



Dodger News

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If you have a story, a picture, an article or a cartoon you'd like to share with our readers, please email Anne Grindy at asgrindy@yahoo.com.



OPYC member and past Commodore, John Prouty helps his grandson, Josh celebrate his fifth-birthday with a boat ride in the bay.

Commodore's Log

Dear Members,

Can you believe that it is already April? And we all know what that means...Opening Day on the Bay, the official start of the San Francisco boating season! For a sixty year-young man, Opening Day on the Bay offers the same excitement and anticipation that Christmas day gives a five-year old. 😊

I'm equally excited about this year's theme, Nations on the Bay. My fingers and I have been busy cruising Amazon and nautical web sites looking for the perfect decorations. The mailman is busy making almost daily deliveries to my mailbox, and soon I'll be perched on ladders and rails decorating the Beagle. Life is so very good. The only possible glitch could be with Mother Nature. Last year we felt her wrath, so I'm hoping this year she'll be kind and be on her best behavior.

Adding to this year's excitement, are the Lady Washington Tall Ship and the Hawaiian Chieftain. Both magnificent ships hail from the great state of Washington and provide west-coast communities with educational programs and tall ship sailing. A word of warning...be prepared, when these two meet-up, you can expect an exciting battle (minus the cannons)!

After the parade, we'll be returning to the club house for an old-fashioned BBQ (\$10 per person). Any boaters wanting to participate in this year's event, please contact me so we can get your boat registered.

For those of you who don't know, our Oyster Point Dragons' youth team will be traveling to Hungary to participate in the U16 Club Crew World Championships in Szeged, Hungary! Wow!! Hats off to the Dragons and best of luck.

On Friday, April 13th the OPYC hosted a fund-raiser with a silent auction for the Dragons. Not only were we able to present the Dragons with a check for \$1,000, but the silent auction brought in another \$500 plus dollars. Many thanks to everyone who donated or purchased an auction item. A club burgee was also presented to the Dragons as a means of showing our love and support. Shirley Lau helped the young Dragons prepare a skit, complete with drumming, so we could understand what it was like to be on a Dragon Boat. She then presented the OPYC with a beautiful team picture. I can assure you, the picture will proudly hang in a place of honor.

Well, I'm heading out the door for some work-related meetings in Oregon. Anne's given me a "free-pass" to head out early and enjoy some sight-seeing. All my best to everyone.

Fair winds and following seas,
Scott Grindy, OPYC Commodore



Rear Commodore

Lightships— Richard Mortenson, OPYC Rear-Commodore

*"When a sailor gets to thinking he is one of the best,
Let him ship out on a lightship and take the acid test.
If he still feels like bragging, I don't think that all his tales
Will be of deep sea sailing, but of the ship that never sails."*

— C. Tucker

Lightships. Light vessels. Floating lighthouses. Ships that go nowhere. From the early nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth, these lightships served as a warning beacon or a welcome home to many a mariner. Stationed where the ground was too unstable to build a conventional lighthouse, or when there was no ground at all, these ships marked the entrance to a harbor or warned of dangerous shoals. In the United States there were 179 lightships serving 116 stations on all three coasts plus the Great Lakes. Five stations were here on the West Coast: Umatilla Reef and Swiftsure Bank in Washington, Columbia Bar in Oregon, and Blunts Reef and San Francisco in California. Originally painted a variety of colors, by the end of the nineteenth century the design was standardized to a red hull bearing the station name in white letters. Lightships designated as relief vessels were marked "Relief."

Life aboard one of these vessels swung from the tedious to the treacherous. They were expected to stay on station amid the worst of Neptune's rages (when all other ships sought safe harbor). In 1878, one lightship, stationed off Nantucket Shoals, parted her chain in a Nor'easter and was blown 800 miles south to Bermuda. Her crew made it back, albeit slowly, for she was rigged with only two small tri-sails.

The largest lightships, the "outside" ships that were stationed well off the coast, were crewed by about fifteen officers and men. Typically, crews spent four months at sea and one month ashore. Severe weather often kept the tender at harbor for days, even weeks, unable to relieve the crew or bring long-awaited mail and provisions. An often-served meal was a type of stew called "scouse" — an admixture of salt beef, onions and potatoes (and whatever else was still in the pantry). Fresh produce was often provided by passing ships.

A day's routine started with lowering the light (or lights) to the deck for polishing the lenses and refilling the oil tank for the lamp. Come evening, the light assembly, its tank now full and weighing nearly a ton, was hoisted up the mast — a hard enough task in calm waters, but an essential task that had to be accomplished even in the most storm-tossed seas.

Only a dozen or so US lightships still exist. Three are on the West Coast: "Swiftsure" (designated LV-83, her hull number) in Seattle; "Columbia" (WLV-604) in Astoria, Oregon; and our own "Relief" (WLV-605) in Jack London Square. "Relief" is open to the public for tours, by appointment, by contacting John Hastings at (510) 685-2346, email:

jhastings.theanchorprogram@yahoo.com. For a beautiful virtual tour with panoramic views of every room visit: nonplused.org/panos/lv_605/index.html



The black & white photo (Courtesy of US Coast Guard) show WLV-605 at her previous station, Overfalls, Delaware.

Bravo Zulu



Bravo Zulu is a Navy signal, typically conveyed by flag hoist or voice radio, meaning "Well Done." If you have any proud moments you'd like to share, please email me at

asgrindy@yahoo.com.

Since it is almost graduation time, I'd like to invite you to send me pictures of your favorite graduate and maybe a little line or two about what they are doing. I'm happy to receive pics of preschoolers through grad school... children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. Let the bragging begin!



Speaking of bragging (and I do mean in a very good way), Shani Kafka, just told me that her husband, OPYC member Jeff Kafka is the first person to kitesurf Mavericks! For those of you who don't know, Jeff is the owner of Wind Over Water and teaches kitesurfing and kiteboarding. He's also a professional water rescuer with the Big Wave Circuit. I for one, love his pictures!

Nautical Terms

International "Talk Like a Pirate Day" has been celebrated every year on September 19th since 1995. Last month I decided to list nautical terms and their origins so, this is month two of our preparation to talk like a pirate.

Head - The "head" aboard a boat is the bathroom. The term comes from the days of sailing ships when the place for the crew to relieve themselves was all the way forward on either side of the bowsprit, the integral part of the hull to which the figurehead was fastened.

Pea-Coat - The heavy topcoat worn in cold, miserable weather by seafaring men was once tailored from pilot cloth -- a heavy, coarse, stout kind of twilled blue cloth with the nap on one side. The cloth was sometimes called P-cloth for the initial letter of "pilot" and the garment made from it was called a p-jacket -- later, a pea coat. The term has been used since 1723 to denote coats made from that cloth.

Wallop – This next term is courtesy of my favorite Tudor King. When the French burned the town of Brighton, England, in the 1500s, King Henry VIII sent Admiral Wallop to retaliate and teach the French a lesson. He so thoroughly wrecked the French coasts, that ever since, a devastating blow is said to be an "awful wallop."

Davey Jones' Locker - A fictional place at the bottom of the ocean. In short, a term meaning death. Davy Jones was said to sink every ship he ever over took, and thus, the watery grave that awaited all who were sunk by him was given his name.

Bowling/Boating Alone?

Talking with the Commodore of a well-known visiting yacht club, the topic on the difficulty in recruiting new members came up. This is not an uncommon conversational topic among long time clubs and associations.

Despite concerted efforts, spanning several OPYC Commodores and Board members, increasing our own membership has been a struggle. Loss through attrition (for a range of reasons) is normal and generally OK. It is not OK if you do not have a "pipeline" of new folks coming in-essential to refresh, reinvigorate and keep current a club/organization/business.

Borrowing a tag line from research firm Info Link; "There is a difference between guessing and knowing". We are not the only organization facing the membership issue. There is relevant information in the general boating community that we may apply to our situation for guidance.

Over the past 50 years from the club's founding, there has been dramatic physical and demographic change....just look out our windows. The question posed in this article's title comes from a paper ('95) and book (2000) by Robert Putnam "Bowling Alone". He used the decline of bowling leagues but not necessarily the decline of bowling as an engaging way to describe the trend of shrinking involvement in community and social organizations. People were still out doing things but less in organized or civic groups. People still bowled but not in any real organized manner. Revisiting that concept in 2010, he saw an emerging change from the '70s, '80s and '90s. Post 9/11 there is a resurgence of social engagement, but in his words; "Adult Americans are doing it differently"¹. The rise of social media provides the connections that organizations/associations once provided.

That quote is echoed in a National Maritime Manufacturers Association citing of a 2017 study conducted by Info Link. The 9/17 paper by Peter Houseworth titled The Challenge Ahead¹, is a detailed analysis of boat ownership trends. One of the conclusions Peter states; "Recognize and prepare for the fact that boating may be consumed differently than what we are used to". Or as Fiona McGlynn explains in a BOATU.S.10/17¹ article;" So where are all the young boaters? One possible explanation is that young people are not giving up on boating, just going about it in a different way". Our Dragon Boaters may be a local example.

Boat sales, after some years of decline, are now up per Boating Industry.com¹ and National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA)¹. Digging deeper into the sales data paints an interesting picture. In 2015, 67% of boat sales were by current boat owners while the remaining 33% were first time owners, a decline in first time ownership by 20% from 2005. A 2010 to 2015 comparison shows 2 million first time boat owners came in however 2.6 million first timers left boating. As Peter Houseworth notes; "We are not replacing them quickly as we lose them".

Interestingly, paddle sports are enjoying a five-year run, adding 3 million new participants totaling 21.7 million by 2014¹. For more information, this website is great American Canoe Org¹.

OPYC is located in an area that contains a wide range of marine/water-based sporting activities. Not mentioned are the sail boarders/ kilters, non-boat owning fishing and diving folks. It may be time for us to do things a little differently. It may be time to broaden our focus beyond the shrinking and aging pool of boat owners and be open to others who also enjoy the pleasures of being on/under/in the water-salt or fresh.

OPYC heritage is firmly rooted in the boating, sail, or power experience. This may be the time to leverage that experience towards promoting boat ownership as a goal and not as a stumbling block to fully participate in OPYC. The boating industry itself is looking at things a little differently. Grow Boat (affiliated with NMMA) study⁸ concluded on 5 key points on the path to ownership: 1) Develop- Life experiences for an affinity for boating; 2) Desire-A spark ignites the desire for boat ownership; 3) Dream-Start to imagine their life on the water; 4) Decide-Navigate the realities of buying and owning a boat; 5) Do-Set out, open to all possibilities of life on the water. We are not in the business of selling boats, but in the same vein let us share our own enjoyment of being "out there". It is time to open our arms a little wider.

John Pettigrew
OPYC Public Affairs Officer

¹ <https://sites.hks.harvard.edu/ocpa/pdf/still%20bowling%20alone.pdf>

² <http://nmma.net/assets/cabinets/Cabinet466/The%20Challenge%20Ahead%20%20Industry%20Insights%20&%20Statistics.pdf>

³ <https://www.boatus.com/magazine/2017/october/why-arent-millennials-buying-boats.asp>

⁴ <http://boatingindustry.com/news/2017/04/10/grow-boating-study-reveals-20-percent-decline-in-first-time-boat-buyer-sales/>

⁵ http://nmma.net/assets/cabinets/Cabinet466/DiscoverBoating_TomorrowsBoatOwners_FINAL.pdf

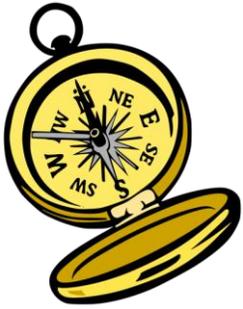
⁶ http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.americancanoe.org/resource/resmgr/General-documents/OIF_PaddlesportsResearch_201.pdf

⁷ <http://www.americancanoe.org/?page=Statistics>

⁸ http://nmma.net/assets/cabinets/Cabinet466/DiscoverBoating_TomorrowsBoatOwners_FINAL.pdf



OPYC Member, Jeff Kafka – professional water rescuer for the Big Wave Circuit, owner of Wind Over Water, a kitesurfing and kiteboarding school located at the Oyster Point Marina.



OPYC Travel Log...

Welcome to the Dodger's Travel Log. Please allow us to live vicariously through your travels. If you have a picture you'd like to share with the Dodger readers, please email it to asgrindy@yahoo.com. A brief description of the picture would be appreciated.



L to R – My oldest, Lesley, Malik, Me, Zane, Russell (world's best son in law), Zoie, and Brayden, the boyfriend.

Last month I made the comment that "when someone sends me a picture of their vacation, it's of happy members grinning ear-to-ear while standing in front of a recognizable landmark." I could not have been more wrong. Merriam Webster defines a vacation as nothing more than an extended period of recreation spent away from home; an exemption of work; a time of respite. So, here's a picture from my vacation...visiting family in Clarksville, Arkansas.

LOL

To err is human. To arr is seriously pirate.

What do you call a pirate with two hands, two eyes, and two legs?
A beginner.

A pirate has stopped his pirating and mended his ways, but his parrot was just too bad, constantly swearing and refusing to behave. Finally, the ex-pirate had enough of it. When the parrot started swearing again, he stuck it in the freezer for five minutes. When he fished it out again, the bird was very humble and said: "I promise I'll be good now, John, no swearing! Just a question – what on Earth did the turkey do?"



Wine Tasting Results

Our last wine tasting was all about Grenache wines. The Grenache grape variety is most common in France and Spain and produces an herbal aroma. Grenache grown in the US tends to be more floral. They have an unmistakable candied fruit roll-up and cinnamon flavor. Despite being medium to full weight in taste, their color is lighter and semi-translucent. Grenache wines pair well with heavily herbed or spicy foods.

Favorite - Storrs Winery 2013, a Santa Cruz Grenache, \$26 per bottle. Fruity and floral aromatics and a full mouth-coating feel.

#2 – Big Basin 2012 Monterey County Grenache, \$40 per bottle. Layers of fresh purple flowers, from lilacs to lavender, meld with dried rose petals, cinnamon, concentrated hibiscus, orange rind and black tea on the wondrous nose of this bottling.

#3 – Santa Cruz Mountain Vineyards 2014, \$19 per bottle. Tons of lively action packed into the nose of this wine, from rosebuds and zesty cherry cola to cinnamon spice and rainbow peppercorns.

#4 – Equinox Bartolo Grenache 2012 Santa Clara Valley region, \$20 per bottle. Because it's location is more protected from the Pacific, this wine offers a bit more body.

Sunshine Report



By: Jeannette Gregory

April Birthdays:

09 Cheryl Johnson
16 Francis Garner
17 Bill Ferrera
17 Larry Gregory
18 Trudy Teismann
20 Korilyn Jenson
22 Ted Gourlay
28 Diane Lemke

May Birthdays:

04 Kirby Combs
08 Brent Dalrymple
09 Judy Anslinger
11 Barbara Danielson
11 Leon Milons
14 Thomas Lloyd
19 Jim Metz
19 John Prouty
24 Richard Mortenson
27 Silvia Cobos Dunn

April Anniversaries:

03 Jim & Lin Metz

May Anniversaries:

02 James & Marilyn Anchick
05 Jean Pierre & Jenette Cabalette

If your anniversary or birthday was missed, please accept our apologies and contact Anne Grindy (Membership) or Jeannette Gregory (Sunshine Girl) to update our anniversary/birthday list.

April's birthdays and anniversaries will be celebrated on April 27th.

Dates to Remember...

Commodores' Night

April 27th – Charbroiled Steak and BBQ Chicken \$30

May 11th – Mexican Night! Steak Fajitas and Chicken Mole \$25

May 25th – Osso Bucco, Calamari Steaks, and Beef Ravioli \$25

Our menus always include perfectly paired side-dishes, a trio of salads, fantastic desserts, and the world's best coffee.



Celebrate Mother's Day with brunch

at Dominic's at Oyster Point

For info and reservations (650) 589-1096

Adults \$39.95/Children under 10 \$25.95

OPYC Members \$30.95/Children under 10 \$20.95

Ballina Bay Cruise-Out

May 19th

More Info to Follow.



Following Opening Day on the Bay is our annual BBQ.

Please join us for grilled burgers, salads, dessert, and "fish" stories.

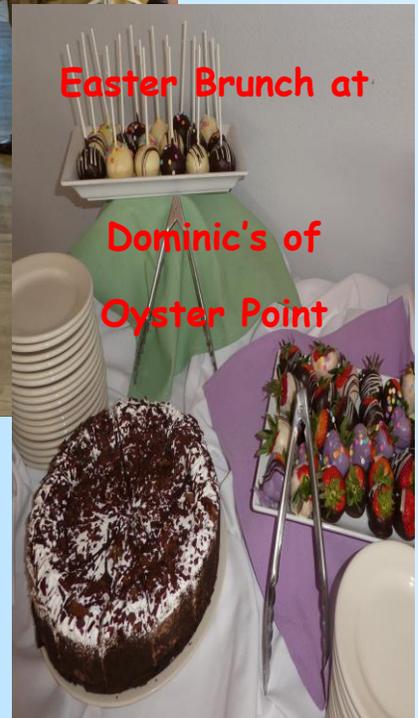
Only \$10 per person.



General Membership Meeting



Oyster Point Dragons Fund Raiser!



Easter Brunch at

Dominic's of
Oyster Point

OPYC Scrapbook