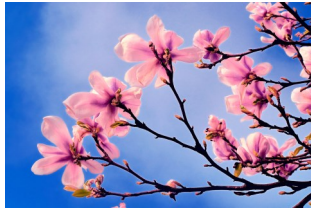




Classic Currents

Current News of the
Northern California Fleet of the Classic Yacht Association



ISSUE 1—2023

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Commodore's Report—by Rob Sesar

Another start to a New Year, and it's going to be a good one! Following Staff Commodore David Cobb's path, we already have our schedule set for the year. Please mark your calendars and sign up. An email was sent out, and Stephen Olsson already responded that he would bring La Jota to Opening Day, Petaluma, SFYC and Classics at the Corinthian. I thought my boat was old. La Jota is a 65-foot, 1921 Fantail Yacht. I cannot wait to explore and learn all about her.



Skål is having her planking stripped, sealed, caulked, and painted this winter after having the battleship grey paint removed from her gunnels last spring. We hope she will be ready for Opening Day. Yes, Opening Day is only two months from this weekend. Time to change the oil, kick the fenders and hoist the burgees.

"The final event of the year is always the Change of Watch. For 2023, Rear Commodore, Nick Romero has brilliantly negotiated with the San Francisco Yacht Club to host us. With this invitation comes the opportunity for skippers to bring their yachts into the guest docks for the weekend, beginning on Friday November 17th and staying through Sunday, November 19th., weather, of course, permitting. More information on this November 17-19th weekend will be forthcoming in the months ahead. I am certain that this COW will be something not to miss

Keeping with recent history (a new tradition?), we will have our Bridge Meetings during cruise outs and offer attendance via zoom. Another good reason to open a bottle and get together on a boat. Please plan to attend as many get togethers as you can. I was recently reminded that Mark Twain once wrote, "Never regret anything that made you smile." Time on your boat with other people, sharing experiences together, always brings a smile to my face.

The 2023 Classic
continued on page 2



THE CLASSIC YACHT ASSOCIATION IS DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION, PRESERVATION, RESTORATION AND MAINTENANCE OF FINE OLD PLEASURE CRAFT

Yacht Association Cruising Schedule is ready to go. All we need now is boats, members, and guests. Let me know the adventures you can participate in with your boat. If you are unable to bring your boat for any event, for day activities and dinners you can join the fleet at the location by car, or, we can help you arrange a ride on another member's boat, but most importantly, please join in! Contact Rob Sesar at 707-365-1900 sesar@sbcglobal.net and let us know Boat name, size, number of participants and weekends you plan to join us. (See Page 11 for Upcoming Events)

PICYA Report by Roberta Manell

This year's motto by incoming Commodore Larry Mayne (The Club at Westpoint in Redwood City) is "stay safe and have fun".

Upcoming Event Calendar:

[Saturday, February 18](#): Treasure Island 360 Boat Parade [from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm](#)

PICYA cordially invites you to parade around Treasure Island in celebration of the 1939 Golden Gate International Exhibition! Gather up and the fleet will proceed in line for a full 360. After that you can head into Clipper Cove or other destinations. See map on PICYA's website for location of terminal. VHF Channel 69 Meet up: TI Ferry Terminal start time [11:00 am](#). Boat skippers should sign up in advance: <https://picya.org/event/treasure-island-360-cruise/>

[April 30 @ 8:00 am - 2:00 pm](#): Opening Day on the Bay Theme for Opening Day, hosted by PICYA: Broadway on the Bay. Lots of leeway for us to get Classic Boats (and sailors) dressed up with Classic Broadway Show themes! Ideas include West Side Story, South Pacific, Showboat, Peter Pan, Annie Get Your Gun, and the Sound of Music. Prizes are awarded, so contributions are being sought from member clubs (examples: wine, gift certificates, etc).

Commodore Rob Sesar commented on CYA's traditional position towards the front of the fleet behind the fireboat Phoenix. He mentioned that the

evening prior, our CYA fleet would be at Emery Cove Marina and invited interested members to come and tour our beautiful vessels.

Lipton Cup Regatta – June 17 & 18: Races on the Bay starting at the St. Francis YC sailing to San Francisco YC, and a return race the next day. This match racing series uses the J22 fleet owned by St. Francis YC, and there are currently seven boats available for other YC's to use (first come, first served). The full PICYA Event Calendar is on their website: picya.org

Scholarships available from PICYA: Several scholarships worth \$2,500 are available to any family member of an active PICYA club member. The scholarship applications are available on the PICYA website, and must be received no later than June 15, 2023. Contributions to the scholarship fund are always welcome, and clubs themselves can sponsor a scholarship.

RBOC Report (Recreational Boaters of California): The purpose of this lobbying group is to monitor legislation that affects the ability to navigate on navigable waters. While lots of volunteers are involved, including Commodore Rob Sesar, RBOC does employ the Desmond Group to spearhead legislation lobbying. Club donations are necessary to fund this activity. Currently, RBOC opposes the Delta Conveyance Project that would negatively impact the ability of the recreational boating public to navigate in the waterways of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

Club Reports:

- ◆ Loch Lomond YC confirmed that the entire San Rafael channel is now dredged so all YC's lining the creek are now open and have lots of great events planned for all to join in.
- ◆ Sacramento YC reported extensive damage to member boats with January's wild rain and wind events, and thanked neighboring YC's for temporarily housing member boats as they begin the rebuilding process.
- ◆ Richmond YC announced their "Sail a Small Boat" day coming up on March 3rd.

I am happy to report that the Delta has dodged another bullet. Back in the days when Jerry Meral was running the Bay Delta Conservation Plan to divert the Sacramento River around the Delta he and the Department of Water Resources claimed that the Delta would be destroyed by an Ark Storm (Atmospheric River kilo) a supposed once in a millennium storm. We were hit with three so far this winter and the Delta has survived. There was much damage and inconvenience but the levees held.



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Ox Bow Marina where I am based lost some trees and sustained some minor damage to a few sheds but certainly not as bad as it could have been. Apparently there was a major wind event that made its way up the Sacramento River starting with destroying many of the Sheds at the Sacramento Yacht Club. It seemed to work its way upstream for a few miles causing damage to many structures. Power was out in Isleton and along the west bank of the Sacramento River for several days. As of now things are getting back to normal and most restaurants and businesses are back in operation.

I met Leo & Carlice Aarens who live in the Netherlands through Per and Ericka Hammarlund on social media. They have the beautiful(!) 43 foot Stephens yacht *A Dora Blu*. She was launched in 1933 as *Armador* hull number 593. She is something to see. The vessel is for sale if you are looking to cruise Europe anytime soon. She is listed with De Valk Yacht Brokers with offices all



over Europe.

Our NC fleet member Larry Sizemore has his beautiful 42 foot 1960 Stephens *Gatsby* for sale. She is another beautiful boat that would make you a proud owner. She is located at the Sacramento Marina. You can contact Larry at 916/884-7152.

The exciting news is that the Stephens *Rendezvous* is on for 2023 at Village West Marina and Resort in Stockton. Rusty Areias, Claude Pellarin, and I are working on it. There has been a lot of interest and I am confident that it will be spectacular. Jim Gabbert has already signed up with his 85 foot *Defiance*. Rusty will certainly have some of his fleet there. Tentatively we are looking at having dinner one evening at the Village West Yacht Club and they will probably be open for cocktails much of the weekend.

It looks like we will have plenty of water in the rivers this year, I hope to see you out there!

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News from Per and Erika on Allure's Adventures in Sweden

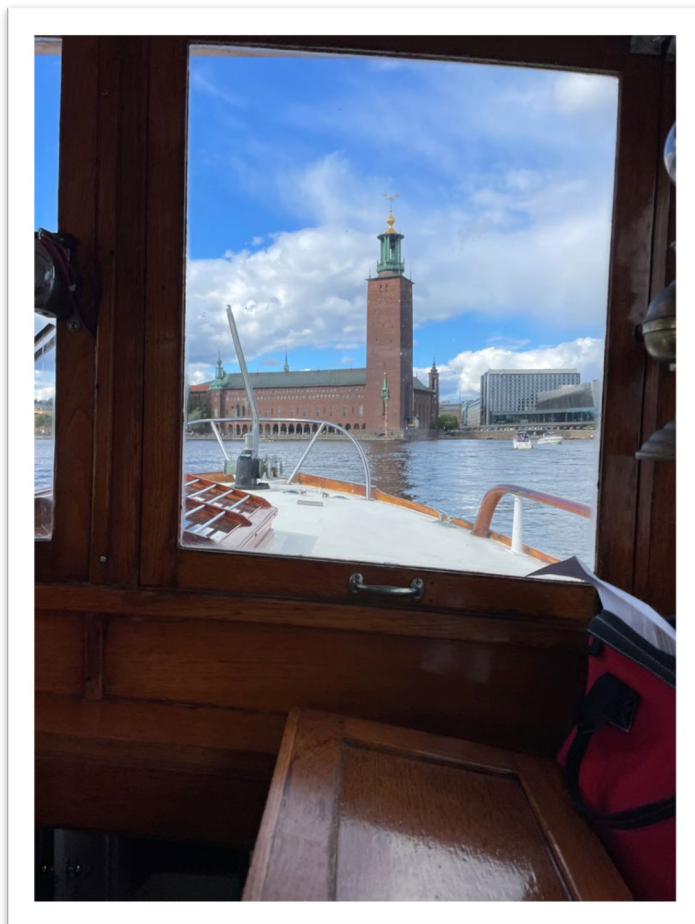
We completed the Göta Kanal, sometimes called the "divorce ditch", with marriage intact. It was a



great experience for us, we highly recommend it. Now we had the pleasure of turning north and heading towards Stockholm. This entire stretch of Sweden's east coast is a continuous archipelago with tens of thousands of small islands and perfect places to moor. The islands mostly offer good protection from the winds and swells of the Baltic Sea. Here and there it opens up and depending on the

wind direction you can be exposed to the weather.

Per used to sail here as a kid, but that was a long time ago and much has changed. We made a rough plan trying to maximize the number of small island



moorings we could stop at and minimizing the engine-on time per day. We talked to fellow boaters and collected recommendations for moorings and places to see. In addition to the advice we got from fellow boaters we joined the Swedish Cruising Club which has mooring balls in many good spots along the entire coastline. We also bought a number of cruising books.

If you are not in a hurry, the trick is to hug the coast line and zig-zag between the islands. Each day you look at the weather forecast and refine your route, planning to stay out of the wind and also picking moorings that are protected. Many

DELTA BOAT WORKS

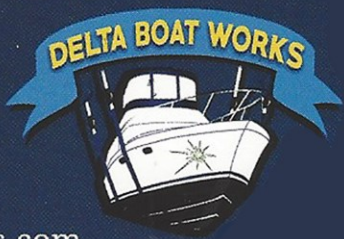
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of the natural moorings are protected from all directions making them desirable, so we (re)learned that it is best to move early so that you arrive at your new destination when most people just left. We were towards the end of August so it was never crowded. At most we had 4-5 other boats at popular places.

Most of the nights we stayed at natural moorings, free of charge, and a few nights we stayed at local cruising clubs, very affordable. It is not uncommon for sailing or cruising clubs to own a small island where they have a member maintained “marina”. These places are usually super nice, frequently with a place to BBQ and socialize, and most importantly a sauna. Life’s small essentials.

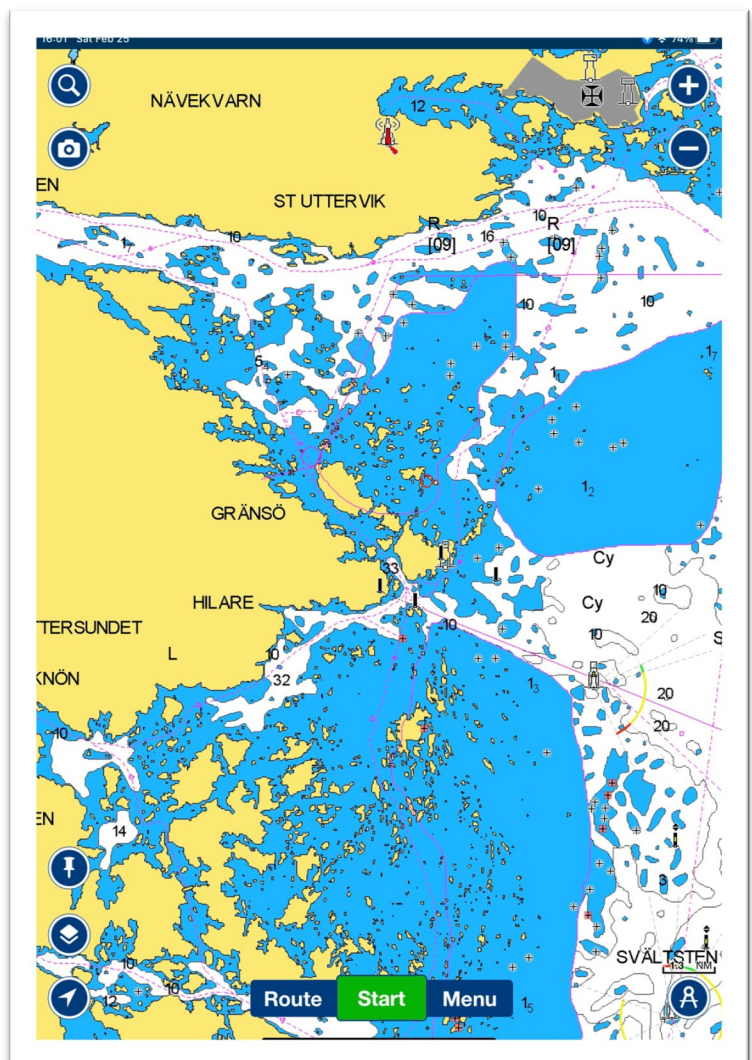
We converted Allure to all-electric a few years back. Cooking lunch and dinner together with whatever other electricity we needed consumed about 20% of our batterie capacity per day. To our delight, both in solar charging and in just plain great weather, we regained half to two-thirds of what we consumed from the solar panels alone. If we motored even a short distance we would top up the batteries again. In similar weather, on one charge, we think we can remain in one place for a week without running the engines. (For the coming season we have added a few solar panels and we have learned that fuel cells are commonly used, providing a great, quiet alternative to a noisy diesel generator.)

One night we stayed in a marina of the small town of Trosa. It is common that the towns and counties along the coast maintain marinas, depending on the place and popularity, it is advisable to call ahead and make a reservation. In Trosa, a very popular place, Per’s mother and our son Petrik joined for a night with an excellent dinner at a local fish restaurant.

As we came closer to Stockholm, Per’s mother again joined us in the town of Södertälje for the last stretch of the cruise. Allure had performed flawlessly all the way from Gothenburg, but just as we ap-

proached Stockholm downtown and we were getting ready to moor at the destination, the port engine coughed a couple of times and quit. After a little bit of fiddling this problem passed and we could successfully approached the slip.

Stockholm is a city on the water, lots of pleasure boats, ferries, sight-seeing boats, and other commercial ships. In that sense, it is like the San Francisco Bay, you have to pay attention. Guiding Allure next to the City Hall of Stockholm felt quite strange. Having grown up in Stockholm it is a familiar building, but to cruise your own boat from the US next to it was quite special. We made it! Allure made it!



The cruise schedule which Rob Sesar has masterfully put together should give everyone in the fleet a chance to enjoy our classic yachts and show them off. I anticipate a record number of participants, so, sign up early with the cruise captains for any event which you would like to participate in. As always, the more the merrier. I will tackle once again a delta cruise that will use Oxbow Marina as a starting point, and we will see where we will go from there. The Grand Island Mansion is on the list for a Sunday Brunch, but we won't know about that until April 1st when they open up the reservations.



Tule Lady

Let's all hope for great weather for our kickoff event of Opening Day, and this year maybe we will have luck with participation in an Opening Day event in the Delta. I am willing to bet that our beloved Delta correspondent, Bill Wells, will have some thoughts on that one.

In getting ready for the 2023 boating season, *North Star II* has had several upgrades that, hopefully, will solve the problems that plagued our attempts to participate in a number of events last year.

At my age the best career path you could hope for with your children is Medical School with a geriatric specialty. The second-best career path would be a marine mechanic, and that's what I got with my son, Chris. He has taken it upon himself to get *NSII* running smoothly without problems and, so far, everything that he has worked on in the boat has made a huge difference in its operation. Most

recently he has reconstructed the oil filtration system. He had to hand-build new parts for the upgrade which will employ a much larger filter, and new hose connectors that should stop the oil leaks that were a regular feature of the old system. This new system is going to look pretty racy (Tom Clothier should get a bang out of this). However, I am afraid that in a judging contest I am going to lose a lot of points for authenticity.

Many of you know that two of our most beautiful yachts are up for sale this year, and we will be sad to see them go if a new buyer moves them out-of-state. In recent memory three other yachts have been sold and moved away. *Papoose* in (2008) went to Venice, *Cielito* went to Florida, and *Allure* went with the Hammarlund's to Sweden. Fortunately, Per and Erika have stayed close in touch and, as everyone knows, have provided us with Newsletter stories of their adventures cruising in Europe. So, it would be a great thing to find a good home for Jim and Bernadette's 43-foot Stephens, *Elizabeth*, and Jim and Carol Staley's 1927, 34-foot, La Bruzzi built, *Tule Lady*. Jim has prepared a very nice brochure of the history of this yacht, how it was saved from the scrap heap once and brought back to its beautiful condition with a new diesel engine of today. If any of you know someone who might be interested in purchasing these yachts contact Jim Sweeny at (415) 459-8681, james.sweeney3@comcast.net; and Jim and Carol

continued on page 7

Staley at (415) 419-5143, carol103034@gmail.com.

I received the following information on major fleet events for 2023 and I am listing them below on the off chance that someone might like to attend one or more of them. Years ago, Tom Clothier and I flew up to Victoria and participated in the “Classic Boat Festival” in the harbor there. Had a great time on that trip. Later on, Patrick Welsh and I went to Seattle to see the Bell Street Classic Rendezvous and enjoyed our stay with many of our friends in the Pacific Northwest fleet. In exchange numerous members from other fleets attended our events, the most notable was the Stephens Rendezvous in Stockton. A lot of work goes into making these events successful and my experience has been that we travelers help to make them even more special by our attendance. So, here they are chronologically for 2023:

- ◆ June. Pacific Northwest Fleet. Bell Street Classic Rendezvous in Seattle.
- ◆ July. USA Fleet. Essex Island Rendezvous, Connecticut
- ◆ July. Southern California fleet. Old Fashion Days in the Park. Marina Del Rey, CA
- ◆ September. Northern California Fleet. Stephens Rendezvous. Stockton, CA
- ◆ September. Canadian Fleet. Victoria Classic Boat Festival. Victoria, BC

Varnish work. It’s time to get out the varnish and your good varnish brushes for the Spring refurbishing. Everyone I have ever talked to has their

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Elizabeth

own personal varnish protocol. Here is another one which I found recently, and I will pass it on here if anyone is interested in trying it out.

The first coat over bare wood is a 50/50 ratio of thinner to varnish for purposes of initial penetration, thereafter the build-up is a 10-15% thinner to varnish using Epifanes mixed with Interlux 333 brushing thinner. Each coat should be wet sanded with 320 grit. Brushes should be stored in kerosene.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at Opening Day. Hopefully, 2023 will be a good year for all of us.

We are a fleet of pure volunteerism— by Gerry Kamilos, National Commodore

Many from the Northern California Fleet have served as Commodore of the entire Association. These include John Anderson (1987- 17th), Alan Almquist (1992- 21st), Mont McMillan (1999- 28th), Martin McNair (2002- 31st), George Homenko (2005- 34th), James Sweeney (2009- 37th), Shawn Ball (2014-42nd), and Scott Andrews (2018- 46th). Each of these dedicated individuals from the North California Fleet stepped up to take on the responsibilities of being the Association Commodore. Each of these individuals brought to our Association the elements of what and who we are today. We truly stand on the shoulders of these giants; and we all are grateful for their service. I am greatly honored and humbled to be the 50th Commodore of the Classic Yacht Association and to honor the work that has been done over the Association's 54 years of existence.

Of the group of past Association Commodores from our Fleet, two individuals from the Northern California Fleet are continuing to serve to assist at the Association level; George Homenko who serves on the Yacht Registration Committee, and Scott Andrews who serves on the Strategic Planning Committee.

Scott Andrews just finished his 8th year on the Association Board of Directors. He might be one of the longest serving Directors in the Association history. Scott while on the Board, served as our 2018 Commodore of the Association and was instrumental in facilitating the adoption of the Association's cur-

rent burgee. Scott also is one of several members who thoroughly understands our charter and by-laws and is certainly one of the go-to people on policy matters. Scott also served as the 2019 Fleet Commodore. Northern California Fleet member Dino Barsotti now assumed Scott's seat on the Board. I am looking forward to work with Dino.

George Homenko served as our Fleet's Commodore in 1997 and 2014 (only Alan Almquist, Steve Kadzielawa, Bill Wells, and Rob Sesar have served as commodore twice). George Homenko has served on the Yacht Registration Committee since its existence. George's technical know-how and understanding of vintage yacht and our Fleets has helped so many members to understand how repair, rebuild, or find replacement for about any part you can image. One member that George helped, which now part of Northern California Fleet lore is referring Rusty Areias to see a Stephens built yacht that was marginally maintained named Miss 102. Today, now owned by Rusty, Miss 102 is a fully restored Bristol Stephens that inspired Rusty and his friends to acquire Folly II and Joie.

I should note our Association does recognize exceptional dedicated service through providing Life Memberships which past Fleet Commodore John Johnson and Patty Johnson (former owners of SKAL); and past Fleet Commodore and long-time Fleet Treasurer Tom Clothier and long-time Fleet Corresponding Secretary and Newsletter Editor Nancy Clothier (Former owners of Eslo) received.

The core of the success of the Association is dependent on the success of our Fleets.

I wanted to call out these peoples' contribution of the value they brought and continue to bring to the Association through their service at both the Fleet and Association levels.



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continued on page 9

We are a fleet of pure volunteerism —(continued from page 8)

Besides our Flag Officers Rob Sesar (Fleet Commodore), Peter Johnson (Fleet Vice Commodore), Nick Romero (Fleet Rear Commodore) and David Cobb (Fleet Staff Commodore); for each Fleet there are appointed officer; Treasurer (Bill Adams), Historian (Rob Sesar), Newsletter Editor (Alan Almquist and Nancy Clothier), PICYA Rep (Roberta Manell), and Facebook Page (Bill Wells).

As members of our Fleet, I find it endearing that we have members who are so passionate and dedicated to the Mission of our Association that they

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are willing, and do, go far beyond what we can expect

from any single member. We all must be grateful that our Association and Fleets are blessed with those who are our Appointed Officers. Commodores come and go, these volunteer Appointed Officers' work continues, year after year, whose work benefits every member and every Fleet.



Some volunteers mentioned in Gerry's article from 2016 Change of Watch

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Finally, at our January 15, 2023, Association Board Meeting, the Strategic Planning Committee members gave a very comprehensive presentation of the 2023-2026 Classic Yacht Association Strategic Plan to the Board of Directors. As part of the Annual Meeting Agenda, a copy of the Strategic Plan was circulated by email to all members. The Board unanimously approved, with no changes, the Strategy Plan, and its implementation. There will be more correspondence in the coming weeks on from the Strategic Planning Committee. Thank you committee members; Scott Andrews (NC), Elizabeth Becker

continued on page 10

We are a fleet of pure volunteerism —(continued from page 9)

(PNW), Mike Fazio(USA), John Peckham(SC), Richard Randall(PNW), Tina Stotz (PNW), and Michael Topliss (CAN) who represents every Fleet in the Association.

Our entire Association from the Board of Directors, Appointed Officers, Flag Officers, to everyone who does anything for our Association anywhere in the organization are all volunteers. We do so because The Classic Yacht Association works through our members to promote, preserve and restore vintage motor yachts and honor their maritime history and traditions.

For those who have stepped up and serve this Association at any level or task; thank you! For those who may have yet to volunteer there are small and large tasks to be done; please contact Northern California Fleet Commodore Rob Sesar at sesar@sbcglobal.net or 1-707-365-1900

Please have a safe and enjoyable classic yacht cruising season. Fair winds and following seas for all.



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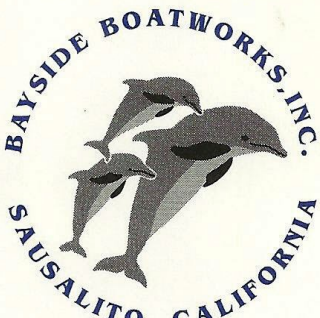
Upcoming Events

- ◆ **April 29-30* Opening Day San Francisco Bay** (PICYA) Broadway on the Bay is this year's theme. On April 29, join in on our traditional potluck dinner at Emery and decorate your boat for the Sunday parade.
- ◆ **May 19-21 Petaluma Car show.** Cruise up the Petaluma River and relive "Happy Days" during the annual car show.
- ◆ **June 9-11* San Francisco Yacht Club in Belvedere.** Saturday we will take Skål out under the Golden Gate again for all that want an adventure. A walking tour of the area or a trip on the ferry to Angel Island are great options.
- ◆ **July 28-30 Oxbow Marina/Walnut Grove/Grand Mansion** – our annual Delta Blowout. Spend Friday night at Oxbow, Saturday night in Walnut Grove and Sunday Brunch at the Grand Mansion. Last year Rusty welcomed us to a Grand Dinner in Walnut Grove. Lots of surprises in store.
- ◆ **August 18-20*** Friday night in historic **Suisun City** for a dinner out. Saturday we will cruise up the Montezuma Slough through the locks. The Grizzly Island elk should be out and about. Dinner in Rio Vista Saturday night at The Point Restaurant.
- ◆ **September 8-10 Grindstone Joe's lamb barbeque.** Always a club favorite, but this year Gerry will cook the lamb on our custom rotisserie. We might even arrange another Saturday cruise up White Slough.
- ◆ **September 15-17 The Stephens Rendezvous is at Village West Marina.** Need I say more. You do not need a Stephens to participate.
- ◆ **September 22-24 Classics at the Corinthian.** We will steam from Stockton to Tiburon. Our fleet will put on a show to remember.
- ◆ **November 18* Our Change of Watch for 2023-24** will be held at the beautiful San Francisco Yacht Club on Saturday, November 18th. Skippers who wish to bring their yachts to this event may cruise to the club on Friday afternoon and stay over until Sunday at the guest docks. Rear Commodore Nick Romero has put the whole thing together, and the reservations with the SFYC will be signed this week. We anticipate a big turnout for this annual event, so mark your calendar now.

Note: (*) Indicates Bridge meeting. You will be able to join in by Zoom also.

We can make arrangements for monthly berthing in both the Bay and Delta to limit trips back and forth.

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