

# THE PILOT

*The Monthly Newsletter of the Inverness Yacht Club*

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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FACILITIES PLANNING

Various  
FLYING SCOTT FLEET 40

Representative Needed  
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REP

Jerry Abbott

PILOT EDITOR

Mark Darley

PILOT EDITORIAL WRITER

Ed Schwartz

RACE

Peter Lassetter

RENTALS

Katherine Landreth

SHIPS STORES

Susan Medina

SOCIAL

Sam Hinkley

Carol Skold

TROPHIES & AWARDS

Mark Darley

WEBSITE

John Speh

YOUTH SAILING

Pat White

COMMODORE'S COLUMN

January 2008

With any luck the rainy season is upon us and all the boats in the yard are prepared to survive the past and future storms. We recently put the excellent Millie Biller designed and constructed, cover over our San Juan 21 "Kid Bait, The Boat" and promised to check on it as winter wears on. Besides keeping most of the rain out of the boat this canvas cover is in no danger from the poly tarp vigilantes. Vigilantes at IYC? Yes, poly tarps showing signs of breakdown will be properly disposed of before they can pollute The Bay. Go with canvas it looks better and lasts a lot longer.

I am happy (and our Port Captains are thrilled) to announce that Peter Ackley has accepted the position of Fleet Captain. Splitting the Port Captain job into the Port Captains who will worry about and coordinate maintenance of the physical plant and the Fleet Captain who worries about the boats in the yard has been contemplated for years. Now that Peter has stepped forward we hope to maintain our records and fleet with out burning out our Port Captains. Let us all wish Peter the best and pledge our full cooperation with his efforts to keep track of our craft.

There was a large turnout for the December open house, lots of fine foods were consumed, and the new streamlined gift exchange was a great success. The decorating crew did a bang up job and was thrilled to find that the permanent Christmas Tree also has permanent lights and a permanent stand. This took a whole lot of the hassle out of the "setting up the tree ritual" and I highly recommend it for a low blood pressure Christmas. For those who missed the open house, we plan to leave the tree up to be admired during the New Years Day Gin Fizz party.

Planning for the New Year is under way. Most of the social hosting opportunities are spoken for, but I believe there are a couple available including, if my memory serves me well, the fourth of July. So do get in touch with Carol Skold and sign up to help or host. Involvement in a party is a great way to get better acquainted or reacquainted with your fellow members, all of whom are really great folks.

The Youth Sailing committee is well into laying out another successful summer program. They have identified a need for an additional FJ for the program. Fortunately, Mary Fergus has agreed to very reasonable terms for selling her pristine FJ to the club. Unfortunately, this expense is not really in the budget anywhere. Fortunately, we can make tax deductible donations earmarked for the benefit of the Youth Sailing program to the Inverness Foundation. Please make your checks out to The Inverness Foundation and note on the check or cover letter that it is for the benefit of Youth Sailing. Mail them to the IYC at PO Box 186 Inverness, 94937. The club will be tracking them and helping with the clerical tasks so as to not overburden the Inverness Foundation treasurer.

Happy New Year,

JohnS

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**I**

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IYC@svn.net**HOW TO SEE STARS IN THE DAY**

by Ed Schwartz

In a way, this is a trick question, and involves some bodily risk.

The other day, I went out of my front door to get the newspaper, a morning ritual that Bambi approves of since she likes to read the paper in bed and that is what husbands are for.

As I went out toward the gate, I noticed the grass had some frost on it, the first frost of the season. What came immediately to mind was Robert Frost's poem "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening." After I fetched the paper, I veered from my path to see how my cacti have survived the cold night. As I stepped on the wooden deck I slipped and fell down head first and my head hit a metal chair. I immediately saw a vast array of colorful stars. As I was lying there, I felt my head and fortunately there was no blood. Then, I felt around to see if I had any broken parts and I did not, and so I crept back toward the front door with some caution, rubbing my noggin. By nightfall, the pain had subsided enough that the fall was a distant memory.

It made me think that the human skull is a very important piece of a person's anatomy and it doesn't get a lot of credit. In fact, the word skull is often used in derision—dumb skull, numb skull. Well, I have a smart and hard skull or else I wouldn't be writing this now, that's for sure!

This frosty deck marked a change of the seasons for me. The hummingbird that flit around the garden and took up so much of my time trying to photograph that elusive little devil, isn't seen very much. The trees are bare and the pool cover should be cleaned of all the leaves, but I don't have the drive to do it.

I think that some of the mice that spent time outdoors this summer now are occupying their winter house behind my walls. My kids can hear them squeak; I can't, and frankly, I don't want to know about it.

"The woods are lovely, dark and deep  
And I have promises to keep  
And miles to go before I sleep  
And miles to go before I sleep"

Nice poem.

**THANKS FOR THANKSGIVING**

Thanks to the Ackleys, with help from the Connollys, the Inverness Yacht Club was turned into a festive hall for our annual Thanksgiving Potluck dinner. They may have been leftovers, but the food was great. And from all those dancing the calories off after dinner, the Olmsted Band and their lively music was just what we needed.

Thanks for putting on a great dinner.

## NOTICES

### CLUB RENTALS

Sunday	January 6th	10am to Noon PUD: Disaster Preparedness Meeting
Wednesday	January 16th	Inverness Garden Club Lunch
Sunday	January 27th	10am to Noon PUD: Disaster Preparedness Meeting 2pm to 6pm: Betty Mocine Memorial
Saturday and Sunday, Feb 2nd and 3rd		Veach Wedding: Saturday Reception and Sunday Brunch
Sunday	February 10th	10am to Noon PUD: Disaster Preparedness Meeting

### PORT CAPTAIN'S NOTICE

Since winter is upon us, we remind you to *ensure that your boat is securely tied to your trailer, and that the cover is also securely tied so that rainwater cannot pool in your boat.* Last month it happened that a small sailboat's cover was inadequately tied, the weight of the rainwater flattened a tire, which caused the boat to lean perilously toward its neighbor.

In addition, as the Commodore points out in his column, plastic hardware store tarps are forbidden in the club rules as they shred and end up in the Bay.

The storage yard continues to evolve as boats come and go. In order to make the most efficient use of our limited space, it may be necessary to move your boat based on its weight. We will always make an effort to contact you whenever possible if we have to move your boat.

*We would really appreciate people slowing down as they drive through the yard.* Driving fast encourages the potholes that we end up chasing all winter long. Thanks for your cooperation.

The week of Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> we found a very nice fishing rod behind the dumpster. Please call 663-1442 and describe it to claim. See you on the Bay. Millie Biller.

## MEMBERSHIP

First Posting: Linda Aldrich

Proposer: Mark Roper

Seconders: Frank Seidner & David Tirrell

Reinstatement: Robert Berner & Barbara Garfien

Elected to Honorary Membership: F. Arthur & Marilyn Simpson.

The directory is going to be mailed in the next month...the membership card is enclosed with the directory so don't just throw away the envelope without checking for your membership card!

## NOT TOO SPOOKY OUT THERE by Mike Seversen

Well, race fans, the Spook race wasn't scary. Unless you are unfamiliar with what eelgrass does to Mike Meszaros' appearance, otherwise seeing him and Ken T. in the whaler \*1 was reassuring.

Fall brings the nicest winds of the four seasons, steady and almost enough to get an Argyllish boat up on the plane \*2. Really pleasant, unlike the "boxing matches", as Peter Lassetter described the racing in the beginning of summer, during which nobody retired \*3 because their egos wouldn't let them find outlet later at the bar where wounds and placement are salved by the straight stuff, for fellow sailors who toughed it through.

Interesting it is to have Mike M's commentary at the end of the dock about trim \*4 and tactics, since he was watching over the fleet. It is generally conceded that he's one of the best sailors in the club, and anything he says is mulled over like aged wine.

Participation is a funny thing at our club. For the previous race, the Hog Island Race, 'round about 22 boats lined up close-hauled for the start \*5. This time, three fine Scots jockeyed at the start and traded lead up and down the Bay. (Have you considered which way is "up" and which way is "down" the Bay?

Consider: If the Bay drains to the north, gravity would define down; if south defines down, then it's the other direction; and if you are poetic, 'down to the seas' would be in the direction of the sea. Anyway, with a tide that made the gangway practically horizontal, up and down the Bay meant enough water to sail south of downtown. We could have called out an order to Tom and Priscilla for pizza on the last lap, and hold the anchovies, because Robert Cardwell was cooking and not, tuna for the spooky dinner.

What's it like to race in the autumn? Sunny, mild and steady. For one thing you never know unless you are out there. For another, that's why we sail.

So, who sailed? Tom Nemeth found a passable excuse to slip out the door, joined by his crew Henry King, we think featured in Latitude 38 at the helm of something on that other bay, in something a lot larger than a Scot. Peter Lassetter put the race on and had his trusty crew Susan and Patrick aboard. Mike Seversen and Ron Buono reveled in first place here and there, but couldn't manage success.

And what was recorded? Tom Nemeth showed sailing skill can be transferred from the likes of an Olson 25 to a world class boat like the Scot, while Peter showed weight can be overcome by ability and re-reading of the wind \*6; First and second respectively. Curiously enough, the racers didn't consider current, which was probably up to 3 knots. Even when an Olson is sailed, current is a factor; over a length of water, current will push or pull a boat a whole, whole lot. To be more specific, to windward \*7 a Scot might get up to 6 knots. So if the disadvantage might be half its potential speed, tactics would dictate hugging the shore one way, and getting onto the swing of things the other \*8.

Three laps up and down, each of the three crews tried one side of the Bay and then the other, until the west and middle showed the strongest wind. Tom's learned to keep the Scot flat and Peter demonstrated the advantage of throwing the spinnaker up the instant the boat rounds the mark, and both jibed \*9 as necessary, unlike the other guy who only did so when the obvious became obvious.

Thanks to Carol Skold, always generous with her time and skills, for tutoring Susan Medina and Katherine Landreth about the shapes \*10.

Notes:

1. The club motorboat, beat to hell and looking such, but what a beautiful beast when you need it.
2. A plane occurs when a boat's speed is enough for it to ride on its bow wave; a Flying Scot, duh
3. To return to the dock before the end of the race.
4. To shape sails to obtain maximum efficiency.
5. On the starting line, sailing into the wind's direction as much as possible.
6. To assess the most favorable wind conditions.
7. As 6
8. A double meaning: current is less in shallow water; never getting out there in bad waters.
9. When the wind is aft, or behind, rotating the working sails and spinnaker to the other side of the boat: a maneuver, which can have unwanted results in heavy wind.
10. To start a regatta, those colorful flags raised and lowered on the standard, accompanied by music to the racer's ears and a jolt like a triple espresso.

## YOUTH SAILING 2008 SIGN UP

**The 2007-08 IYC Youth Sailing Committee composed of Peggy Dodge, Sarah Duncan, Barbara Jones, Michael Meszaros, Jim Pettigrew, and Pat White (Chair), have been meeting to plan for the 2008 Summer Sailing program. The dates of the program and basic registration information are as follows.**

### **2008 IYC Youth Sailing Program Schedule**

**Session 1 – June 30-July 18**

**Session 2 – July 28-Aug 15**

### **Dates for Registration:**

**Applications will be accepted beginning February 11th 2008**

**No applications postmarked prior to February 11 will be accepted.**

**Children and grandchildren of IYC members have priority over non-members until Monday, March 10th 2008, when outside applications will be accepted.**

**Session Fee: \$650**

**For more detailed information, the application form, and the waiver form please go to the Club website at <http://www.invernessyachtclub.org/youth.html>**

### Editors Note:

You will see that the order of names and titles on the cover of the Pilot has been reversed for clarity. The title is now above the name of the person holding that position.

## **DRUMSTICK RACE** by Peter Lassetter

The club was honored to have guests from Berkeley Yacht Club participate in the race for the first time. Thanks to Tom Nemeth for having the idea and then following through with it. BYC provided two teams and took out the two Club Scots, Blue Bonnet and Banshee.

The race started at 1300 and racers were lucky enough to have a pleasant afternoon with winds initially 7 to 10 knots from the north west. Eight boats were on the start line, all were Flying Scots, except for Mark Darley in his trapezing Johnson 18.

The Club boats are over 40 years old, and the sails are best described by imagining really nice, soft, comfy pajamas; great for wrapping around yourself on a cold evening, but hardly ideal for speeding to windward. I suppose the good news was that the BYC sailors could at least hear each other whilst their sails were flapping in the wind.

FS 5559 particularly enjoyed his start, successfully managing to luff up Tom Nemeth, and then watch him gently go backwards and slide off to leeward. That certainly made up for the treatment dished out by Tom in the previous Spook race, where nobody could get near him.

But as usual, if you watch the boats sliding off behind you, you are not seeing the boats ahead of you. The first two boats to the windward mark were our BYC guests, with their saggy pajamas flying proudly. FS 5559's ill tempered driver noted to his crew that they clearly had an unfair advantage, and appeared to be very lucky in reading the wind shifts.

After receiving a particularly imaginative tongue lashing, FS 5559's crew flew and handled the spinnaker wonderfully, and eventually picked off one of the BYC boats to get into second place. The driver, undeterred by the noise from his nice newish noisy sails, gave all credit to the clear and concise communication of his brilliant plan at the earlier windward mark.

As the race progressed the wind reduced, but towards the end came back up again. There were many place changes and, when the wind came back up again, the racing was good and close.

At the start of the race all noticed that Mike Severson had put up his storm sails and was sailing single handed. The course this Saturday was smaller than usual, but involved several laps. The course required a minimum of three spinnaker sets, three drops, and at least five spinnaker gybes. Mike did all of this single-handedly, completing the course only minutes behind the winners with their full size sails. It was a terrific show of sailing and Mike is to be congratulated. Well done Mike – it looked like you had a lot of fun and that is what it is all about.

Eventually the race was over, with the Lassetters in the lead. Aaron Lee and Brent Draney of Berkeley Yacht Club were second, followed by Ned Congdon in third and Tom Nemeth (of IYC and BYC) fourth.

Club Trophies can only be won by Club Members, and so if our guests had won they would have nothing to show for it. At the suggestion of Mike Meszaros an old club tradition for the Drumstick race was resurrected. The winner gets a bottle of Wild Turkey, club member or not.

It transpired that the crew of the winning boat, (who flies a spinnaker rather well) was a little disgusted with her driver's poor attitude towards our guests. Some remarks about their parentage and having advantageous sails, when they were both ahead of the fleet at the first windward mark, seemed to particularly irk her. And so the booty was handed over to the first placed BYC boat, with thanks for helping make a very enjoyable day. And to further show

what great sailors they were, the bottle was promptly opened and shared with all gathered around the bar-b-que area.

It was a great day, and I am sure that all agree BYC will be most welcome again.

And a final thank you to our volunteers: Robert Cardwell for the gas, Katherine Landreth and Susan Medina for running Race Committee for the day and organizing refreshments, and to Mike Meszaros for laying the course and manning the rescue boat.

*Editor's note: Author is "the imaginative tongue lashing" skipper of FS 5559!*



The visitors and challengers from Berkeley Yacht Club who generously shared their winnings!

The Victorious Lassetter Team being presented with the Wild Turkey which they promptly presented to the BYC team.



### **SPOOK RACE RESULTS**

1. Tom Nemeth and Henry King
2. Peter and Sue Lassetter
3. Mike Seversen and Ron Buono

### **DRUMSTICK RACE RESULTS**

1. Peter and Sue Lassetter
2. Aaron Lee and Brent Draney (BYC)
3. Ned Congdon and Steve Caletti

# EVENTS CALENDAR

Tuesday, January 1st	Gin Fizz Party New Year's Day Regatta:	In the bar due to tides!	Noon
Saturday, January 12th	Board Meeting Open House		9.30am 5.30pm
Saturday, January 26th	Flamenco Party	Drinks Tapas and Guitar	6.00pm 7.00pm
Saturday, February 9th	Open House		5.30pm
Saturday February 23rd	Crab Feed		6.00pm

High Noon.

## NEW YEARS DAY GIN FIZZ PARTY

Tuesday, January 1st.

Inverness Yacht Club  
P.O. Box 186  
Inverness, CA 94937  
invernessyachtclub.org



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# NEW YEARS DAY TRADITIONAL GIN FIZZ PARTY

STARTING AT HIGH NOON  
COME EAT AND DRINK WITH US AND  
TOAST IN THE NEW YEAR

TURKEY, HAM, SALADS, AND LOTS MORE TO EAT.



GIN FIZZES AT THE BAR

BABY SITTING AVAILABLE.

# **“HOT MUSIC FOR THE COLD WEATHER”**

AN EVENING OF SPANISH FOOD AND MUSIC:

## **FLAMENCO GUITAR, TAPAS AND SANGRIA, SATURDAY, JAN. 26TH**

BAR OPENS AT 6PM  
FOOD AND MUSIC AT 7PM

THE IYC WILL BE HOSTING AN EVENING OF SPANISH MUSIC, FOOD AND LIBATIONS. WE ARE FORTUNATE TO HAVE INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN AND LOCALLY RESIDENT FLAMENCO GUITARIST, **RICARDO DIAZ** PLAYING FOR US.



SABOR OF SPAIN FROM SAN RAFAEL WILL BE SUPPLYING TASTY TAPAS AND PAELLA. SANGRIA AND SPANISH WINES WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE NO HOST BAR.

THE CLUB WILL PROVIDE MUSIC, CAESAR SALAD, 2 TAPAS AND PAELLA AT \$25 PER PERSON

### **RESERVATIONS:**

PLEASE MAIL CHECKS OUT EARLY, MADE OUT TO IYC TO:

C/O MARK DARLEY, 311 SEYMOUR LANE. MILL VALLEY. CA 94941

YOUR CANCELLED CHECK IS YOUR RESERVATION CONFIRMATION. WE EXPECT A SELLOUT NIGHT!

CHILDCARE PROVIDED DOWNSTAIRS WITH PIZZA AND VIDEOS AT \$5 PER CHILD

*RESERVATIONS PLEASE.*

AS NOVICE HOSTS WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE HELP OF ANY MEMBERS WILLING TO PITCH IN.

VOLUNTEERS EAT FREE! PLEASE CALL US, MARK & SUZANNE DARLEY, AT 415 381 5451

Please flip over for the New Years Day Gin Fizz Party flyer