What A Ride

Passing through the Panama Canal on the recently completed Commodore’s Cruise was nothing short of spectacular. The magnificence of this work of art for which so many gave their lives gives one pause, and to realize its efficiency over 100 years later, with a symphony of people and trains below to move ships through the locks, makes one appreciate the tenacity and creativity of mankind. The adventure started for some in Boston and for Kari, me and the other club members on the journey, in Fort Lauderdale. Nine ports in our 17-day journey took us to Key West, Grand Cayman, Cartagena, a breathtaking day going through the canal, then on to Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Chiapas, Huatulco and Puerto Vallarta, each offering a unique view of history and the lives of others, before returning to San Diego for a fun-bus cruise back to the club. Kari and I thank everyone who shared this remarkable experience, which will be relived by many in the Columbia Room.

This being my last article as commodore, I look back on a year filled with challenge and opportunity, and can say I have fully enjoyed the journey, with a robust board involved in the decision-making process and the help of the men and women who served as committee chairs — going the extra mile to fulfill their commitments and provide our members with a rich club experience. Thanks to Director Bob Emmett and Allan Horowitz, who persevered through 13 months of planning to acquire approval for the lower-level remodel now in progress. Thanks to the Strategic Plan Committee and team leaders whose task continues, and to my fellow club members whose kind words and support this past year are much appreciated. My greatest thanks to my wife, Kari, whose tireless support and love made this commodore’s year beautiful.

While the remodel, strategic plan and membership drive remain works in progress, I am gratified to have been an advocate of each and will continue to support efforts of those involved to accomplish those goals. I pass on to you the words of Mahatma Gandhi: “Be the change that you wish to see in the world.”
Wow, the year has gone by quickly. My first article in *The Masthead* as your membership chair contained the following:

“Satisfied members are more than happy to mentor new members and share BCYC’s success stories and are proud to be evangelists. Their attitude creates a positive atmosphere at the club that is appealing and welcoming and, as such, recruiting new members actually becomes easier.”

Well, I am happy to say we had a strong year with several new Regular Flag and Junior Flag members joining BCYC. It is clear that our members are proud of our club. They brought in new members who were eager to get involved and participate immediately.

A healthy focus on family, friends and fun is a necessity to promote membership growth and retention. Our new Junior Flag program is in place to attract the next generation of BCYC racers, cruisers and leaders. With increased participation by all members, BCYC will continue to grow.

The Membership Committee would like to thank all of you who supported our efforts. 2014 was a successful year. A special thank you to my leader in this process, Rear Commodore Sandy Mills. You made my job much easier with your support and belief in my plans and proposals.

The holiday season is upon us and the festivities at BCYC are just about to start! As we celebrate, we want to take the opportunity to give a big thanks to all the members who helped and participated in club activities during the year. Special thanks go to our wonderful BCYC staff, who went above and beyond to help make every event a great and enjoyable one, not only for the members, but for the Activities Committee as well.

We will be ending the year with a big bang! The New Year’s Eve party will be a New Orleans-themed Mardi Gras celebration. So put on your glitter, your colors and beads, your tuxes and gowns, or your shorts and shirts, and come celebrate and welcome in the New Year at BCYC with us! You don’t want to miss the excitement – make reservations early.

Cheers and Happy Holidays from the Activities Committee!
2014 Award Winners

Herb Hester
Jessica Crump

Officers & Directors 1959
Max Mayol

OCWORS Award
Zoe Johansson

Jon Pinckney Perpetual
Jake Mayol

Commodore Byrne Perpetual
Ashton Brown

Steven E. Winnett Perpetual
Darcy Chung

Rowland Perpetual
Joey Hertzberg

Commodore Montgomery Perpetual
Chris Sandoval

John Kimble Memorial
Jerry Moulton

Willie Williamson Memorial
Mara Hampton

Commodore Langlely Perpetual
George Hampton

Officers & Directors 1961
Bill McNamara
Erik Shampain

James W. Berkshire Perpetual
Chris Raab

Elmer Carvey Memorial
Peter Haynes

Officers & Directors 1960
John Szalay

Marcia Holyoake Perpetual
David Garcia

Leukemia Cup Regatta
Joe Degenhardt

Maclachlan Ocean Racing Perpetual
Joe Degenhardt

Leukemia Cup Regatta
Joe Degenhardt

Donahue Trophy
Rhonda Tolar

Racing Member Skipper Hi-Point
John Szalay

BCYC Yacht 1st to finish
Ensenada Race
Rhonda Tolar

N2E Best Corrected Time
Non-Spin Cruise
Rhonda Tolar

Club Championship-Family Division
Guy Doran

Doug Mills Perpetual-Champion Division
Erik Shampain

Most Active Angler
Abbot Ayloush

Tarsas Predicted Log-1st Place
Larry Fortmuller

Homeward Bound-Best Finish
Larry Fortmuller

Club Cmdr-Predicted Log Best Time
Paul Konapelsky

Catalina Island Golf Champion
Noreen Wallace

Don Bernard

Chanticleer Award - Shame!

Racing Member Crew Hi-Point
Bill McNamara

Miller Perpetual
John Szalay

Officers & Directors 1983
Eric Shampain

BCYC Ocean Racing Participation
John Szalay

Gaudio Family One Design Champion
Erik Shampain

Showboat-Outstanding Cast Member
Doretta Ensign
Beverly White

Commodore Howard Fisher Perpetual
Tom Madden

Commodore Domanski Perpetual
Bill and Kristy Parr

Menkin, Moore & Copp Perpetual
Bob Emmett

Commodore Bussey Perpetual
Mayol Family
Eric Lisa Max Jake

Wayne Gary Award
Paul Secard

Linn Gary Perpetual
Dee Shandera and Gail Matsunaga

Pleasure Cruising Perpetual
Craig Delaney
Allan Horowitz

Officers & Directors 1962
Allan Horowitz

Commodore Levy Perpetual
Mary Bacon

Commodore Siever Perpetual
Cary Breeden

BCYC Woman of the Year
Nancy Isbell

Chanticleer Award
Cary Breeden

25 Year Members:
Bob and Mary Bacon, Jonnie Brooks,
Marshall and Leslie Caplan, Paul Enghauser,
Bob and Judy Herstoff, Robert Hildenbrand,
Bob and Carolyn Lloyd, Bernard and Ingrid
O’Hanian, Bob and Kathleen Simon,
Dohn and Joni Tremplaa

(pictured): S/C Mary Bacon,
Ingrid and Bernie O’Hanian, Paul Enghauser,
Leslie and S/C Marshall Caplan,
S/C Tom Madden
December is going to be a great month for BCYC and the Junior Board. We will not only be celebrating the holiday season, but also preparing for our highly anticipated Bingo Night in 2015. In addition, the holiday bake sale will be the evening of Dec. 21 – make plans to get some great sweet treats!

I like to think of December as a time to reflect on the past year. Although I have only been commodore for a few months, I have had an amazing experience watching the club change. Besides the renovation of the lower level, our BCYC juniors have established a strong racing presence in the bay. The Junior Olympics and CFJ Nationals saw several BCYC sailors participating. With these awesome things happening, I hope to see BCYC become even more prominent in the next year.

On a similar note, high school sailing is also going very well for our Sage Hill sailors. We now have two gold teams, a very noteworthy accomplishment for a team our size. On behalf of the team, I would like to personally thank BCYC for allowing us to use its boats and facilities.

Here's to 2015 being even better than 2014!

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**Reflection on 2014**

Connor Chung
connorchungster@gmail.com

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**Welcome Changes**

Cameron MacLaren
cameronm@bcyc.org

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With winter approaching, things are finally cooling off on the water. Boat traffic on the bay has dwindled, the breeze has a bite to it and we have even seen some rain. Although BCYC doesn't have a winter sailing program like we do for spring and fall, our most ambitious sailors keep sailing during this off-season. Whether it's taking a boat out for fun or competing in weekend regattas to stay sharp, there are always ways to continue practicing this time of year.

November was another busy month with sailing events every weekend. Mission Bay Yacht Club hosted their Junior Commodore's Regatta at the beginning of the month, where Zoe Johannson proudly represented BCYC in the second regatta of the North Series. Alamitos Bay Yacht Club also held the Turkey Day Regatta, their biggest of the year with nearly 30 different classes. In high school sailing, Newport Harbor Yacht Club was the venue for the PCISA Anteater Regatta organized by the UCI Sailing Team. Many of our club sailors competing for Corona del Mar High School were hard at work, practicing several times a week in preparation.

One of the most exciting changes for BCYC comes with the lower-level renovation, which began last month. The Juniors will directly benefit from the upgrades, so we look forward to the project's completion and can't wait to enjoy the new facility. In the meantime, there are some great events coming up before the holidays, such as the SCYYRA Clinic in Long Beach, followed by the Lido Isle Yacht Club Holiday Cup. Keep sailing!

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**Sailing Ferraris**

Dillon Graveline, Junior Board Member

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Sailing has been a big part of my life for more than six years. Yet at 14, I know I have so much more to learn from and about this sport!

When you're just a kid, sailing by yourself is almost like driving your own go-cart. The freedom I enjoyed when I first stepped into that small Sabot was like nothing else. The idea of doing something without an adult looking over my shoulder was exhilarating at eight years of age. You put a boat in the water, grasp the tiller, trim the sail and off you go – it was magical to me that all of this even worked. I can think of no other sport where you have so many decisions to make, and where each one has real consequences.

Currently, I race CFJs for BCYC and Sage Hill High School. I love the fact that this double-handed boat allows me to sail with my friends. It is great to spend time with like-minded people who share the same passion. Recently, one of my school friends introduced me to 29ers and sold me his old boat. It was like graduating from go-carts to Ferraris! It's a very tricky boat with lots of speed – it gives you a real adrenaline rush. I'm only starting to learn how to handle all of that power, but even with the bruises it's been nothing but fun.

- Dillon Graveline, Junior Board Member -

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**Join Craig and Joan Delaney on their 2015 BCYC Commodore’s Cruise**

Cruise Through The British Isles and Ireland

**JULY 25, 2015 – AUGUST 8, 2015**

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Please call Nancy Levy at 949-645-9898 for more information
Las Commodoras
Ginny Lombardi
ginylombardi@gmail.com

It Was A Very Good Year!

Holiday Mania, the December luncheon and fundraiser, takes place Dec. 4 at 11:30 a.m. The $35 cost includes lunch plus $10 worth of auction tokens. Everyone will have the opportunity to bid on items ranging from $1-$10. This event is the major annual fundraiser for Las Commodoras, so please join us for lunch and a good time!

I want to thank the 2014 Las Commodoras Board of Directors for their support, hard work and dedication throughout the year: Joyce Barnes, Nancy Isbell Bryant, Sally Cohen, Marjorie Davis, Barbara Eden, Marcia Last, Louise Sasine, Bobbi Silvey, Sally Sopkin and Carol Wallace. It has been a privilege and an honor to serve as president of this outstanding group of women for the past two years.

Thanks to everyone who participated in and supported our programs and events this year. Looking to 2015, Las Commodoras will be led by the multi-talented and creative Nancy Isbell Bryant. Nancy has flair and likes to have fun, so plan to attend the entertaining luncheons and events!

House & Grounds
Director Bob Emmett
robert.emmett@att.net

The Hammer Finally Falls

After more than a year of planning, the project now referred to as “L Cubed” (lower level and lift) has finally begun with demolition of the restrooms in early November. The project is expected to take five to six months, including installing the elevator equipment. The general sequence of work will be: 1) restrooms, hallway, elevator pit and hoistway basement structure. 2) hoistway structure on the main floor, including reconfiguring display cabinets. 3) hoistway structure, vestibule and roof build-out on the upper floor. 4) patio stairs relocation, decking, trim, lighting and heat. 5) elevator equipment installation. All the above is subject to change as work progresses.

Unavoidably, there will be some inconveniences to members, but generally access to the main and upper floor areas will be available, especially after 3 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. When the work gets to the patio, access to the multipurpose and junior rooms will be blocked. General Manager Scott Jones and the renovation team plan to keep event chairs updated about potential conflicts due to this project. Progress photos and schedules are on the club website at bcyc.org/news.

I am happy to announce that Larry Michaels has agreed to chair the House and Grounds Committee for 2015. Larry has been active on the committee for some time and will be a great leader. All are welcome to the next meeting Jan. 21, 2015.
DID YOU KNOW?

The BCYC Maintenance Team

Juver Garcia and his wife, Josefina, have been married for 26 years and enjoy spending time with their daughter, Elizabeth, and granddaughter, Emily. Juver has been on the BCYC staff for 33 years – he sets an example and exemplifies the spirit and friendliness of BCYC.

Mario Nieto, Juver’s “right arm” has been married for 30 years to his wife, Blanca, and they have four children and three grandchildren. Mario is conscientious, reliable and always eager to get things accomplished. A BCYC staff member for almost 11 years, everything is always bueno with Mario.

Amazing Sea Life

Winter is fast approaching, but the Pacific Ocean off the Southern California coast is still unusually warm and attracting exotic visitors that in past years, were far more likely to be encountered in tropical or subtropical waters. The most exotic saltwater fishing in recent memory has featured catches of yellow fin tuna, wahoo, dorado and now, a blue marlin has been added to the list. About 1,000 miles north of typical blue marlin range, this first-ever catch in years was landed between Catalina and San Clemente islands, and weighed in at the Green Pier in Avalon at 462 pounds! This fish was caught by the professional crew aboard Bad Company. Amazingly, it took them only 17 minutes to land this prize catch using 170-pound test line.

A prolonged absence of westerly winds off Baja and Southern California this summer is responsible for the spike in water temperatures that have also brought other, unusual-for-our-area sea life into our midst. Birders and whale watchers alike are enthusiastically scanning the waves for sights of red-billed tropical birds, as well as sperm whales.
Vice Commodore
Craig Delaney
cedelaney@cox.net

What Boating Season?

It may be raining or snowing when you are reading this article, but I am writing this sitting in Avalon Bay with a mid-afternoon temperature of 80 degrees F. My wife, Joan, is swimming in the bay as I write. The sun is warm and the seas are perfectly calm. The upcoming Hot Rum Series may need to be renamed the Gin and Tonic series if this hot weather continues.

We are blessed to live in an area where boating-related activities go on 12 months a year. In fact, some of the best cruising occurs outside the “summer season.” The best weather and sea conditions we have ever experienced cruising to Catalina occurred in January and November of this year. Warm air temperatures and the lack of strong westerly winds equaled flat seas and more mooring availability, making boating to Catalina in the off season a great option. Today, I saw at least three BCYC burgees in Avalon Harbor, so I know some of you also enjoy boating this time of year.

As the year comes to an end and I reflect back on 2014, I realize that the key benefit of working with on-the-water committees at the club has been the opportunity to work with various members/committees that I would not have otherwise met. Junior Sailing and Race Committee are two good examples. I want to thank all of the committee chairs and members who volunteered their time during the year to make 2014 another great year for the club. The membership makes BCYC the great yacht club that it is.

Lastly, let me take this opportunity to wish all our club members and their families a very Happy and Healthy Holiday Season and a prosperous New Year!

A Note from our Chaplain . . .

“The pessimist complains about the wind. The optimist expects it to change. The realist adjusts the sails.”

- William A. Ward -

Rear Commodore
Sandy Mills
samills@cox.net

Reflections Of An Enlightened Member

This year has been a year of enlightenment for me. I have been involved with aspects of BCYC that were somewhat new to me, outside my comfort zone. I have had a wonderful time getting to know how much dedication, energy and creativity is devoted to the success of our land-based activities.

The Activities Committee, chaired by Kari Konapelsky and Silvia Breeden, was an eye-opener for me. The amount of energy and laughter during the meetings was tremendous and only exceeded by the quality of the events these two leaders and their team were able to create.

Director EB Barden gave me a lesson in marketing skills with her very positive approach to the Membership Committee. This was a very good year for enrolling new members of all ages. It was especially successful and wonderful to see so many younger families join our group. The New Member Party was a spectacular success and fun.

Las Commodoras also had an exciting year of good times and success under the leadership of Ginny Lombardi. Its members helped the club on many different occasions, from Opening Day, to an inspiring luncheon for the Marine families, to purchasing our new digital piano and much more. These women share the true spirit of the BCYC family.

As I think of the House Committee, of course, the first thing that comes to mind is the extraordinary effort that they made to get our lower level remodel project under way. Bob Emmett, Allan Horowitz, Jerry Valuch and many others can’t be thanked enough for their hard work. Most members don’t realize that this committee does so much. The list of items on their agenda is far too long to list here.

I can honestly say that these committees and everyone who participates on the land-based side of BCYC has given all of us a fun and exciting place to call our second home.
About this time of year, East Coast boaters are having their annual wrap party where they haul out, winterize, shrink wrap and store their boats on the hard until spring. We, on the other hand, decorate our boats and participate in the Newport Harbor Christmas Boat Parade. Rough duty – somebody has to do it.

Since there's no ice in the harbor, we are running the Hot Rum Series throughout the winter. It's easy racing on a Sunday, then back to the club to “warm up” and swap tales of outfoxing your competitor at the weather mark. Or simply revel in a race/tour of the harbor. Enter the next Hot Rum race.

Winter racing is some of the best racing of the year because it's cool and breezy. That's why we run our first series of ocean races in January, February and March. The Doug Mills Series kicks off the year with easy, medium-distance racing. Check the club calendar or the online race calendar. Start planning now!

SAVE THE DATE – US Sailing will present a special Safety At Sea Seminar for “Coastal Racers and Cruisers” Feb. 28, 2015, at BCYC. The material applies to power and sail boaters. Skippers and first mates should attend. Register now on the BCYC website.

INTRO TO RACING - Back by popular demand, learn how to race your sailboat. Get your name on a trophy… bragging rights included. This seminar will be held Jan. 22, 2015 – register now on the BCYC website.

Thanks to Juver Garcia and Mario Nieto, our superb maintenance staff. These guys do an unbelievable amount of work, are always willing to assist and truly care about what they do. Also, sincere thanks to Susie Brodrick, BCYC waterfront manager, for all the work, planning and coordinating that she accomplishes for our busy marina. Susie makes this port captain’s job doable.

Bobbi and I wish all Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year. See you on the docks.
Commodore’s Cruise 2014 Fun

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Every Sunday 5 - 8 p.m.

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Events
NOT TO MISS

LAS COMMODORAS HOLIDAY MANIA LUNCHEON
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

HOLIDAY PRIME RIB NIGHT
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

ANNUAL MEETING
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

SANTA’S CHAMPAGNE BRUNCH
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

CHRISTMAS BOAT PARADE
WED - SUN, DEC. 17 - 21

NEW YEAR’S EVE MARDI GRAS PARTY
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31

DECEMBER

Thursday, 4 Las Commodoras Holiday Auction and Luncheon 11:30am
Thursday, 4 Prime Rib Night (No Regular Menu)
Sunday, 7 Annual Meeting 4pm
Sunday, 14 Santa’s Holiday Champagne Brunch
Sunday, 14 Hot Rum Series 3 & 4
Wednesday, 17 Old Guys’ Lunch
Wed-Sun, 17-21 Holiday Boat Parade (Member Event)
Sunday, 21 Holiday Boat Parade Family Night (Member Event)
Wednesday, 31 New Year’s Eve 8pm (Member Event)
Mon-Wed, 23-31 Club Closed (opens 7pm 12-31)

JANUARY

Thursday, 1 New Year’s Day Columbia Room open 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sun-Tues, 4-6 Holiday Take Down
Thursday, 8 Prime Rib Night
Thursday, 15 Las Commodoras Recognition Luncheon
Wednesday, 21 Old Guys’ Lunch
Thursday, 22 Intro to Sailing Seminar

MORE INFORMATION AT BCYC.ORG

Please make reservations for all club events, as well as dining plans, at BCYC.org or by calling the office at 949.644.9530.
Member Event: Regular member dining is not available / Columbia Room menu served until 5 p.m. To avoid a cancellation charge, reservations must be cancelled three (3) or more Club Open days prior to the Member Event (e.g. no later than the Wednesday before a Saturday Member Event).