



# *the Wind Word*



APRIL 2025

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



# BENICIA YACHT CLUB

400 E. Second Street  
Benicia, CA 94510

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

Main Number Manager/Office <u>Reservations</u> 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	Hours subject to fluctuation
	Last Food Orders at 7:45pm
Mon & Tues	CLOSED (Except for 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 can be accommodated for lunch with at least 1 week's advanced notification & reservation.	

Office Admin / Events Manager	Cheyenne Heald	707-746-0739 opt. 1	
Accounting	Melissa Smithcamp	707-746-0739 opt.4	Melissas@beniciayachtclub.org
Regatta Room		707-750-5197	info@beniciayachtclub.org
<p><u>Send emails for contacts below to: <a href="mailto:info@beniciayachtclub.org">info@beniciayachtclub.org</a> and your message will be forwarded.</u></p> <p><u>To leave a voicemail, call the Main Number 707-746-0739, indicate who message is for &amp; it will be forwarded.</u></p>			

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	Paul Brighton
Director	Maryanne "MJ" Schmidt		Ship Store Manager	Debi Hall
Director	Rick Albers		Social Media Chair	VACANT
Jr. Staff Commodore	Dena Stults		Sunshine Chair	Kymberli Brady
Fleet Surgeon	Deb Murray		Wind Word Editors	Vicki & John Garcia
PICYA Representatives	Randy Norman/Rick Albers		Youth Sailing Director	Derith Lutz
Audit Committee Chair	VACANT		Webmaster	Brian Barry

## Ahoy BYC

*Spring is in the air and we are definitely looking forward to nicer weather.*

*Please check out BYC's calendar to make sure you aren't missing out on all we have going on. Among this month's events:*

Sunday, April 20

**EASTER BRUNCH with the Easter Bunny & Egg Hunt for the kids**

Saturday, April 26

**OPENING DAY ON THE STRAIT open to the public, lots of music, food, drinks & more**

*Thank you to all our members who volunteer and contribute to our Club in one way or another. Thanks to Maureen Dodson for stepping up to fill the position of Event Chair this month.*

*Have you signed up lately to volunteer or contribute in some way?*

Editors

Vicki & John Garcia



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



# FR M THE HELM

## IN APRIL: OPENING DAY ON THE STRAIT!

Spring is now in the air with Opening Day right in full view. In March we celebrated Mardi Gras with a colorful party on the 1st. What a great event with amazing food and music! Thank you, Goldie, for setting this up. We also enjoyed Doug Houser's music back at the Club for another Thursday night dinner. There was a well-attended cruise-out to the Corinthian YC along with land cruisers. Thank you to Cynthia and Armand Seguin for hosting. The annual BYC Crab Feed was held on Saturday, March 22 which included some live music. And then we finished the month with the Beer Can Sailing Race kickoff.

What can we expect in April? Exciting Beer Can Races every Thursday evening starting on April 3. Then we'll **celebrate Easter with a special BYC Brunch on April 20—with the Easter Bunny in attendance!**

Bring those kids down for our festive Easter Egg Hunt.

## OPENING DAY ON THE STRAIT IS APRIL 26.

Volunteers needed for OPENING DAY! All hands on deck, please! We will be OPEN TO THE PUBLIC all day with live music, vendors, food, drinks and fun things for the kids. Don't miss our flag raising and the National Anthem sung by our own Goldie Pierce. THIS IS OUR LARGEST MEMBERSHIP DRIVE AND IS CRUCIAL TO THE CLUB.

Vice Commodore Natalie Boltz Keller has the lead on this and has put us in a nice position to succeed. Please lend a hand—sign-up sheets will be posted soon.

This needs to be our day to shine!  
Please help where you can.

FOR THE GOOD OF  
THE CLUB! CHEERS!

**Bob Bohnet**  
**BYC Commodore**





*Happy Easter*

**HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAY!**



MARK	EPPERSON	4/1		JANET	HARACZY	4/16
BONNIE	SILVERIA	4/2		DONNA	DIMMICK	4/17
TIA	MCCORMICK	4/3		DON	MURRAY	4/18
MAUREEN	MCINTOSH	4/6		PHIL	JOY	4/21
BECKY	JAMES	4/8		KEN	OXMAN	4/21
STEVE	MARLOWE	4/8		GARY B.	CALLAHAN	4/24
BEVERLY	CONLEY	4/10		KYMBERLI	BRADY	4/26
JENNIFER	LARGAESPADA	4/10		GERALD	MARTIN	4/26
MICHAEL	JACOBS	4/11		CINDY	REED	4/26
KATHRYN	RICH	4/12		GETHSEMANE	MOSS	4/27
GREG	CHAVEZ	4/14		ROBERT	CATES	4/29
LIONEL	LARGAESPADA	4/14		LEEANN	CAWLEY	4/29





# COME CELEBRATE WITH US!

PRESENTED BY  
BENICIA YACHT CLUB  
& BENICIA MARINA

SATURDAY **APRIL**  
**26<sup>TH</sup>**  
**2025**



**10AM**  
**UNTIL**  
**10PM**



**FREE & OPEN  
TO THE PUBLIC**



LIVE MUSIC · VENDORS ·  
FOOD · DRINKS



DECORATED BOAT PARADE ·  
BLESSING OF THE FLEET



400 EAST  
2ND STREET  
BENICIA



# Who's Who at Benicia Yacht Club

*As many of you might remember, we used to highlight some of our members who contribute greatly to our Club to recognize all that they have done and continue to do for our volunteer organization and give some insight into the people you thought you might know. In this issue we highlight Dena Stults, our most recent past commodore, who served two consecutive terms and also took on entertainment, among many other duties. If you know of other members who should be recognized, please let us know and we'll try to get them to tell us a little about themselves.*

I was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico, as the youngest of eight children. My mother, a registered nurse, left my abusive father when I was still an infant and brought the family to California. We moved constantly when I was young, and finally landed in San Pablo. Sadly, my popular and compassionate mother passed away from lung cancer when I was 15.

One of my older sisters then headed the household, but it didn't go well. I finished out my senior year of high school living with my best friend's family—they were great Norwegian people, but they ate horrible food like lutefisk, blah!

It was time to start thinking about the future. I took and passed the ASVAB military test and the high school proficiency test. But my interest was really caught by a 30-credit class called Process Plant Operations that could get you hired as a plant operator at the Chevron Refinery making good money. That was for me although there were only a couple of women in the class.

I was hired right out of school and got my first apartment; within the year I bought my first home. For my three years as a trainee, I was assigned to the newest plants in the refinery with a state-of-the-art control room. Six years later, I was in the head operator seat running my own crew. I ran turnarounds, taught new operators instrumentation at our training center, wrote procedures for emergency situations, was on the safety committee and the fire brigade. I became an operations representative for major projects, and we built new plants. At times I had more than 200 construction workers under my supervision. I was lucky to meet Tommy Pruitt, a Bechtel foreman and BYC member (!), while building a diesel hydrotreater.

I wrote for the company newsletter, bowled with the company league, and sailed with the engineers (Chevron has its own marina with dirt-cheap slip fees for employees). While playing on the company softball league as a catcher, I met and married Steve Stults, a PhD chemist from Chevron Research. Steve has been such a blessing in my life, providing me with love, stability and a forever home. We had a daughter Astiana, then a son Jacob.

When Steve was offered a job in London, off to England we went. We lived in a village called Sunningdale for four years; our kids went to posh British schools and I hung out with my British friends as well as American expat women. We were fortunate to travel a lot while living in England.

Back in the States, we looked for a good place to raise our kids and decided on Benicia. Steve went back to work and I became a classroom helper in our kids' school, as well as a parttime "lab rat" for a local lab. I was then a shuttle service for our kids' baseball games, guitar lessons and just being a mom. Faced too soon with the empty nest, a Coast Guard friend suggested that we join the Benicia Yacht Club. So we did!

Around that time I was diagnosed with thymus cancer. I was terrified. I was treated at Stanford, where the tumor plus my pericardium and the tops of both lungs were removed. After that I had 30 days of radiation. I did not receive the "all clear" for 10 more years.

Cancer changes you—you decide to live more and seize the day. I became a life member of the American Legion Auxiliary, as well as getting more involved at the Club. I began as a Director at BYC, then Vice Commodore and then Commodore for two years. I am now happy in my position as a Junior Staff Commodore. I learned a lot from my experiences and was honored to have had the opportunity to serve. I intend to travel more now with my husband and watch our kids' careers take off as doctor and physician assistant, of whom I am most proud.

Dena Stults  
Jr. Staff Commodore  
Benicia Yacht Club



## 2025 Cruise-Ins

<b>April 11-13</b>	Oakland	10 boats	<b>July 18-20</b>	Hidden Harbor	10 boats
<b>April 25-26</b>	Diablo Squadron	5 boats	<b>July 24-27</b>	Discovery Bay	12 boats
<b>May 9-11</b>	C Bratts Cruising Club (multiple yacht clubs)	10 boats	<b>August 1-3</b>	Sequoia	10 boats
<b>May 23-25</b>	Club Nautique (multiple yacht clubs most from Bellina)	10 boats	<b>August 8-10</b>	Napa	10 boats
<b>May 30-June 1</b>	Bellina	5 boats	<b>August 29-30</b>	Marina West	6 boats
<b>June 18-19</b>	Stockton Sailing	5 boats	<b>September 12-14</b>	Marin	8 boats
<b>June 20-22</b>	Point San Pablo	5 boats	<b>September 19-21</b>	Caliente Isle	7 boats
<b>June 27-29</b>	San Francisco Cruising Club	10 boats	<b>September 26-28</b>	San Joaquin	10 boats
<b>July 3-6</b>	Island YC	5 boats	<b>October 1-3</b>	Corinthian	8 boats
<b>July 11-13</b>	Delta Marina	10 boats	<b>October 26-26</b>	Dos Rios	5 boats

The Benicia Yacht Club & The Benicia Marina present the

# Opening Day Boat Parade & Blessing



## April 26, 1:30pm

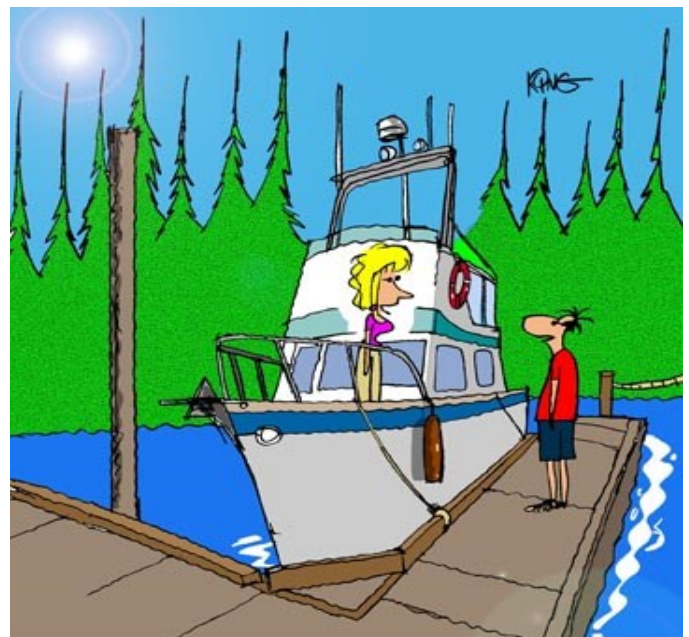
### Prizes!

Best overall wins one month slip rental plus gift basket

Best Sailboat gets \$150. plus giftbasket
 Best Power Boat gets \$150. plus giftbasket

Applications available at the Benicia Marina office and  
at Benicia Yacht Club's Norton Lounge

**Questions, please call Angela Grigas 707 208-2207**



*"I got about 30 miles out before I realized I  
forgot you. Sorry about that."*

### REGATTA ROOM RENTAL RATES

**Book your event now for 2025!**

**Members \$700—**

**Non-Members \$1,400**

# APRIL BYC EVENTS

EVENT DATE	EVENT	EVENT COORDINATOR
Sunday, April 20	<b>BYC Easter Brunch</b> with Easter Bunny & Egg Hunt	BYC
Friday, April 25	<b>OPENING DAY SETUP</b>	
<b>Saturday, April 26</b>	<b>OPENING DAY ON THE STRAIT</b> <i>Free &amp; Open to the Public</i>	<i>Natalie Boltz Keller / Angela Grigas</i>

## 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

## BYC NOTICE:

**The Norton Lounge has a new  
Espresso machine!**



**COME HAVE AN ESPRESSO,  
IRISH COFFEE, REGULAR COFFEE OR  
ESPRESSO MARTINI!!**



**BYC LUNCH TIME HAPPY HOUR 12-3**



**WEDNESDAY THRU SATURDAY UNTIL MAY 1<sup>ST</sup>**

(SPECIAL EVENT DAYS, SUCH AS OPENING DAY, ARE EXCLUDED)



**ENJOY \$5.00 WELL DRINKS WITH YOUR LUNCH  
BEER, WINE, OR COCKTAIL**







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# PICYA NEWS

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Opening Day on the Bay: Sunday, April 27** (yes, that's the day after our Opening Day)

This year's theme is "Generations on the Bay."

A. You may register as a skipper if you would like your vessel officially recognized in the parade, where your boat will have an opportunity to win prizes.

B. You may register to ride on the Committee Boat.

For either registration, you may go to <https://www.picya.org/opening-day-on-the-bay>, where there are QR codes linking skippers and passengers to the respective forms. There is also a lot of good information about the event on that site.



APRIL 27, 2025

Various Levels of Sponsorship and Memorial Donations are Available.

Please Contact Vice Commodore Colleen Stauss at [picya.org@gmail.com](mailto:picya.org@gmail.com) or 415.259.9894 with Questions or Concerns.

### SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

Titanium \$5000+ 2 passes, 2 OD Shirts plus Platinum benefits and Advertisement on PICYA Website and in PICYA Newsletter the Navigator (Total 4 passes and 4 OD Shirts)

Platinum \$2500+ Gold benefits plus 2 OD Shirts and Ad Link on PICYA Website (Total of 2 passes)

Gold \$1500+ 1 pass plus Silver benefits and Preferred VIP Seating (Total of 2 passes)

Silver \$1000+ 1 pass plus Bronze benefits and Banner/Flag Flown on Committee Boat

Bronze \$400+ Table recognition plus Special Recognition & Ads in Program and Table Display

Table \$200+ Literature/Ad on Display TableThank You! Please Contact Treasurer

PURCHASE AD SPACE FOR YOUR CLUB/ORGANIZATION OR BUSINESS IN THE PICYA OPENING DAY AND OPENING DAY AWARDS PROGRAMS

### Ad Prices

Full Page Ad in Program \$400

Half Page Ad in Program \$200

Business Card Size Ad \$125



## The PICYA Lipton Cup Regatta

The modern Lipton Cup Regatta in San Francisco is a three-day racing special event **June 13-15** presented by the Pacific Inter-Club Yacht Association (PICYA), of which BYC is a member.

The Regatta is open to all Yacht Clubs that are current members of PICYA and in good standing. The sign-up entries opened **March 18, 2025** and are available online at <https://liptoncupSF.com> along with other Lipton Cup information.

—Rick Albers, Director, BYC



PICYA PRESENTS



# OPENING DAY ON THE BAY

SUNDAY, APRIL 27TH 2025



ATTENDEE REGISTRATION

SKIPPER REGISTRATION



[www.picya.org/opening-day-on-the-bay](http://www.picya.org/opening-day-on-the-bay)



# APRIL 2025



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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Watch e-blasts for UPDATES</b>		<b>1</b> 	<b>2</b> Trivia 6pm	<b>3</b> Beer Can Sail Race 	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> BYC Members Work Day! 
<b>6 SUNDAY FUNDAY BBQ &amp; POTLUCK</b> 1-5pm NORTON LOUNGE OPEN DRINKS ONLY	<b>7</b> <b>CLOSED</b>	<b>8</b> <b>CLOSED</b> BYC BOD Meeting 6pm 	<b>9</b> Trivia 6pm	<b>10</b> Beer Can Sail Race 	<b>11</b> <u>Cruise-In Oakland 4/11-13</u>	<b>12</b> Passover Begins
<b>13 SUNDAY FUNDAY BBQ &amp; POTLUCK</b> 1-5pm NORTON LOUNGE OPEN DRINKS ONLY	<b>14</b> <b>CLOSED</b>	<b>15</b> <b>CLOSED</b>	<b>16</b> Trivia 6pm BYC MEMBERS MEETING 7pm 	<b>17</b> Beer Can Sail Race 	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20 BYC BRUNCH EASTER</b> 	<b>21</b> <b>CLOSED</b>	<b>22</b> <b>CLOSED</b>	<b>23</b> Trivia 6pm	<b>24</b> Beer Can Sail Race 	<b>25</b> <u>Cruise-In Diablo 4/25-26</u>	<b>26</b> 
<b>27 SUNDAY FUNDAY BBQ &amp; POTLUCK</b> 1-5pm NORTON LOUNGE OPEN DRINKS ONLY	<b>28</b> <b>CLOSED</b>	<b>29</b> <b>CLOSED</b>	<b>30</b> Trivia 6pm			