

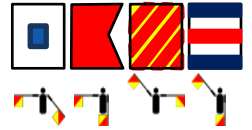


The South Bay Yacht Club

Since 1888

Slough News

www.southbayyachtclub.org



September 2026

How was your summer?

Your barstool is
waiting for you, and
we look forward to
hearing all about it!

Board Meeting at 6pm
Member Meeting 7pm

Thursday, 9/10



Dear Members ~

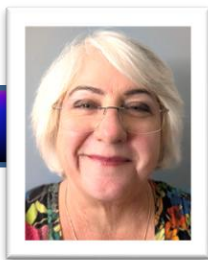
Our beautiful, historical South Bay Yacht Club belongs to every one of its members, and we need your help to keep it thriving.

Please consider volunteering for a committee or joining our board. We are holding elections in November.

To keep our club at its best, we need members to dedicate just a few hours a month to giving some tender loving care (TLC) back to our community.

Please think about how you can support your club. If you have any questions or have interested, please do not hesitate to contact the Nominating Committee.

Gill @ [408 398-4130](tel:4083984130), Kelly @ [908 361-0950](tel:9083610950), or Sharon [408 888-1459](tel:4088881459)



Commodore's Corner

Lisa Bickford, Commodore lisabickford@gmail.com

Welcome to September at our Yacht Club!

We've got **First Saturday On The Water** coming up on Saturday, September 5. If you have a boat or want to boat, sign up and come join us! This is our monthly opportunity to inspire boating activities and to help everyone learn on-the-water skills. Whether your boat has a motor, a sail, a paddle or an oar, come out and join us! If you don't have a boat, we have plenty to go around so play on the water with us.

Also on Saturday the 5th, we have our annual homage to Jack London, the **Alviso Slough Oyster Pirate Fest**. We'll be shucking oysters, cooking up cioppino (seafood stew), and enjoying some music. Come share the fun, have a drink at the bar, and see what's been happening at our club! I'm looking forward to seeing you there...I feel like it's been a while since we've all been together.

Next up we have our regular Board and Club Member meetings on Thursday, September 10th!

The big one for this month is **Coastal Cleanup Day** on Saturday, September 19th. Come help clean up the shoreline from Alviso Marina County Park past the Gold Street Bridge, either on the water or on land, as you please.

A note on club security and safety: we've changed the locks on the storage yard and barn after summer camp. If you feel that you need access to these spaces, please speak to Earl Jensen (Vice Commodore), Dean McCully (Barn Manager) or me and we'll assist you. Limiting access reduces our exposure due to locks left open and equipment going missing.

For inspiration, here are some photos from past annual Coastal Cleanup Days at our club. Come join us this year and have a positive impact on our environment!



2024



2019



2022

Don't forget to check our website at southbayyachtclub.org/events for upcoming activities. We have several great events planned for September and October so remember to check the club calendar and watch for emails from the events committee!

Club Calendar – What's Ahead

Every month:

- **First Saturday On the Water** 1st Saturday 9am -12pm, RSVP on SBYC website
- **Sea Scouts** 2nd & 4th Saturdays 9:30am – 12:30pm
- **Thirsty Thursday** 3rd Thursday 6pm - 9pm
- **Final Friday Family Fun** Last Friday 5pm - 9pm
- **Work Parties** Every Wednesday 9:30am – 12:30 and on other days as needed



September

Sat/5 4pm – 9pm, Oyster Pirate Fest
Thurs/10 **6pm Board Meeting, 7pm Members Meeting**
Sat/19 9am – 12pm, Coastal Clean-up Day

October

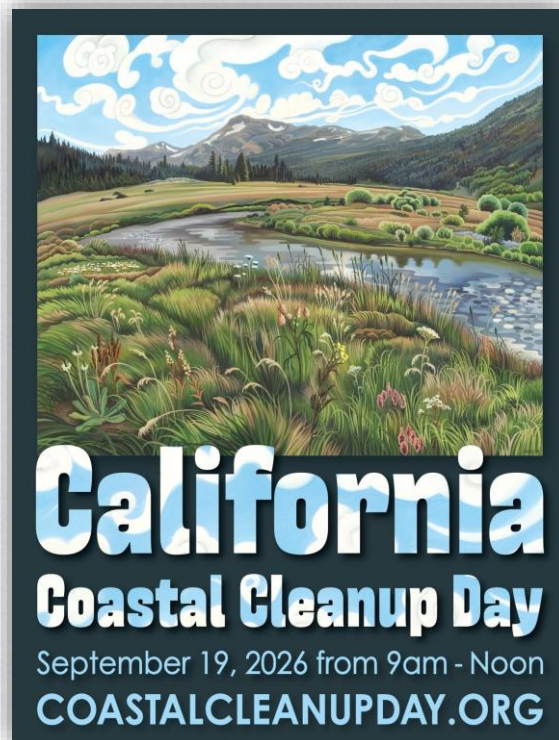
Thurs/8 **6pm Board Meeting, 7pm Members Meeting**
Sat/17 10am – 2pm, Day on the Bay/Alviso Marina County Park
Sat/31 2pm – 6pm, Slough Boo Halloween Party

Volunteer for 2026 Coastal Cleanup Day on Saturday, September 19, 9am – 12pm. We need you!

To sign up, RSVP here: [Cleanup Day Alviso Slough](#)
Cleanup tools are available. Help remove trash and debris from our shoreline. Identifying the sources of the litter can help change behaviors that cause pollution.

Trash collection data gathered from CCD has been used to influence policies and legislation to prevent marine debris. California's plastic bag ban, Styrofoam food packaging bans in more than 80 cities, and new regulations all help to keep trash out of stormwater systems. Data from past cleanups continue to be critical in decreasing the amount of trash that enters the waste stream.

In 2025, almost 40,000 volunteers picked up over 358,000 pounds of trash from our beaches and waterways statewide.



Members: Keep updated on club bookings and general availability by checking the club calendar. It's a good idea to peek before heading over!

Sea Scouts

Shirley Reekie - Skipper, Ship 300 and SBYC Board Member



300

Sea Scout Ship 300, a charter of the SBYC



The Sea Scouts recently went on a water-based disappearing act.

This was their whitewater rafting trip on the South Fork of the American River at the end of July.

Now you see them...



And now you don't.



A recent proposed trip to the Jeremiah O'Brien had to be cancelled but will return to the calendar soon.

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

Naughty Cal Corner

By Wind Lass

Because we will soon have our **Oyster Pirate Fest** at the SBYC, here's a little about pirates through the ages.

Once trade over the sea became profitable, pirates soon followed. Records exist about piracy going back to at least 1350 BC(E) in the Mediterranean, but the heyday was an approximate 50-year period starting in the 1680s. Both English and French pirates used Jamaica as a base to attack Spanish ships (hence the movie **Pirates of the Caribbean**) and around the same time Madagascar was a hub for pirates attacking British East India Company ships.

Some famous/infamous pirates include William Kidd, Henry Morgan, and Edward Teach (“Blackbeard”). Ann(e) Bonny and Mary Read were among the few female pirates and these two sailed with Jack Rackham in the Caribbean.

A book about pirates, **A General History of the Robberies and Murders of the Most Notorious Pyrates** [sic] written by Capt. Charles Johnson in 1724 told of many of the above and was written in response to the public's fascination with pirates at the time, which—as we shall see at the SBYC—continues to this day. This illustration from that book shows “Blackbeard.”



Ann Bonny and Mary Read convicted of Piracy Nov^r 28th 1720 at a Court of Vice Admiralty held at St. Jago de la Vega in y^e Island of Jamaica.



The line between legal and illegal plundering of ships was unclear because “privateers” were merchant ships commissioned by their respective navies in time of war with a “letter of marque” to operate under the authority of the navy. However, the same crews would sometimes turn to piracy after the commission from the navy was withdrawn.

Until 1830, Execution Dock on the River Thames in London was used as the site for pirate hangings. The site was near the low tide mark, which was the limit of the Admiralty's jurisdiction.

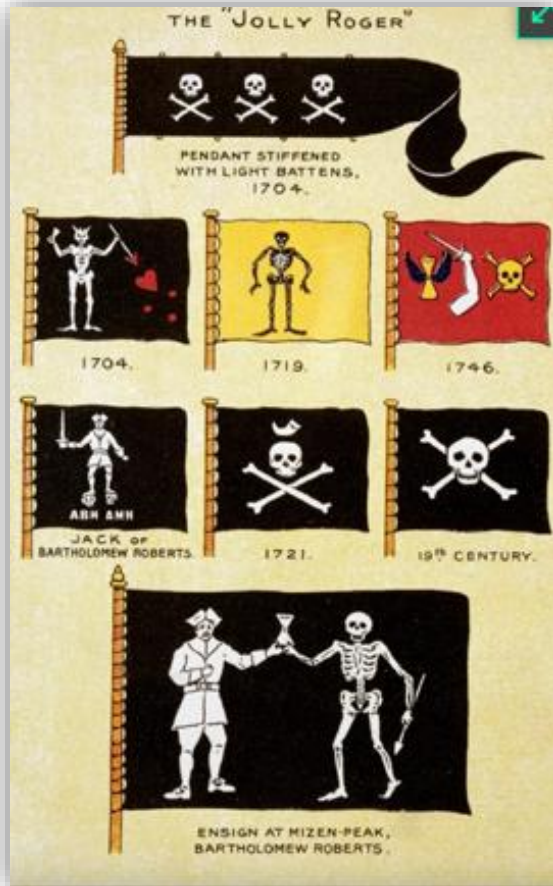


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Naughty Cal Corner

By Wind Lass

From previous page...



What about that pirate flag, the “Jolly Roger”?

Johnson's book shows many different versions used by various pirates but why was it so called? Theories differ but either it comes from the French “joli rouge” (pretty red, as in flag, which it often was) or perhaps “Old Roger” which was a name for the devil or death.

And finally--we say “aargh!” because of the 1950 Disney film, *Treasure Island*, where it was used as an expression to communicate that most English pirates came from around Bristol and Cornwall where the rolled “r” was and is common.

An oyster pirate on San Francisco Bay as a teenager, Jack London sailed his sloop, the *Razzle Dazzle*, in nightly raids on oyster beds. Selling the oysters the next morning on the Oakland docks made him more money than he ever made in the factories. He became known as the “Prince of the Oyster Pirates.” Shortly thereafter, he joined the Fish Patrol to enforce the laws. The short stories in his book, **Tales of the Fish Patrol**, reflect that short but adventurous career on the bay.

Read more at [Jack London Park](http://JackLondonPark.com).

A colorful poster for the South Bay Yacht Club's Oyster Pirate Fest. The top section features the club's name and the event title 'The Great ALVISO Slough OYSTER-PIRATE FEST' in large, stylized letters. Below the title, it says 'Family Friendly' and 'Succulent Seafood'. The event date and time are 'Saturday September 5, 2026 4pm-9pm'. A pirate character is holding a sign that says 'Live music by the S.O.B.s Sons of the Buccaneers'. The ticket information includes 'Tickets: southbayyachtclub.org/events', '\$30 Adult Admission', 'Includes OYSTERS', 'Raw or BBQed - your choice.', 'Plus Fish & Chips, Burgers', and 'Kids under 18 FREE!'. The location is '1491 Hope Street San Jose'. There is a QR code for tickets.



PICYA & Regional News

Tim Ellenberger 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) www.picya.org

The PICYA's most recent Delegates meeting was held on August 3rd at the Napa Valley Yacht Club. A presentation was made on the upcoming Margaret Brown Wheelchair Regatta, which will again be hosted by the Encinal Yacht Club on September 12. Our delegate to PICYA, Earl Jensen, attended. The next Delegates meeting and dinner is September 14, 4:30pm, at the Marina West Yacht Club.

Noted at the meeting is the Fall Management Conference, held at the Discovery Bay Yacht Club on October 17. All members are invited to join. The annual Scholarship Awards were announced, and two very worthy college bound students were recognized.

On August 30th, PICYA sponsored Delta 360 Cruise, hosted by the Stockton Yacht Club. Other September events are Women's Sailing Seminar on 9/11 and the Rolex Big Boat Series on 9/16.

RBOC (Recreational Boaters of California)

The RBOC, is our dedicated legislative watchdog in Sacramento, advocating for continued affordable small boat recreational access in California waterways. Specifically, they are interacting with the California Coastal Commission regarding permit issues which arise when publicly accessible docks are proposed to be reconstructed or reconfigured. Many marinas want to remove smaller boat slips and replace them with slips that host boats 36 feet or longer; which is more profitable for them. The RBOC position generally opposes the removal of smaller slips, as the cost of larger berths is prohibitive for owners of boats of less than 36 feet. Another issue of major concern is the steadily increasing cost of all slip fees in marinas. The RBOC is advocating that such increases be tied to actual increases in marina operating costs.

COTY (Club of the Year Competition)

Two fun events which add to our COTY standings, and which help keep us active in region wide recreational boating, are the annual Wheelchair Regatta on September 12th and participation in California's Coastal Cleanup Day on September 19th.

The date of the Wheelchair Regatta has been moved to mid-September, and it will be hosted by the Encinal Yacht Club on September 12th. Chairperson Linda Blue is asking for skippers to sign up now so that she can balance the number of boats available to the number of veterans who will be able to go out on the water. As is the tradition, onshore activities at Encinal will include live music and a complimentary after-event barbecue. The following weekend, will see another COTY event, California Coastal Cleanup Day on September 19th. For those who wish to participate in the coastal cleanup, we will marshal at the clubhouse at 9 AM. Sign-up via the Eventbrite link [Cleanup Day Alviso Slough](#).

There you have it ...SBYC as always, we're the fun club!



Boating Safety

Tim Ellenberger t.ellenberger@sbcglobal.net

Life Rafts

Thank you to Eric Jorgensen, SJSC Safety Officer [Edited for space from 2014]

While spending several days at a sailboat show, I attended several heavy weather sailing and life raft seminars. It reinforced my belief that most people are simply unaware of exactly what possessing, deploying and surviving in a life raft entails. Knowing when to deploy a life raft is critically important. A life raft should only be deployed when there is absolutely no hope of saving the boat from sinking, such as when there is massive collision damage or the boat is on fire. The boat is a much larger and easier target to locate, and it will contain a far greater number of resources to keep you alive while awaiting rescue.

If the boat is slowly sinking because of something like a destroyed through hull fitting and the water ingress cannot be controlled, then the raft should be deployed, but kept tethered to the boat via the life raft tether. These tethers are designed to release automatically if the boat sinks, so there is no reason to disconnect the raft as long as the boat is still afloat. Retrieve everything that could be of any value in a survival situation and move it to the life raft. You can always dump excess stuff overboard later. Once you are in the raft and the boat has sunk, deploy the sea anchor, adjust the canopy, fully inflate the floor, bail the raft out, activate the EPIRB, tie everything down securely, and attend to any injuries.

After all of that has been accomplished, it is time to go into survival mode. This includes staying low in the raft at all times and staying inside the raft. Also, use the utmost caution when handling sharp objects. Survival is primarily dependent on 7 factors:

- 1. Recognition.** Realize that you are in danger. Denial is common and interferes with the ability to think rationally and make the best use of what little time and resources are available to improve your chances of survival.
- 2. Inventory.** Having the necessary supplies to deal with the situation and knowing what you do or don't have available is exceedingly important. The stuff on your raft is the only stuff that you will have to fix any problems that crop up and you may be out there a while. Seriously think about what to pack in the raft and in your ditch bag before you leave port.
- 3. Shelter.** A proper life raft will have a canopy and an insulated floor to help protect against exposure and hypothermia. Bobbing in the ocean 500 miles from nowhere is not the time to discover that the raft that you bought on clearance was an uncovered coastal/inland model instead of a heavily ballasted, enclosed ocean model with appropriate supplies. Know your raft and how to use it long before you ever need it. Keep the raft inflated and dry.



(more on next page...)



Boating Safety

Tim Ellenberger t.ellenberger@sbcglobal.net

Life Rafts continued...

4. Distress signals. If nobody knows that you are missing, nobody is going to rescue you.

- Make sure you have a properly registered EPIRB on board, so somebody figures out that you are in trouble. Turn it on and LEAVE IT ON. Do NOT turn it off to conserve batteries!
- Smoke flares for daytime use if a rescuer is spotted.
- Strobe for nighttime use.
- Signal mirrors are extremely effective and can be seen as far away as 50 miles so sweep the horizon often even if you don't think anyone is there. Mirrors work with a bright moon as well.
- In calm seas dye markers are effective as is a long, orange, plastic rescue streamer trailing the raft.
- A handheld VHF radio makes close-in support much easier and more effective.

5. Water. The most essential thing on board is arguably the potable water supply. Be sure that your life raft has a manual water maker on board. Life rafts are packed with a small amount of packaged drinking water. It isn't enough. Solar stills are temperamental and unreliable in rougher seas. Use a sponge to collect dew in the morning. Collect any rain/snow/fog that you can. Do NOT drink sea water.

6. Food. Food is not nearly as important as water. If you are out of water do NOT eat food.

7. Attitude. If you are convinced that you are going to die you probably will. If you keep a positive attitude you can survive for a very long time with very few supplies. This is a proven fact.

One thing that was NOT discussed at the seminars that I attended was the necessity of having a life raft on board. It was simply assumed that any sailor who was not in protected waters such as on a small lake or bay would be wise enough to have a life raft on board. Sadly, this is not what I routinely observe. It is easy to be lulled into a false sense of security when sailing the SF Bay where help is immediately available. Proximity to the Pacific Ocean breeds a type of familiarity that makes a person think that there is little difference between the bay and the ocean. This is a dangerous and seriously flawed misconception.

Each person is responsible for their own safety, and each sailor decides how much risk they are willing to take when they head out sailing, but in my opinion, it is downright foolish to head out past the Golden Gate and into the Pacific Ocean without having and knowing how to use a proper life raft. Life rafts can be purchased from many licensed dealers or can be rented on an as needed basis.

Fair winds and safe travels!



Contact & Rental Info

South Bay Yacht Club

(408) 263-0100

www.southbayyachtclub.org

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. A signed Usage Agreement is required for all uses of the Club. Contact the Club Rental Manager at 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

House & Grounds, Storage, Lockers

Earl Jensen, Vice Commodore

(408) 655-9548 earl_jensen@comcast.net

Financial Questions

Jeff Barnes, Treasurer (503) 730-3508 jeffbarnes@gmail.com

Secretary

Sheila Tost (408) 218-9914 bradandsheila@yahoo.com

Clubhouse Rental

Sharon Coate (408) 888-1459 scoate@gmail.com

Mooring and Docks

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

bart.laine@gmail.com

Committees:

- **Audit:** Jeff Barnes (503) 730-3508 jeffbarnes@gmail.com
- **Bar:** Evan von Kugelgen (408) 221-8132 vonkugelgen@gmail.com
- **Barn:** Dean McCully (408) 209-3049 dean@dmccully.com
- **Events & Activities:** Meg Taylor (408) 410-3124 megntaylor39@gmail.com
- **Fleet:** Shirley Reekie (408) 460-0398 kayakrowsail@gmail.com
- **Galley:** Gillian Tyndall (408) 398-4130 gillygag@gmail.com
- **History:** Edwin El-Kareh (408) 774-9300 edwin@albansdesign.com
- **House & Grounds:** Sharon Coate (408) 888-1459 scoate@gmail.com
- **Membership & Newsletter:** Mallory von Kugelgen (408) 813-3677 malloryvk@gmail.com

