



Internet: <http://www.iyc.org>

ISLAND YACHT CLUB'S

MAINSHEET

Issue Two

Volume 34

Alameda Marina

Feb 2005

COMMODORE

Peter Linehan
(415) 902-8386

VICE COMMODORE

Shirley Ahlf (925) 672-2514

REAR COMMODORE

John New (510) 338-0954

STAFF COMMODORE

Diane McClure (831) 689-9141

PORT CAPTAIN

Jeff Blowers (510) 724-2892

SECRETARY

Joan Wetherell (925) 837-9408

TREASURER

Rich Ahlf (925) 672-2514

RACING CO-CHAIRS

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

CRUISE CHAIR

Marilyn Bruner (650) 207-2207

MEMBERSHIP

(position open)

PUBLICATIONS

Janet Frankel (415) 387-5807

BAR MANAGER

(position open)

HISTORIAN

Pam Richardson (510) 724-1371

ASSN. LIASON

Ted Crum (510) 654-7301

SHIPS STORE

Betty Sleeth (408) 279-2863

<u>Look Inside:</u>	<u>Page</u>
Cruise News	2
Racing Rews.....	2
Analyze This Bite	3
Interclub Racing.....	3
Adventures En Rote to Panama.....	4
Upgraded Portals at IYC.....	4
Dinner is Served (Feb. 26th).....	4
IYC Membership Drive.....	4
So Much Racing.....	4

Remember these Dates!

Feb 26 DINNER and 1830 hrs
General Meeting, Jeff Blowers,
Guest Speaker: tsunami relief efforts.

Mar 5 Sadie Hawkins Race 1200 hrs
& **Clam Chowder Cookoff**
Woman-skippered, fully crewed race.
Clam Chowder Cookoff. Prizes!

Mar 19 St Patrick's Day Party 1830 hrs
and **General Meeting**

Apr 9 DOUBLEHANDED 1000 hrs
LIGHTSHIP RACE
Race out to the Lightship and back!
A portion of the proceeds benefit
United Cerebral Palsy.



The Crab Feed that almost Wasn't

By Shirley Ahlf, Vice Commodore

If you didn't make the crab feed, you certainly did miss a good time. And if you haven't heard of the Drama of the morning of said day, then you must be vegetating under a rock somewhere!

Unfortunately Rich wasn't around when the crab was delivered (that's another story) that morning so yours truly signed for it. Now, it all fairness Do you know what 300 lbs. (in boxes) of crab looks like? Well, apparently, neither do I. I was just so glad that the little man found the Yacht club and not really knowing what the aforementioned boxes of 300 lbs. of crab should look like I signed for it and the little man went merrily on his way. As far as I knew, all was well with the world. Silly silly me.

My short lived bliss was rudely interrupted by a barrage of, shall we say loud noises, seemingly coming from my husbands own sweet mouth. That really is another story. Seems the aforementioned 300 lbs. of crab was, in reality, was only 150 lbs. Well, as my husband calmly (if you believe the calmly bit you're dumber than I am when it comes to judging 300 lbs. of said crab!) told me "That isn't enough to serve the 108 people that will be here in about 8 hours."

That's when the fun began. That's another story. But, as usual, all hands on deck went to work. I can truly say, I've never seen such a group effort. Not

> There's Always Another Story, page 3

Cruise News

By Marilyn Bruner, Cruise Chair

The 2005 cruising season started off with a bang (and a bit of a squish) with the annual New-Year's Day Around the Island cruise. It had been raining for much of the night, but the Weather Gods smiled upon us, and gave us a clearing in time for a mid-morning departure. As a "newbie" to this event, I signed on as crew with Diane Duey McClure on *Misty*, along with David and Devon Hand and Portia Polner. Janet Frankel and Tony joined John New aboard *Wuvulu* along with Pam and Glen Krawiec and Ted Crum. Bill King single-handed *Atuna Matata*. Peter Linehan skippered *Hobbit* with John and Debby Ratto and Peter's friend Wendy of San Diego as crew. Ben and Lucie Mewes participated aboard a powerboat whose name and owner are shrouded in mystery.

The IYC flotilla, minus *Misty*, got underway without incident, quickly darted under the Park Street drawbridge and vanished in the distance. We waited a while to be sure that the tide would be fully in and then cast off. We were approaching the Park Street bridge and in the process of hailing them on VHF when *Misty's* engine faltered, sputtered a couple of times, then shut down. We continued to drift toward the still lowered bridge, carried along by momentum and the flooding tide, while Diane attempted to re-start the balky engine. *Misty* would have none of it! Her engine stubbornly refused to run. Finally someone had the presence of mind to suggest dropping the anchor before we met up with the bridge in a "close encounter of the crunch kind". With the anchor safely deployed, we breathed a collective sigh and pondered our next move.

We were lucky. There was just enough of a breeze coming down the estuary that we were able to ghost back down against the tide. We only had about a quarter mile to go but would have to dock downwind under sail.

Diane's seamanship was masterful. She jibed across the estuary, reached along the fairway in the lee of the moored boats, and at exactly the right moment, made her final turn into *Misty's* slip for a perfect landing. Sails were doused in the twinkling of an eye, crew jumped ashore, and the boat didn't even touch the dock. Way to go!

With the emergency behind us and *Misty* safely in her berth, we continued by "blacktop". Meanwhile, the rest of the IYC flotilla had reached Aeolian YC, where they were joined by Hilja New, Heidi Schmidt and her parents, and had subsequently departed for Ballena Bay. Our *Misty* blacktop contingent "docked" at Aeolian for chili, tarried a while, then departed for Ballena Bay where we finally caught up with the rest of our gang. Following a nice lunch, we all headed to Encinal YC for a final libation and a round of story-telling. Altogether a memorable event!

> Plans are Being Made Now, page 3

Nacing Rews

By Joanne McFee, Racing Co-Chair

3 Bridge Fiasco (SSS)

That's why they call it a fiasco. I understand no single-handers finished and only 20-something doublehanders finished. But this is a "cult race" so they'll be all out there next year. I think five IYC boats entered the race. At first we thought Lucie Mewes on *Mirage* was the "last to quit." Later, however, I found that Jeff Blowers on *Nu-Dame* was within the 7 PM deadline but had to tack away from an upcoming tanker and couldn't make the line in time.

Midwinters

Well, we're out there. The January AYC race was cancelled—too much tide, no wind. Winter sailing is like that, but we sail in the winter, unlike the East Coast. *Wuvulu* is racing both OYC's Sunday Brunch and EYC's Jack Frost. I'm sure they're in the mix in both series. The February AYC midwinters were held under pretty benign conditions. The sky spit a few raindrops, the wind finally filled in, and it was fun. IYC won no hats, but we all had fun.

Coming up

Sadie Hawkins! The OLDEST Women's Skipper Race on the Bay and we aren't even staggering. March 5 - Woman Skipper! All info is on the web site, or call me. After the race, our annual clam chowder (or any chowder) cook off! Prizes. Race in the afternoon, judging between 5 and 6. Not racing? .No problem – just join in with your chowder. Beat Lucie's 2004 entry. It was awesome, your honor.

In the past

The Crab Feed was terrific. Rich Ahlf puts his heart and soul into this event year after year. The galley (this year, Commodore Peter) provides many wonderful side dishes. What a wonderful event. The Club absolutely put it's best foot (claw?) forward. Super Bowl Sunday/ Joanne's Birthday Party was lots of good food (thanks, Ben and Lucie, for the turkey) and a lovely mix of good friends. I'm glad you all came.

Again coming up

April 9, the Double Handed Lightship, our first BIG race. We run it off Golden Gate Yacht Club. We need lots of help on race committee. It's fun, we're fun, and the view is to die for! Call me! 925-254-5384

– Til next-time, Sail Fast, Steer Small

---Joanne

There's Always Another Story

(Continued from page 1)

much was said, but phone calls were made, trips to all near and far Albertson's, and cleaning of crabs. There were just too many people helping to mention and there were some upstairs, I'm sure, that I never did see.... Y'all know who you were so, please accept the biggest thank you from Rich and I. AND the help didn't stop there.... It carried on through the night! I looked around and people were helping to carry trays out and somewhere from heaven, a clean up crew was born. Anyway, It all worked out, and I hope all had a good time. Well, I guess that's enough for now Get out there and take advantage of these beautiful days we're having and I'll see you at the monthly meeting on the 26th. (and that's another story).

—Shirley

Analyze this Bite

By Glen Krawiec, IYC Artist-in-Residence

Opening Day On The Bay decorated boat parade will be April 24 and the theme is Movies By the Bay. This means any movies ever made are fair game. Incidentally, Redwood City's Opening Day scheduled for April 10th has Hollywood Movies as a theme. We could kill two birds with one stone if we can get a boat committed for that two week period. We can decorate it once and enter both parades.

The movie we'll use as the basis of our decoration is JAWS. The nasty shark will be a prominent part of our display. We'll need volunteers and supplies for this activity. One-half inch or 5/8 inch plywood plus chicken wire is going to be needed. We'll also need lifeguard outfits along with some beach toys. The whole display would work wonderfully on a multihull, so if you know where to get one for this event, we need to hear from you now! To get involved, call Glen Krawiec at 510-339-9451.

Interclub Racing Starts Apr 9

The first of six monthly races is April 9. To sign up please call Glen Krawiec at 510-339-9451. The anticipated cost is \$40, which is a bargain for a six race series (one throwout). And there are wonderful awards such as embroidered jackets, vests and windbreakers. IYC has collected its fair share of awards in the past, so mark your calendar for the following Saturday dates, get your crew committed and call Glen.

RACE DATES:

April 9
May 7
June 11
July 9
August 6
September 10

Plans are Being Made Now

(Continued from page 2)

Planning for the rest of the 2005 cruising season is still in progress, but some events have been scheduled and others are in the works. Our next event, scheduled for Memorial Day weekend, is a coastal cruise to Half Moon Bay with a possible extension to Santa Cruz and Monterey. We've scheduled a visit to the Vallejo Yacht Club for the July 4th weekend and to the San Francisco Yacht Club for the weekend of July 30, 31. I tried to book a visit to Richmond YC, but they're accepting only drive-in visits at this time due to renovation work.

Our coastal cruise is early this year because the tides over the Labor Day weekend are not favorable. We'll set sail for Half Moon Bay on Saturday, May 28th and dine ashore that night. Adventurers who want to go further could depart for Santa Cruz on the 29th and for Monterey on the 30th, and should start the trip back by about June 1st or 2nd for a return over the weekend. The Half-Moon-Bay-only contingent could return either Sunday or Monday. I'd like very much to have an early indication of who would like to participate in the extended cruise so that I can plan accordingly.

CRUISE CREWS

The purpose of this section is to bring those members who are short on crew together with those other members who are short on boats. For example: I am more-or-less capable of sailing *Fantaseas* single-handed, provided that the conditions are gentle. However, it's not a whole lot of fun because I enjoy company and single-handing makes me nervous. Besides, at my age, it's probably not very smart. So I almost always need crew. Many others do too for their own reasons. We also have members who don't have boats, members whose boats don't feel like going out today (maybe they have "the vapors" or something), members who don't usually cruise but who would like to try it, members with friends who would like to try cruising, etc. I hope to do a match-up before each cruise so that as many of us as possible get to share in the fun. So don't be shy, let me hear from you! Let's go Cruising!

Vessels Short on Crew

Fantaseas:

Memorial Day Cruise: Have 1 or 2, could use 1 or 2 more
4th of July Cruise: No tengo nada! Need 1 – 3.
30, 31 July cruise: No crew yet! Need 1 – 3.

Crew Short on Vessels

(Hello, hello? Step right up!)

P.S. Heaps of thanks go to Janet Frankel for helping me with the New Year's Day article.

—Marilyn

Adventures en route to Panama

By Frank and Ellen Atteberry, Cruisers

Finally, we have our International Zarpe to exit Costa Rica and are on our way to the Panama Islands, Pacific side. After sailing to Golfito, taking the bus to David, Panama to renew our visa, and spending Thanksgiving with lots of cruiser friends at Land and Sea Services, Golfito, we sailed back to Puntarenas for Christmas (a trip of 150 miles or so). Unfortunately, on the second night after returning to Puntarenas, our dinghy motor was stolen from the stern rail mount while we were out having dinner. The Yacht Club was so upset because this had never happened before on the their moorings; they have reimbursed us US\$800 for the five year old Nissan 8 Hp 2 cycle motor, which is more than it was worth. We have ordered a new Yamaha 15 Hp motor from Panama City which is being shipped to David, Panama. We will anchor at the village, Boca Chica, in western Panama when we cross the border and negotiate a ride with a local pickup owner into David to pick it up.

We hauled the boat right after Christmas to repaint the bottom at the Yacht Club boat yard, which is on an island across the estuary. While we worked on the boat, we stayed on the boat in the yard surrounded by thick jungle. There were several nights of extreme low tide which meant animals could cross over to our island from the others. The boat yard guard dog, Rex, would keep us awake most of the nights with low tides, barking and chasing something through the jungle; we never saw or heard the specific animals, but would always give Rex a big hug in the morning

> Thank You Rex! Good Dog!, page 5

UPGRADED PORTALS AT IYC

Harbormaster Wayne Milani installed a new wooden front door to replace the peeling wooden one on the clubhouse main entrance. The door upgrade was sorely needed and is greatly appreciated.

Thank you Wayne!

Dinner is Served — \$12

By Joanne McFee, Co-Racing Chair and Stand-in Chef

Menu for February General Meeting:

Green Salad (Salade)
Chicken Chasseur**
Potatoes (Pommes de Terre)
Haricot Verte (Green Beans!)
Dessert

No wheat, no dairy (except maybe dessert) no fur bearers, but there will be garlic.

** Hunter's Chicken or Poulet Chasseur

IYC Membership Drive

OPEN HOUSE—MARCH 19TH

Island Yacht Club facilities will be open all day Saturday, March 19 from 10 AM until the general meeting wraps it up in the evening. We have sent out mailers to all the Alameda Marina tenants, 1,100 in all, and expect a steady flow of tire kickers the entire day. We will need greeters spread throughout the day; so you will be contacted by the open House Committee to do your share to boost membership!

As an incentive for new members to sign up on Saturday, the dues for the remainder of the year will be \$180 plus \$50 initiation fee for a total of \$230, a big savings over the normal \$240 dues & \$100 initiation fee.

The bar will be open with special guest prices and hors d'oeuvres on hand, and if we can generate some interest, we could hold El Toro races. Of course we'll hope the visitors will come to the dinner and General Meeting in the evening. Another enhancement will be Glen demonstrating making some stained glass ornaments after dinner, and a couple of lucky people will design and take home an original art piece.

This is a great opportunity to enjoy your club and increase membership. So if you want to volunteer to help before you're called, please contact Shirley Ahlf 925-672-2514 or Glen Krawiec 510-339-9451.

So Much Racing

By John New, Rear Commodore

... so little time.... The SSS three bridge was the usual light air tide fest, only more so. Rock and I on *Wuvulu*, Ben and Lucy single handing *Mirage* and *Georgia*, Dawn and Steve on *Dire Straits*.

Rock and I had a good start despite the crowd milling around the start line. We dropped the anchor off the city front which is our usual strategy when boats are being sucked into the south bay, unfortunately we dragged the anchor and hooked a cable or boiler or something ... couldn't get that thing back up. We finally had to cut the anchor line. That anchor had real sentimental value too, having saved my bacon a few times.

After fighting our way around TI, *Wuvulu* ended up some hours later with no wind doing slow circles North of TI, but at least we were now moving towards Red Rock on a favorable tide, and more importantly we were ahead of *Dire Straits* who had followed the herd to Emeryville. Then rats, the J24 picked up a little land breeze and scooted off. Damn light boats. An hour or so later Dawn called on the cell to claim that they were around Red Rock and into Raccoon Straits, but it was just a ploy to discourage us and get us to drop out and give them a tow home. Ben, on *Georgia*, was the first

> Futility at the Fiasco, page 6

Thank you, Rex! Good Dog!

(Continued from page 4)

with some left over breakfast for his faithful guarding. This is not a boat yard that you can casually get up in the middle of the night, climb down the 12 ft ladder to the ground and go over to the boat yard restroom with a flashlight. So, the early light at 5:30AM was a daily celebration, and we literally danced to the restroom. On the way back to the boat, we were always greeted by the flocks of parrots, screeching at us, and the flock of iguanas checking for fallen coconuts or something eating the coconuts. We had Christmas dinner and New Years dinner at the Yacht Club with lots of cruiser friends and a couple of resident Gringos who have lived in Costa Rica 10 years or more.

On the way to Puntarenas, we stopped at Isla Jesusita, and Isla Los Muertos for a few nights. Some other cruisers had told us about a nice restaurant on the Nicoya Peninsula across from Los Muertos that was owned and managed by a couple of Gringo's. We landed the dinghy and tied it to a tree and wandered up the hill on somewhat of a trail through the jungle with huge trees making a complete canopy over the jungle floor, cool and dark. Lots of giant "garden type" spiders with huge webs strung across the trail; we did not break through but cut off the trail to get around them. We hoped the trail led to the road where we could find the restaurant. As we neared a house on the trail with some trimmed bushes, we saw an animal in a small fruit tree which we then identified as a small Capuchin monkey. Ellen got a few pictures, but he would not stay out of the leaves long enough to get a clear shot. As we continued on up the trail, Ellen screamed as a ball of fur came out of the bushes and jumped up my back and onto my head; it was the little monkey. His tail encircled my neck and every time I tried to push him off he would snarl ready to bite my fingers off. Capuchins are omnivorous while the Howlers are only vegetarians, so I knew he had a good set of incisor teeth to bite flesh, and made it more difficult to get him off. Ellen said he was scratching his fleas, just as I felt a wet warmth spread on my neck and down my back; he had peed on me. I thought this is really not great: probably getting monkey fleas or lice in my hair; monkey pee down my back; and no way to get the little guy off my back. I thought if I stood close to Ellen he would jump onto her back, but would be thoroughly tangled in her hair and even more difficult to get off. Ellen was taking a lot of pictures and laughing quite hard. He was getting ready to rip my glasses off, but I got them off first. Please notice there are three fully extended fingers next to my glasses; so he was not "domesticated" American wise. We had heard if you can give them something they will likely leave and take it to their "home", but we had nothing that we were ready to part with. A local boy came by on his way to the water and we asked if he could get the monkey off; he said "Se" and then diverted its attention with a closed hand and grabbed it by the scurf of the neck with the other hand. Finally, he got him to let go of my hair, bopped the monkey on the head and threw him to the ground. I did get a few scratches on my head, but not serious. The monkey race back into the trees and we thanked the boy profusely. He

> A Monkey on my Back!, next column

A Monkey on my Back!

(Continued from previous column)

then pointed up high to the top of the tree canopy and there were 8 or 10 large monkeys up there, Howler monkeys, that were watching the show down on the ground. We finally found the restaurant and they graciously let me use their shower before dinner. As we ate dinner, a strange thought came to me. Back before we started cruising, I would often at work find a monkey on my back, which I would then try to push onto a coworker's back. This time I realized what I was doing and looked for a local expert to remove the monkey from my back instead of getting it onto a friend's back. Maybe the cruising life is teaching me some things unexpected. When we got back to the boat, I took another shower with lots of soap and shampoo.

On January 4th, our son, Jon, and girlfriend, Zoe, flew down for a 10 day visit which was a real thrill for us. We went to all the places for surfing that you cannot stop while sailing. Jaco, Playa Hermosa, Matapala, Tamerindo, and Playa Negro were great places to visit. We also saw lots of wildlife up close including a couple of giant grasshoppers that looked like something from Jurassic Park. These were not the stubby, fat ones from Texas; these were long and sleek with "armor" and big spikes on their rear legs. One must have been almost 12 inches long with a front leg spread of 6 inches. On the way back to the airport we spent the night at Sarci in some cabins on a coffee plantation high in the mountains overlooking the valley where San Jose is located. It was cool enough for a good blanket, which is so unusual in Central America. Recently, San Jose recorded a low temp of 15 degrees Centigrade at 5 AM, which is about 40 something Fahrenheit. San Jose is at altitude 4,500 ft. There are some really strange weather occurrences this year.

Leaving Costa Rica, we anchored for two nights in Bahia Ballena and had a wonderful dinner at a local Swiss owned restaurant in Tambor. Frank had some authentic



Photo by Ellen Atteberry

Wienersnetzel with Latkes, and Ellen had a mahi mahi filet in a mushroom and shrimp white sauce; all very Swiss and delicious. We also caught a new specie of fish, for us, a Wahoo and it was superb on the BBQ. It is related to the Barracuda with lots of big teeth.

As we rounded the Osa Peninsula in eastern Costa Rica, we were back into the rain; it never really stops in that area. We are looking forward to having a dinghy motor again; Frank's arms are getting too large for his shirts due to all the rowing the last few weeks (he thinks??).

—Love, Frank and Ellen, *Hot Ice*, Pacific Ocean

Futility at the Fiasco

(Continued from page 4)

Islander to wake up to the futility of the situation and announced his retirement from the race, Dawn's withdrawal followed and *Wuvulu's* crew reluctantly decided to withdraw from the race to shepherd the J24 with it's arthritic 2-stroke back to Alameda in time for the Crab feed.

Ben felt the need to hail us on the on the race channel to note that we were all "wussies" compared to Lucie who continued to ghost *Mirage* around the course for a few more hours.

Our five way J24 consortium is going strong, lots of racing with the two boats ... we were on the water both days last week with Dawn signing *Dire Straits* up for the J24 class association clinic at TI Sat. and Sun. and George and I doing the Sunday Alameda Mid Winter on *Wuvulu*. Next week there's Oakland YC's Sunday Brunch on the J and Encinal's Jack Frost on *Wuvulu*.

And then there's the spring racing schedule to consider.....beats sitting in the office.

John New
Rear Commodore



Next Board Meeting

February 26, 2005 5:00pm

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| <u>Feb 26</u> | Dinner, Guest Speaker, General Meeting |
| <u>Mar 5</u> | Sadie Hawkins Race and Clam Chowder Cookoff |
| <u>Mar 19</u> | ST. PATRICK'S DAY Dinner & General Meeting |
| <u>Apr 9</u> | DOUBLEHANDED LIGHTSHIP RACE |