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ISLAND YACHT CLUB'S

# MAINSHEET

Issue Five

Volume 33

Alameda Marina

May 2004

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## Remember these Dates!

- Jun 04 Friday Night Races** 1825 hrs  
The fourth race!  
FAMOUS BARBEQUE!
- Jun 5-6 CRUISE to Angel Island**
- Jun 18 Friday Night Races** 1825 hrs  
The fifth race, BBQ,  
and awards ceremony  
for best-in-series
- Jun 26 General Meeting** 1830 hrs  
Come for the dining  
experience, stay for the fun!



## Words from the Commodore

By Diane Duey McClure, Commodore.

A successful Cinco de Mayo party was held the first weekend in May. Many margaritas were passed over the bar, and I think I washed a thousand glasses. Wait! The club doesn't own that many glasses, so it's possible I washed the same ones over and over. Thanks to Marie Martin for bartending, Joan Wetherell and friend Ron, for marinating and cooking the tri tip and chicken. Joanne McFee was seen working in the galley. Thanks, Joanne. The party was fun, but we learned that our members aren't interested in at-

> *It's Women's Sailing Time!*, page 3

## The Cost of Salmon

By Peter Linehan, Vice Commodore

This month's vice is gluttony. It seems appropriate to pick this vice as our culture is almost ruled by it. We see it every day; more is better, bigger is better. Can't get enough of a good thing.

With that in mind, as well as a desire to serve up some of the freshest salmon to our Friday night racers, I set out very early (that's 4 AM for the non-fishermen among you) on a dark and foggy cold morning. *Hobbit's* new atomic 4 running along nicely, pushing the boat at just under 6 knots @ about 1700 rpms. That and a strong ebb had me scooting down the city front by 5:30. Just ahead lay a wall of fog. You know the type, a thick layer that

> *A Wall of Fog on the Cityfront*, page 3

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## Atteberrys' Mid-May Report

By Frank & Ellen Atteberry, Cruisers

We are currently tied up at Marina Chahue in the Bahia Huatulco area. The nearby town, La Crusita, has a restaurant called The Iguana Bar and Grill. In the bar is a tree stump with a huge iguana sitting on it, about 70 lbs. He is friendly and named Julio. Seems as though our friends on *Calypso* and us are the last two boats to go south across

> *Waiting for Weather Windows, page 3*

## Cobbled Nacing Rews

By Joanne McFee, Racing Co-chair

Our esteemed Editor asked me to cobble something up so I'm cobbling. Oh – that's shoemaking! I'm supposed to talking about SAILING.

**OPENING DAY**—Opening Day was a hoot. I haven't been out on Opening Day for a lot of years and found the Bay far less crowded than I remember it. Much saner. My son Brian and granddaughter Arin and I joined Ben on *Georgia*. We were going to decorate with balloons and streamers but balloons were against the rules and Glen's genius prevailed. We had a sun, a rainbow, and a pot of gold. Of course, we didn't hold a candle to first place *Jabberwock*.

Brian and Ben put the decorations together and we were a little late heading out. Arin and I practiced our princess waves. After contradictory directions from the Coast Guard Auxillary and a police boat, we found our way to the parade. Then we paraded. It was a bit disorganized, but fun. Arin loved it, but she wanted it to be "bouncier." Well, she is MY granddaughter.

**FRIDAY NIGHTS**—Friday nights are off to their usual good start. Attendance is good and the racers are happy. The bar and barbeque are busy places. We have something new this year. Everyone who buys a dinner gets a raffle ticket. We're raffling off Glen's stained glass, hats, all sorts of stuff. All you need to do is buy dinner. Good fun. Join us!

**MORE LIGHTSHIP**—The Lightship was a pretty cool race. Only two boats dropped out. The time limit was 8:00. All but one boat had finished by 5:25. We were watching a boat (we knew it was *Hobbit*) coming under the gate with some strange sail configuration. It sort of looked like *Hobbit* had mouse ears. The closer they came the stranger it looked. Eventually we realized Peter was sailing *Hobbit* under the main alone and had the mother and father of all spinnaker wraps. It had wrapped one way from the top, one way from the bottom, hence the "ears." Sailing with main and ears alone for about 10 miles of a 25 mile race, *Hobbit* still finished at 6:43.44 (official time). I think *Hobbit* had wings as well as ears! The race committee was impressed, and we're a tough crowd!

That's all for now. Tell your friends about IYC. Remember, it's a poor frog who doesn't praise his own pond!

--Joanne

## IYC Bluebird Gets First Worm

Glen Krawiec, Gratified Artist-in-Residence

What a wonderful experience. IYC won first place in the decorated sailboat contest on Opening Day April 25. But that was just a consequence of a group of fabulous club members and some friends working together furiously on an idea. Lots of new faces came out to help to make this the best experience in 11 years of entering this event.

The theme, Follow Your Rainbow, was depicted by using the song Somewhere Over The Rainbow (bluebirds fly) from the Wizard of Oz. David and Devon Hand's boat was renamed "Yellow Brick Road" and was: draped in carpeting painted like a yellow brick road, encompassed by a 37 foot wide rainbow (how to stern and up to the spreader), sported a 14 foot long bluebird of happiness which flew from the spinnaker pole. The boat carried Dorothy and her entourage in full costume – a sight to behold! Look at the pictures at the clubhouse.

### A list of Characters:

- Linda Ahlf played Dorothy complete with braids and ruby sneakers and carried a comatose Toto in her wicker basket.
- Carol Hess dressed to perfection as a green-clad Munchkin.
- Helen Sowers was perfectly cast and quaffed as the Wicked Witch of the West with great legs.
- Malcol Sowers attached all manner of shiny Kitchen gadgets to his body to become the Tin Man.
- Pam Krawic was Glinda in a blond Afro wig and whipped around a supersized wish wand.
- Devon Hand was luxuriously draped in furs and a provocative tail to become the scaredy cat Lion.
- Aymen (from Egypt) – Betty Sleeth's neighbor, littered the boat with straw as he danced about looking like the original Scarecrow.
- Portia Polner was another Munchkin complete with a grand red lollipop.
- Bob (?), a friend of Bill Gunn's, was trigger-man on the CO2 bottles puffing out clouds of "smoke" and was also a singer of sea chanties and raucus songs.
- Glen Krawiec (moi) played Oz with a loud voice, "Who dares to interrupt the great and powerful Oz?" and stepped all over Dorothy's line, "Oh Auntie Em, there's no place like home!"
- David Hand expertly drove the boat and was hidden by the rainbow most of the time, probably sheepish about jamming the tape in his player so we couldn't blast the Committee boat with our theme song.

Of course there were others who helped amass this spectacle. Jeff Varner wired and stuffed the bluebird. John Ratto cut plywood and produced the "Sun" used on Ben Mewes' boat. Ted Crum engineered the mounting of the rainbow onto the boat. Heidi Schmidt who grabbed the bird by the tail and didn't let it get away. Joan Byrne and her three grandkids made a tape of our theme song and painted some of the rainbow. Emile Carles donated lots of plywood. Peter Line-

> *Sunshine Makes a Rainbow, page 4*

## It's Women's Sailing Time!

(Continued from page 1)

tending dinners two weekends in a row. The Single Sailing Association came out in large numbers, and IYC members in smaller numbers, but the important thing is that a good time was held by all who attended. Please see the Vice Commodore's article in this Mainsheet for more details about the June dinner meeting.

In about a month, work will begin on the Women's Sailing Seminar. Several of you have offered to help, and you will probably receive a call from the general chairperson, Pam Krawiec. I have sent your names to her, and when she returns from a cross-country RV trip, in about a month, she will undoubtedly contact you.

Friday evening races are in full swing. Last Friday, we served about fifty dinners. Debbie Ratto arrived early and went right to work in the galley. I have never seen anyone clean the galley the way she does - it sparkles when she is through with it. If you want to help her some Friday race evening, she would really welcome your help. Joanne McFee arrived in the galley about the same time, and went to work making cornbread. Shirley Ahlf and I went to the store for the inevitable last-minute items, and returned in time for Shirley to set up the buffet table upstairs while I sold dinner tickets downstairs. Peter Linehan and Ben Mewes got the boat launched and started, and set the marks while all of this was going on in the club. David Blumhorst calculated the race results after the race committee documented finish times, and then Ben Mewes and Dawn Chesney went out in the boat again to pick up the marks. Thanks to all of you. As you can see, it takes quite a few people to put on the Friday races and barbecues, and new faces are more than welcome to help. It's a good way to get to know fellow members, so come on out next race - June 4.

After Opening Day, Ron and I decided we needed to install an inspection plate in our fuel tank. We pumped out most of the diesel, Ron cut the 8" hole, and lo and behold! the fuel left in the bottom of the tank looked like black and red lace. We had a good crop of algae in there. I suppose we're fortunate that we never had a fuel problem until now. My guess is that the problem developed while the boat was in the yard for several months with the tank only half full. Well, the tank will be well scrubbed, new fuel added and treated, hoses and filters changed, and *Misty* will be ready for the next cruise.

—Hope to see you soon, Commodore Diane

## Waiting for Weather Windows

(Continued from page 2)

the Tehunapec. The last "weather window" passed us by as I was installing a new raw water pump and cleaning the heat exchanger. Appears that the last impeller I installed in the pump was too old and was brittle; it would be nice if

> *Impeller Bits Block Water Line, page 4*

## A Wall of Fog on the Cityfront

(Continued from page 1)

almost seems to come right down to the water. I passed GGYC and then StFYC. The fog really closed in. Visibility was so poor that I almost stopped at Crissy Field and fished for halibut. Of course that's what I should have done. However the fog seemed to be lifting as I approached the Golden Gate. And I could now see below the fog. So I headed for the south side of the south tower, not wanting to get close to the shipping channel with vessel traffic reporting several inbound and outbound ships. With the strong ebb I was watching as the tower passed by quickly. In front were 4 or 5 big standing waves, like the rapids of a river, I turned slightly to take them at a mild angle. *Hobbit* rolled right thru 3 or 4 waves and then rounded up over the last. This put me almost on top of the red nun buoy that marks the tower.

I grabbed the tiller from Otto; I had one chance to miss the buoy. I turned hard to port, bad choice. The current had me by then and I cringed as the red buoy slammed into the starboard quarter. Fortunately *Hobbit* was built in 1970, is sturdy and thick hulled. And, as round bodies do, just rolled right over the steel (but also round) buoy. It seemed I was going to dodge a disaster. Then the rudder hit ... not a part of the boat that's going to absorb an impact, the rudder bent at the shaft.

Jammed in place and still hard over it sent *Hobbit* into a tight circle. I inspected (or frantically looked around) the cabin for damage and water coming in. Finding none I then throttled back the motor to idle speed and took stock of the situation. I was drifting and circling out the gate at 6 knots in the ebb, I had no way to steer the boat, the depth sounder was reporting 190 ft under the keel, so dropping anchor was going to be tough. And the gps had me entering the inbound traffic lane. So, I hailed the Coast Guard on channel 16, I explained my plight and requested they notify the vessel traffic service of my presence.

Within 15 minutes a shiny new 48ft motor patrol boat appeared out of the fog. The young guy at the wheel put her right along side and lines were passed back and forth. With a couple of huge fenders as a buffer *Hobbit* was quickly lashed to the hip of the Coasties boat.

The skipper kept the speed down but soon enough the fog parted to reveal the little cove and marina just inside the north side of the bridge. The tide was too low for me to get to the guest dock so the CG put me on their own dock and I jumped off to get a look at the side of *Hobbit* that had the hardest impact. All I could find was some missing paint right at the waterline. I placed a call to Vessel Assist and was told it would be an hour or so before they could get a boat to tow me home to Alameda. So I went below and had a little breakfast of fresh biscuits and gravy.

It was after 2pm when the towboat dropped me at the Alameda marina docks. The very next day I called Sven's and

> *a New Rudder for Hobbit, page 4*

## Sunshine Makes A Rainbow

(Continued from page 2)

hand held ladders while the rainbow got attached to the boat and also took *Hobbit* out to photograph the parade. Veronica Cocksedge donated spray paint to soothe her guilt pangs since she couldn't be actually be there for the final assembly. And others! We all had a good time.

On top of this we entered two other sailboats decorated to theme. Ben Mewes' *Georgia* displayed a large golden sun and banner stating "It takes sunshine to make a rainbow after the storm. Smile." Joanne McFee and grandkids filled up Ben's boat. And Diane Duey McClure's *Misty* was entered with rainbow colored bunting and a Golden (Rainbow) Rule banner. Ron McClure, Rich and Shirley Ahlf had to nurse *Misty* through the parade route with a sputtering engine due to a partly clogged fuel line.

The three entries earned IYC 23 out of 25 points toward club of the year. A new scoring system this year encouraged multiple entries in one category and for the first time IYC had more than two boats entered. We should expect even more participation by IYC next year.

There are many tales and lies to be told about this year's parade preparations. Buy me a beer at the club and I'll wax poetic about the details. Thanks to all for a magnificent job and great memories.  
—Glen

## King of Georgia to wed

By Ben Mewes, betrothed

King of Georgia to wed Queen of Suds ... Please join me in celebrating my marriage to Lucie Van Breen, my love and sailing partner, in June. Our ceremony will be held at Berkeley Yacht Club and will begin promptly at 6 PM on Saturday, June 12th, with a light reception to follow. Please bring your dancing shoes and enjoy the festivities. If you call me before June 6 to let us know you plan to attend, I'll plan to have enough food, too, so please do call 510-234-8403 and leave a message.

Our future plans include double-handing the West Marine Pacific Cup race this summer on *Mirage*, the Black Soo, and sailing off on *Georgia* into warmer climates in 2007.

—Ben Mewes

## Impeller Bits Block Water Line

(Continued from page 3)

Marine Stores put shelf life dates on things like rubber or nitrile impellers. We were lucky to get into the marina here without the engine overheating. Some pieces of the impeller had partially blocked the water line, increased the water pressure and caused water to blow by the seal into the

> Distance Travelled: 3247 NM, page 5

## Cruise News

By Russ Otto, Cruising Chair

On May 1-2—San Rafael YC hosted four IYC cruise-in vessels, *Jabberwock*, *Sinaloa*, *Hobbit*, and *Fainche*. Everyone in the group enjoyed the scenery along the dock lined winding creek that ends at SRYC clubhouse. The weather was great and the wind slowly filled for a relaxing sail back to our slip on Sunday.

I have lined up a few outings that should be fun and hopefully new territory for some.

June 5-6—ANGEL ISLAND raftup and bar-b-que ashore.

July 3-5—PILLAR POINT (Half Moon Bay) raftup or try to secure dock space. You can dingy ashore and visit the Half Moon Bay YC, or stroll the beaches. Fireworks !!!

August 21-22—PITTSBURG YC, a beautiful facility a day's trip from the bay. Their Port Captain has requested a head count, so please let me know if you are interested. Friday nights at PYC features dinners by the local culinary academy so if you leave on Friday Aug.20, you won't have to cook or wash dishes. Yum!! Can't make it Friday? Sail up Saturday and go back Sunday, or continue on into the Delta for fun in the sun.

September 4-5—CHINA CAMP---Anchor out and dingy ashore to visit the Chinese shrimp fishery that has been preserved as a museum.

October 2-3—HORSESHOE COVE---A unique view of the Golden Gate Bridge.

November, December I will be sailing the Bay, weather permitting, and I will probably hang out at Angel Island or Clipper Cove.

I have had a couple of suggestions, such as Richmond YC, and I will try to contact them and maybe drive over to check out their facilities. Please feel free to share any ideas or suggestions.

—Russ

## A New Rudder for *Hobbit*

(Continued from page 3)

explained my need for a new or repaired rudder.

Sven's went and towed *Hobbit* over to the lifts and pulled her out and placed her in the yard. I finally got a chance to see the damage, and a new rudder is definitely in *Hobbit's* future. But aside from two patches of missing bottom paint, the damage is limited to the rudder.

So, we had no salmon for the racers on Friday night. And may not have any for the immediate future, as the cost of salmon has just gone up.

—Peter

## Distance Travelled: 3247 NM

(Continued from page 4)

bearings which quickly started to rust and drip red goo. The goo should have been a warning signal a few hundred miles back when I first noticed it. Another weather window is maybe next week after a Tropical disturbance decides what it wants to do; this may be the first Pacific coast Hurricane this season. Don on Summer Passage, the famous weather guru for sailors in the Pacific, is very good at seeing the heavy convection, then the slight cyclonic circulation counterclockwise, then the winds increase and the barometric pressure begin to dive in the center. About then, NOAA will give it a number and call it a Tropical Storm; then the number changes to a name as the winds exceed 70 knots, and the party is on!! Our goal has been to get south of 10 degrees Latitude by June 1, which is normally safe; we are now at 15 degrees, so we have about 4 days of good sailing to cross the line. Total distance since leaving SF Bay is now at 3,247 nautical miles.

As we moved south from Manzanillo, Z town was really nice and likewise the nearby Isla Grande. Zihuatanejo was the place Andy ran to after escaping from prison in the movie *Shawshank Redemption* starring Tim Robbins and Morgan Freeman. It was a lot like Sausalito with lots of medically sculpted gringo's who were living there permanently or at least during the season October to May.

Acapulco was a real waste; New York City in the Tropics. Sirens all night, dirty sidewalks, pickpockets, and stuff all over the sidewalks (squashed mangoes since the street trees were mango and the fruit was ripe and falling). Acapulco has a lot of history since it was the first seaport on the Pacific for the Americas; the Manila schooners would bring the silk, spices, etc. from the Orient to trade with the Mayans until the Spaniards took over. Most of the buses were privately owned and airbrushed with characters inside and out, really artistic; however, each had its own stereo system that made it impossible to talk or think as it zoomed around the corners like a race car.

The Acapulco Yacht Club was the only really nice place, with a great open restaurant, dingy dock, swimming pool, showers, etc.; all free with our Island Yacht Club card. We stayed on a free mooring ball, but used their facilities to go ashore. We would not recommend Acapulco as any vacation destination, even if it was free. Along the way were thousands of sea turtles on the surface, and each had a black and white bird perched on its back. Back when we were approaching Puerto Vallarta, we took pictures of the occasional sea turtle with bird atop; now we have seen thousands and they are doing really good for an endangered species and becoming a hazard to boat traffic.

Since we missed the weather window, our friends on *Calypto* and us rented a car and drove up into the mountains to Oaxaca City at about 6000 ft elevation. Nice and cool. A really beautiful place with history back almost 2000 years. Monte Alban is located there on top of a mountain about 5 KM out of town with the famous Mayan tombs and city ru-

ins. Santo Domingo Cathedral was also there a few blocks from our hotel; we have never been to Rome, but this place must be comparable with the oil paintings on the ceiling surrounded by gold leaf. In fact there is probably more gold in that cathedral than in the US Gold Reserves. One of the altar areas was completely gold, floor to high ceiling and the walls. On the way back we drove by the Tule Tree which is reported to be the largest tree in the world as measured in total mass. As we were driving up the mountain to Monte Alban, we could hear a high pitched screech like a turbocharger with a bad bearing and that generated some discussion as to how we would get it fixed on our VW Jetta rental. When we pulled into the parking lot atop the mountain and shut off the engine the sound was almost deafening when we stepped outside the car (Raiders of the Lost Ark??). Some local Mexican tried to explain it was the early morning caddis bug. Like no bug we had ever heard. Finally, we saw one of the bugs about 3 inches long and quite fat or round.

Anyone looking for a great vacation destination should go to Oaxaca City and stay in the hotel recommended to us by other cruisers: Las Golondrinas at 411 Tinoco y Palacios, phone number 951-514-3298. The rate is 420 pesos (about \$39) per night double bed, bathroom in the suite. No TV, no phones, no bar or restaurant, but they do serve breakfast in the garden at cheap prices. This is a single story villa type facility with a wall on the street and huge wooden doors; the few rooms (less than 15) are located rambling through the thick garden of banana trees, vines, etc. You are within walking distance to the main plaza, really nice European sidewalk restaurants, etc. One of the specialties of Oaxaca is fried tiny grasshoppers, and not bad; sort of an alfalfa taste. Not easy to believe you are actually in Mexico.

Coming back down the mountains using a different highway, we went through hillsides of wild banana trees, loaded with bananas, wild mangoes of several varieties, papaya trees, wild coffee trees, and wild cocoa trees. Little burro's were all over and a hazard to driving. You could see oxen pulling plows; oxen pulling old wooden carts with wooden wheels. This was Chiapas Indian folks; no cathedrals here, but lots of big smiles. Some of the hillsides had been burned off with freshly planted Blue Agave plants. Once the tequila producers could no longer find lots of wild agave, the planting began. In about 8 years the plants should be mature and the price of tequila will finally drop, maybe, and the oxen will be replaced by Chevy Suburbans.

Next stop is Nicaragua, and then about 300 miles into Puntarenas, Costa Rica.

Love,  
Frank and Ellen  
Hot Ice  
N 15 45.820  
W096 07.327

You have been heard and now you can have it all. IYC now has a direct link to the Embroidery Factory where you can order directly from any on line computer. Your order will be sent to you so you can be in style when you arrive at the club. A credit card will be required to place orders and shipping instructions provided.

Your style, color and size now available!  
Betty Sleeth

## Ships Store Goes 24 - 7 By Betty Sleeth, Ships Store Chair

burgee, your and your boat name. Take a look at catalogue categories:

Accessories, Fleece, Hats / Caps, Jerseys, Ladies, Outerwear, Polo Shirts, Sports Shirts, Sweaters, T-Shirts, Tanks / Shorts, Turtle necks, Youths.

Check it out and if you have any questions or comments email me at: bsleeth@tells.org.

We will still continue to carry a small inventory of shirts, caps and specialty items in the ships store.

If you have a special order in mind and are less than comfortable ordering on line let me know, I'll place the order and you can pick up at the club.

—Betty



## Board Meeting

Jun 26, 2004—1700 hours

### Upcoming Dates to Remember

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b><u>Jun 04</u></b>  | <b>Friday Night Spring Series—Race #4</b>  |
| <b><u>Jun 5-6</u></b> | <b>Cruise to Angel Island—Raft-Up!</b>     |
| <b><u>Jun 18</u></b>  | <b>Friday Night Spring Series—Race #5</b>  |
| <b><u>Jun 26</u></b>  | <b>Board Meeting, then General Meeting</b> |