



October 2022

# the Wind Word

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





# BENICIA YACHT CLUB

400 E. Second Street

www.beniciayachtclub.org

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Main Number         | 707-746-0739  |
| Manager/Office      | Option 1  |
| <u>Reservations</u> | <u>Opt. 2 Call 12-4pm Wed-Sat ONLY</u>  |
| Membership          | Option 3  |
| Accounting          | Option 4  |
| OFFICE HOURS        |   |
| Wed – Sat           | Noon-4pm  |
| CLUB/FOOD           | Summer hours subject to fluctuation   |
|                     | Last Order from Kitchen 8pm   |
| Mon & Tues          | CLOSED (Except for Special Events)  |
| Wed & Thurs         | Regatta Room: 4pm-8pm<br>(by reservation only)<br>Norton Lounge: Noon-8pm (Wed)<br>Noon-10pm (Th) |
| Fri & Sat           | Regatta Room: 4pm-8pm<br>(by reservation only)<br>Norton Lounge: Noon-10pm                        |
| Sunday              | Norton Lounge 1-5pm (Bar & Potluck)   |

## Ahoy BYC Members-

Hats off to our very own Noble Griswold and his *E-Ticket* sailing team who won this year's 34th Jazz Cup Race! *Congratulations!!!!*

This month we vote for the leadership of our Club. Please make sure you vote this year. Many of our elections have been determined by a single vote, so please do your part and vote! Then please contact our new Board of Directors and let them know how you want to volunteer to support our Club with your experience and time. We need all the help we can get to make sure we move forward in meeting the needs of our Club and its membership—and have fun doing it!

We hope everyone will have a safe and fun Halloween and attend the BYC Halloween party October 29. Your costume might just win you one of the awards or trophies! See you there!



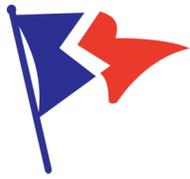
Editors: John & Vicki Garcia

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

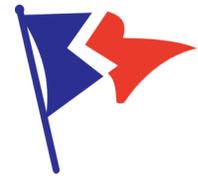
|                           |                   |                     |                               |
|---------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| Office / Events / Mgr.    |                   | 707-746-0739 opt. 1 |                     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

Send emails for contacts below to: [info@beniciayachtclub.org](mailto:info@beniciayachtclub.org) and your message will be forwarded

|                       |                 |              |                        |                     |                      |
|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------|------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Chef Carlos           |                 | 707-750-5197 | Historian              | VACANT              | E-mail if interested |
| Commodore             | Andy Zinkevich  | 908-295-1030 | House Chair            | Randy Norman        | 209-470-2522         |
| Vice Commodore        | Dena Stults     | 707-208-4498 | Membership Chair       | Kathleen Jones      | 707-297-6606         |
| Rear Commodore        | Dan Carnahan    | 707-319-5706 | Port Captain           | Angela Grigas       | 707-208-2207         |
| Secretary             | Marcia Wisgirda | 707-748-4345 | Fleet Captain          | Steve Penny         | 707-373-1191         |
| Treasurer             | Bob Bohnet      | 707-334-3802 | Entertainment Chair    | VACANT              | E-mail if interested |
| Director              | Brian West      | 707-761-2307 | Race Chairman          | Dan Carnahan        | 707-319-5706         |
| Director              | Jason Crouch    | 707-652-5805 | Safety & Protocol      | Paul Brighton       | 707-746-8852         |
| Director              | Greg Spencer    | 707-372-8343 | Ship Store Manager     | Debi Hall           | 707-747-9352         |
| Director              | Randy Norman    | 209-470-2522 | Social Media Chair     | Dena Stults         | 707-751-1582         |
| Jr. Staff Commodore   | Pat Bowers      | 973-432-5710 | Sunshine Chair         | Kymberli Brady      | 408-691-7826         |
| Fleet Surgeon         | Deb Murray      | 925-586-2007 | Wind Word Editors      | Vicki & John Garcia | 707-745-3738         |
| PICYA Representative  | Richard Boehm   | 925-586-2731 | Youth Sailing Director | Derith Lutz         | 401-258-7304         |
| Audit Committee Chair | Fred Gibson     | 408-836-6519 |                        |                     |                      |



# FROM THE HELM



I hope that everyone who was able to make it to **Jazz Cup this past Labor Day weekend** had a good time. Sorry if you missed it. The weather was better than expected and the race itself went well. Hundreds shared race day and the party with us. Angela, Rich and friends put on a super breakfast on Sunday. To top it all off, **Noble Griswold and the crew on E-Ticket brought the trumpet trophy back to BYC—for the first time in seven years!**

The best thing about events like Jazz Cup is that we all get a chance to get together—whether it's to sail, to help put it on, meet new people or just party. This year I was pleased that we got a ton of compliments on staff, food and facilities. Part of the credit for Jazz Cup goes to Alkar Human Resources who provided temporary help. One highlight for me was that Dan Courter, South Beach Yacht Club Race Chair and board member, decided to join BYC. We look forward to many more years of collaborating with South Beach.

Speaking of events, you may have noticed that we do some outside events. These provide income, helping to lower member dues, as well as offering community outreach. We try not to disrupt member use as members always come first, but sometimes a bit of disruption is unavoidable. Waiting for service is probably the biggest challenge at peak times. One plan is to welcome outside parties with events to bring their own catering to keep the load off the kitchen and server staff. We also plan to make use of our temp agency more often in the future.

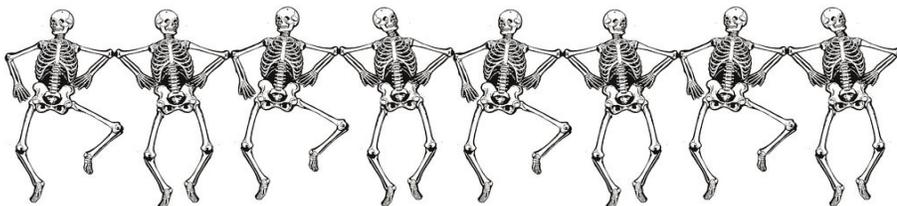
The **Beer Can Thursday night racing season is coming to a close, with the awards dinner on Oct. 15.** Also, the **Oct. 21-28 Harvest Cruise** (my cruise) will be going to Richmond, Sausalito and Oakland. Please sign up and join us for all or part of the trip.



**This is Election Month for the BYC Board of Directors.** Meet the candidates on **CANDIDATES NIGHT Oct. 5** to learn about their proposed direction for BYC (buffet starts at 5:30 pm). Watch for your ballot, then **PLEASE VOTE!** Join your fellow members for results on **ELECTION NIGHT Oct. 19.** **Members are all owners of BYC so need to have a say in its future. Your participation is crucial to the Club's success.**

Special thanks to Kathy Monroe for her extraordinary work as Membership Chair. Kathy is stepping down and being replaced by Kathleen Jones (thanks Kathleen). Thanks to Dena Stults, Bob Bohnet and Randy Norman for helping to manage the Club in the absence of a staff administrator. Thanks to all the people who volunteered to help set up, run and tear down events. Super-special thanks to Eve Norman for managing decorating for events. Thank you, first Saturday volunteers—the dedicated staff of BYC—the Board of Directors—Committee Chairs—Committee Members—Anyone who should have been thanked that I missed and everyone else who volunteered for something this month.

I hope to see you around the Club. May your ride through life be smooth.



**Commodore  
Andy Zinkevich**





# IT'S BYC ELECTION TIME!



**Hello BYC family**—Most of you know me, or have seen me around the Club. I have been a Board Member, both as a Director, and as Vice Commodore. I ran Opening Day 2022 with the help of our staff, and many member volunteers, which was a lot of fun.

Since we lost our manager, I have been handling events and employee staffing, as well as social media, publicity, personnel and entertainment. I am asking for your vote for Commodore to let me continue my vision of improving our Club experience for all. This includes a larger variety of music and entertainment. I will be looking for chairpersons to help achieve this. I would also like to see staff uniforms to improve our Club's optics. I would like to see more interclub mingling during cruise-ins, perhaps with games and entertainment. Napa Yacht Club really enjoyed the karaoke night singing along with our members. I will continue to support youth sailing, and all boating events including dock parties and open boat tours.

Although Covid is mostly over, we are still having staffing issues. We have been lucky to have kept a core of loyal, wonderful staff, but for big events, we will need help. Our Board is already working on this issue and we hope to solve this problem with the help of temps.

I would like to thank our current Board for all the support you have shown me. I will be looking to past Board Members for your sage guidance in decision making. I will be utilizing the Board serving with me to be a cohesive unit making all big decisions together.

I promise to keep working hard for all of you, and for the good of the Club.

**Dena Stults – Candidate for Commodore**



I am interested in bringing a unique eye and new ideas to the Benicia Yacht Club from a leadership position. I have a lot of love for BYC as I have spent the better part of 30 years enjoying the facilities with my parents, as a junior member and as an adult member. From Easter to Thanksgiving, Opening Day, Christmas on First Street, Jazz Cup, New Year's Eve, New Year's Day and any other holiday in between—BYC and my parents' dedication to BYC have been a constant in my life. I feel that I can help the Club with keeping its roots and also opening its eyes to potential new opportunities. My experience in the food and beverage industry, managing small yet dynamic teams and creating successful operations procedures at several notable Napa Valley wineries, allows me to bring some support to the Club in areas that can be beneficial.

My father's involvement and commitment to BYC was something he and I spoke of frequently and became a consistent touch point during our nearly daily visits together. I like to consider myself a legacy member, following in the very big footsteps laid out ahead of me. The historical knowledge, imparted upon me by Dad, gives me a unique eye to the successes and misses the Club has endured over the years. Additionally, I am a local small business owner and also serve on the Benicia Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and can help the Club stay involved citywide where applicable.

**Natalie Boltz Keller – Candidate for Rear Commodore**





This is a pretty exciting moment for me. Some of us have met, chatted and probably had a session together, but now I want to invite you to learn a little about my history. I have been a member of the Benicia Yacht Club for 4 years. I have enjoyed the members and also the experience. I would love to give back to all the lovely people who have been so kind to me and help the Club flourish.

I was a professional entertainer for several years touring the USA, Europe, Asia and Caribbean. I am a retired Aircraft Mechanic that spent 30 years at United Airlines. At one time in my career I managed 75 mechanics and had a 30 million dollar budget. I know how to work with people and learn from others. I am willing to get down in the trenches and make it happen. At BYC I worked on the talent show, the lineup, scheduling rehearsals and choreographing the chair dance routine. The 12 Days of Christmas Extravaganza 2021 was also part of my repertoire. Let me put my experience to good use by becoming a member of the Board. Please vote for me for Board member in the upcoming election.

**Goldie Pierce – Candidate for Director**

**MEET YOUR CANDIDATES**

**DO YOUR PART AND VOTE!**

**Oct 4—Ballots sent out  
Oct 5—MEET THE CANDIDATES Night  
Oct 19—ELECTION NIGHT & Results**

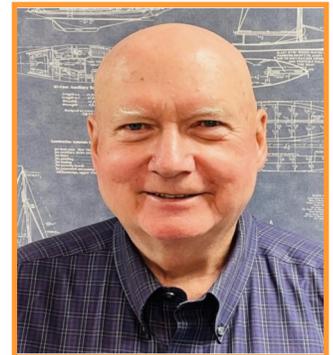
Since rejoining the BYC late last September, I have been enjoying time with old and new friends at this very special Club so many members have created, contributed to, and maintained. So when approached, I thought, “yes, I can enter my name and win or lose, it is all for the good.”

So historically, the majority of my boating, sailing and related experience comes from my prior life in Arlington, Virginia and Annapolis, Maryland. While in Arlington, I worked in anti-submarine warfare as civilian US Navy direct employee, not a contractor. The Navy sent me to ASW (Anti-Submarine Warfare) school and out on surface ships and one nuclear fast attack submarine. The purpose was not to be out to sea though I really enjoyed most everything about that. The purpose was to provide at-sea-experience necessary for the team I was leading to develop a new sonar for Navy ASW use. While in Annapolis I was working for the Navy’s NavShips. Then in Annapolis I was working first for a Navy defense contractor then the Navy’s NavOrd on a next-gen, computer controlled torpedo. There I also enjoyed crewing on the weekly evening races plus several other boating events.

Also in Annapolis is where I began investigating “incidents” with boats and yachts such as fire causes and damage estimates. This morphed into an organization, but always with less than 10 engineers, about half being Naval Academy professors. Then I moved to Benicia and have continued managing and investigating.

Please vote for me to become a board member of the Benicia Yacht Club

**Ken Buske – Candidate for Director**





My name is Kriss Kastl and I am running for a position on the Board of Benicia Yacht Club. My husband, Frank, and I joined the Club on Opening Day this year. We became transplants from Martinez Yacht Club after many years there. Recently we bought a larger boat and decided to berth it at Benicia Marina. We have gone on 2 or 3 cruise-outs as guests of the Brighton's and enjoyed the friendship and feel that we could make many friends at the Benicia Yacht Club. We are hoping to go out on many more cruise-outs and other activities in the future.

I was treasurer of the Martinez Yacht Club for 3 years and professional business accountant for 38 years, and retired in 2020. I am also on the board for Concord Assembly Order of Rainbow Girls.

I feel my background with a yacht club and financial background would be an asset to the Board.

Please vote for Kriss Kastl for the Board.

**Kriss Kastl – Candidate for Director**

My name is Nancy Chertkow and I'm applying for the position of Secretary on the Board of the Benicia Yacht Club (BYC). My husband and I became members of BYC in December of 2021. Since then, I have enjoyed being a member. I have had the opportunity of meeting many new people and I have grown to appreciate the wonderful members here. While I have enjoyed the Club socially, I have also had the opportunity of helping with special events and work parties. I find that being able to give back to others is fulfilling and rewarding.

I believe my former career has given me some of the necessary tools in order to fulfill the Secretary position successfully. I retired after 33 years with the Contra Costa County Superior Court. I spent 25 years as a courtroom clerk. I prepared daily minutes for all court proceedings. I maintained my Judge's busy calendar. I recorded and memorialized my Judge's directions regarding the criminal sentencing of inmates. I maintained and preserved evidence. I briefed jury services, the Clerk's office, the calendaring unit, Master calendar unit and interpreter services regarding scheduling issues in our department. I assisted the Judge with all communications. I was selected to assist in training personnel. I was our Union President for four years. I was sought out by Judges and other personnel who had procedural questions.

In conclusion, I believe I have the requisite qualifications to be the BYC Secretary and look forward to being a benefit to the Club. Thank you.

**Nancy Chertkow – Candidate for Secretary**



## **2022 CRUISE-OUT SCHEDULE**

### **October 21-29 Harvest Cruise**

Richmond, Sausalito (Schoonmaker),

Oakland Yacht Club

Commodore Andre Zinkevich &

Brian West

### **November 11-13**

Napa Valley Yacht Club—Rhonda Shea

## **2022 CRUISE-IN SCHEDULE**

### **October 5-7**

Corinthian (10 boats)

### **October 7-9**

Carver Club (5 boats)

### **November 11-13**

San Joaquin (5 boats)

(note: Richmond cancelled)



**Candy Burrows**



**Michael & Kathryn Rich**



**John & Teresa Badger**



**Beth Foondos & Jennifer Moore**



**Heather & Jeff Cooper**



**Cathy & Ralph Athenien**



**Joni Palacios**



**Jean Gannett**

**NOT PICTURED—Susan Imboden/Paul Aranovich and Lisa Sperber**

**Correction: on Sept 1 issue, images of David /Jean Nadolne and Ted/Haydee Middleton were reversed**



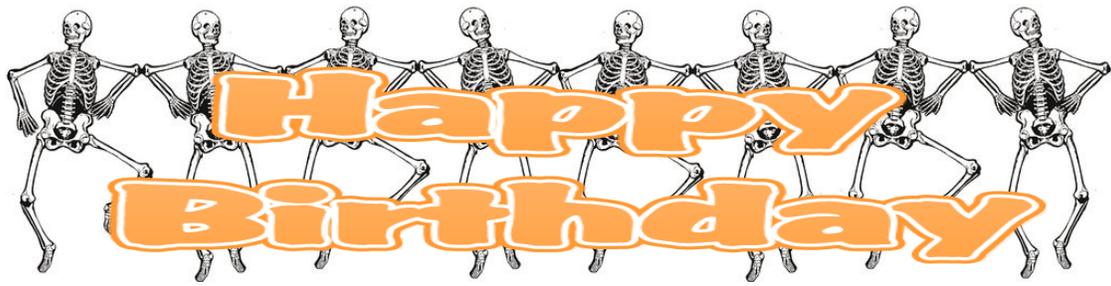
### **BYC Facility Renovation Update**

Our siding repair project for the Northeast corner is complete. The good news is that the structure beneath was sound and some replacement and new “Tyvek” with the Hardy Plank should get us many useful years for that part of the building. We still hope to get some painting touch-up done on some other spots before the rainy season.

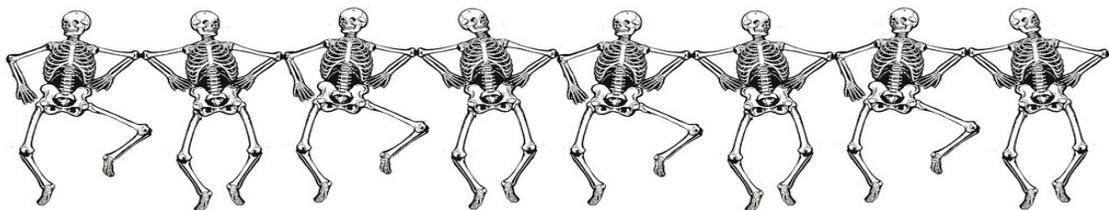


Permitting for the HVAC project is moving forward. Financing was still not resolved but we will do what we can to keep it moving, using the cash that we have while continuing to pursue financing alternatives.

Andy Zinkevich for the Capital Expenditure Steering Committee: Bob Bohnet, Brian West, Dan Demmon, Matt Nattenberg, Noble Griswold, Pat Bowers, Randy Norman, Steve Stults, Susan Garske



|          |            |       |          |             |       |
|----------|------------|-------|----------|-------------|-------|
| MOIRA    | SULLIVAN   | 10/1  | DERITH   | LUTZ        | 10/16 |
| PAUL     | WERBLOW    | 10/1  | LINDA    | PERZ        | 10/16 |
| BEN      | CARR       | 10/2  | JAMES    | PETRELLESSE | 10/17 |
| SANDRA   | RAGLAND    | 10/3  | MARK     | CAMPBELL    | 10/18 |
| RICH     | AUTZ       | 10/5  | PAM      | KNUTSTAD    | 10/18 |
| BOB      | MARRONE    | 10/6  | CAROL    | MARSH       | 10/19 |
| RAY      | MC ENEANEY | 10/6  | CLAUDIO  | BERGAMIN    | 10/20 |
| VICTORIA | MUSANTE    | 10/6  | GREGORY  | SPENCER     | 10/21 |
| JOE      | SHERLOCK   | 10/6  | RALPH    | AGUIAR      | 10/24 |
| KEN      | VANSTORY   | 10/7  | NICOLE   | CORE        | 10/24 |
| NANCY    | CHERTKOW   | 10/8  | SUSAN    | GIBSON      | 10/25 |
| GREGORY  | GALLAGHER  | 10/8  | CHRIS    | KERZ        | 10/26 |
| CAROLYN  | REED       | 10/9  | DEB      | MURRAY      | 10/26 |
| STEPHEN  | GIZZI      | 10/11 | KATHY    | MAYES       | 10/29 |
| BETH     | AMATRONE   | 10/13 | DEBI     | HALL        | 10/30 |
| BOBBY    | ENDERLIN   | 10/14 | JENNIFER | SIRIANNI    | 10/30 |
| JAMES    | WHITE      | 10/14 | BRAD     | PRODGER     | 10/31 |
| ADAM     | KLEIMAN    | 10/15 | FRED     | RAILSBACK   | 10/31 |



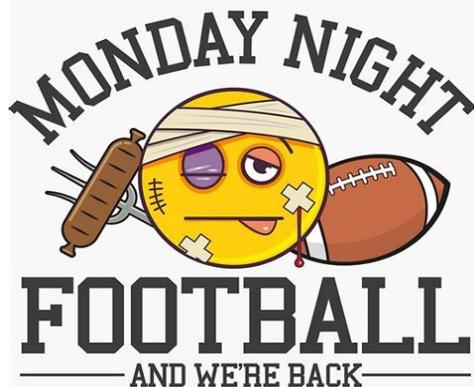
**COME JOIN FANS & FRIENDS!**

## **MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL & DINNER**

**Cost: \$10**

**BYC WEEKLY GUEST CHEFS**

***Sign-up sheet for chefs in Norton Lounge!***



### **From the Membership Corner**

**I want to thank** the Membership Committee, Board and general membership for all the support given me during the last 5 years on the Committee and the last 2 ½ years as its Chair. I am proud of our Club and how we have increased our membership numbers from a lowest low of 155 during the worst of the Covid pandemic to its current count which is way over the highest level of the last 15 years—252 memberSHIPS!

The new Chair this October answering the Membership Line will be Kathleen Jones. I know she will do a terrific job being responsive to calls we get both from the community and our members.

Over the last 14 months, we have taken in 97 new memberships, not counting reinstatements and add-ons to existing memberships, resulting in a current total of 460 wonderful individual Club members!

That is a lot of individuals to keep happy, to keep involved and to keep imbued with a sense that Club membership is “theirs” to use, to respect and to act in the Club’s best interest, in a feeling of shared camaraderie. Each individual member has something to contribute in the following ways:

1. **VOTE** - return your ballot for Board members even if they are running unopposed or even if you do not vote for every one. They work hard and deserve a few minutes of your time. The deadline for returned ballots is October 19!
2. **VOLUNTEER** - there is some small or large task for everyone in the year ahead.
3. **BE RESPECTFUL** of fellow members in person and online. We are deliberately a very eclectic club and everyone is entitled to their opinion. Volunteers are simply doing their best. No member should be disparaged or belittled.
4. **CONTRIBUTE YOUR IDEAS and SUPPORT** the people working for you. There is a suggestion box in the Norton Lounge which is shared with the Board every month. Write out your suggestions, compliments and concerns, and if you want a response, please sign.
5. **PROTECT THE BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP** for all of us by not letting anyone take undue advantage of the Club and encouraging the guests who enjoy the Club to join. Having guests is one of our favorite privileges, and no one wants the Board to be put in the position of having to limit it.

We have many wonderful events coming up this fall and I hope to see you there!

—Kathy Monroe, Membership Chair

# E Ticket and BYC Finally Win Jazz Cup 2022!

*Written by the Captain of E-Ticket Noble Griswold*

It has been 7 years since BYC has won this race. It has been 24 years since myself and crew has won this race. This race is between South Beach YC in SF and BYC in Benicia. The fastest corrected boat between the two clubs wins the coveted Jazz Cup.

The Jazz Cup Race is a great time for BYC to be open to the public and the local community to embrace boating, the downtown and waterfronts of Benicia. Live music was provided at BYC from the afternoon into the evening.

*E Ticket* started at 11:30 a.m. in the fifth starting fleet of approximately 76 racers overall. The slowest fleets had started at 11 a.m. and every 5 minutes after, another fleet would start. After our start, several other faster fleets started behind us.

The winds were 10-15 mph and the current was a dying ebb with 1-2 hours of ebb time left. The starting area was just North of Treasure Island. The race course is approximately 25 miles long. There is 1 mile upwind leg to Alcatraz and then downhill (downwind) all the way to Benicia.

We started on Starboard tack, close hauled on the pin side of the starting line. After the start we were very close in boat speeds to our competitors and we were not far enough ahead to be clear to tack. (When we tack, we need enough room to clear all boats on starboard tack since they have right of way.)

Our first mark is upwind and near Alcatraz Island. We have reached the lay line. The other boats behind us haven't tacked and we are pinned out until they tack.

Finally, they tack, and we tack and head to the upwind mark. We can easily make the weather mark since we overtook the mark a bit due to being held out. As we reach the Windward mark, we ease sails and adjust our leads for optimum speed. We are now on a broad reach. The wind is stiff and we are moving around 7-8 kts of boat speed and are in 3rd position in our fleet.

Now the big tactical decision is ahead: do we go left or right on the race course?

Left (West) will take you into the dreaded Angel Island wind shadow, with the hope of getting the early breeze through Racoon Straits.

Right (East) will bring you quickly into the shallows and current relief on the East side. We have decided based on the conditions that staying to the East side and in the wind is our best tactical strategy.

After the Windward mark, we are running with the top of the fleet and are watching all lead boats from all the earlier fleets for information on winds and current. The wind deepens and we set our red and black spinnaker on a reach.

We can see all the boats on the Left / West are dying in a growing wind hole. Their sails are hanging limply without wind to fill them. On the Right / East side, the wind (and we know the current relief) is better. We head further to the East side of the course. There are still boats even further to the East of us that are moving fast.

We see a significant wind / tide line in front of us, and we make sure to keep on the East side of this line. This proves to be a big gainer. The boats to the West have no wind AND the current is in their face ... the worst of conditions. The East side is now strongly favored.

We stay on the East side and the wind starts dying across the course affecting all the boats. Essentially, the dreaded Angel Island shadow is extended all the way across the course to Richmond. All boats are now struggling and looking to find wind.

We position *E Ticket* to a broad reach, which is our fastest point of sail in light wind. We drift, ghost through the 100 meter wind shadow at approximately 2 kts of boat speed and about 2 kts of wind. We can see the darker windier water ahead ... Finally we reach it and quickly pick up to 5 kts of boat speed.

As we focus on optimum speed, we look back and boats that were on both sides of us are still wallering in the enlarging wind hole behind us. Now we have a pep in our step and realize that we have passed most of the boats that started ahead of us!

We are in the lead for our fleet and there are only 3-5 boats left ahead of us overall! Approximately 40 slower boats had started ahead of us. We realize, we are with the top lead boats and we will have an outstanding race if we can hold this lead.

We go under the Richmond Bridge on the East side of the course. We are still seeing some ebb current (in our face) and we stay on the East side shallows to get relief. We have to watch for wind shadows, since there is land topography that is affecting the wind near the shore.

The East side boats include Gordie Nash and other great racers who often win their fleet. We are ahead of Gordie (*Arcadia*) and we watch all their moves and counter them to keep them from gaining advantage.

We are in San Pablo Bay on the East side close to the Brothers Islands. This strategy minimizes any remaining ebb and positions us for the soon-to-come, much-desired flood current, which will start in the shallows and back eddies.

As we looked ahead we see the few remaining lead boats taking down their spinnakers and going to head sails. This means that the wind has shifted forward and we need to transition as fast as possible to the head sail and take down our spinnaker. We quickly make the call, crew executes flawlessly and we set our #1 (largest) head sail. The wind has softened to 4-9 kts.

We are going strong with our head sail and approaching Pinole Pt. which is about 1/2 way across San Pablo Bay. We watched the current lines and check each side of them to find the most favorable current. We keep finding the East side is still paying.

We trim our sails attentively and rotate trimmers to stay fresh. The heat kicks in ... it is in the 90's. We watch out for each other. We pass around cold towels and make sure we are hydrated. We eat and drink to make sure we are properly nourished.

The wind deepens and it is now time to set our spinnaker again. We decide to fly our asymmetrical teal spinnaker since it performs very well with the wind more forward. We set and the carry this spinnaker well. We stay disciplined and keep a hotter angle into the wind and stay in the shallows on the East to continue to get ebb current relief. The faster boats don't pass us since they are more out in the ebb current.

As we approached the North end of San Pablo Bay, we can see the Carquinez Bridge and the challenging Carquinez Strait ahead. We stay to the East and look for wind to cross over to the North side of the Straits. The North side of the Straits are typically favored when the wind is SW. We find a wind river and ride it to the North tower of the bridge. We go under Carquinez Bridge and enter our local Carquinez Strait waterways. Now we were on our home turf where we are the most experienced sailing and racing.

After Dillon Pt. we stay to the North into the shallows for the flood current. We can see the boats in the middle are still feeling adverse ebb current and quickly pay a price by moving back compared to boats on North side.

We pass 1st Street Benicia Pier with favorable current and sail towards the Leeward turning mark. After this mark, we go to a reach, then harden up to a upwind finish.

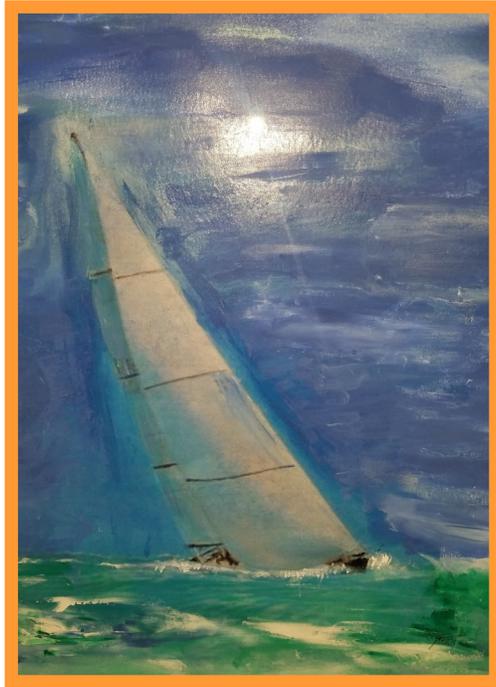
We finished around 3:38 p.m. with only a few boats ahead of us and several dozen spinnakers behind us reaching into the distance. Total racing time just over 4 hours.

We start processing how well we really did. Several of us had some form of heat exhaustion and many of us jump into the bay water to cool off. OMG the water feels so good after a few hours in the burning sun!

Our crew of 10 was simply amazing. We had our regular Thursday night racing crew who is experienced and work very well together. Some of our newer crew don't have many years under their belts ... but they were great. The new and old became seamless and we performed at an optimum level. Our teamwork, intensity and focus were excellent!

This year we came to win it ... as we have many other years ... however this year it finally paid off ... we did have what it takes ... and later in the evening we confirmed we had indeed won Jazz Cup! ***E Ticket finished 1st in fleet, 1st for Benicia racers and 1st for Jazz Cup.***

Thank you, Benicia Yacht Club and South Beach YC, for co-hosting such a great event. The after party and hospitality were excellent. We appreciate a Yacht Club and community that supports sailing and boating in our local waters!



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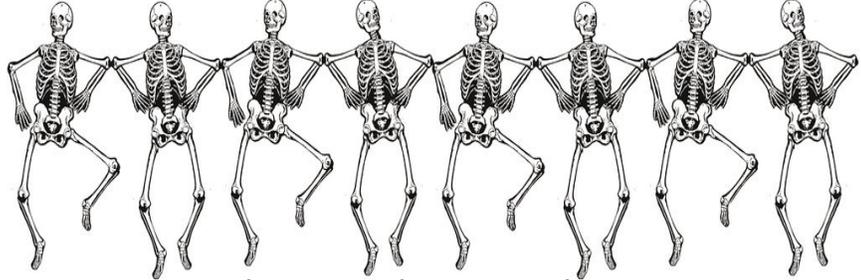
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# OCTOBER 2022



Watch for calendar updates on BYC website and on e-blasts

| Sun   | Mon   | Tue  | Wed   | Thu | Fri  | Sat  |
|---|---|--|---|-----|--|--|
|   |   |  |   |     |  | 1 <u>Member Work Day!</u>  |
| 2 <u>SUNDAYS</u><br>NORTON LOUNGE OPEN DRINKS ONLY<br>1-5 pm  | 3 <u>CLOSED</u><br><u>MonNite Football</u><br>                           | 4 <u>CLOSED</u>  | 5 Trivia 6pm<br><b>BYC CANDIDATES NIGHT</b><br><u>Cruise-In</u><br>Corinthian 5-7   | 6   | 7 <u>Cruise-In</u><br>Carver Club 7-9            | 8  |
| 9 <u>SUNDAYS</u><br>NORTON LOUNGE OPEN DRINKS ONLY<br>1-5 pm  | 10 <u>CLOSED</u><br><u>Columbus Day</u><br><u>MonNite Football</u><br> | 11 <u>CLOSED</u><br><b>BYC BOD Meeting</b><br>7pm<br> | 12 Trivia 6pm   | 13  | 14   | 15 <u>Sailors Awards Nite!</u><br> |
| 16 <u>SUNDAYS</u><br>NORTON LOUNGE OPEN DRINKS ONLY<br>1-5 pm | 17 <u>CLOSED</u><br><u>MonNite Football</u><br>                        | 18 <u>CLOSED</u>   | 19 Trivia 6pm<br><br><b>BYC ELECTION NIGHT</b><br>Member Meeting 7pm | 20  | 21 <b>BYC Harvest Cruise-Out</b><br><u>21-28</u> | 22   |
| 23 <u>SUNDAYS</u><br>NORTON LOUNGE OPEN DRINKS ONLY<br>1-5 pm | 24 <u>CLOSED</u><br><u>MonNite Football</u><br>                        | 25 <u>CLOSED</u>   | 26 Trivia 6pm   | 27  | 28   | 29 <b>BYC HALLOWEEN PARTY</b><br> |
| 30 <u>SUNDAYS</u><br>NORTON LOUNGE OPEN DRINKS ONLY<br>1-5 pm | 31 <u>CLOSED</u><br><u>MonNite Football</u><br>HALLOWEEN<br>           |  |   |     |  |  |

## CHASE THE MOON RACE 2022 – FLIRTING WITH DISASTER ON THE SAN PABLO BAY



August 12 was the Chase the Moon Race, most challenging race of the year in the BYC Beer Can Series. This is a 22-mile round trip race, from the Benicia Marina, to marker “r8” in the middle of the San Pablo Bay and back again. The race is timed to round the mark about sunset, and then return home in the dark. There were 5 boats in the competition this year, including Captain Dan with *Sail la Vie*, Chuck Hooper with *Warhoop*, Greg Spenser with *Black Swan*, and Noble Griswold with *E-Ticket*. The start was a reverse start, and start times depended on your rating. The first boat was *Sail la Vie* at 6 p.m., followed by us at 6:19 p.m.

Dan took off like a rocket, and we never could close the gap. I had been watching all the different weather apps all week, and I will confess I tend to focus on the ones that give me the result that I wanted. Unfortunately the San Pablo Bay does not subscribe to the same apps and the winds and swells were a little bit more challenging than I had anticipated, and because we were sailing in a building ebb, the winds were going the opposite of the current, which tends to create some pretty challenging chop. Fred piloted the boat for much of the San Pablo Bay, and Gary congratulated him for not missing any of the big swells. Even so, we plowed through the chop, overpowered as usual, baptizing us all with a wave over the bow from time to time.

As we finally rounded marker “r8”, we went from 20 mph apparent wind on our nose, to less than 10 mph for the return home. To compound this, the ebb current that helped push us to the mark, now was against us for the return, so our speed over ground was 2-4 mph. Doing the math, with 11 miles to home, there was a good chance we would not finish until after midnight, WAYyyy past my bedtime.

For anyone who has ever sailed at night, especially in a body of water surrounded by city and nautical lights, it is easy to get disoriented. There were certainly a lot of distractions, not the least of which was a steady stream of commercial ships coming and going. After we passed the sea wall, I turned the wheel over to Andy, who did a great job staying on course with an ever-changing set of challenges.

About the time we passed back under the Carquinez Bridge, *Black Swan* was right behind us, so at least we had another boat to visually compete against. To add to the challenge, a Car Carrier was right behind him. By that time the current reversed, and the challenge was to try to stay in the middle of the channel where the currents would help push us home, without getting run over by a 7-story ship. If that wasn't enough, as we came to Benicia Point, the winds dropped to 3-4 mph, barely enough to keep the boat in control and another Car Carrier was leaving the Benicia Port. So here we were with one Car Carrier going one direction, a 2nd going the other direction, with *Black Swan* and *Playpen2* in the channel trying not to become roadkill. I will say—when you are right next to the behemoths, they are a lot larger up close.

We managed to survive that challenge and literally drifted over the finish line at 11:49 p.m., just behind *Black Swan*. We then went through the routine of putting the sails away with Andy at the helm. I was on the foredeck with Randy, and we were focused on trying to find the red and green lights at the mouth of the marina. We were puzzled about why we could not find them until we saw the sea wall to the marina entrance right in front of us. We all started yelling “go left—go left!” and Andy promptly responded, averting yet another potential disaster.

Even though our evening flirted with a number of near disasters, and in the end, we finished last of those that finished, I love sharing these experiences with the crew, who apparently have no more common sense than myself. As I like to say, any time we don't sink or die, is a good day.

In this case, it was good night.

—Stephen W. Dale, *Playpen 2*