

November 2025

the Wind Word

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BENICIA YACHT CLUB

FOUNDED IN 1977

From the Helm

By Robert Bohnet,
Commodore



WELCOME TO NOVEMBER!

OCTOBER WAS FULL of tricks and treats. Starting off with meet the candidate's night on Wednesday, October 1st in the Norton Lounge. We had the Harvest Cruise out to Petaluma on the weekend of October 16 to the 19. This was the final BYC cruise for the year. It sure would be nice to see more involvement in our cruise outs. Anyone who has done a cruise out will tell you it is great fun. During our Wednesday's Membership meeting on October 22nd the election results were announced. Congratulations to all those elected to the new BYC Board for 2025-2026. A big thank you in advance for all that you will do for our club. We finished off the month with our annual Halloween Party, which was held on Halloween Day, Friday October 31st. What a hoot! We had Sixteen Scandals bring us some great party music that night. AND THE COSTUMES

WERE GREAT!

November will bring us a comedy show on Thursday, November 6th. Professional comedians will give us something to laugh about before we do all that Christmas shopping next month. This should be a lot of fun. Change of Watch will happen on Saturday, November 22nd. Our official turning over the baton to the next board. Dueling Pianos will be in the house again that night as well. You'll not want to miss this night. Then we end the month with my favorite holiday, Thanksgiving! Friendsgiving will once again be on that holiday. It is an amazing feast for members and their families. Watch for the information blasts as this is a well-attended event held in the Regatta Room. Susan Linn will once again spearhead this event along with her partners in gobble.

In less than 2 weeks we will be trying out another form of entertainment at the Benicia Yacht Club. A comedy night! Very seasoned, professional comedians will be performing for us and guaranteed you'll laugh your b**t off. I highly recommend coming in early (5-5:30ish) and enjoy your dinner before the show as you will not want to miss the hysterics. Please make a point to come in and support this new entertainment idea for the club.

This is my last From the Helm and I want to thank all you members for your support. Please give the new board--and especially your incoming commodore, Natalie Boltz Keller--the same support and wish them well. 🇫🇷



Did we remember to turn our clocks back?



400 E. Second Street
P.O. Box 782
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-Thu 12-9P
Fri-Sat 12-10P
Sun 1-5P

FOOD SERVICE SCHEDULE
Lunch Wed-Sat 11:30A-2P
Dinner Menu Wed-Sat 6:30-8:30P
Sun Bar & Members Potluck 1P-ish

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

THE LEAVES, THEY are a changing. At least they are in places that have deciduous trees. And seasons. We, as a club, have accomplished so much in 2025 and we should rightly be proud of what we have done. A great Opening Day, a fantastic Jazz Cup, several community events involving the general Benicia community, such as Porch Fest. But we are not done for the year. In December the Annual Tree Lighting will be held on the 5th, followed immediately by the Lighted Boat Parade on Saturday, the 6th. Get you lights ready ...

Some photos of the Jazz Cup, held at the end of August are scattered throughout this edition of the *WindWord*. We at BYC had some winners!

Whilst roaming through the Club's archives, I stumbled upon some early editions of the *WindWord*. You can

find two images that graced the covers of many of those early editions.

And, as with every November, we will install a new slate of officers and directors elected in the October elections. The Installation Dinner is on November 22. Look out for news on the menu and times. You still have time to pull out your Sunday bests. In this issue are the names of the members of this year's Board. Look it over, go meet them if you have not yet. They deserve your support and feedback. 🇺🇸

Front Page Photo: Jazz Cup racers coming under the Carquinez Bridge on their downwind leg, spinnakers afly. August 30, 2025

CLUB DIRECTORY



Club Office/Event Manager	OPEN	707-746-0739	
Commodore	Bob Bohnet	707-334-3802	
Vice Commodore	Natalie Boltz Keller	707-771-0107	
Rear Commodore	Joseph Kallios	707-628-2914	
Secretary	Randy Norman	209-470-2522	randydnorman@msn.com
Treasurer	Kris Kastl	925-372-3884	
Director	MJ Schmidt	510-684-8794	
Director	Mitch Kessler	925-389-6522	
Director	Susan Bittner	707-590-8878	
Director	Rick Albers	510-508-9905	ralbers@rickalbers.com
Jr. Staff Commodore	Dena Stults	707-208-4498	
Fleet Captain	Brian West	707-761-2307	
Fleet Surgeon	Deb Murray		
Historian	OPEN		
House Chair	Randy Norman	209-470-2522	randydnorman@msn.com
Entertainment Chair	OPEN		
Membership Chair	OPEN		
Membership Secretary	OPEN		
Publicity Chair	OPEN		
Audit Committee	Joseph Kallios	707-628-2914	
PICYA	Randy Norman	209-470-2522	randydnorman@msn.com
PICYA	Rick Albers	510-508-9905	ralbers@rickalbers.com
PICYA	OPEN		
Port Captain	Angela Grigas	707-208-2207	
Race Chair	Steve Corwin	415-238-3977	
Safety & Protocol	Paul Brighton		
Ship Store Manager	Debi Hall	707-747-9352	
Sunshine Chair	Rachele Bohnet	707-334-3802	
Webmaster	Risa Corwin	908-419-5722	webmaster@beniciayachtclub.org
WindWord Editor	Rick Albers	510-508-9905	thewindword@gmail.com
Youth Sailing Dir.	Steve Corwin	415-238-3977	
Volunteer Organizer	OPEN		

the WindWord

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A Triumphant Event for BYC Racing

Steve Corwin BYC Race Chair



2025 has been another fantastic year for racing at the Benicia Yacht Club, and one victory is still on everyone's mind: the return of the **Jazz Cup Trophy** to Benicia! In its 37th Year, **David Stellato** and his crew on **Living Happy** won the coveted trophy in the long-running challenge between Benicia Yacht Club and South Beach Yacht Club.

It was a challenging day on the water. Following a 45-minute delayed start and multiple adjustments to the start-line to accommodate shifting light winds, 73 boats set out from Berkeley to race 26 nautical miles to the finish line just off the East 5th Street Pier in Benicia. With fierce competition from past winning boats from both clubs, **David** masterfully navigated **Living Happy** through the fleet to secure the best-handicapped finish among the 18 competing boats from our two clubs.

BYC Sailors Shine

An applause also goes out to **Ruben Rocci** and his crew on **Swift Ness**, who clinched **First Place** in his highly competitive division.



▲ **Mr. Chocolate**, from Tiburon, showing up in fashionable colors. Jazz Cup.

◀ BYC's very own **E-Ticket**, skippered by Noble Griswald (our next Racing Committee Chair), coming in from a long day in the Jazz Cup.

DISPATCH FROM LONDON

BYC members Richard and Claire (Thimke) Hatch went for a quick jaunt and found themselves in London (yes, that London). Their dispatch back to the home club reads as follows:

LONDON, October 19, 2025

“Joe and Bob:

Wanted to let you know that the Burgee exchange between BYC and the Royal Ocean Racing Club happened the evening of Tuesday, October 7th. at their London Clubhouse. Mark Newens, the house manager, met my wife Claire and me that evening and introduced us to the CEO Jeremy Wilton with whom we performed the exchange (picture attached) on the clubhouse front steps.

Following the exchange, we attended a cocktail party for a book launch at the Club where the author has been a long-time member.

Thank you both so much for making this happen!

--Richard” 🇬🇧



Claire and Richard Hatch, with RORC House Manager, Mark Newens, with an exchange of burgees.

PHOTO FROM RICHARD HATCH



BENICIA YACHT CLUB COMEDY NIGHT



NORTON LOUNGE THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2025.

FROM 7 – 8:30 PM. MARK YOUR CALENDARS TO JOIN US FOR
DINNER AND A SHOW. SOMETHING NEW FOR YOU MEMBERS.



A fun evening of laughs hosted by Pat McCoy and featuring Ira Summer along with Headliner Dan St Paul.

DAN ST PAUL has been a national headlining comedian at some of the top comedy clubs in the country. He has appeared on NBC, ABC, FOX, Comedy Central, A&E, and VH-1. He has also opened for such entertainers as Ringo Starr, Natalie Cole, Hall and Oates, Vince Gill, Clint Black, Chicago, and even the San Francisco Symphony ("I knew them when they were just a garage band.") His "First Baseball Game" is one of the most requested comedy pieces on the syndicated Bob and Tom Radio Show. Dan will have you in stitches!

IRA SUMMER has performed at clubs (and colleges and bars and conference rooms and laundromats and bowling alleys...) in 26 states and can be heard on Sirius XM Radio. He has been a finalist in the US Comedy Contest and The World Series of Comedy. Ira participated in the Oakland Comedy Festival, the Comedy Fringe Festival, the Portland Comedy Festival, the Burbank Comedy Festival and the Laughin Laugh Fest.

Raised in the heart of Napa Valley on the wrong side of the wine train tracks, PAT MCCOY was voted in high school "Most Likely to Recede". He refuses to grow up and enjoys making fun of himself as well as the ever-changing world around him. A former heavy equipment operator, his relatability bonds him to audiences that don't take him or his jokes too seriously. Pat has shared the stage with Brian Regan, George Lopez, and the late, great Robin Williams.

NEW MEMBERS

An October Welcome for ...

- Candy Sparks
- Michele & Erik Jessen
- Cynthia Jeanty



▲ Our erstwhile WindWord editors, Vicki and John Garcia enjoying the Norton Lounge at the Jazz Cup.

NEW BOARD

AND HERE, DRUM roll, is the slate of the new Board of the Benicia Yacht Club for the upcoming year. This Board will assume their positions on December 1. Please congratulate them and introduce yourselves, if you have not done so already. Here are the Commodores

Vice Commodore: Joe Kallios
Rear Commodore: Don Kerr
Secretary: Randy Norman
Treasurer: Kriss Kastl
Director: Mark Campbell
Director: Steve Corwin
Director: Sue Bittner
Director: Mitch Kessler
Jr. Staff Commodore: Bob Bohnet

Commodore: Natalie Boltz Keller	
Vice Commodore: Joe Kallios	
Rear Commodore Don Kerr	

- 1 KAY JAEGER
- PAM MARTIN
- 2 RALPH ANTHENIEN
- 3 CURTIS HOFFMAN
- STEPHEN DALE
- 5 RENE STEINHAUER
- MARIA VILLANUEVA
- 6 JUDITH JUDSON-BAKER
- 7 STEVE BRENNER
- 12 PHYLLIS RAPP
- JOHN GARCIA

- 14 PAUL ADLER
- 15 ANDY ZINKEVICH
- 17 RYAN OPFER
- 19 CINDI GILLETTE
- 21 LISA MCGUIRE
- STEVEN HILL
- 22 COLLEEN MCKINNEY
- ROSS OXMAN
- 28 DAVID MCCROSSAN
- 29 PHYLISS RITTER
- MARTINA WOLTER
- 30 ROGER RUDD

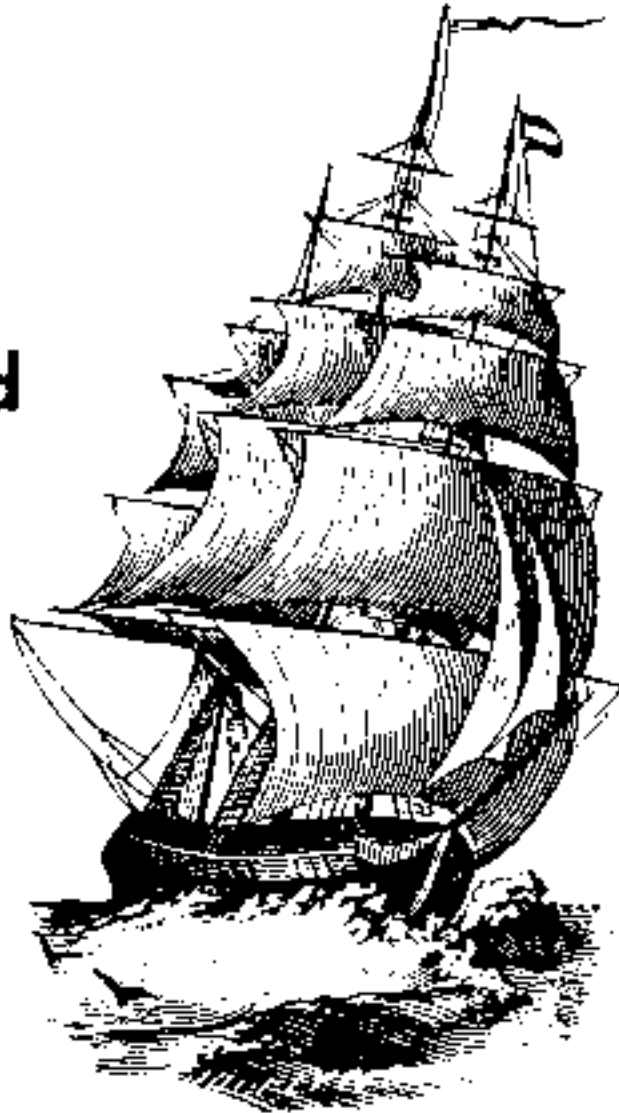


November

May, 1980



THE Wind - Word



BENICIA YACHT CLUB

POST OFFICE BOX 787

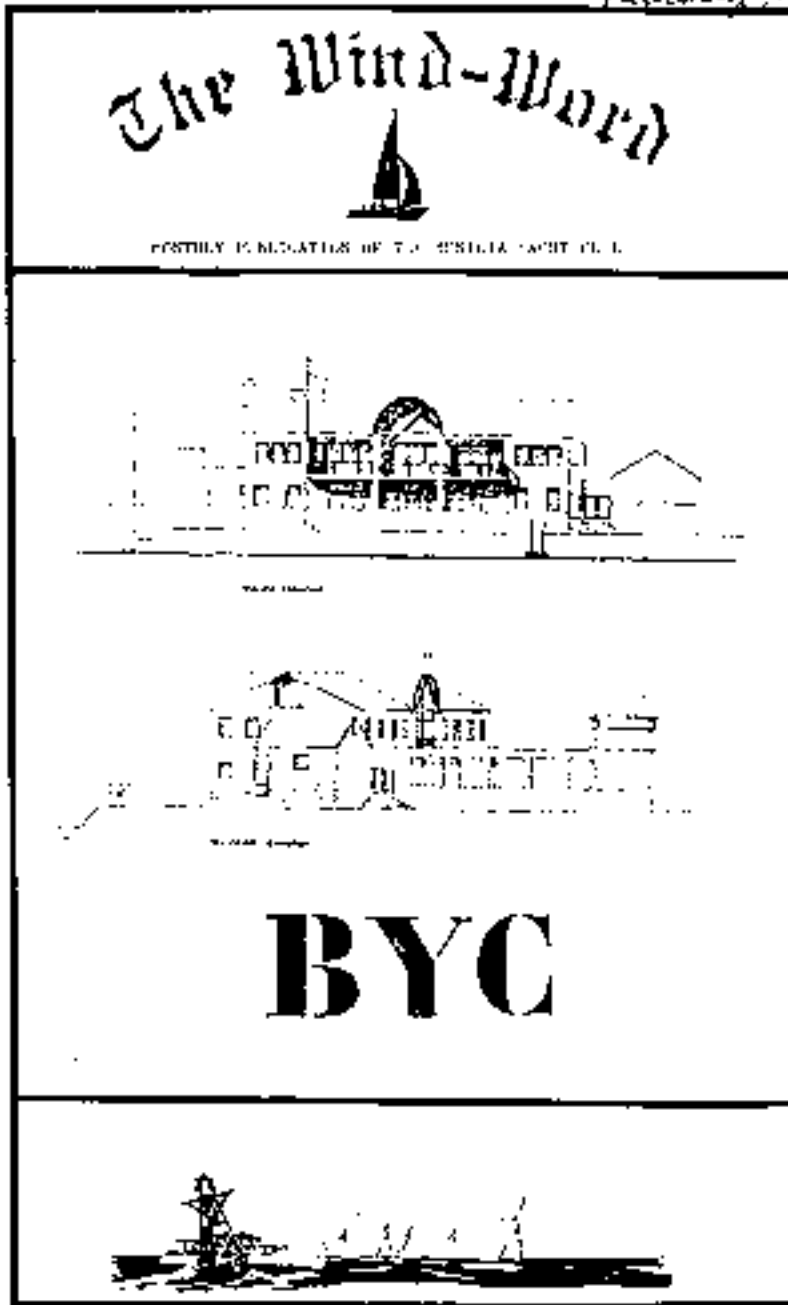
BENICIA CA 94610

w w w . b e n i c i a y a c h t c l u b . c o m

The cover of the May, 1980 edition of the WindWord

IN THIS ISSUE of the WindWord are a couple images of the covers of very early editions. They are notable for the hand-drawn images on them. These drawings are exquisite. For some of you long-time members, you may recall receiving these issues in your mailbox every month. This is a call for anyone that may have saved copies of the early editions of the Wind-Word (as it was written out in the early days) and would like to donate them to the club so we may include them in our archives, to maintain the history of our beloved Club. Please contact the editor of the WindWord. Contact information is in the Club Directory on page 2 of this issue. Additionally, if you know the artist that created these drawings, please let us know. 

February, 1982



The cover of the February, 1982 edition of the WindWord



▲ A spectator (not a competitor) hydrofoiling in the Benicia Marina during Jazz Cup.

▼ A Gallic entry racing downwind at the Jazz Cup (August 30, 2025)



By, PICYA Delegates Randy Norman & Rick Albers

WELL, THE WAIT is (almost) over. At the last PICYA Delegates meeting of 2025, to be held on Sunday, November 9 at the Berkeley Yacht Club, the member yacht clubs will know which are Club of the Year (COTY). The COTY award is a reflection of the amount of engagement a club and its members take in the boating activities of the San Francisco Bay Area, including the waterways up the Delta. A COTY reflects the reputation of a club among members of other clubs in Northern (and Southern) California. We will send our Delegates, Secretary Randy Norman and WindWord editor, Rick Albers, to the meeting and hopefully bring back news of victory.

Looking forward to next year, the Benicia Yacht Club is working with PICYA to host the first Delegates meeting of the 2026 boating year in February. To host the first meeting of the year is an honor which we should all recognize. Additionally, the first Delegates meeting of the year is well-attended. This will give our members a wonderful opportunity to show off the club, its amenities, the beautiful marina and the charm of Benicia. More news of this event will be provided in the coming weeks. But for now, please save the date: Monday, February 2, 2026. Caveat: there is a slim possibility this date will change. 🇺🇸

Secretary: Randy Norman	
Treasurer: Kriss Kastl	(Not Pictured)
Director: Mark Campbell	(Not Pictured)
Director: Steve Corwin	
Director: Sue Bittner	(Not Pictured)
Director: Mitch Kessler	(Not Pictured)
Jr. Staff Commodore: Bob Bohnet	

▼ Post-race activities as guest await friends still on the course at the Jazz Cup.



2025 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

info@beniciayachtclub.org



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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