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ISLAND YACHT CLUB'S

MAINSHEET

Issue Four

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Alameda Marina

April 2004

COMMODORE

Diane McClure
(831) 689-9141

VICE COMMODORE

Peter Linehan (415) 552-8386

REAR COMMODORE

Shirley Ahlf (925) 672-2514

STAFF COMMODORE

David Hand (925) 820-5637

PORT CAPTAIN

Glen Krawiec (510) 339-9451

SECRETARY

Heidi Schmidt (510) 654-7301

TREASURER

Rich Ahlf (925) 672-2514

RACING CO-CHAIRS

Ben Mewes (510) 352-4863 and
Joanne McFee (925) 254-5384

CRUISE CHAIR

Russ Otto (510) 537-9905

MEMBERSHIP

Ron McClure (831) 689-9141

PUBLICATIONS

Janet Frankel (415) 387-5807

BAR MANAGER

Joan Wetherell (925) 837-9408

HISTORIAN

Pam Richardson (510) 724-1371

ASSN. LIASON

Ted Crum (510) 654-7301

SHIPS STORE

Betty Sleeth (408) 279-2863

Remember these Dates!

- | | | |
|---------------|---|----------------------|
| Apr 24 | General Meeting | 1830 hrs |
| Apr 30 | Friday Night Races
The second race!
FAMOUS BARBEQUE! | 1825 hrs |
| May 1 | Cinco de Mayo Party
Early bird drinks and
anticuchos (appetizers)
Dinner, Pinata, Music | 1500 hrs
1800 hrs |
| May 14 | Friday Night Races
The third race! | 1825 hrs |



News from the Commodore

By Diane Duey McClure, Commodore.

April is a busy month at IYC. On the 16th, we held the first Friday Night race of the season. There were a few kinks in the chain as they say, but everything eventually worked out. The galley was busy until late in the evening. Thanks, Shirley and Debbie, and Peter and Devon. The burgers were fresh, the prime rib was tasty, and those cookies were delicious!

April 25 will find IYC in the Opening Day on the Bay decorated boat parade with three entries in the "Decorated to Theme" category. If you want

> *Time for Decorating!*, page 3

Gambling, the Embracable Vice

By Peter Linehan, Vice Commodore

Hi folks,

It seems this column is due monthly rather than quarterly as our editor has kindly reminded me.

Well, on to the Vice report. This month we'll discuss Gambling. Now here's a vice we can all embrace. We all do it. Perhaps just gambling that the usual lift will appear just beyond the dock full of empty containers, or that the right lane on the bay bridge will get you there sooner, or maybe something more exciting is your cup o tea. For me, it's the \$1 slot machines. On a recent

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PUSHME, PULLYOU

By Joanne McFee, Racing Co-chair

So I was working at the Boat Show at Jack London Square and ran into Dave Hand and finagled a ride home. I figured I could keill two birds with one stone, since I needd a give him a shopping list for the BBQ for our first Friday night race (April 16). I ran into my house to get his list, and brought it to him in his car.

You guessed it! The door slammed behind me – and locked – with my key inside. My house is completely locked up – nothing open anywhere. We made sure my neighbor was home before David went on his way. My neighbor gave me (1) a drink, (2) a phonebook, and (3) a phone. Locksmith #1 said \$200 an hour, plus parts, so I continued my search. Locksmith #2 said he could be there between 11:30pm and midnight (it was 8:30). I replied with an expletive. We never even discussed how much it would cost!

We finally laid electric cords across the road and ground off the door knob. Cost: \$25 for anew lock set.

Moral: (1) hide a key! (2) Have a wonderful, handy neighbor! (3) Don't be such an idiot.

In other news, we had a wonderful Double Handed Lightship – great racing, great race committee. Up next, Friday night races! Come on out to help us! We always have room on the race deck, in the galley, or wherever!

Until next month,
—Joanne

Especially the Whatnot

By Janet Frankel, Editor

Today dawned foggy and drizzly, one of my favorites. I love it when it's overcast and cool. Of course, I love it when it's warm and sunny too. I'm what you call a real aficionado of San Francisco. Except for when superhughe deluges flood my garage. That gets old quick. But, I am digressing from what was already a digression! Shocking, I'm sure. The point is, I'm looking at the Bay and realizing that it is my duty to share certain information with you, Dear Reader.

First, going back to the amazing prime rib dinner we had in February: I think anyone who attended that general meeting in February would agree with me that it was the BEST prime rib dinner they'd ever had. What you might not realize is that our Vice Commodore, Peter Linehan, shopped up and cooked that meal for us. He personally picked up the prime rib at the source, Harris Ranch, and delivered it to the clubhouse for a fresh and delicious meal. And, he *donated* the entire prime rib roast to the club. As Vice Commodore, he is responsible for making sure our general meetings and social events are a success. I'm sure you already know, Dear Reader, that the February meeting was a

> Another Hobbit story, next column

Magic Needed for Opening Day

Glen Krawiec, Artist-in-Residence

I would love to have Dorothy's ruby shoes – click the heels and find myself surrounded by Tinman, Scarecrow and Lion all plunked down on David Hand's boat. Complete the picture with a yellow brick road, a towering rainbow and a large bluebird in flight – the bluebird of happiness. Aunti Em, there's no place like IYC to find happiness in a well-decorated entry in the Opening Day Parade; the theme of which is Follow Your Rainbow.

But reality is setting in and heel-clicking only works in the movies, so the call is out for everyone to show up at IYC on Saturday morning, April 24, starting at 8:00am to get this dream assembled. Help for an hour or all day. You are all welcome and will enjoy the adventure. Then stay at IYC for the general meeting and dinner in the evening.

You'll be hearing from me personally to commit some time on Saturday and even go on the parade on Sunday.
—Call me! Glen – 510-339-9451.

Another *Hobbit* Story

> (cont'd from previous column)

total success – I just want to be sure you know why! Which reminds me: The position of Galley Manager is still open, and with Peter's help in the kitchen it is sure to be a rewarding job. Our upcoming general meeting and dinner will be prepared by Peter, once again. Italian food. Don't miss it!

Next, about that speed-demon boat *Hobbit*. This year, I was out of town for the DHLS and Peter found alternate crew. Wouldn't you know it, the conditions were perfect, and *Hobbit* was performing admirably within the fleet, sailing downwind wing-on-wing. In fact, they were doing just fine on the return trip from the bucket... until ... up up up went the spinnaker. I wasn't there, I can't say for sure what happened, but a watchful Joanne McFee later described it as "the mother of all spinnaker wraps." Try as he might, Peter could not get *Hobbit* to release her grip on that spinnaker, stuck in halfway-up position. But wait, you cry, Dear Reader. How would Joanne, on the GGYC race deck, see a spinnaker wrap that happened miles out at sea? Ah... Yes, the sad truth is that the spinnaker wrap remained in place all the way home, flapping, filling with air, slowing *Hobbit* down. *Hobbit* finished within the allotted time, which I think counts for a lot given her record. Still... poor *Hobbit*. So close, and yet...

Oh, you will read elsewhere in this *Mainsheet* about Peter's success with the crash boat steering mechanism. What you probably won't know (unless I tell you) is that the boat now steers upside down! That's right. If you sit on your head in the captain seat of our crash boat, you will have no trouble. Or perhaps if you pretend the wheel is a tiller. Then you'll be fine.

One more thing to share with you: Every time you come into the club, and you see Joan Wetherell behind the bar, be sure to smile and thank her for her hours of commitment and hard work back there. I say this because (a) she deserves it, and (b) I am hoping it will help her forgive me for my unrelenting barrage of bad jokes and whatnot.

Time for Decorating!

(Continued from page 1)

to be involved in decorating, come on down to the club or the guest dock on Saturday, April 24 and lend a hand. Glen Krawiec is our master decorator, and he will put you to work on the boat.

If your boat lives in Alameda Marina, you might have received a blue insert in your last statement about membership in IYC. We are holding a membership drive and hope to swell the ranks. More members equals more fun.

The next Friday night race is April 30. Come on out and race, or watch the start and finish and barbecue a burger with us.

Arnold in Baja!

A report from Frank & Ellen Atteberry

We have been running a little behind, so we are trying to move quickly south to get across the Bay of Tehuntepec and into southern Costa Rica by June 1. Our two grandsons are coming down to play with the monkeys and catch up with their grandparents after a little over a year since seeing them. As a result, we are taking daily vitamins and doing exercises to get ready physically. At the present time we are about 30 miles offshore heading to Zihuatanejo (Z town). We will stop there momentarily for vege's and to pick up a CD with pictures at Dick's Bar that some friends left there for us and head south again. We will likely just pass by Acapulco and stop in Huatulco in Oaxaca state to do our final check out with Customs from Mexico. The weather down here has been great as we get further into the tropics; the water temp has dropped to the mid 70's and the air temp has been below 80 since leaving Puerto Vallarta. Humidity is staying in the 78% range, naturally. During the night watches, Ellen is really bundled up to stay warm in the mid 60's breezes. We have been catching tuna again, so our old routine of fish and veggies is making us feel good.

Before leaving Puerto Vallarta, we moved the boat into Paradise Marina at Nuevo Vallarta. We needed to get some duplicate tax forms sent down and the big marina harbormaster's office was a better delivery point for DHL (they did not like to drive all the way out to La Cruz). The marina is located on a river estuary and our berth was up the river near to a bridge; the brackish water seemed to be full of wildlife and we took a couple of dinghy rides up the river where the tall bamboo, and mangrove trees almost make a total canopy across the river. The iguana's were all over the place: big 30 lb ones in the trees (bird eaters), in the rocks, and swimming across the river with really long tails. The ones in the trees had short fat tails, but the swimmers had long tails, their overall length being about 5 ft. Two crocodiles cruised by the stern of our boat about twice a day, probably checking for small pets on the docks. The larger was about 15 ft long and the smaller about 6 ft. Paradise Village is really nice and looks a lot like Disney-

> Paradise Village or Disneyland?, page 5

Hilton, or ... Caesar's Palace?

(Continued from page 1)

business trip to Reno my regular hotel of choice, The Courtyard, was all sold out. So I had my travel agent book me into the Reno Hilton. (As I later discovered, it's not really a Hilton at all. But a cleverly disguised Caesar's palace.) On my way to dinner one night at the \$6.99 all you can eat buffet (hell, it includes prime rib...) I stopped to play \$40 in the "wheel of fortune" slots. You can imagine the speed at which one can lose, at 2 bucks a pull. So 3 minutes later, I'm down to \$8 and I land on the "spin the wheel" icon. (Now at this point I like to think of Vanna White in a dress with a plunging neckline jumping up and down with excitement as the wheel make it's rounds...) And WOW the wheel stopped on 1000. After looking at it for a moment, I realized these ARE the \$1 slots and I just had won \$1,000. I looked around for someone to congratulate me, and saw only an older woman who said, "I'd smile for ya, but I forgot to put my teeth in..." So much for Reno.

Now you may be wondering what's all this got to do with sailing? And I was getting around to that so be patient.

As some of you know, the chase boat that the club uses was in need of some repairs. The steering cable was busted and the ignition key was broken off in the lock. If any among you has any experience with large outboard motors you will know the common problem that occurs with the steering arms and the cables that drive them. In our case we needed to replace the entire cable. As the original 1973 equipment had just worn out. Of course a more modern system of rotary steering has replaced our old rack and pinion design years ago. Finding the rack style of cable was unlikely said the guys at Seapower, as they sold me a \$170 complete replacement system (sans steering wheel, an extra \$25 bucks, because the old wheel didn't fit the new steering shaft). After removing the old cable and arm (we'll not go into this, but will just mention that the tools involved included; a hammer, a grinding wheel, a propane torch, a jig saw, several wrenches, chisels, and a whole can of silicon penetrating spray), I installed the new cable on the motor and mounted the new Rotary steering system behind the dashboard. And went to make the final connection of the cable into the rotary device.... Ah, the cable was a foot too short, even though the Seapower guy had measured both the old one and the new. So this time a trip to West Marine was in order. I first looked at the same system Seapower had sold me (\$150 here) and also found in the bargain store a cable of the right length with – of all things – a rack on the end! So, \$70 later we had a much cheaper fix for the problem (or so it seemed). In the end the rack fit just fine but the mounting holes didn't line up even close, so I eyeballed the spots for the new holes on the rack and drilled for new holes, they didn't fit either, so I eyeballed four new holes on the pinion holder, lo and behold one of the four matched up with the new holes in the rack. Seizing the opportunity, I bolted the parts together and drilled out the 3 others and soon had four bolts solidly

> The Lights and the Horn, page 4

Dragonfly in La Paz

By Joyce and John Logan, Cruising Members

Hi All, well here I am again! We met up in Isla San Francisco with a couple we met in Alameda a couple of years ago. It was nice to see them again, spent 2 days with them and then they headed for Puerto Vallarta and we stayed for another day on the white sand beaches picking up shells and agates. The water was so clear you could see the bottom as clear as can be in 30 foot of water, we watched the fish swim under the boat and the dingy it was really neat. We got word my sister had broke her hip so we headed for La Paz and stopped in Isla Partida to spend the night as we didn't want to go into La Paz after dark so got up early and headed in. Got there around noon. My sister had passed away that morning, so I flew to Michigan with my daughter Tammy and was there for a week. Got back and spent 2 days in La Paz getting things together for going up the coast. Left La Paz and spent 2 nights in Isla Partida again and we got about blowed away. It was blowing 25 to 35 knots and it was rocking and rolling like crazy so we took turns on anchor watch to make sure we didn't drag anchor and run into someone or they didn't run into us. In the morning we pulled anchor along with a lot of other boats as they were all up all night also and were moving to a more protected bay as the winds were supposed to be the same that night.

We sailed to San Everisto. A pretty bay with rugged around it. It had a nice little village there. We spent 2 days there and this morning we left about 7 am and headed to Agua Verde further up the coast about 45 miles, We had a great trip saw lots of dolphins, One pod was in a feeding frenzy and it is so cool to see them all jumping out of the water and diving and carrying on man it is an experience to remember and I got some of it on video so can watch it on TV wow how neat. The country on the way here is really beautiful they compare it to the Grand Canyon in Miniature. It is so great to see all of this. I want to do it again next winter as we have had to miss so much of it as we got such a late start and we have to leave in April to go to Alaska . So many Bays we haven't seen and things we haven't done. I will probably have to fight John as he will want to start down the coast of the mainland of Mexico but there is so much to see here and the colors are so vivid it is hard to believe. We will be here a day or two there is supposed to be great snorkeling here. We'll have to see if the water is warm enough, hahaha. We miss you all and hope to see you one of these days.

—Love John and Joyce

First Cruise of the Season!

By David Hand, Staff Commodore

Hello All!

On May 1st I.Y.C. is having their first cruise of the season to San Rafael Yacht Club.

I have spoken to Gino Trimble their Rear Commodore and they are enthusiastic about entertaining some

> *Cruise to San Rafael May 1, page 5*

Paradise Village or Disneyland?

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land; everything is spic and span clean with all the staff in starched uniforms. The room prices were in the US\$350 range and the several restaurants where also pricey. We would strongly recommend that anyone coming to PV for vacation stay away from the resort hotels; there is no need to spend money on plane tickets to go to a big hotel you could also find in Santa Clara, Dallas, or Baltimore. The old Los Arcos Hotel in Puerto Vallarta located on the beach in the Romantica Zone looks fabulous. It is old, but really well maintained. Narrow streets in the old part of PV with all the street cafe's, drama theaters (mostly musicals), mercado, and small shops surround the hotel. We did not check the prices, but they must be less than half the resort places out of old town. A waiter handed us a brochure for Monday's event: a dinner show with Combo Chicken, Beef, BBQ ribs, and sausage with salad, dessert bar for 93 pesos per person.

Our whole image of Orca whales like the famous one in Free Willy has been destroyed. A marine biologist who goes out on the official whale watching tour boats out of PV into Banderas Bay told us a new pod of Orcas has entered the Bay and was seen eating the migrating sea turtles. The turtles come into the bay to lay their eggs on the beaches in the summer months. The Orcas would chomp down on a turtle breaking the shell and then toss it into the air, retrieve it and swallow it. It is illegal to interfere with nature, but it seems a shame. So the Orcas came down from Vancouver to feast on the young whales that are less smart than their siblings, crunch on the turtles, and rip up old sea lions. I remember the old days, scuba diving off Carmel and getting really scared with all the other divers when a Killer Whale would enter Carmel Bay. That was before the movies and marineworld featured the cute "Orcas" with the young lady riding its back. Moving down the Mexican coast, the Mexican Riviera, has been beautiful. We an-

> *Papayas with Perfect Skin, page 5*

The Lights and the Horn

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in place. (Kind of a long way around you may say, but then you have to crawl under your dashboard and hold a 20lb piece of steel up against something with one hand, all the while trying to drill hardened steel with the other.) The ignition switch was much easier, it came with color coded directions and a fat new key. Now the only problems are the lights and horn doesn't work. (I swear they didn't work before the new switch...)

Now we get back to the \$1,000 gambling winnings, while in the bargain store, looking for cables I ran across a \$1,100 radar system on sale for \$799. And now every day thank the Reno Hilton for my new 16-mile radar. And if there is a message in all of this ... I would have to guess that it's, put your teeth in when you play the slots, as you never know when the person next to you will win big.

—Peter

Boating in the South Bay

By Shirley Ahlf, Rear Commodore

The Weekend of the 3rd was a pretty big one here in the Bay Area. IYC hosted one of their biggest races, the Double Handed Lightship off Golden Gate Race deck. Unfortunately, Rich and I were unable to attend, but from what I hear, things ran as smooth as silk. I'd like to thank Joanne McFee (CRO), David Blumhorst, Joanne Meyers, Jo Ann Robello, Devon and David Hand, Catherine and Russ Otto, Ted Crum and Bill Gunn. I hear tell they were a Cracker Jack race committee, so I'm looking forward to working with them real soon. Thank you all for a job well done. Again, another example of our members being living proof of what a terrific club and membership we have.

The reason we were unable to attend was that the Blue Gavel took the Ward Cleveland Trophy to South Bays Opening Day Celebration. What a celebration it was. First, at 7:30am we boarded the Presidential Yacht USS Potomac To me, that was a thrill in itself. I can remember my Grandfather listening to the radio as President Roosevelt delivered some of his Fireside Chats. I'm getting way ahead of myself. As most of you know, the USS Potomac was President Roosevelt's personal yacht. One of the first things I noticed was how spartan the yacht appeared. Being that this was where Pres. Roosevelt entertained the King and Queen of England as well as other dignitaries of that era I expected a little more in the way of décor and just plain ole creature comforts. The Stateroom for guests was a small room with twin beds, a very small dresser and an even smaller closet. I know this is a 114 ft. yacht and you do have little space, but most of our boats here at IYC have more luxury items than the Potomac did. One of the points of interest was his elevator. It was just large enough for him to fit in his wheel chair and he then would pull himself up hand over hand onto the upper deck where his quarters were located. When he was ready to leave, he would leave by the same way and the elevator opened up to the outside by way of a false smoke stack. Of course, there were family pictures throughout and quilts and pillows with likenesses of Falda. The fan tail of the ship was the gathering place during the day as it was during the time of its use. The ship had two galleys. One for the President and one for the crew, both very small, even for a yacht. Upon our arrival at Sequoia Yacht Club the band was playing and everything was in a festive mood. The judging of the parade took place off the Potomac.

After a hot dog and hamburger feed it was time to raise anchor and head home, well almost. Seems as how the tide came in and left us perched on a sand bar. Have no fear... the Coastwise are here. With three of the USCG's finest boats they pulled us off in no time flat. They made it look so easy. So after we became afloat we made our journey home in the twilight of the evening and a beautiful sunset. No matter where you roam, on land or sea or foam, you can't beat the Bay, our own home sweet home.

—Shirley

Papayas with Perfect Skin

(Continued from page 4)

chored in front of the Las Hadas Hotel, Manzanillo Bay, where the movie "10" with Bo Derek was filmed. She made history as one of the first white girls to have "corn row" braided hair with beads, making that hairdo no longer an exclusive of the darker ladies. Now, almost every kid that comes to Mexico from the US gets their hair braided the same way, but never heard of that movie. The local village of Santiago had a great Mercado with good produce and sopes. The papayas have perfect skin, and the bananas are soo good. We wanted to get a "stalk" of bananas and hang it in the cockpit, but were afraid they would all get ripe at once and we could not eat them fast enough.

We know where Arnold goes to get away from it all; he has a huge power yacht, about 100 ft long, in the Sea of Cortez. One of our buddies needed his dive tanks refilled while anchored in Aqua Verde, so he took his dinghy over to this huge power boat with dive tanks on the afterdeck and asked if he could get his tanks filled. One of the crew said they would have to get the owner's approval and he was away in the big dinghy diving. Later that day, the big dinghy motored over to his sailboat, and the big guy with the big white sombrero, big cigar and big sunglasses yelled out and asked if this was the guy who needed air. Nick said the voice sounded Eastern European, and when he went on deck to talk to the guy, he took off his sunglasses, looked him in the eye and said "my boys will take care of it, just bring the tanks on over". Nick said "Thanks Arnold" and he waved as he motored back to the big boat. When Ronald Reagan was Governor, the news would say "Ronnie and Nancy are spending the holiday at their ranch above Santa Barbara". I bet you will never hear that Arnold and his wife are in Baja on his boat for the holidays, where he keeps his Cuban cigars; they will just say they went to the Kennedy Compound on Cape Cod for the Holiday. Since Arnold is now publicly a Republican, he is not welcome at the same table with old Ted Kennedy (Arnold probably still touts him about Chippaquadick and the Intern telling him he shoulda done what the Modesto Congressman did).

Stay safe and don't eat too many left over Easter Eggs.
Love, Frank and Ellen, Hot Ice, N 17 59.602, W102 44.723

Cruise to San Rafael May 1

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cruisers in the upcoming season. It seems they have not had too many visitors the past few years because of silting in their harbor entrance; they have however just had their entrance and dock dredged to six feet and are looking forward to having some guests.

I will be contacting Gino in the next week or so and it would be nice if I could give him an estimate of the number of boats. So if you could let me know in advance if you can make it that would be nice, but come anyway.
Happy sailing! — David Hand

(contributed by Veronica Cocksedge)

Said the sea gull to the ea-gull,
I invei-gull like a dream,
I am not a squeamish sea gull,
I guarantee not to squeam.
If the wee gull turns out half ea-gull,
Don't imagine that I will fret,
Once I had one by a bea-gull,
And I haven't stopped laughing yet.
Said the ea-gull to the sea gull
As he doffed his royal crown,
You're a bad bird, you're a bad bird,
But you're the only bird in town.

A sea gull met an ea-gull
In an eag-oo way up North,
The sea gull eyed the ea-gull,
And the following words came forth:
I'm a sea gull, you're an ea-gull,
You are re-gull, like a king,
You are royal, like Standard Oyal,
So how about a royal fling?
Said the sea gull to the ea-gull
It's illea-gull, but sublime,
I'm a she-gull without a he-gull,
So why are we wasting time?

The SEA GULL and the EA-GULL
From Versus by Ogden Nash



Board Meeting
April 24, 2004—1700 hours

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- Apr 24 Board Meeting, then General Meeting
- Apr 30 Friday Night Spring Series—Race #2
- May 01 Cinco de Mayo Party!
- May 14 Friday Night Spring Series—Race #3