

# the Wind Word



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BENICIA YACHT CLUB - PICYA CLUB OF THE YEAR 2025

FOUNDED IN 1977

## From the Helm

Commodore Natalie Boltz Keller



**H**ELLO BYC MEMBERS,  
February may be the shortest month of the year, but it was full of the kind of energy, camaraderie, and momentum that make Benicia Yacht Club so special. Also, this might be my longest 'From The Helm' yet!

Our Crab Feed was, once again, a tremendous success. Having this fun time

with you on Valentines Day was extra special. From the moment the first tables were set to the last cracked shell, the clubhouse was filled with laughter, full plates, and even fuller hearts. Events like this do not happen by accident, they are the result of an incredible team of volunteers who give their time to make sure our traditions continue. Thank you to everyone who helped!

February also brought continued participation in our Fundraising for Floors BINGO nights. We are working hard to raise funds and finalize details for scheduling this project which, as you can imagine, will be a huge undertaking for the Club. We will be calling on all members to donate some time towards our facelift; we will have tasks for all levels of ability and thank you in advance for your willingness to help.

As we move into March, we begin to feel the shift toward spring and the start of a more active season on the water and around the club. There will be more opportunities to meet and interact with fellow boaters who are cruising in via land or water to enjoy our club. I encourage

each of you to **introduce** yourself to our guests, chat with them and make them feel welcome at BYC. We have an excellent reputation for being a warm and welcoming club, let's continue to live up to that.

This club has always thrived because of its members. Your time, your enthusiasm, and your willingness to show up are what make BYC the incredible place it is. I am grateful to serve as your Commodore and appreciate the positive [and some negative] feedback that I have been receiving in the last 90 days since I was sworn in. If you have feedback you would like to provide, I am always available to chat with you!

I want to give a special shout out to **Rear Commodore Don Kerr** for putting together the member survey that was sent out. Your feedback provided is incredibly valuable. Thank you, Don!

I look forward to seeing you at the club soon.

Warm regards,  
Natalie Boltz Keller  
Commodore 🇺🇸





400 E. Second Street  
Benicia, California 94510

**CLUB MANAGER** *OPEN*  
Office 707 746-0739  
Office Fax: 707 746-1052

**OFFICE HOURS**  
Mon CLOSED  
Tue-Thu 12-4P  
Fri-Sat By Appointment  
Sun CLOSED

**NORTON LOUNGE & BAR** 707 746-6600  
Mon-Tue CLOSED  
Wed 12-8P  
Thu-Sat 12-10P  
Sun (Member Potluck Only) 1-5P

**REGATTA ROOM**  
Wed-Sat 4-8P (By Reservation)




◀Dear members and dear friends to all of us at the Benicia Yacht Club. Robyn Boltz and Jim Peterson.

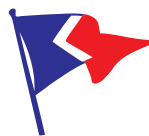
I AM SO HAPPY to share that my mom, Robyn, and Jim Peterson are engaged! They have built such a wonderful partnership, and it has been a joy to see the happiness they bring to each other. Many of you know them both from around the Club, which makes it even more special to celebrate this milestone with our BYC family.

I could not be happier for them and wish them all the best in this next chapter.

Cheers,  
Natalie Boltz Keller

Commodore 

# CLUB DIRECTORY



## Officers and Directors

**Commodore** Natalie Boltz Keller · **Vice Commodore** Joe Kallios · **Rear Commodore** Don Kerr · **Secretary** Mark Campbell · **Treasurer** Randy Norman · **Director** Mike Bernico · **Director** Steve Corwin · **Director** Sue Bittner · **Director** Mitch Kessler · **Jr. Staff** Commodore Bob Bohnet

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**Fleet Captain** Brian West · **Fleet Surgeon** Deb Murray · **Historian** OPEN · **House Chair** Randy Norman · **Entertainment Chair** Cyndi Hennike · **Membership Chair** OPEN · **Membership Secretary** OPEN · **Publicity Chair** OPEN · **Audit Committee** Joe Kallios · **PICYA Delegate** Randy Norman · **PICYA Delegate** Rick Albers · **PICYA Delegate** OPEN · **Port Captain** Angela Grigas · **Race Chair** Noble Griswold · **Safety & Protocol** OPEN · **Ship Store Manager** Debi Hall · **Sunshine Chair** Rachele Bohnet · **Webmaster** Risa Corwin · **WindWord Editor** Rick Albers [Interim] · **Youth Sailing Dir.** Steve Corwin · **Volunteer Organizer** OPEN

## *the Wind Word*

**MARCH 2026**

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## BYC VALENTINE DAY RACE (FROSTBITE No. 4)

Noble Griswold,  
Race Committee Chair

VALENTINE'S RACE DAY 2026 opened the way Carquinez loves to do in February—cool air, fog, flat water, and notmuch wind in sight.

Five brave captains and crews showed up, ready to take on whatever the Bay had to offer us.

We chose **Course #6**, a 7-mile beat to the Carquinez Bridge and a run back.

At the start, the West wind was steady and light and the ebb was strong. We ran a staggered start with the higher-handicap boats off first.

The early starters made good use of the strong current and slipped away as the fleet was carried steadily toward the bridge, framed by increasing sun, green hills, stiffening wind and the growing presence of the steel bridge structure.

At the Carquinez Bridge, Hurricane Gulch held the lead, followed closely by Fogcutter, Woodstock, Warwhoop, and E Ticket. The boats rounded the weather mark and ran into a wall of ebb current.

After the bridge, the fleet fanned out across the channel. Soon the middle and North sides began to pay.

Hurricane Gulch and Fogcutter battled down

the middle, while Warwhoop and E Ticket worked the North shore.

Fogcutter struggled with a spinnaker issue, and Woodstock's choice not to fly their spinnaker, proved costly against the steady ebb.

Soon it was Hurricane Gulch and Warwhoop out front, with E Ticket in hot pursuit.

As the boats rounded the First Street Islands, it truly felt like anyone's race—three boats, three lanes, one finishing line, with the Benicia waterfront alive with the energy of the day.

When it all shook out, the finish was incredibly tight, with boats separated by mere seconds.

Finish Order:

- 1 Hurricane Gulch
- 2 Warwhoop
- 3 E Ticket
- 4 Fogcutter
- 5 Woodstock

Frostbite Race #4 Winner: **Hurricane Gulch**

Sweetheart Trophy Winner: **Warwhoop** (mixed crew)

A beautiful Valentine's Day on the water, great racing, and a perfect reminder of the magic that Carquinez and Benicia's Riviera can deliver—even in February. 🏆

## JAZZ CUP RECAP

Ahoy BYC Members,

Please join me in congratulating **Living Happy** on their outstanding victory in the 2025 Jazz Cup!

In true yacht club fashion, while the race results were immediate, the trophy presentation took the scenic route. We appreciate Living Happy's patience and good humor, and we are happy to report the Jazz Cup is now officially up to date and has their name added!

Congratulations again to the crew of **Living Happy**, well sailed and well deserved. 🏆

▼ The Jazz Cup



▼ Chuck Hooper's Warwhoop on Valentine's Day



PHOTOS FROM NOBLE GRISWOLD

Randy Norman, Nautica Group

**W**E HELD OUR first Nautica Group meeting on Saturday, January 10, kicking off the New Year with conversations around water related events and activities available to Benicia Yacht Club members and to our Benicia community. Working within BYC, the Nautica Group is working to identify and promote opportunities in the club, in the marina, and along Carquinez Strait to fulfill the commitments of our club charter. So, with that said, here is a quick overview of activities already working for 2026. Join us for tomorrow's meeting (February 14th) as these opportunities continue to develop.

- The US Coast Guard Auxiliary held its first of the year boater training program last month. They have scheduled a boat inspection day at Benicia Marina on February 28. They will also be scheduling boat inspections on opening day, April 18th.
- The Youth Sailing Program is being resurrected under a steering committee led by Steve Corwin. Here's what's in the works
  1. One issue we've had is securing instructors. Benicia Yacht Club's youth sailing team will now be hosting a training program for instructors. They are working on schedules, and interest is bay area wide.
  2. Currently the plan is for 4 week-long youth sailing classes. Schedules and costs are developing.
  3. A town hall meeting is scheduled for February 23rd to poll perspective parents in the community on what they would like to see in the program.
  4. We hope to sponsor weekend open sailing days for our graduating youth sailors so they can continue to hone their skills throughout the summer
  5. We have a crew working on boat restoration and maintenance - more hands are always welcome.
- Our Fleet Captain is looking for Cruise-outs directors to plan and organize excursions to other bay area yacht clubs. We are encouraging land cruiser to join in with these events. It is an opportunity to see and explore these port cities from a water side POV.
- The planners for the Benicia Waterfront Festival have again invited racers to stage a regatta on Saturday, July 25th, in con-



▲ Racers during the Valentine Day Frostbite, with the Carquinez Bridge in the background

junction with their program. We hope to expand this opportunity to include other bay area yacht clubs.

- The July 3rd Benicia Main Street Torchlight Parade - help us decorate and/or join in as we parade up First Street. This year we can highlight the resurgence of our youth sailing program.
- The San Francisco based Sea Scouts return on August 6th - we will host a barbeque dinner and many of these the sea scout sailors will then join the crews of our Thursday night sailboat racers.
- We will work again with the City of Benicia to host a collection station for California Coastal Clean-up on September 19th.
- This year, working with the city and local community groups, we hope to expand our participation in programs for food drives, blood drives, and book drives; and this year work with other city agencies to hold a coat drive.
- Come out to tomorrow's meeting and in March as we explore and expand ideas from our membership to bring nautical themed fun and excitement to BYC. 🇺🇸



# COME CELEBRATE WITH US!

PRESENTED BY  
BENICIA YACHT CLUB  
& BENICIA MARINA

SATURDAY **APRIL**  
**18<sup>TH</sup>**  
**2026**



**10AM**  
**UNTIL**  
**10PM**



1:30PM DECORATED BOAT PARADE & PRIZES!

## FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



FUN · FOOD · LIBATIONS



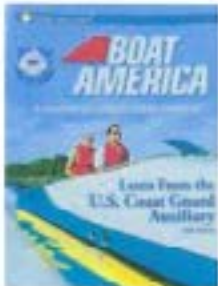
**KIDS AREA WITH:**  
GAMES, BOUNCE HOUSE,  
& FACE PAINTING



**400 EAST  
2ND STREET  
BENICIA**

**PERFORMANCES BY**  
**TUNERIDERS & CROSSTOWN5**  
@2:00PM @7:00PM

## Public Education Course Flyer: Boat America



**Boat America** is a boating certificate class that offers an in-depth and interesting boating safety course, and provides the knowledge needed to obtain a boating certificate.

Some insurance companies will also offer discounts on boating insurance to boaters who successfully complete this course.

### TOPICS INCLUDE

- **Introduction to Boating** – Types of power boats, boating vocabulary, sailboats, paddle boats, powering boats, and engine types.
- **Boating Law** – Boat registration, regulations, hull identification numbers, required safety equipment, Federal boating law, state boating law, and reporting accidents.
- **Safety Equipment** – Life jackets, fire extinguishers, sound-producing devices, visual distress signals, anchors, and other safety equipment.
- **Safe Operation and Navigation** – Buoys and beacons, aids to navigation, navigation rules, docking, and the dangers of alcohol on the water.
- **Boating Emergencies** – Hypothermia, boating accidents, man overboard, capsizing, emergency radio calls, carbon monoxide dangers, and weather.
- **Trailer** – Types of trailers, lights, hitches, towing a trailer.
- **Sports and Boating** – Water skiing, hunting and hunting gear, PWC operation, and other boating tips.

**Presented by Flotilla 113-05-03  
 North Solano County, CA**

**Course:** Boat America  
**Start Date:** Sat, 21 Feb 2026  
**End Date:** Sat, 21 Feb 2026  
**Hours:** 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM  
**Duration:** 8 Hours  
**Lessons:** 1  
**Location:** Vallejo Yacht Club  
 485 Mare Island Way  
 Vallejo, CA 94590  
**Contact:** Kit Galvin  
 twohalibut@aol.com  
 (408) 314-2407  
**Course Cost:** \$50, \$25 for VYC Mem  
**Register By:** Thu, 19 Feb 2026

Posted: Wed, 14 Jan 2026



Marker location may be approximate; verify location before travel.

### BANQUET SPACE IS AVAILABLE AT THE BENICIA YACHT CLUB

Hold your meeting or special event in one of Benicia's great historic buildings, with breathtaking marina views  
 You need not be a member of the Club to rent the banquet room, although current members receive a discount on rental fees  
 Catering and catering equipment are available with the space

Ceremonies can be performed on the club's lawn, facing the Benicia Marina Promenade  
 Space is available nights, Thursday through Sunday, and days Wednesday through Sunday. Other times may be available

Standup Cocktail Capacity: 150 ✦ Seated Dining Capacity (indoor + outdoor): 200 ✦ Wi-Fi Internet access

More details can be found at the BYC website:  
[www.beniciayachtclub.org/catering](http://www.beniciayachtclub.org/catering)

You can also call the Club Office: 707 746-0739



## CRUISING OUT NEWS

Brian West, Fleep Captain

Hello BYC Cruisers, spring is in the air. It's been a long winter but boating

season is right around the corner. Set your sights on the first real Cruise

Out of the 2026 season to Pittsburg Yacht Club. A short one hour voyage

up river to one of the more accommodating and friendly Yacht Clubs

around the Bay. We leave on Friday March 27. A 9:30 am departure

allows you to ride the flood all the way to Pittsburg. The PYC Port Captain

has guaranteed us hospitality and good weather. I know she can at least

deliver on the first promise. 🚩

## CRUISE-IN CALENDAR

**FEBRUARY 20-22 (DINNER SAT) VALLEJO**

**APRIL 10-12 (DINNER SAT) ENCINAL**

**MAY 29-31 (DINNER SAT) BALLENA**

**JUNE 26-28 (DINNER FRI) SAN FRANCISCO**

**JULY 31-AUGUST 2 POINT SAN PABLO**

**AUGUST 14-16 SAN JOAQUIN**

**SEPTEMBER 18-20 HALF MOON BAY**

**SEPTEMBER 22-24 CRUISER HAVEN**

**OCTOBER 8-11 SEA RAY CLUB**

**NOVEMBER 27-29 RICHMOND**

### AHOY MATES, CRUISE OUTS ARE FUN!

April is a lovely time of the year to be in Sausalito. This is boating at its finest: A gorgeous journey to Richardson Bay, with views of Angel Island, the Golden Gate Bridge, and San Francisco skyline along the way. Sausalito is rich in history and amenities: The Bay Model Visitor's Center [only one of its kind in the world], the Mathew Turner historic ship replica, seaside paths to stroll, and great restaurants and shops to explore. The Sausalito Yacht Club, with stunning views, will be one of our dining venues. Land cruisers are always welcome.

Cruise Directors: Armand Seguin: 707-816-7428 & Cynthia Seguin: 620-757-6666

To sign up, email: armand.seguin11@gmail.com -or- stokalo2u@gmail.com

Please note: docking & dining space is limited.



[HTTPS://SCHOONMAKERMARINA.COM](https://schoonmakermarina.com)

- |           |                          |           |                   |           |                |
|-----------|--------------------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|----------------|
| <b>2</b>  | MARK AMARO               | <b>13</b> | CAROL STERKEL     | <b>26</b> | GREG ROBERTS   |
| <b>3</b>  | KRISTINE HOFFMAN         |           | Alex Poulsen      | <b>27</b> | RON TOSCH      |
| <b>5</b>  | KATHY MONROE             | <b>16</b> | DELENA DARNELL    |           | JESSICA COWLEY |
|           | STEVEN CORWIN            | <b>18</b> | ROBERT HEDRICK    | <b>28</b> | JOSEPH WILDER  |
|           | JOHN MCGUIRE             |           | SUSAN JONES-SZABO | <b>29</b> | CYNDI HENNIKE  |
| <b>7</b>  | MELISSA DEMMON           | <b>20</b> | DAVID RANDALL     | <b>30</b> | KETTY FEDIGAN  |
| <b>8</b>  | KATHLEEN LEMKE           |           | PAT BELCHER       |           |                |
| <b>9</b>  | LAURA MUNOZ              | <b>21</b> | JOHN LAZAR        |           |                |
| <b>10</b> | LETICIA DE LA CRUZ SALAS | <b>25</b> | DANIEL DEMMON     |           |                |
|           | NATTENBERG               |           | MARTY DIEFENBACH  |           |                |

# SAILING<sup>4</sup>PARKINSONS

## REGATTA

**CORINTHIAN YACHT CLUB  
TIBURON, CALIFORNIA**

**YACHT CRUISE-OUT                      APRIL 11**

**BLACK TIE FUNDRAISER                APRIL 11**

**RACE & VIEWING                        APRIL 12**



Event info:  
[sailing4parkinsons.org](http://sailing4parkinsons.org)



# MARCH 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Club Closed	3 Club Closed	4 <b>Regatta Room</b> Rotary 10am	5 <b>Norton Lounge</b> Racers Mtg 7pm <b>Regatta Room</b> Lions 5pm	6	7 Club Clean Up 8-11am
8	9 Club Closed	10 Club Closed <b>Regatta Room</b> Board Meeting 6pm	11 <b>Regatta Room</b> Rotary 10am	12 <b>Regatta Room</b> Sirs 10am Soroptimist 5:30pm	15 <b>Regatta Room</b> Private Event 5-11pm	14 <b>Regatta Room</b> Nautica Group 9-10:30am Frostbite #5
15	16 Club Closed	17 Club Closed	18 <b>Regatta Room</b> Rotary 10am <b>Norton Lounge</b> Membership Mtg 7pm	19 <b>Norton Lounge</b> Bingo 6pm	20	21
22	23 Club Closed	24 Club Closed	25	26 <b>Beer Can Races Start!</b> <b>Regatta Room</b> Friendship 10am Soroptimist 5:30pm	27	28 <b>Regatta Room</b> Private Event 12-5pm
29	30 Club Closed	31 Club Closed				

# APRIL 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 <b>Regatta Room</b> Rotary 10am	2 <b>Regatta Room</b> Lions 5pm  Beer Can Race #1	5	4 Club Clean Up 8-11am  Easter Decorating
5 Easter Brunch W/ Egg Hunt Easter Bunny	6 Club Closed	7 Club Closed	8 <b>Regatta Room</b> Rotary 10am	9 <b>Regatta Room</b> Sirs 10am Soroptimist 5:30pm  Beer Can Race #2	10 Cruise In: Encinal YC	11 Cruise In: Encinal YC
12 Cruise In: Encinal YC	13 Club Closed	14 Club Closed <b>Regatta Room</b> Board Meeting 6pm	15 <b>Regatta Room</b> Rotary 10am <b>Norton Lounge</b> Membership Mtg 7pm	16 Beer Can Race #3	17 Club Clean Up for Opening Day	18 OPENING DAY
19 Club Clean Up After Opening Day	20 Club Closed	21 Club Closed	22	23 <b>Regatta Room</b> Friendship 10am Soroptimist 5:30pm  Beer Can Race #4	24	25
26	27 Club Closed	28 Club Closed	29	30 Beer Can Race #5		

2026 First Saturday  
MEMBER CLEANSWEEP

- Maintain Curb Appeal
  - General Restoration
- Landscape Upkeep
  - Planned Projects



8:00am to 11:00am  
First Saturday of each month

Advertise in the Wind Word

Ad Size	Month	Year
2" x 2"	\$20	\$220
Business Card	\$25	\$275
1/4 pg	\$45	\$495
1/2 pg	\$85	\$935
<a href="mailto:info@beniciayachtclub.org">info@beniciayachtclub.org</a>		



**BYCLUNCH-TIME HAPPY HOUR EXTENDED INDEFINITELY!**

Come hang out for a no-stress lunch—Happy Hour runs from 12-3, Wed-Sat.\* Save 20+ percent on all house wines and well drinks. Come enjoy a nice meal, some spirits and our great Norton Lounge view. \*Excludes during special events



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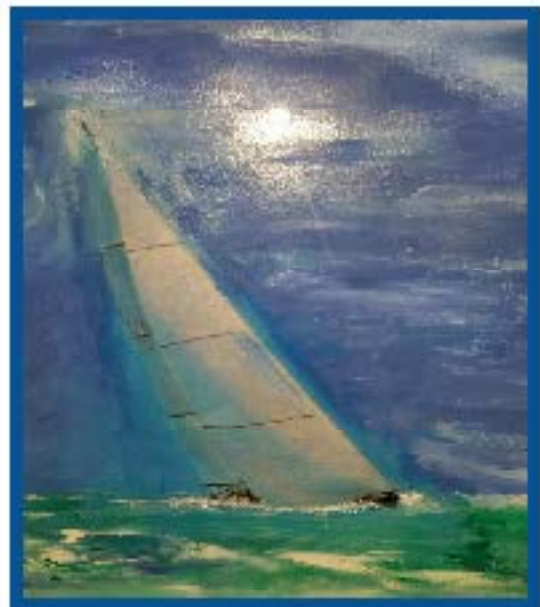
- The Equipment
- The Yard Space
- As much or as little advice as you'd like

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