



JANUARY 2020

# *the Wind Word*

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BENICIA YACHT CLUB - FOUNDED IN 1977





# BENICIA YACHT CLUB

400 E. Second Street  
Benicia, California 94510

www.beniciayachtclub.org  
Lat: 38o 02.510N Lon: 122o 09.4W

<b>Main Number</b>	<b>707-746-0739</b>
Office	Option 1 (or 707-750-5139)
Membership	Option 2 (or 707-297-6606)
Norton Lounge	Option 3 (or 707-750-5554)
Commodore	Option 4 (or 707-750-5496)
Accounting	Option 5 (or 707-361-5197)
<b>OFFICE HOURS</b>	
Mon-Sat-Sun	CLOSED
Tue-Fri	11:00 am – 3:00 pm
<b>CLUB HOURS</b>	<b>October thru May</b>
Mon	Closed (Except for Special Events)
Tue (Bartender Only)	5:00 – 9:00 pm
Wed-Sat	12:00 – 10:00 pm
Sun	12:00 – 5:00 pm
<b>FOOD SERVICE</b>	
Wed-Sat	12:00 – 8:00 pm (lunch 12-3:00pm)



## Happy New Year!

We wish you and yours a wonderful New Year full of good health, wealth, love and happiness! As we enter into a new year we reflect back on what we have done and what we yet hope to do in this coming year. I for one hope to get healthier and happier by exercising more and being more aware of the little things in life that make us happy. We aim to become better people all around and in all areas of our life by doing more to take care of ourselves along with doing good for others.

We hope you will consider what you might be able to do that will make the world just a little better and a place that we are happy to be a part of and call our home. This year please commit to taking more of a part in all that our wonderful Club has to offer and make that special effort to reach out and make other members feel welcome and included in all the different activities and experiences so many of us try to make a part of BYC.

Editors Vicki &  
John Garcia



Submittals to Wind Word-due by 15th of month by 5:00 pm-will appear in one of the two following monthly issues.

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# From the Helm

As you are reading this, we have celebrated the holidays and moved into the new year—2020—another decade—seems like only yesterday it was Y2k Y2k! But here we are, in a new decade with hopefully a great year ahead for the Benicia Yacht Club (BYC), its members and their families and friends.

As we look toward the new year, there is optimism that we will move forward with old members and new members. We are planning an exciting year ahead with all the traditional events, cruise-outs and cruise-ins, sailing races and our youth sailing program. The Board continues to focus on financials as well as improvements that the Club needs, our services and, of course, our membership.

We are planning several events, the first of which will be our Crab Feed with its great food and of course our cake sale—always a hit. The **Crab Feed** will be on Saturday February 1, followed by the **Super Bowl Sunday Pot Luck** the following day. We are busy planning everything from **St. Patrick's Day** to **Opening Day** to **Jazz Cup** as well as numerous other events including our **Easter Buffet**, **Mother's Day**, **Father's Day**, **Luau** and **Lobster Feeds** to mention a few. Please make every effort to join your fellow members in celebrating all we have to offer—both old and new—in exciting 2020.

There is no way we could do all this without the support of our volunteers—they are the life blood of BYC and there are not enough thank you's to our talented and dedicated volunteers and staff. With the unselfish desire of our volunteers and members to support our efforts anything is possible—so let's make this a banner year for the Benicia Yacht Club!

We always need more volunteers; it's a great way to get involved and get to know your fellow members better. If you would like to contribute your special talents in support of BYC, please contact me directly at (973) 432-5710 or via email at [Commodore@BeniciaYachtClub.org](mailto:Commodore@BeniciaYachtClub.org).



Commodore Pat Bowers



# Don't Miss January Events at BYC

Watch for updates, times and/or changes at [Beniciayachtclub.org](http://Beniciayachtclub.org) and on Scuttlebutt

**January 1st – BYC OPEN / BLOODY MARY BAR** (hosted by Grigas's)  
**& POTLUCK**

**January 4th – 1st SATURDAY MEMBER WORK PARTY**

**January 18th – Cruisers Dinner**

**January 24th-26th – Cruise-Out to Vallejo**



# Happy Birthday



SYLVIA	BARATA	1/3	FRANK	CAVOTO	1/14
BRIAN	WEST	1/4	NILS	KNUTSTAD	1/16
ROBERT	WHITEHEAD	1/4	DAVE	ALLASIA	1/18
VICKI	GARCIA	1/5	ANGELA	AYERS	1/19
LISA	REEP	1/8	JANET	BOOTH	1/19
JAMES	MCPHERSON	1/9	PETER	MORGAN, III	1/19
MELODY	SEYMOUR	1/10	SABRINA	BOONE	1/20
MARINA	KOPINEC	1/11	ROBERT	BOWERS	1/20
SEAN	CONNER	1/12	REBECCA	CORRIGAN	1/21
GALEN	JAEGER	1/12	VIRGINIA (GINGER)	PENNY	1/21
CHRIS	O'BRIEN	1/12	BYRON	ALTON	1/26
JOE	PUCCI, JR	1/12	SCOTT	REEP	1/27
RICH	GRIGAS	1/13	JOSEPH	BARRETT	1/29
GAY	WILLIAMS	1/13	FAVOUS	BEAVERS	1/31
			VALERIE	BLATTEIS	1/31

**IT'S PARTY TIME**

**The weather forecast is ominous ...** small craft warning. Winds are forecast to gust to 40+ mph or more. It is supposed rain an inch or more. Not the forecast you want going into a winter sailboat race. We have a partial crew; winter racing is tough on schedules. We don't have our critical foredeck crew, which we need to fly a spinnaker or change sails. The crew we had wanted to be competitive! We will have to choose our sails for the conditions wisely.

As skipper, I feel a heavy responsibility to balance safety and competitiveness. I wake up in the morning and check the weather. The forecast is brutal. I realize this day could be tricky and dangerous. Doesn't sound like a good day to sail or race.

It is Saturday, December 7, 2019, the second race of the winter series sponsored by BYC Racing. Our boat *E-Ticket* and crew won the winter series last year. It is a 5-race series, raced 1x per month November to March. *E-Ticket* was 3rd in the November race and we need a good result today.

The racing skippers meet on the BYC race deck to choose the course. We all are seasoned racers and realize the seriousness of the day. We choose a 7.7-mile course, starting at the Benicia Marina Entrance and proceeding to Buoy 21A (off of W 9th St Park). From there we sail to the Benicia/Martinez Bridge (Buoy #3), then head back to the Marina entrance to finish the race. Most skippers decide to not fly spinnakers due to the high wind forecast. We prepare the boat for the race, adding reef lines in case we need to reef (shorten) the mainsail. We discuss and decide to fly our heavy-duty # 2 sail, which can handle medium to heavy winds.

The race starts with moderate winds out of the SSE (South SouthEast). Clouds are building and the rain is misting intermittently. We do a reverse start, where the faster rated boats start later. Theoretically, all boats should finish at the same time, all things being equal. *E-Ticket* is the fastest rated boat and therefore starts last. We head towards 21A (W 9th) with our sails out wide to capture the South wind. The moderate wind fuels our speed. We gain on our primary competitors, *Warwhoop* and *Brandy*.

They round 21A and we head towards Buoy #3. The wind is close to our highest point of sail coming from Martinez. Our competitors sail a faster course more off the wind. We keep our boat pointing high into the wind, hoping to make the First Street marker without tacking. The wind is building and we now have all the wind we can readily handle.

Our calculations prove right; we make First Street without tacking. Our two competitors have to tack away to make First Street. The result: *E-Ticket* taking the lead by a small margin.

Our three boats race to #3. *E Ticket* chooses the deeper water; *Warwhoop* and *Brandy* run a straighter line on the North side of the Strait. The current is changing from a flood to an ebb. Different currents run throughout the racing area. The wind is building to well into 20+ mph. The rain has increased and we are all speeding across the Strait on the forward press of the approaching storm.

We round Buoy #3 with a few boat lengths of lead on our competitors. The wind continues to increase, now well into the 20's and gusting into the low 30's. The wind angle is deep, allowing us to run our sails wide and fast as we head back towards the finish. Most crew is on the high side rail as we lean heavily in the wind and charge toward the finish. The main and hub trimmer are busy adjusting the sails to the wind and gusts. Crew are calling out the gusts. We are at maximum speed and performance.

All three boats are going fast and maxed near their top speeds. The conditions are great for a deep reach with all crew busy and adrenaline pumping. The wind is averaging 30+ mph and gusting well into the high 30's. The wind angle to our sailing angle is ideal for handling maximum wind, and we are at our maximum limit of speed for the wind and angle. The wakes behind our boats are tremendous and impressive.

The finish approaches with our lead stretching. WE DID IT—won a much-needed race under challenging conditions with excellent competition.

It is another great day of racing on Benicia's Riviera. Not bad for racing in December on the front of a strong storm!

**Finishing order: 1) E Ticket, 2) Brandy 3) Warwhoop 4) Alta Liebe**

**Submitted by Noble Griswold**





# Welcome New Members Jim & Elba Henderson

**PLEASE** - Wear Your Name Tag (especially helpful for new members).

**Committee Chairs** - Please review monthly WW Calendar and let us know about any changes before the next issue deadline. Times for events would also be appreciated for calendar.

**Having an Event at BYC?** - Please submit your budget to BYC Board of Directors **60 days prior to the event.** Questions? Contact Faye Carlisle at 925-200-6197.



## Come Support BYC *Happy Hour*



**SATURDAYS 5-7 p.m.**

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Ad Size	Month	Year
<b>2" x 2"</b>	<b>\$20</b>	\$220
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1/4 pg	\$45	\$495
1/2 pg	\$85	\$935

**Contact Mike Mathews**  
**707-745-0610**

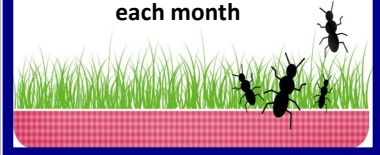


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# JANUARY 2020



WATCH FOR CALENDAR UPDATES ON BYC WEBSITE AND THE SCUTTLEBUTT

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>New Years PARTY!</b> 	<b>1 Grigas's Hosted BLOODY MARY BAR!</b>  <b>&amp; POTLUCK</b>	2	3	<b>4 1st SAT WORK PARTY</b> 8-11am 
5	6 <b>BYC CLOSED</b>	7 Trivia Nite 6pm-Potluck 6:30-Questions	8	9	10	11
12	13 <b>BYC CLOSED</b>	14 Trivia Nite 6pm-Potluck 6:30-Questions  <b>BYC BOD</b> <b>Meeting</b> 7:00 pm	15	16	17	18 <b>Cruisers Dinner</b> 6pm
19	20 <b>BYC CLOSED</b>	21 Trivia Nite 6pm-Potluck 6:30-Questions	22 <b>BYC General Membership Meeting</b> 7:30 pm 	23	24 <b>Cruise-Out to Vallejo</b> Jan. 24-26	25
26	27 <b>BYC CLOSED</b>	28 Trivia Nite 6pm-Potluck 6:30-Questions	29	30	31	