

THE PILOT

The Monthly Newsletter of the Inverness Yacht Club

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COMMODORE'S COLUMN

January 2009

Happy Holidays everybody. Take some time out of your hectic vastly over complicated lives and share some peace with your loved ones. And lets all hope the New Year brings conclusion to the many troubling issues currently raging around us.

At the last Board meeting we spent some time discussing our budgets for the upcoming year, in the context of the R word. We considered, and dismissed, raising dues and bar prices. We did not want to put further financial stress on the membership in these increasingly hard times. Instead, we decided to look at our costs and budgets and see what we can ALL do to help ourselves.

Our social program is a very significant part of our expenditure and significant savings can be made with little effort from all of us. The organizers of these events have a very difficult job in planning out how much food and beverage to pre purchase. That is because many attendees do not confirm their attendance prior to the evening and send the organizer an advance check. Because we know there will be significant pay at the door attendees, the organizers usually buy too much food and overcompensate. So my first plea is to ask that we all help out by sending checks to the organizers early so they can all better plan the events. Everybody understands that plans change so if you are suddenly available for an event and want to come after all, please come. You are welcome. But let us all do our best to give the hosts a chance to save some money.

My second request concerns the Pilot. It is expensive to print and mail out. Many members have good internet access these days and we would like to ask that they consider cancelling their paper copy, and instead use an on-line version. Later in this Pilot details are given on how to opt out. The paper Pilot will of course continue to be mailed to all those who wish to receive it. We do understand there are many homes in Inverness that do not have decent broadband internet access.

Later in the Pilot you will see some great pictures of sailing on our Bay recently. Our first attempt to run a winter race sort of fizzled out. However, for those of us who turned up, but stayed on land, we still had a great and companionable time. If you would like to be contacted about future winter race events please send me your email address so I can contact you. (peter.lassetter@comcast.net)

I hope to see many of you at the Gin Fizz. Happy New Year everybody.

Peter Lassetter

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PORT CAPTAINS' NOTICE

Please slow down in the parking lot, especially at this time of the year. Driving fast *really* contributes to our pot hole problem.

If you go out on The Bay at this time of the year, please check the tide book, the weather forecast, and be sure someone knows that you are going, and if possible which direction.

Some time in the last week or so, someone was caught at low tide and apparently used the hoist motor to drag their boat sideways through the mud, enough to pivot the hoist motor and put the chain and hook in very close proximity to the electrical cord. This was an obviously very dangerous situation that could have injured someone, and damaged the hoist. The hoist is for a vertical lift only. ***Please be careful.***

Winter storms are here. Tie your boat down so that it does not damage your neighbors boat!

We will continue to plead for the removal of unused boats from the yard. Some of you have received individual notices, and more will be forthcoming. We hate doing this, but it is necessary for the sailing vitality of the club that active boats are accomodated, and we have a waiting list of members who will use their boats.

We hope everyone has a wonderful winter and holiday season. See you at the Fizz Party!

Richard and Milly Biller, Port Captains.

PILOT EDITOR'S NOTICE

For some time now the Pilot has been available as a download from the IYC website.

When reviewing the club's budget for 2009 the Board noticed that the production and mailing of the Pilot is a significant cost for the club.

Please, those of you who have good internet connections, consider cancelling your mailed subscription to the Pilot and print it yourselves in the comfort of your home or office. There are small and large file versions for your convenience. If you read it on-line, the photographs look great on your monitor, and you will be reducing your impact on the environment.

In order to take yourselves off the mailing list, but still get an online notice of the publication of the electronic version, please contact John Speh at IYC@svn.net

Thank you for helping us manage our budget, and reduce our environmental footprint. Mark Darley.

NOTICES



SHIP'S STORE NEWS

Help Ship's Store clean out the closet.

Save 10% on all of Ship's Store regularly priced clothing items – only at our January open house.

Also, there will be a special clearance table with additional savings on selected items.

There are still a few 2009 IYC calendars available.

These make wonderful gifts as well as a nice personal souvenir of our 2008 racing season. The photos were taken by Jim Laws and are just spectacular. I will have them available at our Gin Fizz party on January 1st or send an email to Susmary@hotmail.com and I will be happy to send you one. – Price \$20-

CLUB RENTALS

Saturday, December 27th 4-8pm O'Leary Family Party

SAVE THE DATES

Saturday Feb 28th: 21ST ANNUAL CRAB FEED HOSTED BY DAVE & EILEEN WALLACES.

KAYAK SHARING IS UNDERWAY!

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

Approved 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

THE DRUMSTICK RACE



The Drumstick Race was a light air day, though John Phelan found some breeze a little later in the day with his FS 700.

Drumstick results were:
1st Place: Tom Nemeth. FS
2nd Place: Sam Hinkley. 110
3rd Place: Robert Cardwell. 110



Photos: Jim Laws



FIRST WINTER RACE



WHAT IF THEY GAVE A PARTY AND NOBODY...

attended, showed up, would dance, got out there on the water? How about the latter? That's almost what happened at our first 'Winter Race' on December 13.

Let's say, on this admittedly thrown-together-at-the-last-minute event, that the tide was the highest it ever gets, the course south allowed sailing beyond Inverness, the temperature was mild for winter and the wind not really heavy. It did pick up and then subside to a moderate breeze for most of the day.

Which brings us to the next point for the sailors/racers; If Peter Lassetter doesn't have your email, send it to him for his data base so that if something does come up and we can't get it into the Pilot in time, and you want to be informed of a casual but organized event, we can get an announcement to you. Otherwise our Club events are posted in the Pilot and on our web site for events which are part of our regular 'summer' program. We will attempt winter and spring sailing events, and will have the Club power boat on the water, but these are harder to determine than in the balmy days of summer.

Also consider that simply coming out with the possibility of sailing or racing, the get-together is pleasant, convivial and, as always, you'll be around the Club--about as attractive a setting as you'll find anywhere.

Incidentally, of the sailors who did show up, not all were wall flowers. Though Mike Meszaros was right about the ebb and wind making a good chop, we did get one boat out and the chop off Tomassini made for a dramatic picture, and probably sailing, too. Mark Darley and Cecelia LeMieux made the Johnson 18 just scoot up and down the Bay. How their watch caps stayed on the whole time is either due to glue or the adhesion of salt water.

Text & Photos by Mike Seversen.

FRUITCAKE IS MALIGNED by Ed Schwartz

Every year around the holidays, bad jokes are made up and retold about fruitcake and I am fed up to here with them (pointing at my throat.)

What is wrong with fruitcake? I ask. I will not wait for your answer, because I want to extol fruitcake, one kind especially.

This paragon of fruitcake comes from a nice woman named Manetta Bennett from Stinson Beach. Every year she makes up a bunch of lovingly made fruitcakes and sells them at the Pt. Reyes Station Crafts Fair. The stand is in the far right corner and each year I make a direct line to it. For this fruitcake is pure gold. I do not know Ms Manetta personally, but I know I would love her if I ever met her. She has brought me annual joy in the guise of her delicious and enticing fruitcake.

Like a great wine, Manetta's fruitcake may vary slightly from vintage to vintage; from year to year, but the focus is clear and consistent.

As I am writing this, I am enjoying my sixth slice and it is only 11:00 a.m. I know that six slices are way too much, but that is my problem and I am stuck with it.

Also, like a great wine, this fruitcake is all about balance. The ratio of cake to the other ingredients is just so. Rich brown cake dotted with walnuts, raisins and bits of dried fruit, gently laced with some sort of spirituous substance. However, because of the balance of ingredients, the taste of booze is so well integrated in the mix that it doesn't shout or stand out at the expense of the others. Winemakers could take a lesson

As I said, this fruitcake is to fruitcake as the quadratic equation is the Einstein's Theory of Relativity. Just as the theory of Relativity is dense, dark and complicated, so it is with this cake.

I wish that Manetta would make this cake more often, but it is just a once a year thing. Every smarmy and sarcastic writer that has put down fruitcake should be made to taste this fruitcake. They would learn a lesson but, frankly, this fruitcake should not be wasted on heathens.

Addendum. I apologize to those who thought my review of the Olema Inn was harsh and inappropriate. I was not trying to be vicious; I am not that way by nature. I thought I was providing a public service to protect the innocent. Happy New Year! Ed Schwartz

Editor's note on the previous page story "First Winter Race"

If you are wondering why there is such a large photo of your editor getting wet on The Bay, the answer is; because I am short of images and text for the Pilot!

In particular, I am suffering from an acute shortage of photos and text of social events.

Please take photos and feel free to add some text and submit it to me at:

MarkDarley@mac.com

A special thanks to Cecilia LeMieux for her willingness to go out in any conditions, get wet, and have a great time. The only thing wetter than us were the herring!

To Mike Severson and Peter Lassetter for laying marks and doing their utmost to run a race, and to Mike again for bringing the pizza and beer!

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.*

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 or your 2009 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 last month; 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.

Thank you.

EVENTS CALENDAR

Thursday, January 1st	Gin Fizz Party	Noon
Saturday, January 10th	Board Meeting Open House	9.30am 5.30pm
Saturday, January 24th	Bistro Night & Jazz	6.00pm

**Bring High Spirits and optimism
for the New Year.
“GIN FIZZ PARTY”**

Thursday, January 1st

Inverness Yacht Club
P.O. Box 186
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invernessyachtclub.org



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