Restoration Project
- Tues, 31        New Year's Eve at SBYC  
                     4pm – 9pm

### **Wishing all a wonderful holiday ~**

Happy Hanukkah  
Merry Christmas  
Happy Kwanzaa  
and Happy Festivus

May these days bring you peace.  
Thankful for our newsletter contributors –  
Lisa, Earl, Tim E, Shirley, Sheila, Roy,  
Nathan, Samuel, and Evan, who is always  
willing to find those typos for me.  
~ Mallory



Have A Holly Jolly Yachty

# Dinner -with- Santa!

Ugly Sweater Competition

Bring a Gift For Alviso Kids

**Saturday December 7, 2024**  
Open House 2pm-5pm  
Dinner at 5pm

Catered by GoldenHarvest

**South Bay Yacht Club**  
1491 Hope St., San Jose

Hand Chines with Marsha & Friends

Kids FREE 18+ \$20

RSVP Required: [www.southbayyachtclub.org/events](http://www.southbayyachtclub.org/events)  
Or [sbyc.alviso@gmail.com](mailto:sbyc.alviso@gmail.com)

Delicious Holiday Fare & Fun







## Commodore's Corner

Earl Jensen, Commodore [Earl\\_jensen@comcast.net](mailto:Earl_jensen@comcast.net)

### Dec Letter from the Commodore

Going into the end of the year is akin to the sailors of yesteryear heading into their homeport after a long voyage. It reminds us of the chronographs unstoppable ticking of the seconds towards the end. It fills us with hope and joy what is to come but also compels us to reflect on what has passed.



Three of our shipmates passed over their journey's final bar towards *their* final safe harbor. They were, and are still, our friends, our confidants, and comrades at arms.

While it seems so final, I find solace in the Korean philosophy of reincarnation. It advances the idea that our souls, the essence of who we are, are connected over multiple lifetimes. It naturally involves a ferryman, *Jangserung*, to guide the souls across the River *Han*. During the passage, the souls find peace, only retaining their essence. One could call it destiny or fate that we are bound to reconnect with those we knew in this lifetime.

We maintain this connection by remembering them. So join me and raise a glass to their memories, spent with them in a spot familiar to both of us or tell a sailor's story to us about them.

**Art, Bob and Emmett; safe passage.**

As the holiday descends upon us, please gift us some of your time, to show up and socialize with your friends at SBYC. We have the Christmas Party (Dec 7) and New Year's Eve (Dec 31).

Remember, nothing unimportant ever happens at the SBYC!

~ Earl Jensen, Commodore SBYC



## House & Grounds

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

Any issues, please contact Lisa 408-398-8398

### Work Completed in 2024 with thanks to everyone!

- ✓ Solar - Thank you, Earl Jensen
- ✓ Newsletters each month - Thank you, Mallory vK
- ✓ Fence - Thank you, Roy Hays
- ✓ Flagpole - Thank you, Jim Boland and Shirley Reekie
- ✓ Barn reconfiguration and cleanup - Thank you, Edwin El-Kareh
- ✓ Barn rain gutters - Thank you, Jim Boland, Nathan McCully
- ✓ Storage yard cleanup and reconfiguration - Thank you, Dean McCully, Shirley Reekie, and Edwin El-Kareh
- ✓ Barbed wire fence reconfiguration - Thank you, Nathan McCully who cut the old poles and built a new trailer ramp
- ✓ 11 sailboats and 16 kayaks donated from Lake Cunningham - Thank you, Shirley Reekie
- ✓ Norm's RV relocated - Thank you, Margaret Nolin and Earl Jensen
- ✓ New planter at the SBYC sign - Thank you, Nathan McCully
- ✓ Drip irrigation - Thank you, Shirley Reekie and Gill Tyndall
- ✓ Galley clean up and reconfiguration - Thank you, Gill Tyndall and Sharon Coate
- ✓ Many successful events all year - a true group effort
- ✓ New LED lights around clubhouse - Thank you, Earl Jensen
- ✓ Galley wallpaper removed and walls patched and painted - Thank you, Tim Miyazaki, Mallory vK, Gill, Shirley, Edwin & others)
- ✓ 15 new member families - welcome to all of you!
- ✓ Rolling chair racks to move chairs around - Thank you, Dean and Nathan
- ✓ Back pantry reconfiguration - Thank you, Gill and Sharon
- ✓ All sail lockers cleaned out and upstairs reconfigured - Thank you, Gill, Shirley, Edwin, Sharon, Nathan, & Dean - Weds Work Party
- ✓ SBYC library cleaned up - Thank you, Gil
- ✓ Sea Scouts very active and adding members - Thank you, Shirley, Earl, Edwin, Nathan and Dean



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**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>**



### **Coming up for 2025 and Beyond**

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

### **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?



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**Please consider joining one of our standing committees or propose one that you think we need!**

### Existing Committees:

House & Grounds

Events and Activities

Membership

Nominating Committee

Audit Committee

Sea Scout Committee

We are looking for people to help support each of these and will be asking each of you to consider where you'd most like to support our yacht club in the coming year.

Please speak to any of our 2025 Board Members about your interests, complete the survey, or just show up and help when you feel like it.

More to come at our December club meeting on Thursday, December 12!



## First Saturday Kayak Crew (November Paddle)

Every 1st Saturday monthly 8am – 12pm

Reserve your seat online <http://regathon.com/kayak/>

Meet at the yard to help load boats & gear before heading to the Alviso Marina docks.



Photos: Nathan McCully



## Commodores Dinner

A festive evening in appreciation of those who have given so much of their time and attention to SBYC. And dinner was delicious.



Honoring  
Commodores  
past and  
present:  
**Earl Jensen,  
Charles  
Taylor,  
Roy Hays,  
Gus Meyner,  
Bernie  
Comeau**





Jingle Mingle on November 29th





## Cheers to the Bar and Those Who Keep Our Whistles Wet

Many thanks to our bartenders! It can be a long day prepping for an event and keeping the libations flowing. Much appreciation to Sheila and Evan, who have spiffed up the bar, who make sure shifts are covered, that supplies are plentiful, and the concoctions delicious.

Gratitude to our members who give of their time to make sure others enjoy themselves. It wouldn't be a party without you, Lisa, Marsha, Earl, Amitay, Sarah, Samuel, Jeff, Tim, Nathan, Sheila, Evan, Roy, and Christine.

And if you'd like to join the fun, more bartenders are always needed! Contact Evan von Kugelgen [vonkugelgen@gmail.com](mailto:vonkugelgen@gmail.com) or Sheila Tost [bradandsheila@yahoo.com](mailto:bradandsheila@yahoo.com) for how to get involved!





## Sea Scouts

Shirley Reekie - Skipper, Ship 300 and SBYC Board Member



# 300

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

Our two meetings this past month have both been procedural, but definitely moving us forward. The first was to come close to perfecting our flag hoisting, using the hoists on the newly refurbished flagpole. Prior to our most recent meeting, we opened with this ceremony and it was nearly flawless, with all Sea Scouts present in uniform ☺



This second meeting was a joint meeting with Sea Scout parents and was a potluck. We had nine Sea Scouts present and they worked on Ship 300 bylaws, elected new officers, and began planning for 2025. Parents also worked on coordinating their responsibilities. **Our new officers are Boatswain Jason Rondeau, Boatswain's Mate Sarah Piper-Frisina, Yeoman Alexia Snethen, and Purser Gavin McCoy.** Upcoming plans include visits to the USS Hornet, to Cal Maritime, kayaking, fishing, shooting, and camping trips, plus the annual swim test. We also have new recruits in the pipeline, which is exciting.



In addition to our regular Sea Scout uniform, thanks to an anonymous donor, we now also each have a very smart and warm jacket with the Ship logo on back, front, and name on the side (visible in the pictures).

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)**

The November 4th PICYA Delegates Dinner Meeting and Annual Awards dinner was held at the always welcoming Berkeley Yacht Club. Attending on behalf of SBYC was delegate Gus Meyner, accompanied by member JoAnn Barr. Gus, who has a wealth of boating experience and has represented numerous Bay Area yacht clubs over the years, was the recipient of a very special award... The Jo Bates Memorial Delegate of the Year Award. He was honored as the PICYA delegate who has best served in the image of (the PICYA's legendary go-getter and Delegate) Jo Bates. Gus, who knew Jo Bates well and admired her deeply, was humbled and received a rousing ovation from the crowd. NICE GOING, GUS!!!!

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

The RBOC has been our primary legislative representative for many years. As this year closes, 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)**

We have crossed the October 14th finish line of the Pacific Interclub Yachting Associations 2024 COTY interclub competition in good stead! With thanks to YOU, our club earned a total of 150 points and was awarded a certificate that recognizes us as a 3-Star Club! That point total is 150 more than we earned last year and we plan to do even better in 2025. Thanks go to outgoing Commodore Earl Jensen for his support of COTY activities, which include community service events, South Bay Opening Day festivities, and interclub races and regattas. Appreciation is also extended to our delegates to the PICYA, Emmett Dingel, Gus Meyner, and Sheila Tost for attending monthly delegate meetings and keeping us informed about Bay Area events. As our club will enter its 129th year, it is good to know that we are 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)

### Digging to China by Lu Abel

This month's column is not on boat safety at all, but the results of a challenge sent to me by a member.

It's simple: My home is located at Latitude 37.768125 North, Longitude 122.284526 West (note that he sent these coordinates in six-place decimals of a degree, not in degrees, minutes and seconds (or degrees, minutes, and decimal minutes as one needs to plot on most charts); this is actually an advantage). So what point on Earth is directly opposite my home? If Elon Musk loaned me his fabled boring machine and I drilled directly through the center of the earth, where would I come out? (Assuming of course that I didn't stop to view all the sights described by Jules Verne in his famous 1850s novel Journey to the Center of the Earth.)

I looked at this question when I first received it and had no idea how to calculate. A good night's sleep (perhaps pondering the question in my dreams) and I discovered that answer is fairly simple. The opposite point's longitude is simply 180 degrees off from my starting longitude – that's the opposite side of the earth from where I am! The Prime Meridian is 0 degrees; the Date Line is at 180 degrees (the only two longitudes where it doesn't matter if you say East or West).

Let's say I'm on the Date Line. If I'm going to come eastward to my home longitude of 122.284526 West, then the point opposite me has to also move to the east.  $180 - 122.284526$  is 57.715474, the number of degrees of longitude I am east of the Date Line. To stay opposite me, the longitude of the point opposite me must also move 57.715474 degrees to the east from Greenwich, in other words to 57.715474 East longitude.

I like to visualize the answers to problems, so imagine holding a globe so the South Pole is pointing directly at you. Meridians of longitude would look like spokes on a wheel. Think of the Date Line at the top of the circle and Greenwich at the bottom. Now move clockwise to California and draw a line directly across the pole – you're at the point opposite in longitude and it's east longitude. The "opposite" latitude is incredibly simple it's just the beginning latitude with North/South reversed! Visually, think of looking at the Earth with the North Pole at the top and the South Pole at the bottom and the Equator horizontally across the circle. Parallels of Latitude simply go up or down from the Equator. So if I'm at a certain latitude and draw a line from it through the center of the Earth (center of the circle we're visualizing), it comes out at the same number of degrees, but south if the original latitude was north or vice-versa. So the answer to the question "where on Earth is the point directly opposite your home (Lat 37.768125 N, Lo 122.284526 W)?" is Lat 37.768125 S and Lo 57.715474 E. Put that into Google Maps (remembering that by convention we don't show N, S, E or W, but rather south latitudes and west longitudes are shown as negative numbers, so enter - 37.768125 57.715474) and where on Earth is the point directly opposite my home? Not in China, but in the Indian Ocean, almost directly east of Cape Town and SSE of Madagascar.

(Post Scrip fun...the point opposite you on earth is called the antipode.)

## Contact & Rental Info

### Contact Info:

(408) 263-0100

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

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

### Mailing Address:

South Bay Yacht Club

PO Box 100

Alviso, CA 95002

### Clubhouse Address

South Bay Yacht Club

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

Earl Jensen, Commodore

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

#### Membership Info & Clubhouse Rental

Roy Hays (408) 502-2022

[roylhays@aol.com](mailto:roylhays@aol.com)

#### Secretary

Sheila Tost (408) 218-9914

[bradandsheila@yahoo.com](mailto:bradandsheila@yahoo.com)

#### Mooring and Docks

Bart Laine, Port Captain

(408) 590-6875 (cell) -

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

#### Dry Storage, Lockers, House & Grounds

Lisa Bickford, Vice Commodore

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

#### Financial Questions

Jim Reid, Treasurer

(408) 442-8158 — [reidjc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:reidjc@sbcglobal.net)



### 2024 Board of Directors

Commodore

Vice Commodore

Treasurer

Secretary

Port Captain

Director

Director

Earl Jensen

Lisa Bickford

Jim Reid

Sheila Tost

Bart Laine

Roy Hays

Shirley Reekie





## Yachty Things

### Naughty Cal Corner

By Wind Lass

Three common expressions that come from the sea/sailing:

*“He/she is a loose cannon”* meaning someone who is unpredictable or uncontrolled. This comes from when cannons were rolled out for firing on a sailing ship, and sometimes the fastening of the cannon to the ship could come untied, resulting in the gun pitching wildly across the deck as the ship rolled.



*“Have you heard the latest scuttlebutt?”* meaning have you heard the latest gossip. In sailing ships, the scuttlebutt was the cask or barrel where drinking water was stored and as sailors loitered near it, the gossip was passed around.

Photo depicts the scuttlebutt on the USS Constitution



*“Skyscraper”* now means a very tall building, but the term was first used for the top-most sail on a square-rigged ship; it was triangular and set above the square skysail or the square moonraker. Sometimes, the wind aloft was stronger than closer to sea level, hence the need for sails positioned high up.

The skyscraper would go above the highest sail shown here.



## Ahoy, Shipwrights!

Ever wanted to try your hand at working with a bunch of fellow SBYC members and **building a wooden boat?**

Well, several of us SBYC members, plus SBYC's Sea Scouts, have been talking about building wooden boats at SBYC. What kind of boats?

Well, we might start small and build a couple of simple wooden kayaks, just to learn the tools and techniques. We would first get through tool safety classes to learn to use boat-building tools properly and safely. Then we might build some simple plywood kayaks just to get our feet wet. (Hopefully not LITERALLY get our feet wet. because we hope the boats will be watertight :-)

A Scout troop in Los Gatos has long been building plywood kayaks, so maybe they can teach us.

Then once we master the tools and basic boat-building techniques, we might eventually move up to building an "Alma Class Sailboat" ... like this beauty:



The sky's the limit as to what we could eventually build.

When will we start? Not sure. We'll have to master tool safety and usage first, and come up with plans for boats, etc. Then we can go from there...

So. Interested in hearing more about boat-building SBYC? Reply to me backchannel at [dean@dmccully.com](mailto:dean@dmccully.com) and I'll add you to the invitation list for a Zoom that we will run soon.

Looking forward to seeing where this leads....

~ Dean McCully

Email Dean [dean@dmccully.com](mailto:dean@dmccully.com) for upcoming Zoom meeting



BTW an Alma restoration is currently at the San Francisco Maritime Park.