

THE PILOT

The Monthly Newsletter of the Inverness Yacht Club

April 2009

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YOUTH SAILING

Pat White

COMMODORE'S COLUMN

Yesterday I had a very special day, and at the end realized I had learnt several things which I would like to share.

I had arranged to meet Mark Darley for a sail at the club on my new boat. We met at IYC in the morning and started to rig the boat. I have not put the boat together many times and I made a mess of it. I forgot about a forestay and the mast had to come down. I made a mess of the mast head fly, and passed spinnaker sheets through ratchet blocks the wrong way. It took a long time to get out and I felt quite embarrassed. Worse, several accomplished sailors had helped and seen the whole spectacle.

By the end of the day I was in heaven. The sail was glorious. There was a mix of wind and for a little while, whilst Mark was helming, the wind got up just a little and the boat just popped up onto a plane whilst going to windward. We got into a groove and it was wonderful. We had lunch in the sun on Kilkenny Beach; a sandwich, a beer and long conversation. The sail back was also a mix of wind strength. From a drifter and worries of an ebb tide, to planing across the Bay on reaches with the spinnaker up. It was all great fun.

More embarrassment then followed; I missed the dock whilst trying to come in! We went aground because we forgot to raise the dagger board. And then I actually put one of the three hulls (it's a trimaran) on top of the dock. However, I did discover that it is an efficient way to stop the boat, as long as you do not worry about those nasty steel cleats going through the hull. I cannot recall any other mishaps, but I realized I no longer cared. Yes, others can put a boat together faster than me, and they can dock a boat better too. But I was out there on the water, and had experienced a glorious day. And they had not.

Later, after putting the boat away, I was sitting at the end of the dock with Mark, our vice commodore, and Katherine, a staff commodore. After a day in the wind and sun, the warm two buck chuck tasted great. The club house was being used by members and others in the community, and the view of the Bay was terrific. The water had a pink tinge, and the hills in the background glowed green in the last of the low sunlight. We talked about how unique Tomales Bay is, and how fortunate we were to be able to enjoy it. That in turn led to admiration for our lovely clubhouse, being used by the community whilst we spoke.

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Commodore's Column Continued:

So, I realized how important it has become to me that IYC has a healthy future, and is allowed to continue to give so much to us all: It helps kids learn to sail. It gets them to appreciate the Park and its scenery and wildlife. Some learn there is more to life than Nintendo. It gets people like me to leave my career worries behind me, and not care about embarrassing myself. And it is a resource for the community to gather in and converse and share thoughts.

All of which is a short lead in to say we need more volunteers – just kidding.
But please do get out and enjoy the Club. Be a part of making it yet more inspirational.

Peter Lassetter

PORT CAPTAIN'S NOTICE

Since Spring is arriving in a few days, we want to finish this year's projects before the Club gets too busy. High on our agenda is the grading down of the driveway. For years the Port Captains, (including us) have added material to the driveway to fill the potholes. The time has come to remove some of this material. In addition to removing the potholes for a longer duration, the benefits will be an easier time moving your boat in and out of its spot, and a lessening of the swamp in the center of the yard. Co-operation from the membership is needed here though. As this work will be disruptive to Club use for 1-2 days, we are in the process of finalizing the dates, and will make every effort to notify the membership.

PLEASE slow down while driving in the yard. This will make the result of the work last much longer.

We have finally located a full height door for the upper elevator station. This will complete the upper elevator enclosure, which in addition the elevator more comfortable on wet days will protect the elevator structure.

As usual we appeal to the membership to take their unused boats/kayaks/windsurfers/rowing shells/Lasers home. There are many active members asking for space that is not available to them.

On that note, we will be giving away four Lasers to anyone interested, but you must take them home. These boats will have all their equipment, but they have been well used and are being given away as is. Interested parties please call the Port Captain at 669-1442. **Milly Biller**

NOTICES

SUMMER 2009! - IYC ADULT SAILING LESSONS

The summer 2009 IYC Adult Sailing Lesson program is beginning to emerge from the mists of winter. If you are interested in taking sailing lessons this coming summer, now is the time to indicate your potential interest – no commitment required at this time. But we need to get a feel for how many IYC members will be interested in taking these Lessons, which have been well-received by IYC members and Tomales Bay area residents alike.

The sessions will include 5 days of instruction, most of which is spent on the water. We have some options on which boats to use. Traditionally we have carried on the lessons in Flying Scots, but we could alternatively use Flying Juniors or Lasers. Let us know what your preference is. Cost for a 5-day program this year will be \$495 for members, \$535 for non-members.

Drop a note, call or email to let us know if you think you may be interested. Join the fun, and we hope to see you out on the water this summer!

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

“WILL THERE BE FISH?”

Friday May 1st at 5pm: Sponsored by Kate Baxter, this Matthew Baxter Memorial Lecture is co-sponsored by the Inverness Garden Scholarship Fund, contributions to which are greatly appreciated.

The topic is the search for market based solutions to current failures in conservation and fishery management. The lecture is open to all, tickets are free but reservations are requested, kbax@svn.net or 669-7662.

MEMBERSHIP

APPROVED FOR MEMBERSHIP:

Thomas and Mary Stubbs

Proposer: Mark Darley

Seconders: Bryan Hemming and Katherine Landreth

PROPOSED FOR MEMBERSHIP:

David and Barbara Whitridge

Proposer: John Chase

Seconders: Barbara Chase and William Draper

RESIGNATIONS: **Wilcox and Sandy Patterson**

INVERNESS YACHT CLUB YOUTH SAILING - BENEFIT AUCTION

The 2009 Youth Sailing benefit auction has begun. We would like to thank Ed Schwartz for this month's new items. He is offering a great selection of wines.

DO you have something to donate? Send a description or picture to IYC@SVN.net or contact John Speh.

To bid on an item via email: Send an email to IYC@svn.net with the item number and your bid amount.

To bid on an item by phone: Call (415) 663-8850 and leave a message with your name, phone number, the item number and your high bid amount.

5) Calera 2005 Pinot Noir (375 ml), Mills Vineyard, Mt. Harlan, SRP \$45

"Reveals increasingly rich fruit and scattered suggestions of herbs, spice, dried flowers and toast." . - DrinktheGraps.com

6) Calera 2005 Pinot Noir Reed Vineyard, Mt. Harlan, SRP \$50

"The Reed Vineyard Pinot Noir is heavily perfumed with cola, cedar, black pepper, wet stone and herbal spice. It possesses a fascinating compilation of flavors; boysenberry, smoked bacon, pine, mineral, chili pepper and accented with tarry, deep spice and sweet earth. While still tightly wound, the texture is smooth, but asks for a bit of breathing to flesh out for near term enjoyment." - DrinktheGraps.com

7) R&B Cellars 2006 Zinfandel, Swingsville Zin, \$11, Silver Medal 2008 International Eastern Wine Competition.

Current High bid \$5

Winemaker's Comments:

"The wonderful fresh berry fruit from the LDL Vineyard combines with the smooth French and American oak flavors to achieve a super harmony in the bouquet and taste. The LDL Vineyards Old Vine Zinfandel has a zesty complexity, color complexity and soft mouthfeel. The Petite Sirah enhances the structure and color of the wine and punches up the darker berry fruit character in the wine. The bouquet shows fresh strawberry and raspberry with hints of pepper and spice. The flavors are ripe berry with creamy cherries and an elegant spicy aftertaste".

8) R&B Cellars 2003 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley

"Our current Reserve Cabernet program uses 100% new oak in every vintage. The primary cooperage is Vicard, which gives the chocolate and cocoa powder tones to our Cabernets. Vicard makes an exquisite barrel that has set the tone for our "house style." The newly-released 2003 Cabernet Sauvignon reflects this style, with a distinct "Baker's chocolate" nose on the finish." – Kevin Brown, R&B Cellars

9) Prager 2003 Royal Escort Napa Valley Vintage Port, Paladini Vineyard. SRP \$80

Current high bid \$20.

"This is the big boy from Prager's Port Works. At least, it has been for the last quarter-century. In the tradition of Oporto, however, Prager has only declared a "vintage" seven times in those 25 years, and the 2003 is the first in this millennium. "

"The wine is inky in the glass. It also has a bit of Brettanomyces in the nose, which actually enhances the character of this characterful wine. There are also some big black fruit aromas and on the palate there's non-stop blackberry jam. Despite its youth, the wine is smooth and delicious and curiously devoid of raspiness despite the 19 percent alcohol." – Alan Goldfarb, AppellationAmerica.com

10) Kuleto Estate 2005 Syrah Napa Valley, SRP \$46

Current high bid \$20.

"The focus here is on deep, dark fruit. The three clones of Syrah at Kuleto Estate were planted at 1400 feet on top of a ridge with thin, shaly soil. Syrah can grow like a weed and set huge crops in some sites, but on this windy ridge, the vines are slow to grow, small in stature, and produce low crops with little intervention. Berries and clusters are small for the variety and therefore produce wines of great intensity. There's some smoked meat character, and the tannins are thick and sweet." – Shopwiki

11) Rosenblum Cellars 2005 Zinfandel, Appellation Series, Paso Robles, SRP \$18

Current high bid \$10.

“This wine sourced from Mendocino and Sonoma County’s may be one of the best value Zin’s found on your recent tour of CA. This wine opens with a pleasant fruit forward bouquet. On the palate, the wine is pleasant. No hard edges at all. The wine has very good plum like flavors, with good acid structure. This is a great everyday Zin or one for the BBQ. The finish is slightly dry. Enjoy” – Ken’s Wine Guide.

12) Raymond 2003 Cabernet Sauvignon, Rutherford SRP \$55.

Current high bid \$20.

“Deep mahogany in the glass. Aroma is medium powered, soft, black currant and cream, touch of oak. On the palate, the tannins are king, hitting the back and roof of your mouth, bringing fruit along as a confused passenger. Long, but challenging finish.” – Spirit of Wine

13) Amici, 2006 Rosato, Red Wine, Napa Valley, SRP \$14.

“the Amici Rosato, made from Napa cabernet sauvignon, was a nice change of pace. Dry, but lively with fruit, it was an ideal aperitif, and tasted surprisingly good with the chicken and dumplings” –Wine Matters

14) Albert Mann, NV Brut Sparkling Wine, Cremant d’Alsace, France, SRP \$20.

The Albert Mann Cremant d’Alsace is a serious sparkling wine with a fine bead and a long, lingering flavour from the complex mixture of Pinot Blanc, Auxerrois, Pinot Gris and Riesling.

ON BECOMING A CITIZEN

Recently, Bambi and I spent two days in Sacramento for a very interesting occasion. We were there to see 840 people from 78 different countries sworn in as United States citizens in the vast space of Sacramento Memorial Auditorium.

We were interested in one particular man in that group. His name is Gabbi Villarubbias and he is our property manager and good friend and a man of the world. He has an Argentine passport, lives in Sayulita, Mexico, and worked for DreamWorks in California before he and his wife, Andrea, moved to Mexico to pursue their own dream.

For some time, he wanted to become an American citizen and this, surprise to me, is no easy task. He had to study hard for a difficult test and he was worried about the fact that he was living in Mexico for some time and what would the authorities think of that? They grilled him long and hard. But he persevered and so we were gathered to see the swearing in.

We were told to be there by 8 a.m. and then we found out that the ceremony was at 10:00 a.m., but that is nothing new.

In order to get to the Auditorium from Sayulita, Gabbi had to take two strength sapping. “red eye” flights and, even at the last minute, we sweated it out that it would really happen.

While biding my time waiting for the ceremony to begin, I thought what a hard road becoming a citizen is, compared to most of us who simply are born to the prize Gabbi and others wanted. My grandfather and father were not born here and the problems that they had just getting over to the United States were difficult, beyond my imagining. My father aged 7 when he finally arrived, did not speak a word of English and was summarily put into a classroom where he had to sink or swim.

The 840 faces in the crowd were extremely varied. Some very old, some very young. They carried American flags that were given out at the entrance. As each speaker came and went to the podium, they all applauded. When they were finally, actually sworn in, you could see that they were very relieved and very happy that they finally made it. I was pretty overwhelmed as my emotions caught up with me. This was a very big deal to them and that made it a very big deal to us.

A young high school girl with a fine voice ended the ceremony with “America, the Beautiful.” And 840 people who had just renounced their former countries, walked into the bright sun as Americans--something very special.

Ed Schwartz

The profit to be had by holding for ransom appears to be ageless. Then there is the practice of extracting payments, or 'tribute' whereby extortion money is paid to ensure the extortioner doesn't do what he threatens to do. It's like blackmail except it's open and declared. And if there's nobody to help, or the extorted isn't big enough to protect itself, then it's fork over lunch money and wait for dinner.

Such was the case for practically all of Europe, except for Great Britain in the Mediterranean in the eighteenth and early nineteenth century. Countries like Holland, Denmark, Venice, Sweden and even France couldn't muster up a navy to protect their merchant shipping and instead paid 'protection' money to the so-called Barbary Coast pirates, the only way to protect merchant shipping from the pirates. Compounding that, some of the payment was in armament or naval ships of war, which, of course, only added to the ability to further muraud. The practice was curtailed only by American naval forces in 1815. But getting there as a new nation with hardly pocket money to pay Revolutionary War debts presented problems.

International politics and trade politics further swirled the heads of the citizenry. "Britain's goal was to continue to regulate American trade by restricting its access to markets... Spain also refused to enter into a commercial treaty... and denied Americans to the struggling postwar America economy, denied... free navigation of the Mississippi River," writes Frank Lambert in *The Barbary Wars* (Hill and Wang, 2005). What a pinch: in the Med, the Brits won't protect, in the West Indies wouldn't allow trade, and in the backyard, those other colonialist powers closed the waterways for trade, and in 'Quasi-War' from 1797 to 1800, both the French and British made sailing anywhere really tough. For example, during this time... "the French captured more than three hundred American vessels, while the Barbary States took fewer than thirty." Either way, capture was pretty unsettling to those captured, an utter loss for the ship owner and not much to be done other than negotiate and pay, if that was possible. Where was that money to come from, and when it was raised in 1794, the cost of a 'treaty' was "the largest single item in the U.S. budget."

Add to this the problem of a new enterprise, based on... well here's another rub: based on Republican government or Federalist government? Were the new states separate entities, or were they a Federation united as a whole? The later required money from all the states to finance the whole and the view as to who would benefit was also an issue. The navy came into 'power' under Jefferson, a Republican. This read is mostly the domestic politics of the two conceptions of what the new government was to be, those who argued, sometimes very aggressively and personally, their case; there is ample telling of the heroes both naval and otherwise who came to project the philosophy of 'free access and trade'.

The story of how these issues resolved is told in how the early presidents followed the example of the European countries in dealing with the pirates of the north African potentates, who were in some ways following the example of European countries in ways of making money. There are differences, of course, one being that the potentates declared war on America for not honoring its tribute treaty. With that, the states really united, ponyed up some tax money to build a navy and parked it in a harbor or two and let loose.

After that, none of the European states continued the practice of 'tribute' to sail the Med. An interesting extension is how history weaves connections: "Following the humiliating U.S. treaty that refused tribute, the Algerines tried to build their military forces, only to be crushed by a joint British-Dutch bombardment in August 1816. Then in 1830 the French invaded Algiers and after a bloody war made the once-feared leader of the Barbary States a colonial dependent. Over the course of the nineteenth century, Morocco, Tunis, and Tripoli met similar fates, each becoming a dependent of either France or Spain." What followed in Algeria--the pied noir and the war of independence--within a hundred years is chronicled in a most incredible telling by Alistair Horne, *A Savage War of Peace*.

Obituary: Guy W. Meyer

Our yacht club lost a world peace activist and ordained minister with the passing of Guy W. Meyer last February at the age of 94.

Guy was born in 1914 in Malden Massachusetts, was educated at Harvard, the University of Chicago, Meadville Theological School, and the New School of Social Research. He was ordained as a Unitarian-Universalist minister in the 1930's and was an untiring advocate of a caring, cooperative, global community: a world without war and without the engines of war.

Guy came to the Bay Area in the 1970's, hosted "The Power of Love" on KWMR in Point Reyes, and performed in many IYC productions. He is survived by his partner of 34 years, Joyce Greenwood, 6 children, 10 grandchildren, and 12 great grandchildren.

Guy was a familiar figure at the IYC "Blessing of the Fleet" each July, his ministerial robe rustling in the wind, delivering his own original brand of sermon:

Everyone who has sailed our bay knows the pleasure of running down the bay before a spanking northerly breezebow wave foaming, wake aboil, mainsail winged out, spinnaker ballooning. Finally, we end up secure at our home dock. . .

[May] our younger sailors long continue to experience the joys of living, we here give them our blessing and call on the great Universal-Power-and-All-conquering love to widen their vision, to strengthen their courage and commitment. So that they may be prepared to successfully tack against ill prevailing winds and, catching a fair breeze, launch Humanity on a long, joyful run to dock at its secure dock—a caring world community.

Guy was an unusual self-described "world citizen" and while we will continue to bless the fleet each July, it will not be quite the same.



EVENTS CALENDAR

Saturday, April 11th	Board Meeting	9.30am
	Open House	5.30pm
Saturday, April 25th	“Farewell to Arms”	6.00pm
Friday, May 1st	The Matthew Baxter Memorial Lecture	5.00pm
	“Will there be Fish?”	

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“Farewell to Arms”
A Dramatic Reading.

Saturday, April 25th

Inverness Yacht Club
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