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Channel Islands Yacht Club

currents

CIYC Change of Watch
January 11th



Islanders Change of Watch
Board & Committee
January 23rd



Message From The Commodore Keith Moore



Hi CIYC!!.....

What a great way to start the **NEW YEAR at CIYC!** The “**Dinner Under the Stars**” New Years Eve party was fabulous. Food was catered by Sea Fresh, and the Brian Faith Band played all evening and kept the dance floor full. But what made the evening special were the simple and elegant silver and black room decorations..... with stars hanging from the rafters. **Mary Ann Moore** and **Sharon Sullivan** headed the decorations crew, including **Erika Barbaric, Bill & Melody Crier, Elyse Gonnello, Pam Nast, Frank Sullivan, Graham Paine** and yours truly.

For all of you who participated in the **Commodores Cruise** January 4, you may remember a great day on the water. **Dave Wardlow, Vidar Beck** and I, dressed to the hilt as Pirates, met our CIYC fleet (in an electric launch skippered by **Ruth Hatcher**) at the Channel Islands break water and delivered a formal **BOAT BLESSING** and a magnum of Champagne. You may ask. “What’s a Boat Blessing?” It turns out; this ritual is practiced at spring time around the world at every port and gathering of fishermen, sailors, and Yacht Clubs. The blessing is traced back to the time of Jesus and his apostles, who were fishermen. By the 15th century, the **BOAT BLESSING** became an important ceremony to open the fishing season with; ‘to pray to GOD for protection of their boat and its sailors who venture out to meet Mother Nature on the open seas’. For an interesting article on this custom, see; <http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/library/view.cfm?id=7718&repos=1&subrepos=0&searchid=1243417>

What a GREAT **Change of Watch** dinner and ceremony – January 11. We had an absolute sellout crowd (109) attend a gourmet OSSO BUCO dinner prepared by **Dave Wardlow** and the **BeefEaters**. A fabulous band, the **Barrelhouse Wailers** featuring our very own **Curt Ingram** provided vintage jazz entertainment. With your help, **Dave Wardlow** is planning many more Saturday night dinners that will include service, entertainment with a romantic atmosphere and good food. He expects a sell out every night. So get your reservations in early.....

And once again, **CIYC** did it's self proud with a special event held Sunday, January 19 for the men who were caught in a Harbor boat fire. We have received many thanks for being there for these men.

Watch your Calendar and support your Club!

See you on Deck!

Keith Moore – Commodore

805-551-0983





Message From The Vice-Commodore Dave Wardlow



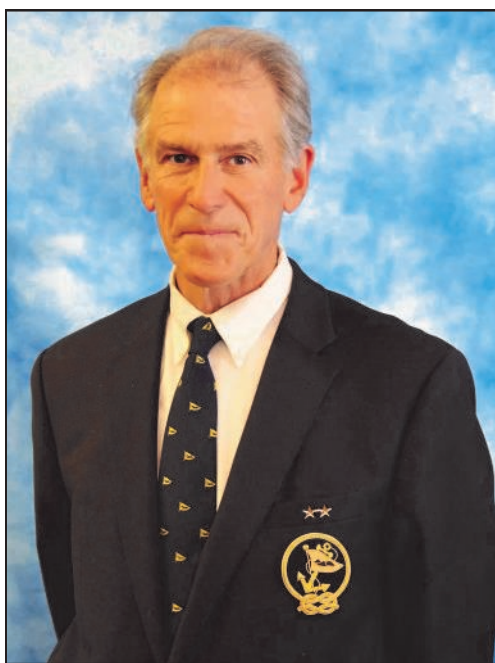
Rolling into a new month. A thanks for the tremendous turn out for our Change of Watch dinner. It seemed well received. For those who were not there, an announcement was made that by the hard work of past Commodore, Tom Warden, Dan Ward and Dana Hamilton, we will have our back stairs rebuilt. The first lumber has arrived, so thank you to them. I would also like to thank Past Commodore Mary Foster for her tireless efforts of holding the accounting together since Pat's retirement...dealing with a computer outage, upgrading the system in general, and all the other hats she wears for the club. Thank you, Mary.

Now, on to this month. We have Jack's Super Bowl Table Gate Party Challenge. Should be a fun event!! On Saturday the 8th, we will have a Beefeater's dinner. The menu will be announced. Friday the 14th is Valentines day and there will be a dinner and dance that night. Saturday, February 22nd is ship shape with an Epicurean dinner that evening. Please mark your calendars accordingly. Lets pray for some rain too!



Commodore Keith Moore

**CIYC Change of Watch
January 11th**



Vice-Commodore Dave Wardlow



Rear-Commodore Vidar Bech



Message From The Rear-Commodore Vidar Bech



Commodores crossing the Delaw-ops, I mean the Breakwater to deliver a blessing of the boats and their crew. Our new Commodore did a thorough job and the Captains got a bottle of medicine (Champagne), should that be needed for the trip home. Hope everybody had a safe one!! We had 15 boats participating and the day could not have been more beautiful.

The Participants: (hope I got them right)

Bother me Tomorrow- T. Smith, **Fus'ee-** H. Krum,
Leslie- T. Webb, **Maverick-** W. Brayton,
Mystique- P. Lipp, **Niko Maria-** D. Martin,
Sea Star- B. Bernbaum, **Sea Star-** W. Morrisset,
Sundancer- G. Paine, **Time Out-** D. Dickey,
Tomahawk- Z. Barbaric, **TRXTR-** R. Hatcher,
Valkyrie- F. Sullivan, **Watts of Wine-** O. Gilpin,
Zoarcas- S. Johnson

Special thanks to Jerry Wood for providing a tasteful lunch at the Club, Cindy Arosteguy for putting it all together and Ruth and Paul Hatcher for providing their electric boat, making the commodore's journey safe, and later at the luncheon, presenting us with specially coded shirts for our new positions.



As we are getting seriously into the racing season, the program with our RAMS is one of the most important programs our club takes on and I am very fortunate to have some very dedicated people to help me. First of all, with Jane Thomas as Racing Chair, Bill Brayton continuing as our Principal Racing Officer and Dave Martin as the RAMS coordinator, I think we can do the racing program successfully this year too. Of course, there will be many more members helping and I know our racers always make our club proud.

On February 15 and 16, we will host the Mid-Winter Regatta and that starts the racing season for our club. For more information on that, contact Jane Thomas.

Cruising season is coming soon and this is the time to get your boats ready, you know, changing oil and fixing all that stuff that doesn't work (I should do that too), so we can have a fun season. We are planning a lunch cruise to Frenchies Cove on Anacapa Island on Sunday March 2 or plan B, brunch at the Ventura Harbor. We are also getting into the Whale watching season and tentatively planning a cruise for March 30. Cindy Arosteguy will give you more details.



Message From Vera Cline First Mate

Greetings Channel Islanders,

Thank you to everyone who attended the 2014 Channel Islanders Change of Watch on 1-23-14. I saw a lot of friendly faces joining together to share this happy occasion with me. I was particularly pleased to see **Georgie Olsen!!** It has been too long since she has been at the club. Welcome back, Georgie! Again, I feel very honored to be 2014 Channel Islanders First Mate. I have been a Channel Islander since 1998 when my husband and I joined CIYC – but, the Channel Islanders never saw me at any of their meetings, luncheons or outings because of my work schedule. I felt like a “ghost” Islander, supporting in spirit only. Thank you, **Mary Ann Moore**, for a smooth transition to First Mate and pledge of continued support. And, thank you to the Channel Islanders Board for 2014; I will need you all. **Linda McCulley** could not join us as she needed to care for her mother who is recovering from a stroke. However, she did let us borrow her husband, **Jim McCulley** to be our photographer for the event. The pictures will show what a grand time we had. Special thanks goes to **Joyce Sheridan** and her cooking crew, **Diane Miner** and **Michelle Dilldine** for a delectable dinner. The evening just couldn’t have been better!!

From attending my very first Opening Day, I have always been in awe of the spectacular Opening Day decorations and food presentation presented by the Channel Islanders—and, it seemed each year it got better and better. I will uphold the CIYC tradition of hosting the best Opening Days on the southern California coast. The theme this year is “**Surfing USA.**” More fun details next month. To do this, I have the great privilege of having the most dedicated and talented women (and men) to achieve this. Also, coming up are some outings I am planning right now. More details on those events soon. I am confident that 2014 will be a great year for the Channel Islanders and CIYC.

Remember, without my board, I couldn’t accomplish all my goals for the Channel Islanders 2014. Joining me on the Channel Islanders Board of Directors, 2014 –

Pam Nast: Second Mate and Corresponding Yeoman

Linda McCulley: Purser

Sharon Sullivan: Recording Yeoman, Membership and Photographer

Joyce Sheridan: Luncheons

Mary Ann Moore: Parliamentarian

See you at the club,

Vera Cline





Call to Order 2014



Passing of the Gavel 2014

How Tall are You?



Islanders Change of Watch
January 23rd



Islanders First Mate 2014



Bling Bling 2014



Islanders First Mate
& Past First Mate 2014



2014 First Mate Vera Cline &
Port Captain Bill Cline



Anglers' Corner January 2014

By Frank Sullivan



There has been a change in the timing of the Annual Channel Islands Bill Fish Tournament, in order to make the best use of the Tide and Moon Phases and insure the best opportunity to actually catch Marlin. The dates have been changed from September 6th through the 10th to September 13th through the 17th. The Kick off dinner will be on Friday, September 12th, and the awards Dinner will be Friday, September 19th. I hope the change doesn't negatively impact many of us. However because of the change I may be looking for some replacement crew members on the **Valkyrie** this year.

WSB grow out pen update:

January 21st the Hubs SeaWorld Research Institute sent Facility Coordinator Derrick Miranda and two others to our pen to do a health assessment and to move some of the fish from pen 1 and pen 2 into, the until now, vacant pen 3. This will insure the fish will have room to grow and reduce the chance of injury.

Before we could move the fish into pen 3, we had to open the covers over the opening and deploy the containment net. The backup automatic feed that sat for years in the shed was rebuilt using stainless steel and we replaced the feeder motor. Manny Vega helped me find a metal fabricator to do the work at almost the cost of materials. Manny and his son, Pat, also removed the coverings to open up pen 3 two days before we came to deploy the nets and set up the feeders.

On the 21st Skip Miser, Charlie Farrell, Matt Dickey, Eric Kramer, Les Hardwick, and I spent the morning preparing pen 3 to receive the fish. In the afternoon the Hubs folks arrived. They brought with them an interesting sluice contraption that also counted the fish as they passed through and allowed the scientists to inspect the fish for injury or disease. We shallowed up each of the full pens, so we could scoop the fish into the sluice for processing and deposited them in Pen 3. here is a video link: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YW5n0xbGUXw&feature=em-upload_owner#action=share

Everything went smoothly and the Hubs folks were very impressed with the overall health of our fish and commented on how well our facility was running.

Upcoming events:

March 8 th	Anglers' Lobster Dinner
May 18 th	Ladies' Fishing Tournament
June 1 st	Men's Fishing Tournament
September 12 th	Channel Islands Bill Fish Tourney Kickoff Dinner
September 13 th to 17 th	Channel Islands Bill Fish Tournament
September 19 th	Channel Islands Bill Fish Tourney Awards Dinner



Doc Lines

GMO Food Controversy

GMO (or GM) stands for organisms genetically modified or engineered by scientists, mainly involving seeds of plants used for human or livestock consumption. The engineering process most commonly involves adding one or more genes from another organism to the gene pool of the crop.

Corporate profit is the driving force for inventing faster-growing plants, with better yield, that are more resistant to insect attacks and weed invasion. Various governments need to feed increasing masses of hungry people on the planet. Both have legitimate and well-meaning interests in developing such products.

Big AG (agricultural corporations) envisioned making crops resistant to herbicides, like Roundup (glyphosate), so when sprayed, only the weeds will die off, while the crop will remain standing without competition for nutrients in the topsoil. This, of course, will vastly increase the use of that specific herbicide which, incidentally, the big AG companies also produce and sell in ever-increasing amounts. The most disturbing finding is that after spraying, glyphosate remains on the crops and is processed into our food (Ref 1).

Crops can be genetically engineered to have resistance to pests, to thrive in hostile environmental conditions, and to have extended product shelf life. For example, a crop can produce Bt toxin, an insecticide documented as non-toxic to mammals. Some crops can be enriched with vitamins, or healthy oils. There is a South African white corn variety that accumulates high levels of oils similar to fish oils.

Animals, too. GMO salmon was engineered to over-produce a growth hormone, so that it grows twice as fast and twice the size (awaiting approval for human use). A genetically enhanced Yorkshire pig can digest plant phosphorus and thus decrease pollution because their excrement has a much lower phosphorous content. In China and Argentina there are transgenic cows with two human genes: They're engineered to produce human breast milk. Who knew?

In the US there is a broad scientific consensus (akin to the Global Warming "consensus") that GMO foods on the market pose no greater risk than ordinary food.

Advocacy groups, such as Greenpeace, The Non-GMO Project, and Organic Consumers Association, are questioning GMO food safety. They say GMO food may be unsafe, should be banned, or at least labeled as such.

There is also strong opposition to GMO foods in most EU countries and Russia. The impression there is that no long-term studies in humans have ever been done to see how safe they really are. Russia proposes a ten-year moratorium to allow more research. So does Peru. China turned away



(for the fifth time) a US shipload of an insect-resistant strain of corn. It was sold at reduced prices to other Asian countries.

Much of the controversy also stems from a paper published in 2012 by Professor GE Seralini, et al, of the University of Caen. The study found decreased life span and some big tumors in rats fed on GMO foods. A violent reaction from AG companies ensued, and The Journal of Food and Chemical Toxicology decided to retract the paper because of “serious defects in design and methodology.” However, the Seralini group used the identical protocol as the big AG companies in their research, except they increased the duration of the study well beyond the usual 90 days. Indeed, the regulatory agencies rely on safety research done by big AG companies, and there is scarcely any independent research done to confirm their findings.

In the US, the EPA evaluates GMO plants for environmental safety, the USDA evaluates whether the plant is safe to grow, and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) evaluates if the plant is safe to eat. Lately, the FDA has approved an “unprecedented number of GMO crops,” such as ethanol corn, alfalfa, soy, and sugar beets.

Few of us realize we are eating GMO foods, and with them, an increasing amount of residual glyphosate. In the US they are NOT labeled as such because of heavy lobbying by AG companies. GMO crops make up 93 % of soy, 86 % of corn, and 93 % of canola seeds planted in the US, and they are used in about 70 % of American processed foods. The average American will consume about 200 lbs of GMO foods per year. And not know about it. And furthermore, there is no program in place to monitor the amount of this herbicide in our foods.

In Japan, where GMO foods are labeled, the population is beginning to show a strong preference for unmodified fruits and vegetables. Some 64 countries do require GMO labeling. In the US, Whole Foods markets plan to start labeling all products. General Mills just announced Cheerios will be GMO-free (but not their other products).

To date, some 24 species of weeds have developed resistance to Roundup. Thus, AG companies are said to be developing new GMO plants resistant to older herbicides. The older herbicides are expected to kill the weeds (in place of Roundup), but these herbicides are not only more toxic to humans, animals and birds, but also to non-GMO fruits and vegetables. And they will also find their way into our food supply.

So are GMO foods safe to eat? I really don't know. It is possible they are safe, but it is also possible we are in a big laboratory, being experimented upon, and the results will be apparent in a decade or beyond, or even in the next generation. I try to eat organic, although it is more expensive. But it always pays to be informed.

Ref 1: Samsel A, Seneff A: Glyphosate's Suppression...; *Entropy* **2013**, *15*, 1416-1463.

Your Fleet Sturgeon, Zoran

Thanks to Erika for editing

How to Navigate in the Dark

Thermal imaging is the answer. A personal thermal imaging device is attached at the back of an iPhone 5 or 5s and produces a thermal color video in real time. You can use it in fog to see the breakwater, an approaching ship, or the contour of an island at night. At home you can locate studs in a wall, see raccoons and other wildlife, see hiding intruders, detect the onset of fever, and more. It houses its own internal battery, which operates for two hours. Roll-out is this spring (2014). The price is \$349. The website is www.flir.com/flirone. -Zoran

Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*)



Note the tucked-in neck while flying. If you see him extend his neck during flight, get out of the way, or be bombed. The nostril groove runs almost the entire length of the beak, which helps reduce nasal pressure during diving. They also dive during moonless nights, by observing phosphorescent trails fish leave in the water.

The adult bird weighs 6 to 12 lbs, and has a wingspan of 6 to 8 ft. Still, the Brown Pelican is the smallest of the eight pelican species. The Peruvian Pelican has the same plumage, but it is noticeably larger. A single adult Brown Pelican can eat about 4 lbs of fish every day.

West Anacapa and Santa Barbara islands are the only breeding colonies in California. The male pelican picks out a nesting site and “advertises” to attract the female. Incubation lasts 30 days and produces 2 to 3 hatchlings. At 30 days the young ones begin to walk, and they start flying at about 88 days.

Since DDT was outlawed, they have recovered, with an estimated population of 650,000 individuals. They’re protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty act of 1918.

Best seen in Currents online, in color. Photo taken from Stearn’s Wharf, S. B. - Zoran





On the 21st Skip Miser, Charlie Farrell, Matt Dickey, Eric Kramer, Les Hardwick, and Frank Sullivan spent the morning preparing pen 3 to receive the fish.



“NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT”

- Denise Schriedel

Annie Landry comes on Board as a local resident who has always been interested in boating. She lives on Silverstrand Beach and enjoys entertaining among close friends and colleagues. Annie works full time at Dole Foods in Westlake Village as their Marketing Coordinator for the past 14 years; therefore, she prefers to spend her quality time in the beach community and soon “on the water”.

Annie has attended many events at CIYC as a guest including the Red Carpet Night in 2011 and most recently DeAnn Wood’s Memorial Event.

Now that Annie is a member, she has enjoyed volunteering at the Parade of Lights, both on the decorating committee and that evening on the boat. She continued to ring in the New Year at our Gala Dinner Dance on New Year’s Eve.

Annie quotes: *“Before I begin with my interest in the Boating community, I want to say that it is quite an honor and privilege to be considered for a spotlight in the Currents newsletter.*

What drew me to the boat community is the love of the water and the open ocean to be found in this community. Or perhaps, it’s because of my astrological sign which is Pisces, a fish sign; therefore, I feel one with the open sea.

Another area of interest in the boating community is the culture of the community. The community portrays a sense of respect and basic courtesy to its members and guests alike, makes you feel like you’re a part of a big community of family.

And then there’s the broad range of activities the boating community offers, which I’ve had the privilege of attending some of them. I look forward to attending more events and establishing great relationships.”



When Annie is not at Dole, she loves the outdoors. You can find her hanging out at the beach, playing beach volleyball, walking, doing yoga and any fitness regime. Annie also enjoys movies, comedy club and wine tasting in Santa Barbara and Napa Valley. The favorite of all is to spend time with her family and friends.

Annie Landry





February 2014

Channel Islands Yacht Club

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Bar Hours Sunday 3pm to close, Closed Mon & Tue, except special events Wednesday-Thursday 5pm to close Fri & Sat 4pm to close					1 NO DINNER
2 1pm Super Bowl Sunday Table Gate Party	3	4	5 Wed. Night Fun night Dinner 6:30 Bingo 7:00	6 6:30pm Movie night Bingo 7:00	7 5-7pm Happy hours Birthday bash	8 7PM Beefeaters dinner
9 1-4pm Open house	10 5:00pm Beefeaters COW	11	12 2pm Bridge group Wed. Night Fun night Dinner 6:30 Bingo 7:00	13 6:30pm Movie night	14 Valentine's Day 5-7pm Happy hours 7pm dinner / social	15 Currents Article due 8:00am skippers meeting and breakfast Mid-Winters Race 4pm buffet
16 Mid-Winters Race 4pm buffet	17 President's Day	18 6:30pm CIYC board meeting	19 4:30 Islander Board Wed. Night Fun night Dinner 6:30 Bingo 7:00	20 6:30pm Movie night	21 5-7pm Happy hours	22 9am Shipshape 7pm Epicurean dinner
23	24	25	26 2pm Bridge group Wed. Night Fun night Dinner 6:30 Bingo 7:00	27 6:30pm Movie night	28 5-7pm Happy hours	





March 2014

Channel Islands Yacht Club

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Rental Oxnard PTA 11am Lunch & Adventure Cruise
2 Oscars night party	3	4 Mardi Gras 7pm British Brass	5 Wed. Night Fun night Dinner 6:30 Bingo 7:00	6 6:30 Movies night	7 5-7pm Happy hours	8 7pm Anglers' Lobster Dinner (Beefeaters)
9 Daylight Saving Time	10	11	12 Wet Wednesday Starts 2pm Bridge group Wed. Night Fun night Dinner 6:30 Bingo 7:00	13 6:30 Movies night	14 5-7pm Happy hours Birthday Bash	15 Currents Article due 7pm dinner /social
16	17 St. Paddy's Day	18 6:30pm CIYC board meeting	19 4:30pm Islander BOD 2pm Bridge group Wed. Night Fun night Dinner 6:30 Bingo 7:00	20 6:30 Movies night	21 5-7pm Happy hours	22 9am Shipshape 7pm dinner
23 1-4pm Open house	24	25	26 Wed. Night Fun night Dinner 6:30 Bingo 7:00	27 6:30 Movies night	28 5-7pm Happy hours 7pm General meeting	29 9am Shipshape 7pm Epicurean dinner
30	31			<div> Bar Hours Sunday 3pm to close, Closed Mon & Tue, except special events Wednesday-Thursday 5pm to close Fri & Sat 4pm to close </div>		





TABLE GATE CHALLENGE SUPER BOWL SUNDAY FEB. 2, 2014 1PM UNTIL...

The following teams will be contending for the Best Food and Best Decoration awards:
THE DYNAMIC DUO JOYCE & JACK W/TEAM, REPRESENTING THE HOUSTON TEXANS
KAREN & MIKE FARRELL W/TEAM WILL REPRESENT THE MINNESOTA VIKINGS

2013 WINNER FOR DECORATION, TEAM O'NEIL/PENNEY REPRESENTING THE COWBOYS
2013 WINNER FOR BEST FOOD TEAM BERGER REPRESENTING THE NEW ORLEANS SAINTS
SUPER BOWL 2013 HAD WELL OVER 120 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE.
LET'S TRY AND BETTER THAT FIGURE FOR SUPER BOWL 2014.



You, the fan will be able to sample all the Challengers food.
There will also be a super size snack table set up. Special drinks at the bar, at special prices.
Football pools of all sizes to join, if you wish. Plus other surprises.

PARTICIPATING TABLE GATE CHALLENGERS WILL BE COMPETING AGAINST EACH OTHER.
A PANEL OF INDEPENDENT JUDGES WILL DECIDE AND AWARD TROPHIES FOR:
1. BEST FOOD and 2. TEAM DECORATION AND ENTHUSIASM
WINNERS NAMES WILL BE PLACED ON THE PERPETUAL TROPHY.

LET'S MAKE SUPER BOWL XLVIII ANOTHER ONE TO REMEMBER.

\$15.00



Karen Farrell and her Crew Present

An Epicurean Dinner

February 22, 2014, 7:00pm

\$15.00

For Your Dinning Pleasure

Mixed Greens Salad with Pecans, Goat Cheese and Dried Cranberries

Creamy Sweet Potato Soup

Pork Tenderloin with Mushrooms and Caramelized Onions

Confetti Orzo

Caramel Apple Cheesecake Bars

Please sign up in the Dinner Book at the Bar



Channel Islands Yacht Club

Saturday, March 1, 2014



Lunch & Adventure Cruise

Frenchy's Cove Anacapa Island



11:00 a.m.

Anchor at Frenchy's Cove.

Kayak/Dinghy touring.

Other possible activities:
scuba diving, snorkeling and
hiking.

Details to follow closer to
the event.



1:00 p.m.

Potluck lunch on host boat (TBD).

Bring a dish to share and your favorite libations.

If you will be bringing your boat (have room for crew?), please RSVP to Cruise Director, Cindy Arosteguy at (805) 208-1962 or cinarost@yahoo.com. Since this is a day cruise and not an overnighter, there should be room for those of you who do not own boats and would like to participate: Please, also, RSVP to Cindy.



IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN.....

We are LOOKING for the next CIYC upcoming stars.

If you can Sing, Dance, Play an Instrument or just plain like to make people smile, you are a STAR!!

For our May 3rd production, we will begin rehearsals in February.

Our theme this year is "Around the World in 80 Minutes."

Contact Barbara Brauns, if you would like to be part of this fun event or need additional info.

She can be reached by e-mail barbseal@yahoo.com or 890-1610.



IT'S BEEN 4 YEARS BUT

HERE IT IS AGAIN

GOLF AND FUN IN LAUGHLIN

Bus Trip to Laughlin for 3 nights

Trip to take place Monday, May 5th returning Thursday, May 8th.

Bus will leave CIYC around 9AM on Monday and return around 4PM on Thursday.

The first 50, people that sign up will go.

Price based on 50, cost will be \$70.00 per person for round trip.

If less than 50 price will be adjusted.

Hotel will be, the Aquarius for \$29.99 per room per night
+12% tax and \$3.00 per person luggage charge.

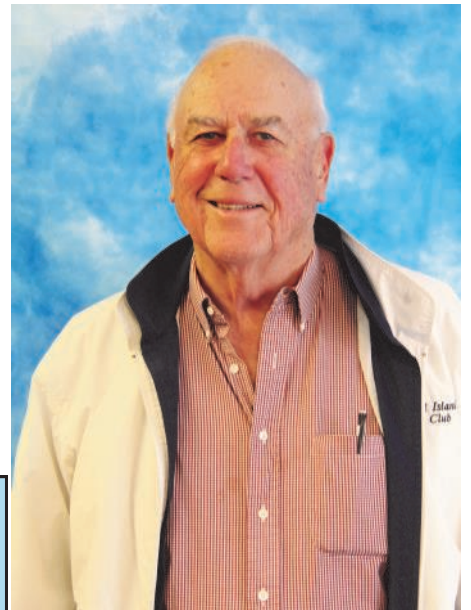
Golf cost to be decided.

Pass the word!!

Call me Jack Borkowski at 805 890 2623

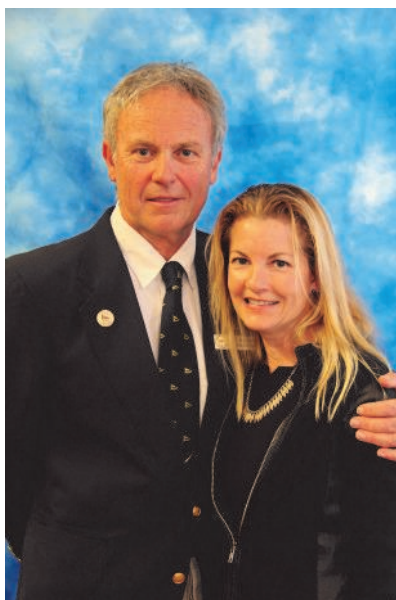
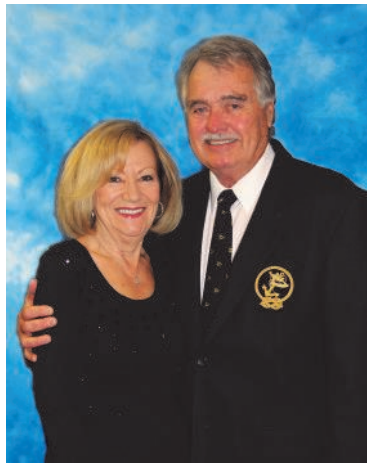
or e-mail to jackjb99@yahoo.com to reserve your spot.





**CIYC Change of Watch
January 11th**





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Baja Ha-Ha 2013

In October, CIYC members Charlie & LeeAnne Clark participated in the 2013 Baja Ha-Ha cruising rally from San Diego to Cabo San Lucas, crewing aboard Dean & Mala Laurin's Hunter 44 DS "SeaQuester". And it was a Ha-Ha, befitting its auspicious status as the 20th anniversary of this renowned annual sailing event.

Inclement weather, high winds, heavy seas and multiple mechanical malfunctions didn't dampen their enthusiasm. While these at-sea challenges needed to be conquered, they only added to the adventure. And overcoming them was rewarded by boisterous parties on land.

The rally is orchestrated by long-time Latitude 38 publisher/executive editor Richard Spindler, who once again acted ably as Grand Poobah aboard his 63 Catamaran, "Profligate." On Oct. 27, the events began with the usual pre-rally Halloween party at West Marine in San Diego, with SeaQuester's crew sporting a Superhero theme. The next morning, the fleet of 150 boats took off for a dramatic start in rain, mist and high winds. The fleet dispersed immediately, with some skippers choosing to head outside of the Coronados in search of favorable wind, and others staying closer to shore.

The first leg was a 4-day, non-stop sail of about 350 miles to Bahia Tortuga. This is a remote fishing village located a good 130 miles from the nearest paved road, which doubles its population for the Ha-Ha every year. The locals are super-friendly and take excellent care of the fleet, offering diesel off a rickety dock with a rusty, crumbling ladder, and all the cerveza you can drink at a rockin' pot-luck beach party.

Marine life was plentiful, including numerous whales, dolphins, and even flying squid which had to be cleaned off the deck each morning. Some boats put out lines and were rewarded with bountiful catches of yellowfin tuna, bonita, dorado, and even a 6-ft great white shark (which was, of course, tossed back). SeaQuester was gifted with a huge hunk of yellowfin Skabenga which galley wench LeeAnne seared and served with a garlic-lime aglio.

The next leg was the most challenging – a 3-day, 275-mile sail to Bahia Santa Maria that was plagued with winds over 30 knots, 10-ft confused swells, and a far less dispersed fleet, leading to tense overnight watches on the moonless sea. ("HOW close is that light out there in the blackness, honey?? It's coming towards us awfully fast!")





Sea Quester's crew in full Superhero regalia



©LeeAnne Clark

Dodging squalls at sea



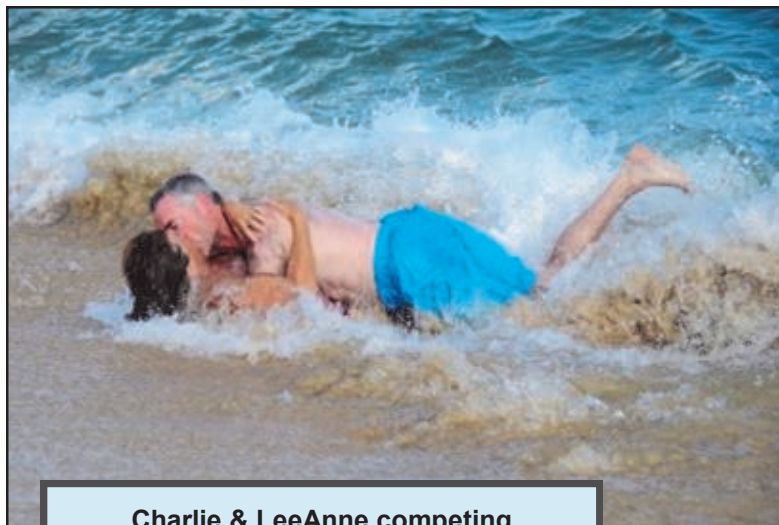
Beach party at Bahia Tortuga



The crew of Skabenga with their catch



Epic party at Squid Roe in Cabo



Charlie & LeeAnne competing
In the "From Here to Eternity" contest

Mechanical issues began to crop up – first to go was the wind indicator (believed to have been eaten by a sea bird), followed by an overheated alternator, followed by a water maker that seemed to be working fine, but nobody could figure out where the water was going! Spend a couple of nights at sea with limited fresh water and power, and you begin to appreciate the challenges of off-shore cruising. SeaQuester was by no means the only boat that suffered issues. One of the most inspiring aspects of the Baja Ha-Ha is the sense of community, as cruisers selflessly donated parts, equipment and expertise to help other boats. For example, an expert marine electrician and Ha-Ha veteran known affectionately as Dr. Electron spent almost all of his time at anchor on other boats, giving advice. Another generous cruiser loaned his Honda generator to help SeaQuester charge their depleted batteries.

The struggles only served to make the arrival at the next stop that much sweeter. The famous Bahia Santa Maria BBQ on the desolate windswept bluffs overlooking the bay was epic, with a rock band that drives in over miles of rutted dirt road just to give us a chance to dance, which helps significantly with finding your land legs after so many nights at sea.

The last leg was a simple 200-miler to Cabo...well, simple if you don't count the malfunctioning alternator, water maker, and now a stiff rudder! But they persevered, and were rewarded upon arrival on November 7th with a wild-and-crazy post-Ha-Ha party at Squid Roe that rivals all before it. The Grand Poobah Richard himself said that he feels this was the best Ha-Ha party ever. Even the DJ, who has seen it all, kept saying 'The Ha-Ha fleet is awesome, you guys are awesome, what an awesome group!'

One of the last events was the traditional "From Here to Eternity" kissing contest on the Cabo beach. The idea is to recreate the famous kiss between Deborah Kerr and Burt Lancaster. About 20 couples participated, including CIYC's Charlie and LeeAnne, who rolled around enthusiastically in the surf, sucking both face and sea-water. They were rewarded by being applauded into the top four. LeeAnne is still finding sand in unexpected crevices, but it was worth it.

This was their first off-shore cruising experience together, and they both feel that it has reinforced their resolve to take their own boat long-term cruising in a few more years. Their goal: Baja Ha-Ha 2017, and beyond!

Birthday Bash - "Friday, February 7th,"

*Come and join us for our monthly celebration
for members whose birthdays or anniversaries are in February.
Bring "munchies" to share, and there is always a great birthday cake!*



February Birthday Celebrations are: *Ed Irving, Michelle Dilldine,
Josie Renner, Dennis Van Daalwyk, Bob Heatherly, Adam Guild,
Rose Hazeltine, Diane Paulin, Shelly Ward, Daniel Jordan,
Mary Howard and Sue Potter*



February Anniversaries are: *Dan and Sue Potter,
Bill and Sandy Crocket, Sherry and Bob Brisbane,
Bill and Bette Byron, Frank and Sharon Sullivan,
& Michael and Karen Farrell.*

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