

THE PILOT

The Monthly Newsletter of the Inverness Yacht Club

June 2008

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COMMODORE'S COLUMN

Well summer is truly upon us. As I type, we are just over the hump of the first heat wave of the year. If we get many of these we may have to change our name to the Inverness Yacht and Swim Club. Seriously, swimming off our docks when there is some water is a good way to avoid eel grass and mud. Several of our members make regular use of the dock as a launch point for swimming. I have been told that on the outgoing tide the water is less cold, having spent some hours warming up on the mud flats. There are some of us, myself most emphatically included, who view with deep suspicion the statement that "the water is fine", as this frequently turns out to mean that most of the ice has melted. I understand that the solution is a swimming wet suit from the Point Reyes Surf shop. Even the swim skins Suzanne and I use to avoid having to dip ourselves in sun block do help a lot. If you are wondering about water depth, Mark Darley passed on a great web site. It provides a graphical representation of water depth for Inverness. Check it out at:
<http://www.mobilegraphics.com:81/locations/2782.html>

I hope you were one of the lucky ones who got to come to the Grand Ole Opry in Inverness last month. This party was huge fun and allowed us to play dress up in a wide variety of western styles. Doug and his accomplices showed great originality in putting this event together. A fabulous meal, entertainment and dancing was enjoyed by all. Just goes to show what our members can do when they get their teeth into an idea. I can hardly wait to see what folks come up with next.

Speaking of country and such, about the time you get this Western Weekend will be upon us. Western Weekend includes several fine events two of which I am going to tell you about and urge you to try out. Many of you know about the Western Weekend Parade, which will happen this year on Sunday June eighth at noon. This is a great small town parade with the Shoreline Highway through Point Reyes Station blocked off and participants from color guards, floats and flame breathing automatons to children and pets in costume interspersed with bands, ice cream trucks and, with luck, the stage coaches of both West Marin and Wells Fargo.

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WEBSITE	John Speh	invernessyachtclub.org

COMMODORE'S COLUMN continued:

A less well know event is the Western Weekend Dance featuring the coronation of the Western Weekend Queen. This is a tradition that was revived a few years ago and has been getting better each year. The dance is scheduled for eight pm on Saturday June seventh at the Dance Palace. One of the fun features is the occasional genuine western line dancing. Because many of us can't remember how you do that from year to year lessons are scheduled. Show up at seven pm, an hour before the dance, for line dancing lessons and as a bonus learn how to do the Texas Two Step. These are both fun to do and fun to watch. Some of these folks are really good.

This summer's sailing season promises to be well attended. For the race fans there is even a rumor that there may be more 110's on the line than Flying Scots. There is nothing to my way of thinking, more exciting than sail boat racing, and we have more than our share of excellent racers. It is great fun to watch even, or especially, if you are not a racer, so come on down and hang out at the dock for a while if you won't be on a boat.

JohnS

M E M B E R S ' P A I N T D A Y :
S A T U R D A Y J U N E 7 T H 1 0 A M

Thank you to all those members who turned out to work in the rain and damp on May 24th.

Due to the rain that day we were unable to tackle painting of the Clubhouse and surrounds.

As a result we are planning a **PAINT DAY** on **Saturday June 7th at 10am.**

Please bring yourselves and brushes for a splashing event to spruce up the club.

Lunch will be provided.

See you there!

NOTICES

Ship's Store has New Summer Inventory.

Youth T Shirts – rainbow of colors	\$13
Youth Hoodies – Royal, Red, Navy & Gray	\$25
Youth Pro Mesh Ball Caps	\$18
Adult T Shirts – Blue, Green, Gray	\$15
Adult Pullover Hoodies	\$36
Adult Zippered, Hooded Sweatshirt	\$44
Inverness Yacht Club Coffee Mugs	\$ 6

In addition to being open at our open houses, the store will also be open on the first and last day of youth sailing, June 30th, July 18th, July 28th and August 15th. We will be open at Blessing of the Fleet, Youth Sailing Fundraiser evening and by request on any of our racing days.

Please call Susan Medina 415/663-8585.

MEMBERSHIP

Approved for Membership:

Jeremy & Lorraine Fisher-Smith

Proposers: Jim and Kathryn Lino

Seconders: Suzanne and John Speh

New Postings this Month:

Christopher Longaker & Molly Merrill Sterling

Proposer: Jennifer Merrill

Seconders: Barbara Jay & Mark Spitzer

Peter Wilson and Mary Anne Cobb

Proposer: Bill Mosely

Seconders: Robert Cardwell & Laura Mosley

Jason Hill (Jr. Adult)

Proposer: Norma Wells

Seconders: Robert Cardwell & John Phelan

Resignations:

Virginia Blewett (Deceased)

Joe & Joan Lunny

2 0 0 8 Y O U T H

REGATTA OPPORTUNITIES FOR IYC YOUTH SAILORS

Opportunities for IYC youth sailors to sail in competition outside of the Club events are offered by Bay Area Youth Sailing (BAYS), an organization that sponsors a summer series. The website to find out more about this organization and these regattas is www.bayarea-youthsailing.com The BAYS Summer Series 2008 is as follows:

BAYS # 2- Summer Sailstice Regatta at Treasure Island Sailing Center. June 21-22.

BAYS # 3 – Sequoia Yacht Club/PYSF . July 5-6.

Junior Olympic Sailing Festival – Sequoia Yacht Club. July 26-27.

BAYS # 4 – San Francisco Yacht Club, August 16-17 .

BAYS # 5 - Tiburon Yacht Club. August 30-31.

Interested sailors should let the instructors know of their interest in participating in these regattas.

The Mini Moonlight Midnight Marathon, Friday 7/18, is a regatta for Opti's organized by the San Francisco Yacht Club in Tiburon. The races will continue past sunset on a multi-lap course in Belvedere Cove. All teams are eligible with substitutions permitted between races. Registration 18:30, Competitor's meeting 19:30, First Warning 20:30. \$5/ sailor. Hot chocolate and snacks, no dinner. Session Two Opti sailors who are interested in participating should let the instructors know. Note that there is a conflict for Session One Opti Sailors as this is their last day of the Session.

IYC Youth Regatta

The IYC Youth Regatta is open to participants in both Sessions and any IYC Youth Sailor up to age 18. This will be a one day Regatta on Sunday, August 10. The entry fee will be \$25. The Youth Regatta Trophies are:

- o Novice El Toro - St.Columba's Trophy
- o Open El Toro – Spade Trophy
- o Laser Open – Duncan Patterson Trophy
- FJ “All Arouds” – Tom Blackaller, Sr. Trophy

S A I L I N G

YOUTH SAILING FUNDRAISER

Summer is almost upon us, and that means the club will soon be coming alive with the happy, busy hum of Youth Sailors rigging El Toros and Optis, and setting off from the dock in well-sailed F-Js. To support our popular and hugely successful Youth Sailing Program, the IYC will be holding a Youth Sailing fundraiser on Saturday, July 19. This is a terrific night of great food, music and camaraderie, all to benefit an excellent cause. We'll also have a special guest and presentation from 'inside' Oracle/BMW racing that you won't want to miss. Most importantly, however, this is about raising money for our community and for the young sailors who will keep our club going in generations to come. Every summer, your IYC puts sixty young sailors out on the bay, introducing them to the incomparable joys of being on the water, bringing young intermediate and advanced sailors into the ranks of IYC racers, and connecting them all to the world of sailing on Tomales Bay and beyond.

Our primary goal this year is to collect enough funds to buy two trapeze-equipped dinghies. These boats will provide an excellent learning ground for tuning and tactics for our advanced sailors, not to mention the speed and spray that is a big draw for all youth sailors. Our second goal is to purchase an awning for the south side of the clubhouse. Designed for use in the summer it will shade the youth sailors during their breaks and whiteboard sessions that can get sweltering in the mid-day sun. Of course all of us members will also benefit from this Youth Sailing investment. Last but certainly not least; we are raising funds to provide tuition assistance for members of the community, an important part of our club charter.

Tickets for the fundraiser are available for a minimum donation of \$65 by check, made out to The Inverness Foundation. Since we will have expenses for the dinner, we will send you a letter afterwards showing how much of your donation is tax deductible. Send your checks and RSVP to Maureen Kennedy at 104 Pala Avenue, Piedmont, CA 94611.

By the way, if you won't be able to join us on July 19, or are able to donate more than \$65 per person, the Youth Sailing Program will very much appreciate the additional help. We and the future generations of your IYC are most grateful for your support!

—The Youth Sailing Committee

ADULT SAILING LESSONS

All those who are interested in taking Adult Sailing Lessons this summer, please attend the next Open House on June 14.

This will be a good opportunity to hear about the Program and meet our veteran instructor, Emil Kempf. We will discuss cost, schedule and boats to be used, and we would like to hear from you what you would like to see happen this summer in our Program. We need to start our planning process now, so please, if you are interested or curious about the Club's offering for Adult Sailing Lessons this summer, please come to the June 14th Open House! Hope to see you there!

Ned Congdon – Chair, Adult Sailing Committee
115 Clover Hill Court
Danville, CA 94526
925/362-8820
ncongdon@hrstinc.com

THOUGHTS FOR FOOD

Ed Schwartz

The Two Bird Café in San Geronimo looks like a place where hamburgers and fries would be the order of the day, but you can't tell a book by its cover and you certainly can't tell what's on the menu based on the dark, rustic looks of this roadside spot.

About a year ago chef/owner Tony Micelli hired a new chef, Pepe Pumacayo, to revamp the menu and revamp it he did. The food is so surprisingly excellent and the presentation so polished, that the entire dining experience was one of real amazement.

The first time we dined there was in February for a Valentine's evening fixed menu and Bambi and I really were impressed. The West Marin Wine Knows had a dinner there recently and the food was way above par. The courses aren't simply good dished well cooked. The menu items are ambitious takes with many instances of creative juices flowing from the kitchen. There was a pork tenderloin with mustard spaetzle, duck breast with a blueberry sauce and delicious sea scallops with a celery root puree and an orange juice reduction. The menu changes frequently. Desserts also are exciting and tasty and service is a cut above the roadside norm. Go with a small group and make reservations at 488-0105. It's a bit of a schlep to 625 San Geronimo Valley Drive but very well worth it.

Closer to home is the also revamped Olema Farm House, established in 1865 and now in its umpteenth iteration, and this one is a good one. We've gone here often and have always been satisfied with really good dinners.

The menu is long, for both lunch and dinner. There are a lot of seafood dishes for starters; the crab cakes with lemon and a sweet pepper puree sauce suit me. I've had the Niman Ranch porterhouse pork chop with an orange horseradish sauce and one of the best side dishes—a warm, wild rice citrus salad—also served with delicious vegetables appealing sautéed in butter. I've also enjoyed the duck breast with cranberry salad and Bambi likes the Mt. Tam chicken, roasted with melted Cowgirl Mt. Tam triple cream cheese served over fettuccini. Pasta mavens also will like the fact that one can build a personal pasta preference plate. Start with fettuccini and add your favorite sauce and meat, fish and vegetable items.

Also note that by the time this issue appears, the late but unlamented Barnaby's will issue forth, new-born as a Thai restaurant. I will report that in the next issue.

The men behind the scenes are Alan Keady, Chef George Wan and expediter Phil Torres. I want to raise a glass of the finest rice wine in a toast to their entrepreneurship—gom bui in Cantonese. Finally, we now have the only thing this area really needed. Please pass the soy sauce.

In Memoriam

Richard A. Valentine

Long-time member of the IYC and summer resident of Inverness Dick Valentine died suddenly in late January while in Little Rock, AR on a duck hunting trip with his son Matt. The IYC family mourns the loss of this generous and joyful friend.

Dick was a San Francisco native and a third-generation Californian. He graduated from St. Ignatius College Preparatory in 1942, and at age 17, had enrolled at the University of San Francisco, simply waiting to turn 18 to be able to join the Navy and contribute to the war effort. During this time, he was recruited by the California Maritime Academy to join their Officer's Program, where he excelled for the next three years. He graduated as an Ensign/Deck Officer and received his Third Mate's Certificate, as well as a reserve commission in the Navy. After the War ended in 1945, he returned to USF to complete his education in Business Administration.

Dick began working for the Pennzoil Products Company as a delivery driver, progressing to white-collar salesman and through every level of management to become President of the company during his final five years in Houston. In his retirement, he generously shared his business acumen with up-and-coming entrepreneurs through his work with SCORE. His devotion to business was exceeded only by his devotion to his wife Peggy and his family.

Upon their retirement to Saratoga, CA, Dick and Peggy planted a half-acre of Cabernet grapes and went on to produce Gold Medal Best of Show wines, winning awards at both the Orange County and Sacramento State Fairs. They continued to return to their beloved house on Edgemont in Inverness, hosting lively family gatherings and enjoying Tomales Bay, their local friends, and the Yacht Club.

Dick is greatly missed by his wife Peggy, daughters Donna, Debra, Denise and son Matt, grandson Morgan Huguet and granddaughter Rachel Laiosa, his many friends and associates from the business world, and those of us here in Inverness fortunate enough to have known, enjoyed, and admired him.

Richard "Dick" Valentine

November 11, 1925 January 28, 2008

Rest in Peace

EVENTS CALENDAR

Saturday, June 7th	Members Painting Day with Lunch	10.00am
Saturday, June 14th	Board Meeting	9.30am
	Open House	Drinks 5.30pm
Saturday, June 28th	Oyster Feed	4.30 - 7.30pm
Saturday, July 5th	IYC Fourth of July Party	6.00pm
Sunday, July 6th	Blessing of the Fleet	Noon
	Commodore's Luncheon	1.00pm

“MEMBERS PAINTDAY”
 Saturday, June 7th
 at 10am
 Bring your brushes, paint scrapers
 and sandpaper!
 Lunch Provided.

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



FIRST-CLASS MAIL
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Summer's here and the time is Right

for

Enjoying Oysters at the Club!

Saturday, June 28, 2008

4:30 7:30 PM

on the Deck at the Inverness Yacht Club

Please join us for a twilight gathering to sample, savor and slurp
fabulous OYSTERS from our local waters!

We are relocating this yearly tradition to the IYC from across the bay at Tomales Bay Oysters...but do not be dismayed! We will present the delicious produits du mer from our friends Drew and Gretchen Alden's TBOC as well as the Lunny family's Drake's Bay Oysters for your enjoyment!

For \$12, you will be able to:

- Learn how to shuck and BBQ oysters yourselves from experienced and talented shuckers!
 - Savor the variety and nuances of oysters grown in our nearby estuarine locales!
- Appreciate an array of libations: fine wines, refreshing brews, and quenching sodas!
 - Graze on a cornucopia of cheeses, veggies, and other tasty snacks!
 - Venture forth on a brief motorboat ride on the Bay!
- **Most of all, raise a glass and a bivalve and declare boldly:**

SUMMER IS HERE and SO AM I!

Please RSVP to Katherine Landreth @ 415-669-7161
Payment will be accepted at the door.

Families/Youth Sailing instructors and students, and well-behaved canines ALL
encouraged to attend!

See you there!



IYC WANTS YOU!

July 4th Party

Saturday, July 5, 6 PM

Come celebrate with family and friends
Barbecue, Potluck and Dancing

We'll supply burgers, doggies, dessert and tunes.
You bring the rest!



A through J: Salads (green, bean, pasta, potato, your choice, fully assembled)



K through Z: Hors d'oeuvres

Adults: \$15

Children under 10: Free

Childcare available; provide number and ages with reservation.

Reserve by Saturday, June 28.

Your reservation is your check, payable to The IYC

Send to:

IYC, P.O. Box 186, Inverness, CA 94937, attn. Win Black

Note: IRS rules require that the IYC accept checks from members only.