

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

# *the Wind Word*

DECEMBER 2023



# 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
OFFICE HOURS	
Wed – Sat	Noon-4pm
CLUB/FOOD	Hours subject to fluctuation
	Last Order from Kitchen 8pm
Mon & Tues	CLOSED (Except for Special Events)
Wed & Thurs	Regatta Room: 4pm-8pm (by reservation only) Norton Lounge: Noon-8pm (Wed) Noon-10pm (Th)
Fri & Sat	Regatta Room: 4pm-8pm (by reservation only) Norton Lounge: Noon-10pm
Sunday	Norton Lounge 1-5pm (Bar & Potluck)

Wishing all of our BYC members and staff,  
a very.....

# MERRY CHRISTMAS!



Editors Vicki & John 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 / Restaurant Mgr		707-746-0739 opt. 1	
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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.

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

Chef Carlos		Historian	VACANT
Commodore	Dena Stults	House Chair	Randy Norman
Vice Commodore	Brian West	Membership Chair	Kathleen Jones
Rear Commodore	Natalie Boltz Keller	Port Captain	Theron Jones
Secretary	Nancy Chertkow	Fleet Captain	Steve Penny
Treasurer	Kriss Kastl	Entertainment Chair	VACANT
Director	Goldie Pierce	Race Chairman	Steve Corwin
Director	Kathleen Jones	Safety & Protocol	Paul Brighton
Director	Heather Turman	Ship Store Manager	Debi Hall
Director	Rick Albers	Social Media Chair	VACANT
Jr. Staff Commodore	Andy Zinkevich	Sunshine Chair	Kymberli Brady
Fleet Surgeon	Deb Murray	Wind Word Editors	Vicki & John Garcia
PICYA Representative	Richard Boehm	Youth Sailing Director	Derith Lutz
Audit Committee Chair	Fred Gibson	Webmaster	Brian Barry





# From the Helm

*A very happy holiday season to you all!* By now our new gas fireplace in the Norton Lounge should be providing us warmth and ambiance in loving memory of Past Commodore Richard Boltz. Another successful Friendsgiving has passed—thank you Susan Linn—and Change of Watch is behind us. We forge ahead with a couple of new board members as well as some seasoned veterans, including yours truly. We are always looking for fun new ideas for the Club; for example, this year we will be having an Oktoberfest Party that will be open to the public. This is a great way to show off our Club and will be a membership booster.

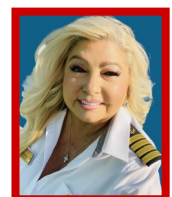
**Our BYC Open House December 1 is open to the public and after the Christmas Tree Lighting downtown, come dance with The Fabulous CruiseTones** performing in the Norton Lounge starting at 7pm. Our **Member Christmas celebration December 16 will start off with the band Rockoustix** in the Regatta Room at 3pm, followed by the **Lighted Boat Parade at 5:30pm**, then up to **Norton Lounge for more music with Two Track'n** starting at 6:45pm. Our **New Year's Eve Masquerade Ball** promises to be good fun **with the popular band Strange Brew rocking in 2024.**

I am very much looking forward to having a **new HVAC system** in place. The fact that the assessment passed with an 80% approval rate shows how much our members really care about our beloved Club. **Thank you.** I would like to focus on our floors after the HVAC gets done. Fundraising events could help us with that in the future.

**I would like to acknowledge last year's Board of Directors** for all your time and hard work, and especially our spouses and loved ones who have had to share us with the Club. Bob Bohnet deserves an added pat on the back for preparing all the assessment ideas and sharing them with the board for approval—well done, Bob. Staff Commodore Andy Zinkevich continues to be a huge asset to our Club—thanks for hanging in for another year with me. **A very warm welcome to Heather Turman and Rick Albers, our new directors, and to Kriss Kastl, our new treasurer.** Thank you to all our Chairs, Randy Norman, Dan Carnahan, Steve Corwin, Theron and Kathleen Jones, Steve Penny and Mark Campbell. Thank you Vicki and Johnny Garcia for producing the sexiest *Wind Word* ever. Thank you to our Sunshine Chair Kymberli Brady. Thank you Debi and Bob Hall for getting the ship store into ship shape. Extra love to Randy and Eve Norman—Randy keeps the Club running and Eve makes it look good. And as always, thanks to members like Angela Grigas and Mark Connors, who jump in and help without even being asked. Thanks especially to our amazing staff and last but not least, thanks to the first Saturday clean-up crew.

I wish us all a healthy, happy 2024! See you at the Club!

**Commodore  
Dena Stults**





MARIE	ALEX	12/1
JOHN	ASH	12/1
JOHN	D'ALESSANDRIS	12/1
CRAIG	BUTLER	12/4
BETH	FOONDOS	12/7
SHELLY	SUTTER	12/7
DANIEL	CARNAHAN	12/8
REFECCA	CARROLL	12/8
CAROL	LYONS	12/8
HEIDI	GALLAGHER	12/9
GREG	NAGLE	12/10
JUDY	GIZZI	12/11
DAVID	NADOLNE	12/11
JENNIFER	MOORE	12/13

CYNTHIA	SEGUIN	12/13
JACQUELINE	WERBLOW	12/13
PAM	HUBER	12/16
RICK	ALBERS	12/19
RISA	CORWIN	12/19
JANE	DEFINIS	12/19
DIANE	FAUSTINO	12/19
THERON	JONES	12/20
REAHNA	MADAYAG	12/21
ELIZABETH	RIZZI	12/21
RICHARD	BOEHM	12/22
DONALD	KERR	12/22
KIM	DUCHENE	12/23
IRMA	MCINTOSH	12/23
BETH	MCDONNELL	12/24
JAEAME	KOYIL	12/25
ANN	FELLDIN	12/30
ROB	MERRICK	12/30
PAT	SHUE	12/31

### IN REMEMBRANCE



Frederick  
Windle  
Gibson

June 9, 1940  
– November  
6, 2023





Please join us for  
a Christmas

Open House

DECEMBER 1st

6:00 to 10 PM

DANCING WITH THE FABULOUS CRUISETONES

Open to the public

Benicia Yacht Club

400 EAST SECOND STREET, BENICIA, CA



# **HARVEST MOON CRUISE-OUT**

Benicia Yacht Club Harvest Cruisers left Benicia Marina on Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at around 10am. We hit a flood going against us which meant slow going to Schoonmaker Point Marina in Sausalito. We all safely arrived around 1pm. Merle and Cheryl Kleinschmidt and grandson Galvin were there to meet us (they had come down a day earlier). We all checked in at the office and proceeded to get ready for our dock party at 3:30pm. We had light hors d'oeuvres and cocktails on the dock. The cruisers met again at 6pm at The Seafood Peddler and had a great meal.

Thursday we met for breakfast at Fred's Restaurant, while some went to the Lighthouse Restaurant, in walking distance. After breakfast, some went to the Bay Model and saw the ship, Mathew Turner. We all met up at 5pm at the Sausalito Yacht Club for drinks and dinner outside at 6pm. It was a great evening! We were able to watch the junior sailors having fun on the water and the food was delicious. We even had some land cruisers join us, Frank and Kriss Kastl.

Friday at 10am we left Schoonmaker Marina for Oakland Yacht Club. There was some fog, but it was not bad. We all safely arrived around noon time. We had our dock party at 3pm, then went to The Oakland Yacht Club for drinks at 6pm and dinner at 6:30pm. The view was great, and the food was fine.

Saturday, breakfast was on our own. Some of us went shopping, others went to the marina where they sell boats, but no one bought any. We had four land cruisers show up in the afternoon: Andy and Kathy Zinkevich, Ginger Penny and Martina Wolter who then joined us for dinner at The Oakland Yacht Club—we all had fun.

Sunday, we left Oakland Yacht Club at about 9am. There was heavy fog, but you could see it for about half a mile. The water was flat and there were lots of fishing boats. It cleared up at Point Pinole and the sun came out. We all had a good time on the cruise and came back faster because we had the flood going with us. We were home safe in Benicia around 1pm.

**Cruise Director  
Staff Commodore  
Paul Brighton**





# Benicia Yacht Club 2024 Cruise-Out Schedule



starts 3rd weekend of every month

Sign-up sheets posted on the Norton Lounge bulletin board – land cruisers & RVer's welcome

**We need volunteers to coordinate and assist—Please contact Steve Penny at 707.741.8491**

Month	Dates	Destination		Month	Dates	Destination
January	19-21	Vallejo Yacht Club		August (Summer Cruise)	16-24	TBD
February	16-18	Napa Yacht Club		September	20-22	Napa Yacht Club
March	22-24	Corinthian Yacht Club		October (Harvest Cruise)	18-26	TBD
April	19-21	Pittsburg Yacht Club		November	6	Planning Meeting
May (Memorial Day)	24-27	Marin Yacht Club		December		Lighted Boat Parade
June	21-23	St Francis Yacht Club				

## ***OPENING DAY ON THE STRAIT—2024***

Attention Members! Our Opening Day on the Strait has been scheduled for  
**Saturday, May 18, 2024.**

So mark your calendars and keep your fingers crossed for good weather.  
More details will be provided as we get closer to the date.

—Vice Commodore - Brian West

## **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**



**Mary Lemas &  
Judith Judson-Baker**





# **Frostbite #1 2023**

## **Getting the Drift on the Carquinez Strait**

**We had our first Frostbite Race of the 2023-24** season November 11. All expectations were that there would be little chance of completing the race as projected winds were 1 mph with gusts to 3 mph. On the positive side, the start time at noon began with a waning flood current (heading towards Sacramento) followed by an ebb current (heading towards the San Pablo Bay) at about 1 pm. The selected course was to green marker 3 at the Benicia Bridge and back, which would take advantage of the currents—somebody might finish.

Even though expectations were low, the *Playpen2* crew were up for the challenge. However, we were all saddened by the loss of our crew member and friend, Fred Gibson, who recently passed away after a relatively short illness. To honor Fred, we decided to toast to him on our downwind leg, where Fred would declare “it is time for a beer,” and he would enjoy a Bud Light with the rest of the crew.

Despite the projected wind conditions, there were 7 boats that competed. This is the shortest course option with a reverse start from the marina gas dock. All the start times were within minutes of each other, creating a bit of congestion in the marina. To our surprise, we had 6-10 mph winds at the start, and with the waning flood, we were able to tack to green marker 3, where shortly thereafter the winds died.



As we rounded the mark, the crew quickly raised our spinnaker, and since we were now on our downwind leg, we each took a beer (mine nonalcoholic), opened a Bud Light for Fred, said a few words of remembrance about the loss of our beloved crew member and poured Fred’s drink into the Strait in his honor.

We managed to have enough wind to head us towards the Benicia Car Carrier dock, where the currents would be more favorable, but about halfway there the winds stopped completely. Even so, the currents were moving us on our building ebb, and eventually our drift towards the finish line built to 2 knots. It was pretty certain that we would eventually drift over the finish line and at that point our future was out of our control. We were in 4th position of the 7 boats, but as it turned out *Warwhoop*, skippered by Chuck Hooper, ran aground just past the Car Carrier Dock, which moved us to 3rd.

We finished the race in 1 hour and 41 minutes, and it was terrific to share our wonderful weather with our fellow competitors, despite the less than ideal winds. For myself and the crew of *Playpen2*, it was also healing for us to sail with Fred’s memory top of our minds. Fred was always a delight to be around, and loved being on the water. In fact, he would constantly tell me about how much he enjoyed being on the team, and his broad smile would always warm my heart.

So in closing, let’s wish Fred, and the spirits of so many sailors past, fair winds and following seas. You will always be a part of the *Playpen2* crew and it was an honor, Fred, that you were on my team.

—**Stephen W. Dale**





# BYC MEMBER CHRISTMAS PARTY

DECEMBER 16, 2023

ALL DAY PARTY 3 to 10pm

3-6pm Rocoustix  
in the Regatta Room

Lighted Boat Parade 5:30pm

Two Trackn 6:45-9:45pm  
in the Norton Lounge

Come decked out in your holiday  
best and raise a glass of cheer  
to the holiday season with your  
friends and BYC family







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BENICIA YACHT CLUB PRESENTS



A NEW YEAR'S EVE

# MASQUERADE

Ball

DECEMBER 31st

Appetizers & Cocktails 7pm

Dinner & Dessert 7:30-8:30pm

Move to the Norton Lounge for  
Dancing with STRANGE BREW

*Champagne Toast at Midnight*

**Dinner  
and Party**  
**\$65**

**Party  
only**  
**\$10**

LIMITED TICKETS ON SALE AT THE NORTON LOUNGE BAR  
Party only ticketed people may enter the Norton Lounge at 9pm





## BYC 2023-2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Commodore: Dena Stults  
 Vice Commodore: Brian West  
 Rear Commodore: Natalie Boltz Keller  
 Secretary: Nancy Chertkow  
 Director: Kathleen Jones  
 Director: Goldie Pierce

And a warm welcome to our  
new board members:

Treasurer: Kriss Kastl  
 Director: Rick Albers  
 Director: Heather Turman

**Congratulations!**

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## John Wright Frostbite Series

The Frostbite Sailing Regatta began Nov. 11, 2023, and will continue on one Saturday each month in the waters off of the City of Benicia. The series consists of five races: Nov. 11, 2023; Dec. 9, 2023; Jan. 13, 2024; Feb. 10, 2024; and March 9, 2024. For more info, please contact Race Chair Steve Corwin at 415.238.3977 or [beniciayachtclubracing@gmail.com](mailto:beniciayachtclubracing@gmail.com).



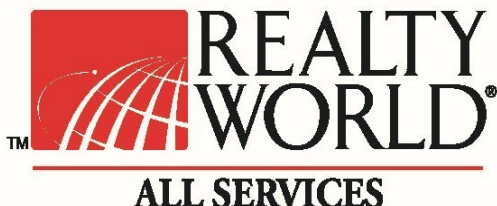
## 2023 First Saturday MEMBER CLEAN SWEEP Benicia Yacht Club



- Maintain Curb Appeal
- General Restoration
- Landscape Upkeep
- Planned Projects

**8:00am to 11:00am**

**First Saturday of  
each month**



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*Each office is independently owned and operated*

## Advertise in the Wind Word

Ad Size	Month	Year
2" x 2"	\$20	\$220
Bus. Card	\$25	\$275
1/4 pg	\$45	\$495
1/2 pg	\$85	\$935

[info@beniciayachtclub.org](mailto:info@beniciayachtclub.org)










# DECEMBER 2023



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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 BYC & Public Christmas OPEN HOUSE 6-10pm	2
3 OPEN DRINKS ONLY 1-5pm	4 <b>CLOSED</b>	5 <b>CLOSED</b>	6 Trivia 6pm	7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Hanukkah Begins	8	9 Frostbite Race #2 
10 <u>SUNDAY</u> NORTON LOUNGE OPEN DRINKS ONLY 1-5pm	11 <b>CLOSED</b>	12 <b>CLOSED</b> BYC BOD Meeting 6pm 	13 Trivia 6pm	14	15 Hanukkah Ends 	16 BYC Christmas Party 3-10pm Benicia Lighted Boat Parade 
17 <u>SUNDAY</u> NORTON LOUNGE OPEN DRINKS ONLY 1-5pm	18 <b>CLOSED</b>	19 <b>CLOSED</b>	20 Trivia 6pm  BYC MEMBERS MEETING 7pm	21 First Day of Winter	22	23
24 <b>CLOSED</b>	25 <b>CHRISTMAS DAY!</b> <b>CLOSED</b>	26 Kwanzaa Begins <b>CLOSED</b>	27 Trivia 6pm	28	29	30
31 New Year's Eve BALL!	<b>MASQUERADE BALL—DEC. 31</b> 