



ISLAND YACHT CLUB'S MAINSHEET

December 2002 Alameda Marina Volume 31 Issue Twelve

Welcome
Newly Elected
IYC 2003
Officers!

COMMODORE

David Hand (925) 820-5637

VICE COMMODORE

Diane McClure (510) 490-1524

REAR COMMODORE

Peter Linehan (415) 552-8386

STAFF COMMODORE

Dan Laramie (510) 583-9323

PORT CAPTAIN

Shirley Ahlf (925) 524-0114

SECRETARY

Veronica Cocksedge (510) 583-9323

TREASURER

Rich Ahlf (510) 524-0114

Appointments by our Commodore and Board Members for the following positions will become official when confirmed at the Board Meeting on January 8, 2003. Stay tuned!

1. RACE CHAIR
2. CRUISE CHAIR
3. MEMBERSHIP
4. BAR MANAGER
5. PUBLICATIONS
6. SHIP'S STORE
7. HISTORIAN
8. ASSN. LIASON

Inside:	Page
RBOC Letter.....	2
Indulging Memory Lane.....	2
Cruz News.....	3
January Meeting.....	3
After the Party.....	4
Member Update Page.....	5
IYC 2003 Schedule of Events.....	5

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Jan 1—'Round the Island Cruise 0830 hrs
Start it all off at IYC!

Jan 18—General Meeting and Dinner 1830 hrs
Note: EARLY MEETING DATE!

Jan 26—Superbowl Sunday (potluck) 1400 hrs
Joanne's Birthday Party



A Brit at the Helm

By David Hand, Commodore

First of all I would like to thank Dan for the leadership shown during his year at the helm, and also to thank all the other members whose outstanding efforts made last year such a success.

Malcolm has again agreed to organize our cruise events for next year and I hope to see just as many if not more members sharing the fun we had last season. If there are members either between boats, or who for some reason don't wish to take their own boat but who would nonetheless like to go on one of our cruises, please give me a call or send me an E-Mail. Devon and I often have room on our boat, and there may well be others who could take additional passengers for the weekend.

> *Passengers Welcome, page 3*

Looking for our New Year's Eve Party?

By Diane Duey McClure, Vice Commodore

Island Yacht Club will not be open on New Year's Eve this year. However, if you want to attend a party with a guarantee of a good time, you will be welcome at Alameda Yacht Club.

Their theme is "Hawaii," music will be provided by Michael Sea and Island Fever, and the dinner will be a catered buffet. Dress is casual. If you want to bring a large group, you may stop by Alameda YC and put your name on the list and pay at the door. There is usually someone at the club after 4:00 in the afternoons, and a signup sheet is posted. For one or two individuals, reservations are not required.

Alameda YC is known for its good parties, so if you haven't yet made plans, go on over to our neighbor, Alameda YC, for a great time.

Happy New Year and I'll see you bright and early New Year's Day!

Diane Duey

RBOC Letter

By James Ensign, RBOC President

Dear Board of Directors:

With the generous support of your club members, Recreational Boaters of California will be able to continue protecting our interests in the State Capitol through the upcoming year.

RBOC was formed as a statewide lobbying organization by the Pacific Inter-Club Yacht Association [PICYA] and the Southern California Yachting Association [SCYA] in 1968. For 35 years, we have successfully lobbied in support of bills and regulations that would enhance recreational boating, and in opposition to detrimental proposals.

Our lobbying efforts include testimony in public hearings, meetings with elected officials, preparation of amendments to alleviate potential problems with specific bills, as well as the sponsorship of pro-active legislation to benefit boaters and the \$8 billion contribution that boating makes to the state economy.

RBOC relies upon the contributions made by individual members of clubs like yours that belong to SCYA and PICYA. We appreciate this support for our nonprofit corporation. These funds support the professional lobbyists who work effectively on our behalf, as well as the operations of our organization including bulletins and mailings - such as this letter. Due to our extensive lobbying activities, contributions are of course not tax-deductible.

We offer to help you to inform your club members about our efforts and to request contributions. We have brochures, legislative bulletins and sample contribution requests that can be disseminated.

In addition, we have an RBOC Director assigned to work you're your club, keep you and your members apprised of our activities, and serve as a contact for issues as they arise. Your Director during the upcoming year is Linda A. Newland, (510) 521-7172, Newlan2dl@aol.com.

Sincerely,
James Ensign,
President

Indulging Memory Lane

By Janet Frankel, Editor

Oh my, 2003 is nearly here. For IYC, 2002 IS over, we've got our new officers installed and David is busy revving up the club members' motors for the next year of club activities. Me, I'm desperately searching for some holiday gifts which I cleverly hid away and now can't seem to find. I hope this does not sound familiar to any of you.

Before I mention more important things, I'd like to bend

your ear and share a moment of personal achievement. On the wall of my office there now hangs a beautiful Distinguished Service Award, so thoughtfully presented to me by Dan Laramie for my service as Staff Commodore. It hangs right next to my law degree (which was sneakily "borrowed" by a girlfriend and lavishly framed) and is located directly across the room from my IYC 2001 Pig Roast Trophy (now sans pig-tail). I think it is just beautiful, and it certainly took me longer to earn than the law degree! I'm pleased to see it every day. Thanks, Dan.

Anyways, I thought I'd try to remember some of the highlights of 2002, from my perspective (37 floors above sea-level, currently. Will bring GPS to office for more accurate measurement next month).

Last year's December edition of the *Mainsheet*, as I'm sure you will immediately recall, included an hysterical holiday poem provided by David Hand, which began: "twas the night before Christmas and I sat at the helm, enjoying the bad weather in a deep ocean realm...." Clearly, this was a prediction of the storms at New Year's last year, which motivated IYC participants in the 2002 New Year's Day 'Round the Island Cruise to attend via blackout! Also, stout IYCers were able begin the 'Round the Island Cruise bright and early, sans hangovers, because our NYE party was on December 30, 2001, instead of the 31st! Rebels, you say? No, we just were combining our party with the McMahan's bon voyage party. We sent them off to Florida, and there they still are. Hi Chuck, hi Martha! Oh, sorry, for a moment there I thought I was Hobo Kelly.

Glen and Pam later traveled across country in their Land Yacht, and sent back reports from an in-person visit with Chuck and Martha, as well as with the Pflaumers (Pete and Carol). They reported on superior routes and inferior gas stations. Tony was inspired and for weeks we talked about getting a camper-van and driving off into the sunset! OK, for months. OK, we're still talking about it.

Last year I attended, for the first time, our annual Super-bowl Sunday / Joanne's Birthday Party. I was there all day as members wandered in following an afternoon sail. I realized how nice it is to come back to a party at the club after a sail! I promised *Hobbit* we'd go out before the 2003 party. Don't let me forget!

Our first Women's Sailing sail of 2002 was in February, and I recall bringing my grandfather. We women graciously accepted his presence as an honorary girl, and he had a great time. He is once again planning to visit me this winter and so perhaps a repeat experience is in order!

Later in February, we had our annual crab feed, where I am pretty sure crabs outnumbered humans by at least 5 to 1. But, even given that incredibly unfair head start, the humans prevailed, and victory was ours! Speaking of Victory, how about Glen Krawiec leading IYC to Victory, winning First Prize in the PICYA Decorated Boat Pa-

> *Victory at Last !*, page 4

CRUZ NEWS

Winter Sneaks up on Malcolm. Again.

By Malcolm Sowers, Cruising Chair

Winter's here. No news. Time for "A Winter's Tale by the Fireside."

From a purple mimeographed newsletter in my files: A trip down Memory's Lane, ahem, Memory's *Channel*. My report of a 1973 cruise to Half Moon Bay:

May 19 and 20th were scheduled for **the spring 1973 cruise of the Islander Mark II's** to Half Moon Bay. Our Islander, purchased in Newport Beach in "nearly mint condition," had been delivered by flatbed truck in January. We launched just in time to have its freshly waxed topsides and new bottom paint fouled by the Alameda Estuary oil spill, the rudder bent by the tide's pressure against the floating oil curtain. Helen and Malcolm frustrated and weary after a several days' application of goop and elbow grease. What a beginning!

Finally, having spent several additional weekends installing the new rudder, a fathometer and racing gear, we launched again, managed some short Bay cruises; joined the Opening Day festivities, and a participated in couple of races. And were ready for new adventures.

Though the winds were moderately strong, they gave us no hint of how our new big dreamboat might perform OUTSIDE. Thus, the scheduled cruise to Half Moon Bay filled our cup of fantasy to the brim. Realistically, we knew the distance was no greater than earlier Bay cruises and races to Coyote Point. During the 20 previous years in our former (smaller) boats we had gone north, as far as Drakes Bay. Yet there was something different about a trip to mysterious and unfamiliar points. Then too, going north one can generally anticipate being able to run back to the shelter of the Golden Gate if winds get too strong, or per contra, able to ghost back in dying evening breezes – shoved along by the prevailing westerly swells. As we had done on several occasions.

However, going south conjured up the prospect of having to beat our way back against the wind. We knew, of course, that skippers of tiny boats ventured out in MORA races, but then we also knew about the couple who were swept overboard from a 30 footer in early spring when crossing the south arm of the S.F. bar. Hence the feelings of adventure. Testing our new boat in the (to us) great unknown.

On the morning of our departure we elected to use the high-clew'd 110 jib as winds were gusting to 30 knots, with small craft advisories posted. We reefed the main, and with decks awash we short tacked up the San Francisco waterfront against a strong flood tide, dodging the piers, trying to make our 12:00 rendezvous off the St. Francis Yacht Club. In the distance we could see other craft ahead, but at noon they took off while we were still

> *Novice Crew at the Winches, page 4*

January Meeting

By Diane Duey McClure, Vice Commodore

JANUARY GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD EARLY
—MARK YOUR CALENDAR—

The January general meeting will be held on January 18, a week earlier than usual. Our Commodore/Chef will create English food with his assistant chef, Joanne McFee. You see, Commodore David will be returning from England just prior to the meeting, and all things English will still be on his mind.

The program will be entitled, "Want to go cruising but don't have the right boat/experience/crew?" Our speakers will tell you the joys and pitfalls of signing up for a leg or two of someone else's crew. You will hear harrowing tales as well as good points. You will probably have a few laughs.

See you there.
Diane Duey

Passengers Welcome!

continued from page 1

With Ben Mewes as Race Chair and Peter Linehan as Rear Commodore I am sure that the first rate job Diane did last year running our race programme will be repeated in the coming season. However with the first on the water event being the Sadie Hawkins on March first I am sure that they would be only too pleased to hear from any members who could help with Race Committee. For the first time this year after the Sadie Hawkins race we shall be having a Clam Chowder Cook-Off, so here is yet another opportunity for the club's budding gourmets to show what they can do.

Devon and I are going to England for the holidays so I shall probably be (hope to be) spending some time sitting in a pub gazing out across a wind swept Solent with my top lip stuck in a pint of "warm" best bitter. As soon we get back we will be having our first board meeting, at the club on the eighth of January. Of course any member is welcome to come along with any suggestions they might have. I would particularly appreciate some ideas on how we could make the bar area of the club appear a little more inviting. If you have any ideas but are unable to come to the meeting please give me a call or send me an E-Mail.

Our first general meeting of the year will be on the eighteenth of January and will feature English food prepared by myself and chef Joanne. So if you really want to know what cooking's all about come along and try such culinary delights as "bubble and squeak," "toad-in-the-hole" and "cottage pie."

See ya in the bar or on the water.
David

After the Party ...

By Diane Duey McClure, Vice Commodore

It's a tradition to sail around the island on New Year's Day. Meet at the club at about 8:30 for coffee and muffins, or meet on the water in front of the club at about 9:00. The first stop is Aeolian Yacht Club where bloody Marys and gin fizzes are served. The menu's main item is chili with all the fixin's, and it's popular, even at 10:00 in the morning! The next stop is Ballena Bay Yacht Club for the barbecued hamburgers and hot dogs with trimmings. End at Encinal Yacht Club for a bowl of clam chowder. If you've never done the cruise, you can look forward to a good time. You will see people you haven't seen for a year, and catch up on their news. You can purchase souvenir sweatshirts at Aeolian Yacht Club to the strains of live music. This is a big event, folks! Come on out and join us.

Victory at Last !

Continued from page 2

rade! Victory, as in, a lovely little Victory 21 sailboat as First Prize?!! Many members worked hard (some for hours and hours on a Small Sailboat on a Big Bay) to ensure that Operation Victory Rescue was a success.

Our Cruise Chair Malcolm Sowers dutifully planned cruises and recruited cruisers all year long. Some may recall *Misty's* last sail of 2002, when homeward bound from an IYC cruise-out, *Misty's* rig managed to throw its own, private, unannounced bon voyage party. (Tying this story together with recent events, *Misty* is out of the water now, having final touches applied to its new lease on life.) I personally recall several enjoyable cruises in 2002, and look forward to bringing not only Tony and Henson Robert, but perhaps even *Hobbit* along on cruises in 2003. Malcolm has agreed to serve again as Cruise Chair, so hold onto your hats and climb aboard!

Diane Duey's efforts and organization surely paid off with a successful racing program in 2002. We upgraded the Silver Eagle to include a shorter course for the higher-rated boats (the PC way we describe boats like *Hobbit*) and were able to include a separate start for the J-105 fleet. The Friday Nite series was well-attended, with a lot of post-race action at the bar and barbeque. The IYC wins in the PICYA Lipton Series were surely a highlight. Check out the glorious trophies at the club! Many, many thanks to all who worked on Race Committee and also to those of you who entered the races.

Speaking of Barbeque, I am sure you will agree with me, Dear Reader, that some of the most delicious food ever is the food you've eaten at IYC. I'm sure the great tradition will continue; eating is as natural to boating as it is to ... well ... to anything! At any rate, don't let the idea of English food scare you away from the January meeting (see David's article in this same issue) – Joanne McFee said that Dave won't be making mushy peas.

—Janet

Novice Crew at the Winches

continued from page 3

a half-hour away, tacking grimly and somewhat inefficiently, with our novice crew at the winches. On one occasion a sheet got away and hit the block so fast it unknotted the figure of eight at the end. Mental note: TWO knots for heavy weather.

Finally we started out the Gate, with my wife politely muttering I was a fool to persevere in that kind of weather. But she said it amiably and sotto voce, out of hearing of the others who had put their half of the money in the partnership and had so trustingly bought into my so-called wisdom and experience. Actually, as so often happens, the wind was a gentle 15 knots outside while it had been blowing like hell inside the Gate.

The tide turned as we tacked out along the headlands, playing the back eddies. We could still see one other late comer finally pass Mile Rock and disappear to the south past Seal Rocks. We approached the bar in only moderate seas, swells barely big enough to bring on my usual Bonamine-modified mal de mer.

With Seal Rocks abeam one of our novice crew members pointed to the fathometer reading of only 10 feet. I was feeling just queasy enough to be somewhat apprehensive, though I declared the reading was IMPOSSIBLE, that we were HERE. I was certain it couldn't only be 10 feet but started the motor to get us past this area a bit faster and felt obliged to keep an eye to windward for rogue waves that might mount up suddenly.

To make a long story short, the explanation was anticlimactic. The Fathometer had simply gone around its 60 foot dial, and was dutifully starting on the 'next' ten feet! We switched it to the fathom scale. It now reassured us that we were in about six and a half fathoms. We hadn't even come to the bar (32 feet)! So much for this month's **A Winter's Tale by the Fireside, Part I.** 'Tune in' next month for the rest of the story, and a surprising ending.

Speaking of navigation and shoal waters, **join us at IYC New Year's Day for a clockwise rounding of Alameda Island**, weather permitting.

Meet us at the club at 8:30AM for breakfast and imminent departure. Best to depart around 9:30AM so we can bunch up our passage through the bridges at 10AM.

We (and other craft) traditionally stop *en route* at the other Yacht Clubs for a bit of fellowship and sustenance. Did I say shoals? Forget it. A 7 foot tide at 10AM more than covers the mud flats.

Malcolm Sowers
Cruise Chairman

Member Update Page

Fred Kearney

Fred is returning from his sojourn in Colombia. He'll be back December 16, 2002. He writes: Life in Cali remains like the weather, always about the same. I am not; however. I am moving back to the Bay Area in a couple of weeks. So let me know if anything exciting is going on at IYC. I have to find a new job (out of the legal biz), a place to live and a boat; perhaps in reverse order. My divorce becomes final on Jan. 2, if all goes as planned. I receive mail at my daughter's and will continue to do so until I am no longer homeless. I was thinking of checking out under the bridge to Gov't Is., but I noticed they have guards with guns now so I have to explore other options. Anyway, her address is 991 Scott St., Oakland, CA 94610. My CA tel. is 510.506.0179.

See you soon. Stay dry. — Fred

David and Judith Blumhorst

David and Judy joined a couple of months ago. Your hard-working Newsletter editor finally was able to get their address and telephone information. Welcome to IYC, David and Judy! Judy is a chiropractor and David is in management consulting. They have two boats, a West Wight Potter *Redwing*, and a Catalina 27. Their address is:

228 La Pera Circle
Danville, CA 94526.
Home: 925-820-0800
David's Cell: 925-487-1589
Judy's Cell: 925-997-0786
e-mails: David@Blumhorst.com
DrJudyB@Blumhorst.com

Dave and Jan Crenshaw

Dave and Jan send in the following report: Although we were heading south to Panama this fall, we have been waylaid in San Diego for a year so we have a new address until Oct 03. Please update our address to read:

Dave and Jan Crenshaw
PO Box 60657
San Diego CA 92166
619.683.6500; 619.683.6504 Fax
Email: jcrenshaw@d11.uscg.mil

Thanx for your help and greetings to our IYC friends.

John and Debby Ratto

John and Debby joined IYC at the Women's Sailing Seminar in October. They are interested in racing and cruising. One of them is an AT&T manager but this Editor was unable to decipher which one. They have a Catalina 27, *Corsair*, berthed at Alameda Marina in Slip #630 (sail #6610). Welcome John and Debby, hope to see you at our regularly scheduled activities (see Calendar of Events in this very Mainsheet)!

226 Cumberland Court
Alameda, CA 94502
Home: 510-337-9425
E-mail: Corsair48@ATTBI.com

Russ and Catherine Otto

Catherine Otto forwarded some of Russ' sailmail messages, leaving out all the romantic stuff and more serious needs such as boat parts. Their Catalina 34, *Fainche*, (*Fanny*) went into the water on November 15th at San Carlos in Mexico and Russ has been moving South since.

Russ did the crossing of the Northern part of the Sea of Cortez, leaving the 23rd, from the mainland going Southwest to one of his favorite anchorages, Russ writes: "I got the hook down at Isla Carmen at about 1100 today 11/24/02. The trip was equally divided between sailing and motoring. The wind was light from the S E at about 10 to 12 MPH and of course I would get headed and/or the wind would drop so I would have to start the engine. I saw one whale, as he crossed the bow at about 100 ft. That was it except for a couple of booby's. I saw only one boat the whole crossing."

At Isla Carmen anchorage, Puerto Ballandera, Russ' favorite: "I looked west as I came from below this afternoon, and the first thing I saw was a dolphin leaping into the air. Their mid day feeding was more acrobatic than usual. As I watched I saw something break the surface right behind the boat. As it surfaced again, I could hear it breath, I saw the head of a small turtle. About the same time the pelicans, who had been grooming themselves, discovered a school of fish nearby and began a frenzied attack. As you know it becomes quite noisy when 50 or so birds start crashing into the water. I went for a swim earlier and it wasn't too bad- the water temperature that is. I checked the boat and swam near shore for a pleasure cruise among the rocks. I saw some nice scallops, but, I must eat what I brought with me before I start fishing. The wind came up from the West last night to make for an uncomfortable evening. I re-anchored during the night into deeper water to put out more scope. Everything is working well, of course I do small repairs, and I am settling in... I just heard the osprey calling. He departs from the same cactus in the morning and evening.

Russ gets into siesta mode, his favorite anchorage was filled: I left Isla Carmen at about 0830 and motored to Isla Danzante, but Honeymoon cove was occupied by a trimaran. I went across and anchored in the waiting room. As I was eating lunch, in comes the same Tri to a mooring. Well, I wanted to go to the store anyway. I set the hook just before 1300. The highlight of the trip was something I had never experienced. I got a call on the radio, and while I was talking, a couple of bottlenose dolphins were swimming next to the boat. So I'm trying to keep up with the radio conversation and these dolphins started doing strange things. Like rolling over, and swimming on their back. Then much to my surprise, one of them leaps high into the air right off the bow. He must have gone 15 feet into the air. I couldn't believe it. it was right off the bow. Well, you know how I love to watch dolphins, so it was hard to talk coherently for awhile. I am settled here and will probably go to the store tomorrow. I think a siesta would be good about now... Everything is working well, except I may have to replace the holding tank

> *Dolphins Catch Some Air, page 6*

Dolphins Catch Some Air

(Continued from page 5)
gate valve ugh!

Russ' least favorite anchorage, it is always filled with cruisers- the Waiting Room: Even though Puerto Escondido is not my favorite place, this evening has been a treat. The water is glass smooth and it is absolutely quiet. It is overcast with threatening clouds to the west, dark grey and full of rain, but the bar is steady, there is no wind, and I just cooked wonderful meal of giant shrimp, with red and green bell peppers, zucchini, mushrooms, onions sauteed in a butter, garlic, mild hot sauce....

Now the Waiting room is even more of the least favorite. The pineapple express is a rainmaker: Subject: Rain rain go away!!! Pto. Escondido 11/29 It started at about midnight, and has continued, off and on, through the morning. I want to go to the store but will wait til tomorrow. The low off the coast of Baja has apparently opened the door for the Pineapple Express. It looks like I will be here for at least one more day and maybe two. This weather is supposed to slack off in 24 hours. I think I'll have chicken with potatoes for TURKEY DAY. I will take a break today and just do a couple of small projects. It is very quiet here and conducive to relaxation.

At Russ' favorite anchorage: Candelerio Chica 11/29/02 I left THE WAITING ROOM at about 1130 after walking to the little store and resupply some things: brandy, tequila, stuff like that. That little store actually had the green hot sauce. I was tempted to buy all they had but got a hold on my senses and only bought three. I may regret that act of prudence, but I am sure there are other places here to buy it. There is a swell from the South as well as a light breeze. Chica should be quite comfortable. The waiting room was dead flat and very quiet, although a squall would come through occasionally and fire up the wind gen. It takes 10 to 15 just to get a couple of amps out of it. Unfortunately there has been no sun and no wind, so when I left I was down about 130 amps. The trip recharged most of that (100+) and I just checked the ammeter and it has done its thing and now it is at zero. The solar panels are working even though there is little sun. All is well in Candelerio Chica.

The favorite anchorage gets choppy: Agua Verde 12/1/02I put the hook down in Agua Verde at about 1130 today. Last night in Chica it was a little roly because the wind shifted to the North and caused a small swell(chop) to enter Chica. It has been overcast and a bit dreary(no sun for the solar panels and no wind for the wind gen.) So I didn't mind getting an early start. That, plus the fact that three boats pulled in after I anchored and rafted up between me and the beach at Chica. I did, however, make myself a nice breakfast of bacon and eggs and potatoes. I was well fed and ready to rock and roll, and that is exactly what I did. downwind sailing isn't much fun with the short choppy seas and shifty winds. I had to steer out away from the mark and then jibe back. I tried wing n wing but found it uncomfortable and unproductive. As it turned out, I made good time and had no problems. There is a bit of roll here also, so I may make for La Ballena or Evaristo tomorrow.

Looking for a peaceful anchorage: I dropped the hook about ½ hr. ago after leaving AGUA VERDE at 0800. It's now 1330 and I have things pretty well set up for the day and evening. I was going to try BALLENA but there is a swell running and my second choice was LOS GATOS. As I approached I could see that it was open to the swell also, I looked at the books and saw BAHIA SAN CARLOS , which is just on the other side of

Chica Gets Choppy

PUNTO SAN TELMO from GATOS. It is protected from the swells with just a little rocking. I started out this morning with the idea of a short motorboat ride. I put the sails up but ran the engine to charge the batteries(no sun, little wind). The down wind run was really uncomfortable until I passed BALLENA and resigned myself to a roly downwind slog. I decided it was time to stop being so lazy and poled out the 150% and went ddw wing on wing. Well, it was like the difference between night and day. Everything settled down and even the autopilot didn't complain(too much). So I enjoyed the sleigh ride, 25 miles in a little over 4 hours. The water is fairly calm here but breezy. which is perfect for the new wind generator. The book says 60 to 100 hours in 18 knot wind to break in the bearings. I am hoping that a few more hours in less wind will do the same thing. The wind has been about 15 k max but I did see 20+ true today, but sailing off the wind it didn't reach the 18. The higher the wind speed, the less noise you hear from it....

The rain increased right after I anchored. There has been an escalation of precipitation, but not heavy, just drizzle in greater volume. The wind gen is happy, and I just finished a chicken and veg dinner, so I am too. I talked to TRI-MARAN that had just anchored in el Gato. They said the conditions there were ok for them. The Baja is very green because of the rain. ...

This is the darkest night I have seen in Mexico. It is still raining and there are no other boats here. I can see no lights on the beach, no stars, no moon. Outside, there are bioluminescent spots in the water. Not like fish darting about, but a variety of odd shapes that are very bright and then fade away, apparently moving very slowly if at all. I usually depend on landmarks, other boats, or shore lights to orient myself when maintaining a casual anchor watch. Here there is nothing. My GPS mark when I first set the anchor is my only reference. It is a little spooky.

I'm meeting Russ when he gets to La Paz and we are immediately heading South for the mainland, from his weather reports, I think we made a good travel plan: Here at PUNTO SAN TELMO it is still raining and cold. I will probably head out this morning as the wind is supposed to pick up in the next couple of days to N NW 20-25 KTS. Don on SUMMER PASSAGE says the weather is supposed to clear up late this evening. YAAAYYYY!!!

A wee bit more south- last year we took a shortcut on our hike here and sunk to our ankles in mud: Evaristo 12/3 Everything is green. With all the rain, the land is green instead of brown. It's almost like being anchored in Hawaii. Even as I was sailing down in the overcast and threatening skies it looked green. Now the sun has just come out and the water is blue instead of grey, and the land is green, not brown. Evaristo is very calm and peaceful. I may spend a couple of days here. Last night wasn't much fun. The wind had been Northerly all day and then during the night it switched and was from the South. Then it changed again to come from the West. Well, I was concerned all night about having enough scope out, or too much, or would the adverse wind increase. I survived so all's well that ends well.

must have been nice at Evaristo: 12/5 A thin sliver of moon chased the fading sunset as the pelicans began their evening feeding. I turned off the wind generator to listen to their splashes and the other sounds of the end of the day. An osprey bragging to all of his hunting prowess, frigate birds desperate to steal a fish from a tern, or anyone, for their last meal

> Meeting in La Paz, page 7

Meeting in La Paz

(Continued from page 6)

of the day. The wind is still up and the boat dances at anchor. All of the other boats have left and I am alone in what is called ENTRANCE BAY of PUNTA SAN EVARISTO. I completed a few projects today, and I am continuing to check all of the boat systems to insure everything is functional. Good night from Mexico.

Still nice at Evaristo: 12/6 All the other boats that were here have left so I have the anchorage to myself. Tomorrow morning I will weigh anchor and head for Isla San Francisco, just about 10 miles away. It will only take about 2 hours to get there. I am running low on fresh food but I have enough canned and packaged stuff to last over a month, so food will not be a problem. However I am running dangerously low on beer so I will probably head for La Paz a couple of days early. ...The small cove I am in always has a lot of activity as far as the wildlife is concerned. Many pelicans dive for fish throughout the day. A couple of ospreys call to one another frequently and I have seen them carrying fresh caught prey that they often eat while perched atop a tall cactus. This morning I saw a kingfisher, rather rare but unmistakable. Occasionally there will be the sound of a school of fleeing fish rapidly tail walking (or more accurately tail running) over the surface while a predator is pursuing unseen from below. This morning a cravelle jack was actually leaping out of the water while terrorizing a school of fish. There are also terns, boobies, frigate birds, and today I saw a small white egret with bright yellow feet. It has been cloudy for most of the trip, and not very warm. I have heard that the weather South of here is more comfortable.

We have spent some lovely days here at "The Hook", the hiking provides stunning views and adventure fending off territorial sea gulls. Tenacatita is where we are headed after we meet in La Paz. Mike, Kathryn, and Rosie the dog on Briela are our friends we met in Puerto Vallarta last year: 12/7 I am safely tucked in at Isla San Francisco. When I arrived there was a large power boat with jet skis, pangas, and rubber dinghies. After buzzing around on the jet ski for 15 or 20 minutes, they loaded everything up, pulled the anchor, and took off. Wasn't that nice of them.... The sun is out and the sky is clear and blue (something I haven't seen for awhile) and the water is also a pretty, darker, blue. The water here is very clear but only about 75 degrees. I heard on the Amigo net that the water temp in Tenacatita is 85 degrees. Mike on Briela reported it.

Typical cruiser discussing amps and zincs from The Hook: This is one of the best days yet. The sun has warmed things up and the solar panels are "oh so happy." I am not too ambitious today, but I did talk myself into going for a swim. I saw something fairly large floating near shore and became curious and also wanted to inspect the boat bottom. The boat bottom is in great shape and the zincs are doing ok. I swam to shore and walked up the beach to find a dead seal. A large one at that. Swimming back I saw a small eel that lives in a sort of tube, like those giant worms. He had his head and part of his body out, but when I swam down to look at him he went down in his hole. Near the boat I saw a small manta ray. He was maybe three feet across. Just beautiful. I swam down to within about two feet to see if I could touch it, but he swam away rapidly. I guess he wasn't a touchy feely guy. As I was hanging my lycra suit, towels, etc. out to dry, a school of cravelle jacks swam under the boat. I may stay here through tomorrow and then head off to Ensenada Grande on Isla Partida.

IYC 2003 Schedule of Events

Jan 1	'Round the Island Cruise
Jan 25	General Meeting
Jan 26	Superbowl Sunday / Joanne's Potluck Birthday Party
Feb 22	General Meeting / Crab Feed
Mar 1	Sadie Hawkins Race / Clam Chowder Cook-off
Mar 15	Double Handed Lightship Race
Mar 22	General Meeting
Apr 18	Friday Night Race #1
Apr 26	General Meeting
Apr 27	Opening Day on the Bay
May 2	Friday Night Race #2
May 16	Friday Night Race #3
May 24	General Meeting
May 30	Friday Night Race #4
Jun 13	Friday Night Race #5 Awards
Jun 21	General Meeting
Jul 4	Fireworks J.L. Square
Jul 19	Silver Eagle Long Distance Race
Jul 26	General Meeting
Aug 1	Friday Night Race #6
Aug 15	Friday Night Race #7
Aug 23	General Meeting / Pig Roast
Sep 5	Friday Night Race #8
Sep 19	Friday Night Race #9
Sep 27	General Meeting
Oct 3	Friday Night Race #10 Awards
Oct 11-12	Women's Sailing Seminar
Oct 18	HDA Yankee Cup Race
Oct 19	Commodore's Cup / Chili Cook-off
Oct 26	General Meeting / Halloween Party
Nov 1	Jack and Jill + One Race

... to be continued ...



Next Board Meeting:
January 8, 2003
1830 hours at the Clubhouse

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- Jan 1** 'ROUND THE ISLAND CRUISE
Kickoff the New Year at IYC at 0830 hours!

- Jan 8** BOARD MEETING
Changeover Meeting, New Appointments

- Jan 18** GENERAL MEETING and Dinner
English cuisine—Come and try it!

- Jan 26** Superbowl Sunday and Joanne's Birthday Party