



January 2026

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

FOUNDED IN 1977

From the Helm

Commodore Natalie Boltz Keller



Happy New Year, BYC!

AS WE TURN the page to 2026, I want to thank everyone who helped close out last year on such a high note. December was filled with great events, festive gatherings, and the kind of camaraderie that makes the Be-

nicia Yacht Club feel like home. From Change of Watch to Bingo, Dueling Pianos, the New Year's Eve Black & White Ball, Holiday celebrations, the Holiday Open House, and everything in between, it was a wonderful reminder of how special this community truly is.

January brings a fresh start and an exciting path ahead. This year, we'll continue making progress on club improvements, strengthening our committees, and curating events that bring members together both on and off the water. Whether you volunteer, attend events, serve on a committee, or simply stop by to enjoy the view, your involvement makes a difference — and I encourage everyone to stay engaged and share ideas along the way.

As we begin the year, I also want to acknowledge a moment of loss for our club. We recently said goodbye to Kriss Kastle, an integral member of our Board of Directors, whose dedication and service meant so much to BYC. In moving

forward, the Board has thoughtfully rearranged responsibilities to ensure continuity, and we are grateful to those who have stepped up during this transition. We are also pleased to welcome a new Board member and look forward to the perspective and energy they bring to our leadership team.

I'm incredibly grateful for the support of our Board, committee chairs, staff, and members who give their time and energy "for the good of the club." It's an honor to serve as your Commodore, and I'm looking forward to all we'll accomplish together in the year ahead.

Here's to smooth sailing, strong friendships, and a fantastic 2026 at BYC.

Cheers,

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-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)



Front Page Photo: Benicia's First Street, after a rain. Photograph courtesy Pat.

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

Committee Chairs

Fleet Captain Brian West · **Fleet Surgeon** Deb Murray · **Historian** OPEN · **House Chair** Randy Norman · **Entertainment Chair** OPEN · **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** Angels Grigas · **Race Chair** Noble Griswold · **Safety & Protocol** OPEN · **Ship Store Manager** Debi Hall · **Sunshine Chair** Rachele Bohnet · **Webmaster** Risa Corwin · **WindWord Editor** Rick Albers [Acting] · **Youth Sailing Dir.** Steve Corwin · **Volunteer Organizer** OPEN

the Wind Word

JANUARY 2026

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Dale, Stephen.....	6
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KRISS KASTL: IN MEMORIAM

It is with deep sadness that we share the news of the sudden passing of our very own, Kriss Kastl.

Kriss was a dedicated and valued member of the Benicia Yacht Club, and served as a member of the Board of Directors for several years in the vital role of Treasurer. She approached her responsibilities with care, integrity, and a deep commitment to the good of the club.

Her willingness to serve helped guide BYC through important decisions and ensured the club's continued stability and success. Beyond her official roles, Kriss was a trusted presence who truly cared about the club.

During this difficult time, we are reminded that BYC is more than a place - it is a community built on friendship, dedication, and shared purpose. We extend our heartfelt condolences to Kriss's family, friends, and loved ones, and we hold them close in our thoughts. Celebration of Life details will be shared when they are received. 🎵

On behalf of the Board of Directors,

Natalie Boltz Keller

Commodore



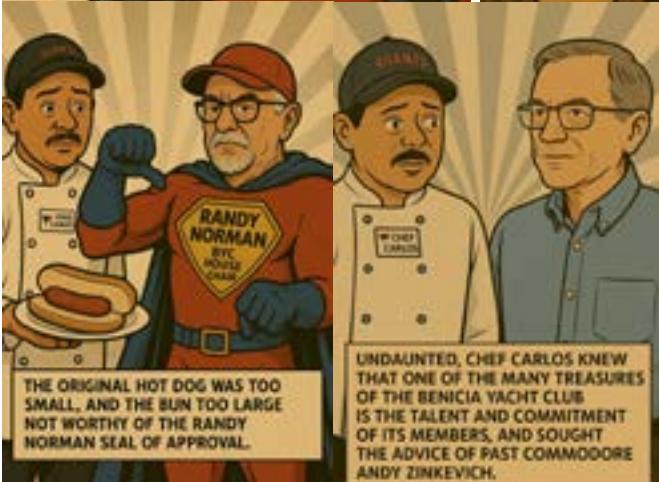
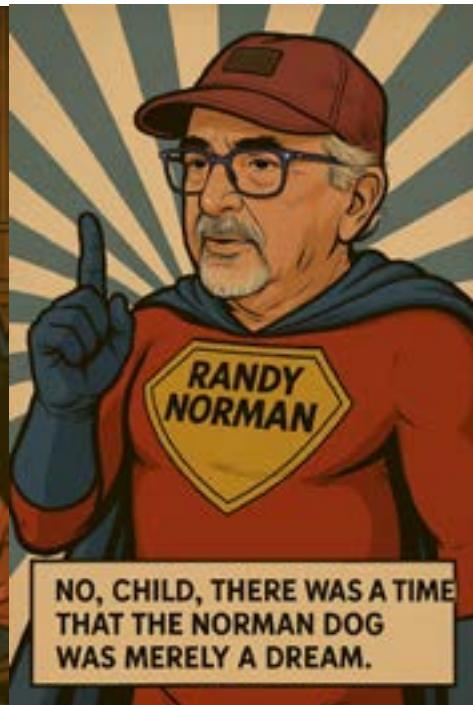
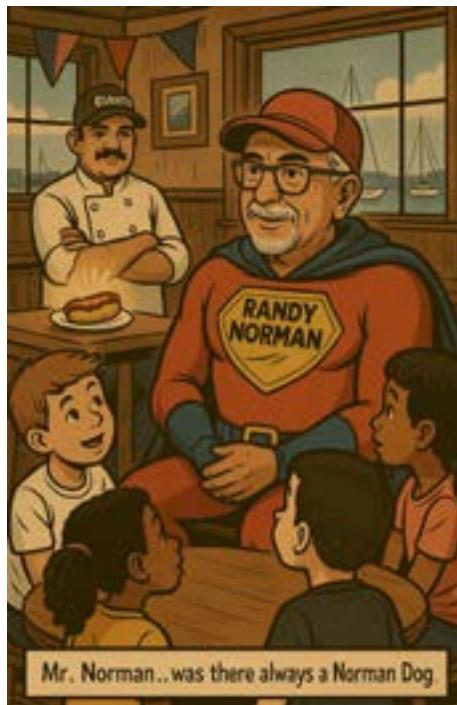
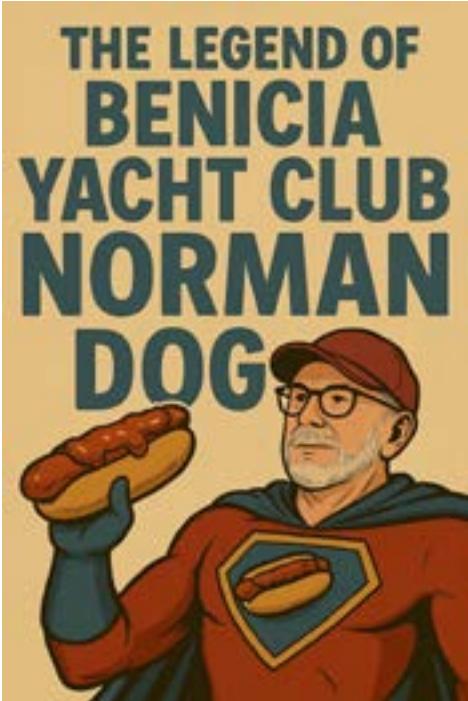
PHOTOS FROM NATALIE BOLTZ KELLER

JANUARY 2026

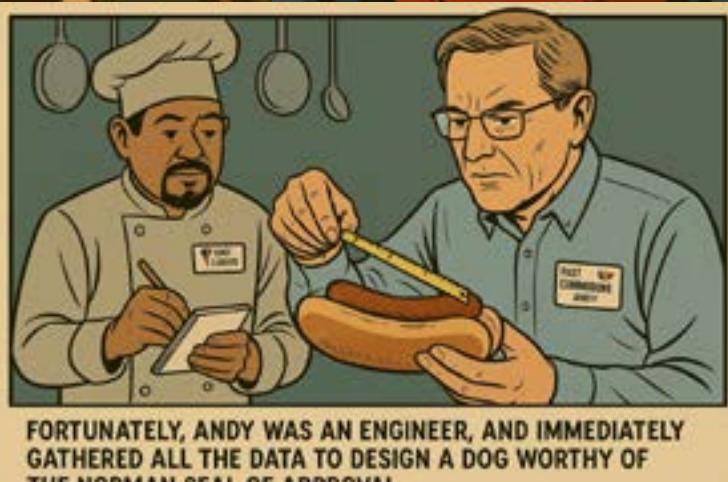
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 <u>Norton Lounge</u> New Years Day Bloody Mary Bar 12-5pm	2	3
4	5 Club Closed	6 Club Closed	7 <u>Norton Lounge</u> Trivia 6pm <u>Regatta Room</u> Rotary 10am Lions 5pm	8 <u>Norton Lounge</u> Racers Mtg 7pm <u>Regatta Room</u> Sirs 10am Soroptimist 5:30pm	9	10 <u>Regatta Room</u> Nautica Group 9-10:30am Frost Bite Race #3
11	12 Club Closed	13 Club Closed <u>Regatta Room</u> Board Meeting 6pm	14 <u>Norton Lounge</u> Trivia 6pm <u>Regatta Room</u> Rotary 10am	15	16 SET UP for BYC Mardi Gras 5pm	17 <u>BYC Mardi Gras</u> Upstairs Buffet 6pm Jazsynergy 7pm
18	19 Club Closed	20 Club Closed	21 <u>Regatta Room</u> Rotary 10am <u>Norton Lounge</u> Trivia 6pm Membership Mtg 7pm	22 <u>Regatta Room</u> Friendship 10am Soroptimist 5:30pm	23	24 <u>Regatta Room</u> Private Event 8:30am-4pm
25	26 Club Closed	27 Club Closed	28 <u>Norton Lounge</u> Trivia 6pm	29 <u>Norton Lounge</u> Bingo 6pm	30	31 <u>Regatta Room</u> Private Event 9am-2:30pm

FEBRUARY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Club Closed <u>Regatta Room</u> PICYA Dinner 4:30-9:30	3 Club Closed	4 <u>Regatta Room</u> Rotary 10am	5 <u>Norton Lounge</u> Racers Mtg 7pm <u>Regatta Room</u> Lions 5pm	6	7 Club Clean Up 8-11am <u>Regatta Room</u> Private Event 5-10pm Frost Bite Race #4
8 BYC Super Bowl Potluck	9 Club Closed	10 Club Closed <u>Regatta Room</u> Board Meeting 6pm	11 <u>Regatta Room</u> Rotary 10am	12 <u>Regatta Room</u> Sirs 10am Soroptimist 5:30pm	13	14 BYC Valentines Steak & Crab Feed <u>Regatta Room</u> Nautica Group 9-10:30am
15	16 Club Closed	17 Club Closed	18 <u>Regatta Room</u> Rotary 10am <u>Norton Lounge</u> Membership Mtg 7pm	19 <u>Norton Lounge</u> Bingo 6pm	20	21
22	23 Club Closed	24 Club Closed	25	26 <u>Regatta Room</u> Friendship 10am Soroptimist 5:30pm	27	28 <u>Regatta Room</u> Private Event 5-10pm



UNDAUNTED, CHEF CARLOS KNEW THAT ONE OF THE MANY TREASURES OF THE BENICIA YACHT CLUB IS THE TALENT AND COMMITMENT OF ITS MEMBERS, AND SOUGHT THE ADVICE OF PAST COMMODORE ANDY ZINKEVICH.



THE BIG DAY CAME, AND CHEF CARLOS ASKED THE BRAVE CREW OF THE PLAYFENZ TO TEST HIS CREATION, AND GIVE THEIR OPINION AS FAR AS WHETHER IT WAS TRULY WORTHY OF THE NORMAN SEAL OF APPROVAL.





31 JONI PALACIOS

3 BRIAN WEST
ROBERT WHITEHEAD

10 MARINA KOPINEC

11 SEAN CONNER
GALEN JAEGER
JOE PUCCI, JR.

12 RICH GRIGAS
ZACHARY BORGLIN

13 JOY CARLIN

16 BETHANN GAMBLE
MICHELE JESSEN
FRANK KASTL
ANDREW COWLEY

19 CANDY SPARKS
KATIE BABCOCK

20 ELENA SYNDER

21 KELSEY BORGLIN

24 DON MUSANTE
CLIFF BAUMER

25 JON HEIRENDT
BYRON ALTON

26 TAMARA WILDER

27 LAINEY BIRDSALL
SUSAN MIRKOVICH

28 JASON ALLEN

29 KERRY SCOTT

PICYA REPORT

It's the start of a new year and the PICYA activities are on the board.

FIRST AND FOREMOST: the first PICYA delegates meeting will be hosted by our very own club! On February 2nd, at 4:30PM, all the delegates from the surrounding Bay and Delta yacht clubs will gather right here in Benicia. To be offered the first meeting of the year is a great honor. Every meeting your PICYA delegates, Randy Norman and Rick Albers, have attended last year, BYC was mentioned by so many people. They love the view of the straits, Mt. Diablo. They love the "charming" little town of Benicia and its welcoming feel. They love the fact they can stay on their boats when they cruise in and just walk downtown, where they can experience our hamlet firsthand. And they love the Benicia Yacht Club. The services (we are one of the only yacht clubs around that has a fully staffed kitchen and bar), they love the staff and, of course, they love the members and the welcome they always receive. Please welcome the greater Bay and Delta boating community when they come.

Stepping back a little, on January 24th, PICYA will have their annual Commodores Ball. This year, it will be held at the Marin Yacht Club. This event provides the installment of the new officers for the year. Although it is called the Commodores Ball, the event is not restricted to current and past commodores. If you wish to attend, you may [register online](#). 

CRUISERS REPORT

AHOY MEMBERS!

It's not too early to start thinking about the 2026 Cruise Out season. Preliminary schedule is:

February - Vallejo YC

March - Pittsburg YC

April - Tiburon (Corinthian and/or San Francisco YC)

May - Marin YC (Memorial Day weekend)

June - St Francis YC (Tentatively June 12-14)

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

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



August – Delta Cruise

September – Harvest Cruise

Interested cruisers can send me (brian@westengineers.com) their email address to be put onto the Cruisers Hot Line. Remember, you don't have to have a boat to participate and be hosted by a Sister YC.

Brian West: Fleet Captain 

PORT CAPTAIN, YEAR-END REPORT

Well, that's a wrap. We had 28 Yacht Clubs visit BYC in 2025. With over 450 people enjoying our beautiful club. They really had a fabulous time and appreciated how welcoming we were. Thank you to everyone who stopped and said hi to them, it really makes them feel special. Looking forward to 2026.

Cheers
Angela Grigas
Port Captain 



2026 First Saturday
MEMBER CLEAN SWEEP

- 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 EXTENDEDINDEFINITELY!

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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