

the Wind Word

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BENICIA YACHT CLUB, PICYA CLUB OF THE YEAR 2000-2003, 2008 & 2010

FOUNDED IN 1977

From the Helm

By Bob Bohnet,
Commodore



Now that the Jazz Cup hangover is done, September opened with new Board member candidate interviews. Thanks to Dena Stults and her committee for vetting our potential new board members. On Saturday, Sept. 13, we participated in the Benicia Porchfest by sponsoring live music in the Regatta Room. Attendance was amazing and so was the special lunch menu. It was a very nice way of showing off the Club. Then on Thursday, Sept. 25, the BYC Racers held their Champion of Champions Race. This was the final race of the great racing season. Thanks to Steve Corwin and all the

racers for a great year. And, to finish off the month we had a Saturday Dinner Date night on September 27, with music from the band Rockoustix.

October will be full of tricks and treats. Starting off with meet the candidate's night on Wednesday, October 1st right after trivia in the Norton Lounge. The Harvest Cruise out to Petaluma will happen on the weekend of October 16 – 19. This will be the final BYC cruise for the year. And following right after that, we have election night. This will be held during our Wednesday's Membership meeting on October 22nd. Once again, the election will be held electronically so watch for those emails. Best of luck to all those running for office. Then, we finish off the month with our annual Halloween Party which will actually be held on Halloween, Friday October 31st. We have Sixteen Scandals scheduled to bring us some great party music that night. Oh, there are all those costume prizes to be had as well. Start planning now!

Also, keep a watch out for those Thursday Night Dinner Dates!

All for the good of the Club! Cheers!

**HAVE YOU SEEN THE BENICIA YACHT CLUB'S WEBSITE RECENTLY?
OUR WEBMASTER, RISA CORWIN, HAS DONE SOME NEW AND INNOVATIVE THINGS WITH THE SITE. YOU CAN EASILY FIND EVENTS, PERFORMERS ON THE SITE. TRY IT OUT:**

[HTTPS://WWW.BENICIAYACHTCLUB.ORG](https://www.beniciayachtclub.org)



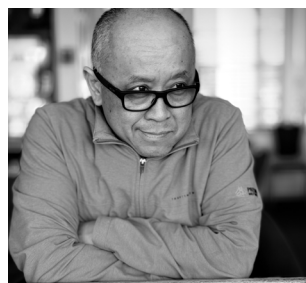
BENICIA YACHT CLUB

Main Number Manager/Office Reservations Membership Accounting	707-746-0739 Option 1 <u>Opt. 2 Call 12-4pm Wed-Sat ONLY</u> Option 3 Option 4
Office Hours	
Wed – Sat	Noon-4pm
Club/Food	Hoursubject to fluctuation
	Last Food Orders at 7:45pm
Mon & Tues	CLOSED(Exceptfor Special Events)
Wed & Thurs	Regatta Room: 4pm-8pm (by reservation only) Norton Lounge: noon-9pm
Fri & Sat	Regatta Room: 4pm-8pm (by reservation only) Norton Lounge: noon-10pm
Sunday	Norton Lounge 1-5pm (Bar & Potluck)
*Groups of 15 or more canbe accommodatedfor lunch with at least 1 week's advancednotification & reservation.	

This is a very important time of the year for the club as it involves the membership choosing who will lead the Club into the next year and the future.

In this issue you will find biographies for each candidate. Some are returning to the Board; some are completely new to the responsibilities. Please take the time to read about each of them.

We (all of the Club, not just the newsletter), do not ask for the commitment from the Candidates lightly. We know it is a great deal of devotion in time, emotion and sweat. -Ed.



Do you have something to submit?
Please send your submissions to:

thewindword@gmail.com

Office Admin / Events Manager		707-746-0739opt. 1	
Accounting	Melissa Smithcamp	707-746-0739opt.4	Melissas@beniciayachtclub.org
Regatta Room		707-750-5197	info@beniciayachtclub.org

Sendemails for contacts below to: info@beniciayachtclub.org and your message will be forwarded.

To leave a voicemail, call the Main Number 707-746-0739, indicate who message is for & it will be forwarded.

Chef	Carlos Quintanilla		Historian	VACANT
Commodore	Bob Bohnet		House Chair	Randy Norman
Vice Commodore	Natalie Boltz Keller		Membership Chair	VACANT
Rear Commodore	Joseph Kallios		Port Captain	Angela Grigas
Secretary	Randy Norman		Fleet Captain	Brian West
Treasurer	Kriss Kastl		Event Chair	Maureen Dodson
Director	Mitch Kessler		Race Chairman	Steve Corwin
Director	Susan Bittner		Safety & Protocol	Vacant
Director	Maryanne "MJ" Schmidt		Ship Store Manager	Debi Hall
Director	Rick Albers		Social Media Chair	VACANT
Jr. Staff Commodore	Dena Stults		Sunshine Chair	Rachele Bohnet
Fleet Surgeon	Deb Murray		Wind Word Editors	Rick Albers
PICYA Representatives	Randy Norman/Rick Albers		Youth Sailing Director	VACANT
Audit Committee Chair	VACANT		Webmaster	Risa Corwin



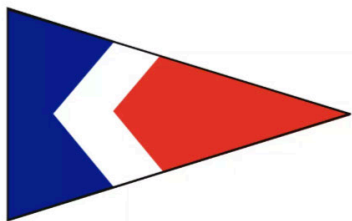
Benicia Yacht Club

MEET THE CANDIDATES NIGHT

COME MEET AND HEAR FROM THE CANDIDATES RUNNING FOR THE BOARD

OCTOBER 1, 7PM

IN THE NORTON LOUNGE



COME HEAR THE CANDIDATES
SPEAK

On Wednesday night, October 1, we will introduce the candidates running for the 2025 BYC Board of Directors. Each candidate will present a brief bio of themselves and answer any questions you may have. Please try to make the meeting, so you can make an informed vote. We should be finished around 8:00 pm.

Ballots will be mailed by October 8, and the final tally and announcement of the winners will take place at the General Membership Meeting on Wednesday, October 22.

Dena Stultz

Chairman – Nominating Committee

YOUR BYC CANDIDATES FOR THE BOARD, 2025

Here are you candidates for next year's Board. These bios were provided by the candidates themselves and other than listing the Flag Officers first, they are printed in no particular order.

Natalie Boltz Keller—Commodore



I have been part of the Benicia Yacht Club for over 30 years, growing up around these walls and carrying on a family tradition — my father, Richard Boltz, proudly served as Commodore twice. This club has always been more than just a club to me; it's a community that shaped who I am, and one I am deeply committed to supporting.

Over the years, I have served in leadership roles that strengthened my under-

standing of our members' needs and the importance of keeping the club thriving for generations to come. As Vice Commodore, I have focused on improving operations, supporting our staff, and fostering an environment where members feel welcome, engaged, and proud to belong.

As Commodore, I will continue that commitment — honoring our traditions while embracing new opportunities for growth. My goal is to ensure that the Benicia Yacht Club remains a vibrant, sustainable, and welcoming place for sailors, families, and friends alike.

Joe Kallios—Vice Commodore



Qualifications for the position:

- Benicia Yacht Club member since 2011
- Rear Commodore 2025
 - o Chair of the Jazz Cup
 - o Chair of the Audit Committee
- Race Committee Chair
 - o Worked with the Jazz Cup joint committee as the representative for BYC regarding the regatta
 - o Coordinated, set up and emceed the annual Beer Can Racing Awards Dinner
- 40 years in leadership positions
- Chaired and worked on various fund-raising events for elementary and high school organizations
 - o PTA president
 - o Board of Regents
 - o President of Diocesan Parent Guild
- President and Board member of the Home Owners Association where I reside
- Member of the Benicia B.D.E.S. Portuguese Society for decades
 - o Obtained and set up the layout and installation of dispensing systems for the sales of alcohol and refreshments

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- o Chaired bar activities including purchasing, staffing and set up
 - o Worked on local fund raisers and the annual festival
- Motivation to serve:
- I want to be a part of the team that enhances our club and ensures that it thrives for the foreseeable future!

Don Kerr—Rear Commodore



Why I am volunteering for Rear Commodore:

My wife Michelle and I have been members of the Benicia Yacht Club for several years and enjoy the people, the staff, the casual atmosphere, and the great view of the marina. I am volunteering for Rear Commodore to give back to the BYC, to help the Commodore and other staff members, to continue to make BYC successful into the future.

About me:

I am a husband, a father of two adult children, and have lived in Benicia for about 30 years.

I have volunteered for a number of activities living in Benicia, including youth soccer, the Stingrays swim club, Little League, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. I served on the Benicia Resiliency Task Force to help inform the public of the City's financial position and the importance of passing measures to increase tax revenues to help close the City budget gap and later provided the City Council with input to the City budget. I've helped around the Benicia Yacht Club on clean up days, opening day, and Jazz cup events. I enjoyed sailing our Catalina sailboat out of Benicia for about 8 years.

I am retired from a company where I worked for over 40 years, where I worked in a variety of areas including geophysics,

economic consulting, finance, treasury, marketing, IT. I finished up my career in the planning area where I prepared the business plan for the company's integrated refining, marketing, and trading operations in North America and Latin America.

Mike Bernico - Rear Commodore



Hello fellow members!

My name is Mike Bernico, and I am excited to be a candidate for Rear Commodore. Since joining the Benicia Yacht Club in 2024, I have cherished the sense of community we share, from our spirited cruise-outs to our competitive Wednesday trivia nights. I've found a home here among fellow sailors, powerboaters, and those who simply enjoy the camaraderie.

My passion for boating began in Chicago, where I learned to sail in 2020 and was a member of the Columbia Yacht Club. While I previously owned the 30-foot sailboat "Serenity," my partner Rachel and I currently enjoy cruising aboard my Mainship 30 Powerboat, "Floating Point." As a sailor, powerboater, kayaker, and scuba diver, I have a deep appreciation for all the different ways our members enjoy the water.

In my professional life, I am an AI Engineer at Google, leading a team responsible for delivering high-quality training data and simulations for Gemini. Before this, I worked as a Consulting AI Engineer, helping many Fortune 500 companies blend business and technology for greater operational efficiency. If elected, I will apply this expertise to three key areas: modernizing our club's digital infra-

structure, using a data-driven approach to grow membership, and expanding our programming to provide even more value to all members.

I am eager to help guide our club into its next chapter and would be honored to earn your vote.

Kris Kastl—Treasurer

I am Kriss Kastl and I am running for my third term as Treasurer of Benicia Yacht Club. During my first and second year, Melissa (the bookkeeper) and I were able to clean up the chart of accounts, rearrange the payment of certain accounts on the first of the month that were not being paid timely and worked on getting the list of members in order and hopefully correct. I also attend 2 nights a week of Quick Book classes and updated myself on new accounting procedures.

This coming year, I am hoping to get inventory established for both the bar and the restaurant. Our Profit and Loss statements are not correct for Cost of Goods Sold, until we have inventory is being counted on a monthly basis. I am hoping that any entertainment function we have, a profit and loss will be done so we can judge which event is profitable and which is not. These reports will be put in a binder for future use.

I have 38 years of restaurant accounting (Burger King) and have also worked in many county and corporate offices. I am also on the board of advisors for Concord Rainbow Girls And 3 years as Martinez Yacht Club Treasurer.

I hope you have the confidence in me to vote for me.

Randy Norman - Secretary



I appreciate this opportunity to serve again on the Board for Benicia Yacht Club. As Secretary and a flag officer, I hope to continue to represent the expectations of our membership.

So, a little bit about me - I joined BYC 15 years ago as a new resident of Benicia, hoping to meet people who shared my interest in boating, the water, and the experience of living on Carquinez Strait. Along with my wife Eve, we have spent many hours enjoying friendships, activities, and ambience of BYC.

I have been the chair of the house committee for the last nine years, working with so many members to maintain our building as an anchor for the marina and the city. A few years back, I was asked to join the crew of Playpen II and began another chapter of opportunity, participating in the Thursday Night Beer Can sailboat races.

As we struggled through the pandemic, I along with a few other BYC members formed the Nautica Group working to identify activities and events that foster and encourage boating and water related activities and to promote opportunities for knowledge in the sciences of boating for our membership and community, fulfilling a goal in the BYC charter. Last year we brought the San Francisco Sailing Science Center to the club for Opening Day. This year we hosted the crew of the Sea Scouts Vikings, something we hope to make an annual event. Also, this year, as a club co-delegate for PICYA, we hosted a benefit luncheon for the Recreational Boaters of California.

David Stellato - Director



My name is David Stellato, and my wife, Amy, and I have been proud members of the Benicia Yacht Club since 2019. Over the years, we have enjoyed BYC's vibrant social and boating community by being active participants in social events and the racing program. This year, I had the honor to skipper our boat "Living Happy" with Amy and my incredible crew and win the Jazz Cup—bringing the trophy back home to Benicia where it belongs!

Boating isn't just a hobby for me; it's a lifelong passion that began over 40 years ago and that fueled my involvement in yacht clubs across the country. Sharing this passion on the water and participating in the BYC racing program is truly one of my favorite ways to connect with members and enjoy the camaraderie of our club.

Although many of you know me and Amy as the owners of Happy Life Pottery in downtown Benicia, I have a diverse professional background that spans leadership roles in large corporations, entrepreneurial ventures, and even government service. My expertise includes finance, global business management, sales, and marketing—skills that have allowed me to lead teams, drive growth, gen-

erate revenue, and deliver results on both a local and international scale. After leaving our corporate environments, Amy and I created Happy Life Pottery as a way to serve others who deal with corporate and life stress, and our business has allowed us to create meaningful relationships within our community. It is this unique combination of deep local community connection coupled with large-scale strategic experience that I am eager to bring to the Board.

I am running for a Director position because I want to help ensure our yacht club continues to thrive for current and future members. I believe my lifelong sailing experience, professional expertise, and community engagement offer a valuable perspective that will benefit the Board and strengthen our club.

Thank you for your consideration.

Steve Brenner - Director



I am a new member just joining this year on Opening Day.

My wife Sherri and I moved to Benicia in July of 2024. We lived most of the time from 2015 to 2022 on our Westsail 32 in Mexico.

I sailed an Ericson 25 for many years on Monterey Bay before we bought our Westsail and left for Mexico on the 2015 Baja Haha. Now that we have left Mexico behind and sold our Westsail, we are looking

for a daysailer to explore the waters around Benicia.

I have enjoyed volunteering on Jazz Cup and look forward to contributing more time and effort in the future.

I have worked in the aerospace industry for most of my career and still work as a consulting Engineer and I am President of the Equipment Reliability Institute.

I served on the board of Directors of a non-profit theater group for many years holding the offices of Secretary, Treasurer and Vice-President. I served as Commodore of Club Crueros in La Paz Mexico 2022 to 2024 and Membership Chairman 2020 to 2024.

I am running for the board because I want to see the club continue to be successful and because I believe that I can actively contribute to the club's organization. Specifically, I plan to focus on fiscal enhancements to allow the club to improve facilities and membership outreach including methods to make club membership more attractive.

I appreciate the opportunity to run for the Board of Directors, and I will serve the club to the best of my abilities regardless of the outcome.

Steve Corwin--Director



Originally from the New York metropolitan area, my family and I moved to the Bay Area over 17 years ago. We have three children and five grandchildren, and my wife, Risa, and I have been proud Benicia residents for the past six years.

As five-year members of the Benicia Yacht Club, we have become deeply involved. I have served as

Race Chair for the last three seasons, and Risa recently took on the role of Webmaster. I have a long history of volunteering and community involvement. Previously, as a member of the South Beach Yacht Club, I served on the board and helped lead several successful programs and events, including a highly successful anniversary celebration and a fundraising effort to replace an aging committee boat. I also ran a community soccer league with over 300 families, headed a soccer program for advanced players, and started a community hockey team that was later adopted by the local high school.

My career in commercializing, marketing, and advertising, along with three generations of family experience in the restaurant business, has provided me with the knowledge and skills to help drive this club's success and growth.

As a Director, I will apply my philosophy and experience in community building to ensure the voices of all members are heard. I firmly believe that "no one is as smart as everyone" and will personally support the reinstitution of the Youth Sailing school. I am a credentialed Basic Keel Boat Instructor and hold a US Coast Guard OUPV Captain's License.

I look forward to seeing everyone in person on Candidate's Night, Wednesday, October 1. I am eager to serve you as a member of the BYC board.

Rick Albers- Director



Hello Fellow BYC Members. I am Rick Albers and I am running for a director position on the Board. I first joined the Benicia Yacht Club in 2009. In that time, I have had the opportunity to serve on the board but also served as the Editor of the Wind-Word, our newsletter. Additionally, I have worked on House issues in conjunction with the House Committee. I look forward to serving the Club.

Mark Campbell - Director

CRUISERS ABOUT

Angela Grigas, Port Captain

Hello BYC Family !

Just a few pictures from the last couple of yacht clubs that came to visit our wonderful club. They all have had so much fun and really enjoyed the hospitality. We have hosted 24 yacht clubs so far this year, with two more in October. I'm looking forward to having a break in the winter. With that said I have clubs on the calendar for next year already and they are super excited about visiting us. Don't forget if you see them, stop by and say hi. Cheers

PHOTOS BY ANGELA GRIGAS



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.com/banquets

You can also call the Club Office

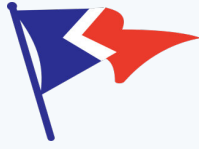
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		8	VINCENT APPIANO	21	GREGORY SPENCER
1	CHRIS COLE		GREGORY GALLAGHER		
	MOIRA SULLIVAN		ALLISON HILTON	24	RALPH AGUIAR
	CATHERINE DUGGER	11	STEPHEN GIZZI		KATHLEEN BANTA
3	SANDRA RAGLAND	12	BRITTANY LUCAS	25	SUSAN GIBSON
		15	ADAM KLEIMAN		
6	VICTORIA MUSANTE		JENNIFER NEGRETE	26	DEB MURRAY
7	KEN VANSTORY	16	LINDA PERZ	29	ADOLP HUNTER
			DERITH LUTZ	30	DEBI HALL
		18	MARK CAMPBELL		JENNIFER SIRIANNI

2025 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 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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