

THE PILOT

The Monthly Newsletter of the Inverness Yacht Club

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COMMODORE'S COLUMN

December 2008

If the economy is depressing you, I have discovered the perfect antidote. Sit at the end of our dock in the sunshine and try and get pictures of white pelicans flying nearby. Just the ability to sit in a T-shirt at the end of November is enough to excite this Brit. But to be able to do it with the views we have from our dock is unique and wonderful.

There is, as ever, a lot going on at the club. Repairs have been made to sheetrock in the Galley and Bar. More braces to the dock have been replaced or repaired. The Whaler engine has been repaired under warranty, and the Rib is now being serviced. The water heater has been replaced - it was leaking - and the hoist motors have been repaired. My thanks to Millie, Richard, Jan and Mike for all their help in these matters.

Inside you will read about the 2009 Youth Sailing Program and the Committees thanks to those generous people who donated to last years program. This year we are asking for donations of Lasers that are in good condition to replace the many decrepit and almost unrepairable ones we have in the racks. And of course, we are still asking for the green stuff. We need to purchase the smaller 4.7 rigs so that the junior sailors can manage the boats in our strong summer winds.

I would also like to thank Ned Congdon for sharing his experiences with us of his capsized in early November. There are some good lessons there for us all to take to heart.

Who saw the helicopter and motor boats filming Mark Ropers in his lovely boat Jessie in late November? Our beautiful Bay, with Mark and his boat, are going to appear in an advertisement for Conoco Phillips. They are the third largest integrated energy company in the US, and made an appropriate donation to the clubs reserves.

For those who were hoping to read of arrangements for the mid-winter series, I apologize. I have not yet sorted out tides and dates. However I will do so soon and circulate by e-mail and have an article in the next Pilot, which will be out prior to the first race.

Happy Holidays. I look forward to seeing you all at the club at the upcoming events.

Peter Lassetter.

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PORT CAPTAINS' NOTICE

Dear Membership,

It's that time of year...the weather is so beautiful now it is easy to forget that the rain, which we need, and hope for, will come. To that end, I implore you to tie your boats to their trailers, kayaks to racks etc. The club is not responsible for damage to your boat, or that of your neighbor's boat, if yours is unsecured. If you have special circumstances due to which you cannot attend to your boat, please call and explain your situation and we will attend to her to prevent damage.

There have been some boats moved in the yard. Our criteria were size, weight and observed usage. The yard rules state that movement of boats is at the Port captain's discretion. *Again we would ask that those who are not actively using boats move them out of the yard to make room for active boats on the waiting list.*

Also please remember the off- season rules: if you are the last person to leave the premises, please make sure that everything is locked! If you see a faucet on, please turn it off. A freeze can break water pipes that then incur a large expense for the club.

We hate always sounding like the grumpy gate-keepers, but we only have the club and its membership at heart. We hope you all have a great winter season and that we will see you here soon. Happy Thanksgiving.

Richard and Milly Biller
Port Captains

PARKING REMINDER

ALL MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE

There is to be ***absolutely no parking on the leach field.***
It may collapse and your car will end up in it, as you deserve!

Also ***no parking in front of parked boats.***
This obstructs the launching of boats, and more importantly,
your car may be blocking access for emergency vehicles, and lead to the loss of lives.

NOTICES

Ship's Store News

Just in time for the holidays -

Ship's Store is now selling the first edition of our IYC 2009 Calendar. The photos and layout are designed by Jim Laws. This is a beautiful souvenir calendar with photos taken of our 2008 racing season. There are a limited number available and they make great gifts. Get yours at the December open house or by mail order. They are priced at \$20. (\$22 for mail orders). Also available is a special holiday sweater. It is a ¼ zip heavy, sweater made from recycled cotton. There are only a few available, so shop early.

Ship's store will be open at the Thanksgiving dinner and at the December open house. If you are unable to make it to those events – please give me a call and I will be happy to meet you at the club on any weekend to open the store. If you know what you want, & cannot make it to the club, please send me an email order and I will mail the items to you for a small postage fee.

You can reach me at Susan Medina 415-663-8585 and email susmary@hotmail.com.

CLUB RENTALS

Sunday, November 30th	Noon - 6pm	Cardwell Party
Wednesday, December 10th	11.30am-4pm	Inverness Garden Club Holiday Luncheon
Friday, December 12th	6-10pm	Inverness Volunteer Fire Department Party
Saturday, December 27th	4-8pm	O'Leary Family Party

SAVE THE DATES

Thursday Jan 1st: HELPING HANDS NEEDED FOR THE GIN FIZZ PARTY. If interested, please call the Astons, 669-1406.

Saturday Jan 24th: BISTRO DINNER & DANCING with Marianna August and her Jazz Pals.

KAYAK SHARING

With the beautiful kayaking weather of Winter upon us, a suggestion has been made that owners of rarely used sit-on-top kayaks might have an interest in sharing or loaning their kayaks to IYC members for use. A set of rules will be established so that the kayaks would be protected from abuse. If you have an interest in establishing this program, please call or e-mail: Judith Smith - 415.669.7355 jeciani@horizoncable.com, Ray Aldrich - 650.327.5161 rind@earthlink.net, Win Black - 415.663.8293 winstonblack@mac.com

MEMBERSHIP

Proposed for Membership:

Jim & Michelle Baack: Proposer: Sally Baack, Seconders: Katie Gundlach & Robert Cardwell

Dr. Timothy Duncan & Dr. Lael Duncan: Proposer: Michael Duncan, Seconders: Robert Cardwell & Sam Hinckley

Eric Holmes: Proposer: Camilla Biller, Seconders: Jim Noble & Peter Lassetter

YOUTH SAILING SIGN UP 2009

The Inverness Yacht Club offers the Summer Youth Sailing Program.

There are two three week sessions with 30 sailors each ranging in age from 10-16. The program is rich in tradition, focused on fun, enjoying Tomales Bay, and includes instruction and experience in racing. The participant fee is \$675 per youth sailor. Some scholarships are available.

Registration forms and more information about the Program can be obtained by accessing the Club website at: <http://www.invernessyachtclub.org/aboutus.html>

The dates for the 2009 sessions are as follows:

6/29- 7/17 First Session
7/27- 8/14 Second Session

Applications will be accepted from Members starting Monday, February 9th 2008.

No Member applications postmarked prior to February 9th will be accepted. Children and grandchildren of IYC members will have priority over Non-Members until Sunday, March 8th.

Applications will be accepted from Non-Members starting Monday, March 9th 2008. *No applications from Non-Members postmarked prior to March 9th will be accepted.*



YOUTH SAILING DONATIONS

Thank You From Youth Sailing

We would like to thank the following generous folks who made donations in support of our youth sailing program for 2008. These contributions are a huge help in keeping the program well equipped and moving forward. If your gift was overlooked or erroneously placed in the anonymous category please let John Speh know.

2008 Donors

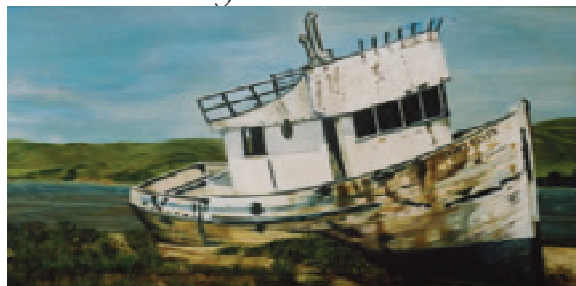
Anonymous, Bob and Nancy Anderson, James and Michelle Baack, Win Black, Bill and Betty Anne Carlin, Joe and Susan Cerny, Barbara and John Chase, David Currie, Mark and Suzanne Darley, Frances Davis, Ken and Ann Emanuels, Margaret and Jim Gault, Charles Gay and Pamela Ross, Ann Gessert and Raul Gallyot, Doug and Ann Johnson, Dan Johnson, Maureen Kennedy, Peter and Susan Lassetter, Jim and Christina Pettigrew, Barbara and John Phelan, Victoria and Terry Rosen, Ed and Bambi Schwartz, Steve and Carol Skold, Suzanne and John Speh, Brit and Susie Stitt, Peter and Jody Wardle, James Waters and Ashley Tobin, Pat and Robin White, Marjorie and Thomas Wilson.

2009 Donors

Dan Johnson has started us off by funding the 2009 Water Dogs Sailing Scholarship. There is still time to get your 2009 donation off your 2008 taxes. Check MUST be made out to the "Inverness Foundation" with the memo line referencing Youth Sailing and sent to either the IYC at PO Box 186 or The Foundation at PO Box 382, Inverness, CA 94937.

As mentioned in the Commodore's Column; in particular *we need donations of Lasers in good condition to replace the many decrepid ones, and donations which will enable the club to purchase the smaller 4.7 rigs, so that Junior sailors can handle them in a breeze.*

Art by Sue Lassetter



Sue Lassetter will be displaying her Original Art Cards, Framed Reproductions and Jewelry at the December 13th Open House.

If you are looking for that special Holiday Gift she will be able to help you.

Any purchase you make will benefit the Youth Sailing Program.

She will be donating 20% of all sales.

If you can't come that evening visit her web site at www.suelassetter.com to view her work and if you are interested let her know you are an IYC member and she will still donate to the program if you make a purchase.

A W E T W I N T E R ' S T A L E

Account of November 8 Capsize

On November 8, Steve Caletti and I suffered a capsize in our Flying Scot, when a line squall hit just as night was falling. The boat filled with water and a self rescue was impossible. Luckily, we were near the east shore, about a quarter mile from Tony's Seafood. We were spotted from shore, and John at Tony's called 911 and described our situation. We were quickly rescued, none the worse for wear, by a boat out of Marshall. We left the boat tied to a mooring, still capsized. I cadged a place to stay the night from Ken and Lynn Twining. In the morning, Peter Lassetter, Millie and Richard Biller, and Robert Cardwell rescued the boat and brought it back to our Club. Damage was remarkably light and Mike Meszaros helped fix most of it. Gold medals to all those wonderful people for their incredible help.

One factor that helped us was that there was just enough light remaining that we could be spotted. In addition, the water temperature was quite warm, and exposure was not an immediately pressing issue. Also we were close to a lee shore, and eventually the boat would have washed its way closer to it. However, if the water had been colder and our capsize had occurred unseen, in the western half of the bay, our situation could have been perilous. The main point I need to get across is that Tomales Bay is windy enough during the summer months, but the winter months bring with them added hazards of more sudden changes in wind, colder water, and less traffic on our bay. DO NOT go out on the bay if winds are excessive. The Flying Scot is fairly well behaved in winds up to 25 knots, however at that wind velocity, there is a tendency for the wind to blow on the hull when it heels, and that overturning moment can be enough to capsize the boat, especially with a 2-man crew. If the wind comes up quickly, it is important for the skipper to judge the peril of the situation. Race for the nearest shore if things become dicey. If the wind came up suddenly, there is a good chance that a 1-hour wait will see the return of calmer winds. Also, strike the main and sail back downwind on jib alone. Either one of those measures would have saved us a lot of trouble.

We did some things right. Our families and some at the Club were aware we were intending to go out. When the boat capsized, we were wearing warm clothes and life vests, and we remained calm and stayed with the boat.

Next time we will not go out in such high winds, and we will turn back before nightfall if conditions seem unsettled, as they were that day. Also we will carry rescue flares with us, stashed for quick access. Mainly, however, we will avoid going out with a 2-man crew in high winds without a safety boat nearby.

- Ned Congdon

Editor's Note:

Thank you Ned. This is the first of an occasional (but hopefully not frequent) series of articles intended to enlighten the sailing membership with the general theme of "What we did right" and "What we will do differently next time".

Jim Laws, our treasurer and a pilot, suggested this idea which is used in flying magazines to keep their readers out of danger. In the spirit of co-operation and education leading to safer sailing practices, I will be recounting an experience that convinced me to change some of my safety precautions, in an issue early next year.

PIRATES OF INVERNESS



Don't bring your oil tanker, arms freighter or rum runner within 450 miles of this lot. Hostages have been known to go missing for whole weekends in Inverness!

Photos: Carol Skold



EVENTS CALENDAR

Saturday, November 29th	Drumstick Race Trophy Dinner & Thanksgiving Potluck	Noon 6.00pm
Saturday, December 13th	Board Meeting Xmas Open House & Gift Exchange	9.30am 5.30pm
Thursday, January 1st	Gin Fizz Party	Noon
Saturday, January 10th	Board Meeting Open House	9.30am 5.30pm

Otherwise known as the leftover
mashed potato sculpting event!
"THANKSGIVING POTLUCK"

Combined with the

"TROPHY DINNER"
&
"DRUMSTICK RACE"

Saturday, November 29th

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



FIRST-CLASS MAIL
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NEW YEAR'S DAY

Traditional Gin Fizz Party

Starting at High Noon
Come!

Eat and drink with us as we welcome
New Year, 2009!

Turkey, Ham, Salads, and lots more.
Gin Fizzes at the bar.



Needed: Helping hands for the Gin Fizz Party. If interested, please call the Astons, 669-1406.

Baby sitting available