



# Classic Currents

# SPRING

ISSUE 1—2019

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**Current News of the Northern California Fleet of the Classic Yacht Association**

**Commodore's Report**—by *Scott Andrews*

Ahoy members of the Northern California CYA Fleet!

It is my pleasure to serve this year as NC Fleet Commodore. As many of you know, I was recently relieved as the 2018 Commodore of the National CYA. Since 2019 was the NCCYA fleet's turn to host the CYA Change of Watch, we had two separate events: The NC Fleet Change of Watch, chaired by Bernadette Sweeney was held at the Marin Yacht Club in November. Many of us honored Jim Sweeney by attending in formal attire! The Marin Yacht Club is always a great place for an event, and while the attendance was lower than expected, the food and company were great!

The NCCYA change of watch committee (Gerry Kamilos, Bill Wells, Alan Almquist Cynthia McMillen, Tom and Nancy Clothier and Jonathan Arambel) also put together a fabulous CYA event in Sacramento. The early arrivals visited the Haggin Museum in Stockton, and were treated to a delightful luncheon at the historic riverfront home of fleet member Rusty Arieas. Rusty, and William Parker had arranged for *Miss 102* and *Merganser*, both pristine



*Scott Andrews taking over as Commodore from Gerry Kamilos*

Stephen's yachts, to be available for viewing at Rusty's dock. Unfortunately, the needed repairs and the government shutdown kept the Walnut Grove bridge over the Georgianna Slough closed, so the group went out to view them on Georgianna from the levee. While many of the NC Fleet are familiar with seeing our boats on rivers, most of the out of town members were not, and found this to

be a special treat! Friday evening the group enjoyed a wonderful cocktail reception at the historic Sutter Club, across the street from the state Capitol. And, Saturday evening we held the change of watch ceremony and dinner at the Delta King floating hotel. The at-

*Continued on page 2*



**THE CLASSIC YACHT ASSOCIATION IS DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION, PRESERVATION, RESTORATION AND MAINTENANCE OF FINE OLD PLEASURE CRAFT**

tendees all enjoyed discovering the delightful city of Sacramento, including a river cruise Saturday afternoon.

One of my goals this year as Commodore is to energize our cruising activities. As part of that, we have developed a fun and interesting cruising calendar for 2019. A first this year is a cruise-in to the San Francisco Yacht Club. David Cobb and Mel Owen have arranged a great agenda, and we are looking forward to a fine event. We cannot bring MAKOTO to that event since Susan will be graduating with her Dr. of Education from U.C. Davis (!), but we plan to attend and stay at the lovely Tiburon Inn. I encourage others who cannot attend by boat to do the same.

In another first, Rear Commodore Rob Sesar and I have set up a mid-delta cruise in August at the Pittsburg Yacht Club. They are holding their casino night on Saturday 8/17, so bring your best game! Kim Korth has arranged a cruise-in at Oxbow Marina in October, which is always a delightful time in the Delta. At this

event a few years ago, we had record visitor turnout. We are also planning to attend the Stockton Classic Boat and Car show in September, and the always fun Classics at the Corinthian. The calendar for these events is elsewhere in this newsletter, so plan to attend as many of these events



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As many of you know several NCCYA members are also members at Grindstone Joe's. We had scheduled a cruise-in at the island for May, but due to some facilities renovation work, this cruise will probably be moved to the summer, or early fall. Grindstone's was not the only place in the delta undergoing some change. A major fire at Tower Park marina destroyed a large boathouse, and along with it took out West Coast Canvas. Curt at WCC had just recently completed a really nice roll-up shade for MAKOTO's slip at Oxbow Marina. He tells us he will rebuild, and we are looking



*Makoto—owned by Scott Andrews and Susan Takami*

forward to seeing his fine craftsmanship on more of MAKOTO's upholstery. I had the good fortune to engage Delta Boat Works as a newsletter advertiser following a magnificent hull paint job they did on MAKOTO. Delta has two marine elevators, which are a godsend for our old boats. They also have very skilled staff with experience working on wooden boats. They took their time on MAKOTO, and her 90 year-old hull now looks virtually brand new! Our advertisers make the newsletter possible, and I encourage everyone to patronize them, and let them know you are a CYA member.

Wishing you all fair winds and calm seas in 2019.



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Hans List - President



Here we are well into another year. So far we have had plenty of rain and a good snowpack which should help flush many of the pesky invasive plants from the Delta this season. In the Delta we are disheartened to see our new governor is still planning to divert the Sacramento River around the Delta. Hopefully he will work with us and see the damage this plan would cause to the entire watershed. We have been fighting the water war for 12+ years since Arnold Schwarzenegger declared it when he was governor. I was hoping for a break but it looks like it will go on.

When I was at the recent PL-CYA awards dinner I met Ron Young of the St. Francis Yacht Club. He is the recipient of the Lloyd Ryland Yachting Historian of the Year Trophy for 2019. He has fourteen years of experience as Chairman of the Wednesday Yachting Lunches at the club and has produced over 700 presentations.

He contacted me and asked if I would do a PowerPoint presentation about the history of yachting in the California Delta. I agreed to do it and relied on some of the information I have gathered over the years. Back when I was a young lad and was a salesman at Stockdale Marine in Sacramento at times we would have people give us old books, maps, and memorabilia. We would also collect items left on boats and even clean out a storage locker in an estate sale from time to time.

Mel Owen is a fountain of interesting material, especially about Grindstone Joe's. I have also spoken with Bill Conner, a friend and the former owner of Lost Isle from the days of the monkeys, goats, and peacocks roaming the island. Bill told me fascinating tales of the old Corps of Engineers boat *Suisun* renamed *Virginia S.* and was a live aboard for Tom Case and his wife for decades, first at McLeod Lake then at Lost Isle. Bill told

me about running out of fuel in the Stockton Channel and finding a gallon of gasoline in a Briggs & Stratton portable pump aboard, enough to get a mile or so downstream to Stephens Landing where they got Theo to bring out five gallons and were able to make back to Lost Isle. Bill said the Corliss engine had four Model T carburetors.

I gave a lot of material to Hal Schell, mostly old charts, maps, and photos but unfortunately when he crossed over the bar his collection of memorabilia disappeared. Since I have been with the Delta Chambers and Yachtsman Magazine I have amassed my own collection of ephemera that folks have sent me, sometimes anonymously. I will use this along with my own personal photos for the event in late February. The Spaulding Marine Center in Sausalito has also asked me to do a presentation, this will be on March 20 with the same material. If it is well received at both places I will see if I can get my resident videographer Gene Beley to record it for online viewing. What I have discovered while working on this is that we could produce volumes of history about Delta boating over the years. Just the history of the Northern California Fleet of the CYA is fascinating.



Bill and Sue Wells enjoying the CYA COW Banquet

Vicki Likes, the Port Captain of the San Joaquin Yacht Club contacted me and asked if the CYA would come to their opening day parade. We had a lot of fun there during the Mimi Miller years. I put her in touch with our Commodore for future reference.

The Taste of the Delta will be August 3<sup>rd</sup> this year at Village West Marina in Stockton. We won't be having an official CYA cruise in but I can get discount tickets for any CYA member that wants to attend. It looks like the Sausalito Yacht Club is having a cruise in at the marina that weekend so dock space might be somewhat tight.

As the new year rolls in, the PICYA is now ramping up for work on its list of activities for 2019. First off was the Annual PICYA Change of Watch banquet, ceremony, and dinner dance that was held on January 26th at the Sheraton Hotel in San Rafael. Bill Gargan was installed as 2019 Commodore and Jim Sweeney joined the Board of Directors for a two-year term.

The first 2019 Board of Directors meeting was held at Aeolian Yacht Club on January 15th. The main order of business was to begin preparations for April 28th's Opening Day on the Bay. The theme is "Holidays on the Bay". The Opening Day Committee chairman is Robert Willis, PICYA Vice Commodore. Linda Abrams, chair of the Corinthian Y.C. Opening Day Committee, participated. Commodore Cruises will again furnish the Committee boat. On the water assistance will be provided by the Coast Guard Auxiliary. This year the tall ship *LADY WASHINGTON* will sail from Redwood City to the St. Francis Y.C. for the parade.

Current business:

- The call for member clubs to provide financial donations and/or other forms of assistance to U.S. Coast Guard families suffering under the partial government shut-down resulted in several good works. Notably, Loch Lomond Y.C. hosted a dinner for roughly 120 members of USCG families.
- The PICYA 2019 scholarship program is about to get underway. Donations and volunteers to review applications are needed. Scholarships of \$2,500 per student are planned.
- The next PICYA Leadership conference is sched-

uled for March 16th at the Martinez Y.C.

- Willow Berm Y.C. was inducted as the 106th member of the PICYA.
- Coastal Cleanup Day will be September 14th.
- The Margot Brown Wheelchair Regatta at Encinal Y.C. will be on September 28th. This is an annual event that allows wheel chair bound veterans to get out on the Bay for an enjoyable afternoon on the water. In a number of different categories, volunteers are always welcome.
- The RBOC is beginning work on California State

legislature 2019 business. Approximately 2,000 bills will be reviewed for their impact on recreational boating. Financial donations to RBOC are encouraged to fund this process.

- The next PICYA Board of Directors meeting will be held at the Aeolian Y.C. on March 18th
- The next PICYA Delegates meeting was held at the Benicia Y.C. on March 4th.



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## Vice Commodore's Report—by Bernadette Sweeney

The 2018 Northern California Fleet Change of Watch was held on Saturday, November 17 at the Marin Yacht Club in San Rafael. Those who attended enthusiastically reported it to be highly enjoyable. The food, service and presentation were all excellent and most members and guests added to the festivities by dressing in formal attire as historically has been the style at this event. Docks were available for those who chose to come by yacht and free parking for land yachts.

The evening commenced with no host cocktails, passed appetizers and a silent auction with a Surf and Turf dinner preceding the ceremony. Tom Clothier was



2019 NCCYA Bridge—Gerry Kamilos, Staff Commodore, Bernadette Sweeney, Vice Commodore, Rob Sesar, Rear Commodore, Tom Clothier, Treasurer, Nancy Clothier, Corresponding Secretary, Erika Hammarlund, Recording Secretary and Scott Andrews, Commodore

adept as always as Master of Ceremonies and Jim Sweeney conducted the Change of Watch Ceremony, steeped in centuries of Naval history, consisting of the transfer of duties from 2018 Commodore Gerry Kamilos to 2019 Commodore Scott Andrews. Other incoming officers included Vice Commodore Bernadette Sweeney, Rear Commodore Rob Sesar, and Recording Secretary Erika Hammarlund, with Tom Clothier continuing in the position of Treasurer and Nancy Clothier as Corresponding Secretary. Candace Gable put together a very successful silent auction again this year and Stuart Kiehl's photographs were an additional draw. Staff Commodores present, Susan Takami, George Homenko and Bill Wells, in addition to

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Tom Clothier, Jim Sweeney and Gerry Kamilos added to the overall spirit of camaraderie on this delightful evening.

We are pleased to begin 2019 with all NC fleet members having renewed their membership. So far there are no new members for the coming year and we will be focusing on increasing membership through outreach to potential members and at our coming events throughout the year.

### Opening Day on the Bay

Theme: Holidays on the Bay

Sunday, April 28, 2019

Parade and Potluck Lunch

Steve Kadzielawa, Chair

More details to follow

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## Change of Watch Weekend, Sacramento—by Gerry Kamilos, Staff Commodore

For our 2019 Classic Yacht Association Annual Meeting and Change of Watch the Northern California CYA Fleet hosted a very special and successful weekend in Sacramento. Basing the accommodation and main events on the historic Delta King was a perfect choice as the vessel is the epitome of a classic boat rescue! Built in Glasgow Scotland and Stockton CA she was christened in 1927 and had an illustrious career as a passenger vessel commuting between San Francisco and Sacramento until the San Francisco Bay bridges made her service redundant. Serving WWII as a US Navy submarine net tender on San Francisco Bay she eventually was used as a rooming house in Kitimat BC before returning to San Francisco bay to be abandoned in 1984. After being partially submerged for 15 months, the Delta King was re-floated and totally restored by dedicated owners as a hotel moored in the heart of Old Town Sacramento - a great legacy for the CYA to honor.

The Host Committee who spent most of 2018 planning this event consisted of the chairs Alan Almquist and Bill Wells with committee members; Tom and Nancy Clothier, Scott Andrews, Rusty Areias, Jonathan Arambel, George and Candace Homenko, Cynthia McMillen, and Patrick Welch, and your staff commodore. The Host Committee orchestrated a perfect long weekend series of events. Starting with an informal gathering in the Delta King bar on Thursday, on Friday's Delta Tour over 50 members were transported to tour the Haggin Museum in Stockton, CA where the Stephens Brothers archives are held. A private tour was given of the museum's collection of art; the highlight was original drawings of several Ste-

phens boats as well as the very sleek 1927 Stephens 26' runabout on display. The Tour then paid a brief visit to Locke, a listed National Historic Landmark, which is a fascinating, charming, crumbling village founded by Chinese agricultural workers in 1915 after their neighborhood in nearby Walnut Creek was destroyed by fire. The tour then proceeded on to the Delta home of Rusty Areias with the intention of viewing his classic yacht, *Miss 102* (a 60' 1956 Stephens) and that of member William Parker, *Merganser* (a 36' 1936 Stephens), only to find that the yachts were not at Rusty's dock. The yachts were stuck behind a closed drawbridge, unable to pass through because of a mechanical failure that could not be fixed in time courtesy of the US Government shutdown. Piling back in the buses our group then drove a short distance down river and were able to view the yachts from the levee, watching as the captains spun the yachts around eventually turning back down river to head to their berths. After viewing the yachts, members were hosted for an amazing and generous luncheon at the spectacular historic private Walnut Creek estate "Orchard Gables" of NC Fleet CYA member Rusty Areias. While enjoying the great food and wine the group was regaled with stories of the home's historic past including the occasion of a drunken fight between Ernest Hemingway and "Trader Vic" Bergeron after which Hemingway was



*Enjoying a sumptuous lunch at the home of Julie and Rusty Areias*



*Gerry welcoming CYA Members to the beautiful and historic Sutter Club*

made to sleep in the garden house, since that time called "The Hemingway House." Friday evening the Northern California Fleet hosted all attendees at an elegant welcome party at the Sacramento Sutter Club (founded in 1889) in its fully restored 1931 building. Dennis Mangers, a senior advisor to Mayor Darrell Steinberg, welcomed the Association members to Sacramento. The Sutter Club staff served

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wonderfully prepared hors d'oeuvres with a full bar. Fellow CYA members were able to enjoy connecting and fellowship.

Saturday afternoon, after the first of the two business meetings, 65 members embarked on a hosted cruise on the Sacramento River for what fortuitously, after several days of on and off again rain, was a bucolic experience in lovely sunny weather. It soon became apparent that river cruise boat was going to face some significant challenges in navigating the river as the waters, because of the winter runoff, was full of floating debris and driftwood. At full throttle we made slow progress upstream against a near flood stage river while dodging large uprooted trees rushing past downstream. It became more exciting, especially for those near the pilothouse, when the engine overheat alarms sounded, likely due to floating debris clogging the cooling intakes or fouling the props. One of the engines promptly shut down leaving us with one engine battling the strong current. Either by good luck, or good intervention, the engine restarted just in time to avoid crashing on the bank, and now under control once again we flew downstream and back to the dock. The captain, who reported he had only docked the boat once before, won a round of applause after demonstrating his metal by maneuvering us smoothly onto the dock despite the raging current.

The social program culminated Saturday with the Change of Watch dinner and ceremony held in the Paddlewheel Room of the Delta King, which offered a direct view of the huge

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paddlewheel behind the podium. This certainly would have been an especially interesting room in the days when the Delta King was underway. The change of watch ceremony was noteworthy in that, rather than scavenging the prior year flags to pass on to the new flag officers, our outgoing Commodore, Scott Andrews, set a new precedent by



Change of Watch Banquet—Susan Takami and Scott Andrews with Per and Erika Hammarlund

personally providing crisp new flags for all. Additionally the ceremony was marked by what is likely destined to be a new tradition as Canadian Fleet Commodore Gord Wintrup ambushed Scott Andrews and our new Commodore Garth McBride with a wooden paddle fitted with two shot glasses. Following his instructions the Commodores tilted the paddle simultaneously to quaff

their respective shot glass full of tequila, spilling nary a drop! The paddle and glasses have moved on to Seattle to be ready for Diane Landers and Garth McBride to repeat the toast at the PNW Fleet hosted 2020 50<sup>th</sup> Change of Watch.

Everyone left Sacramento invigorated with enthusiasm about the CYA, looking forward to an active 2019 and eagerly anticipating January 2020 and that 50<sup>th</sup> CYA Change of Watch. That important milestone mandates a massive turnout so **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!**



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First up on the list was the entertaining talk by our own Bill Wells at the St Francis yacht Club on February 27<sup>th</sup>.

Spring wouldn't be Spring without the Opening Day parades that will be celebrated as events by a number of Bay Area yacht clubs. The largest parade has always been the one that is sponsored by the Pacific Interclub Yacht Association (PICYA) as it has done since 1918. This year the parade will be held on Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup> and will, as tradition dictates, begin at noon and lead by the San Francisco fireboat, the presidential yacht *Potomac*, yachts of our own CYA fleet and a host of decorated yachts from yacht clubs all around the Bay.

As is the custom, the Blessing of the Fleet will take place in Raccoon Strait off the shores of the Corinthian Yacht Club. Gerry and Karen Kamilos' beautiful Trumpy yacht *Aurora V* will once again have the honor of hosting clergy from different sects who will perform the blessing ceremony that begins at around 10:30. We hope for a large turnout of our yachts as we have had in the past, it can be hectic



*Aurora V Blessing of the Fleet 2017*



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and sometimes chaotic but in the end is a lot of fun.

After the parade, our fleet will cruise over to Emery Cove where we will join up for our annual potluck on the docks. Decorations for our yachts has always been limited to the display of our signal flags, but other club's yachts may be dressed in numerous ways in attempts to win prizes for the best of parade. This year the theme for the parade is "Holidays on the Bay" and I am certain that we will see many clever interpretations on the 100 or so yachts that will participate. If you can't bring your own yacht, contact our cruise director Steve Kadzielawa and see if you can hitch a ride on one of our yachts that will be in the parade. Usually plenty of room for our members.

If you would rather see the event from one of the tour boats that will operate during the parade, here are a few possible venues to choose from. As is customary the presidential yacht *Potomac* will be one of the leaders of the parade. The *Potomac* Association offers rides on this great classic yacht for a charge of between \$50 to \$85. The yacht departs its berth in Oakland at 10:30 sharp. The tour charge includes a box lunch and a no-host bar on board. The schooner *Freda B* also is offering rides from her slip 465 in Sausalito near Spinnaker's Restaurant. For a charge of \$79 to \$99 which includes a picnic lunch on board you can view the parade from this double-masted yacht.

The San Francisco Bay Opening Day is not the only parade in the area. Both the Vallejo Yacht Club

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*18th Annual Taste of the Delta  
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whose parade is held earlier on April 20<sup>th</sup> from 10 to 4 PM, and the Benicia Yacht Club whose parade occurs at the same time as the Bay parade are other options for participation in this well attended event. Bill Wells, our Delta correspondent, will report on additional parades that will be held at other yacht clubs throughout the delta.

This year's CYA cruise calendar will be great fun and will include a number of new venues that we as a club have not taken advantage of for many years. Around the Bay the cruise-in to the San Francisco Yacht Club is certainly a treat not to be missed. The cruise captains for this event will be David and Bunny Cobb, and I am sure that Mel and Gig Owen too will be on hand to welcome us ashore. This cruise will be followed by a return to one of our regular haunts in September that is always a pleasure to attend, the Corinthian Yacht Club, this year organized by Gerry and Karen Kamilos.

We have just been made aware that KKMI, a popular boat repair facility has been hit with a lawsuit by a non-profit organization called California Sportfishing Protection Alliance (CSPA). This organization is run by a Bill Jennings. The complaint by this group claims that "members of CSPA use and enjoy the waters into which defendant has caused ... pollution to be discharged. Members use those areas to fish, boat, kayak, swim, bird watch, view wildlife and engage in scientific study including monitoring activities among other things. Defendant's discharge of pollutants threaten or impair each of those uses or contribute to such threats and impairments. The relief sought herein will redress the harms to plaintiff caused by Defendants activities."

The following is a part of response from KKMI in regards to these allegations. "Bird Watch" - As noted above, ex-



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cept for the kayak launch ramp, the entire shoreline is dominated by wharfs and commercial maritime industries. Moreover, no native bird habitats are located along the Santa Fe Channel (this is a man-made channel) as the majority of the waterfront is paved or otherwise improved. How have CSPA members been prevented from bird watching by KKMI?"

Those who are familiar with the Santa Fe channel in Richmond know that most of the "impaired activities" cited by the CSPA are bogus, so what is this lawsuit really about? We will follow this because if a large company like KKMI loses the case, then every other boat repair facility in the Bay will be in peril and we may well wind up with no place to haul our boats in the future.

This is the story of three of our classic yachts and their service to the country in the US Navy during World War II. *Papoose* was delivered to the U.S. Navy at Treasure Island in San Francisco Bay on Dec. 9, 1941. She was assigned YP-118 (YP = Yard Patrol). It must have been about 11 in the morning of Tuesday Dec. 9 as the Navy had demanded all boats being taken arrive by 12 Noon.

Another boat delivered that morning was *Xanadu*, owned by R. Bekins. She was assigned YP-117. So as YP-117 and YP-118 were settling into Treasure Island, the next boat arrived, namely *Pat Pending*, owned by Don Owen. She was assigned YP-119. Within two weeks these boats had been painted Gray exterior, and terrible green interior, all over the beautiful varnished teak.



*Xanadu* was assigned to patrol out of Treasure Island. *Pat Pending* was assigned to Naval Net Depot in Tiburon, but spent the next 2 1/2 years patrolling 24 hours a day the Cable Nets placed across the Golden Gate entrance to keep Japanese Submarines out of the Bay. Armament included Bow Deck 50 Caliber gun and Depth Charges on middle deck. *Xanadu* is, unfortunately, now gone. Not sure where *Papoose* was assigned. For a time in the 1980's *Papoose* was in the Bay Area, first on the Delta, and then at Pier 39 in San Francisco and owned by the Wilson's. He passed away and Joan, his widow, finally

sold the yacht to Harry Blattel of Munich, Germany and Venice, Italy where the yacht now resides. Above is a photo of *Papoose* on patrol painted in Navy Gray.

Recently, we have heard from the current owner of *Papoose*: “I am Harry Blattel, the owner of *Papoose* since ten years. I will write to you a longer letter when I return home from my recent Thailand trip. Thank you so much for the infos and the foto of YP118 and also the foto of (I guess) your beautiful boat *Pat Pending*.”

You'll hear from me soon. Harry Blattel, Munich, Germany and Venice, Italy [www.papoose-yacht.com](http://www.papoose-yacht.com)”



We shall Return! The offices and shop area of West Coast Canvas located at Tower Park were destroyed by a fire on the evening February 5th. The two alarm blaze shot flames over 100 feet into the air and only spontaneous acts of the marina crew save the boats docked at the building. West Coast Canvas has been serving Delta customers with canvas service, interior solutions and electronics for over 30 years and is seeking a new location and. Owner Curt Page states that the disruption will be brief and he will again be providing the same level of service his customers have come to expect over the years.



## Coming Events

### **Opening Day on the Bay**

Sunday, April 28, 2019

Chairperson, Steve Kadzielawa

### **Stockton Classic Boat and Car Show**

September 6-8, 2019

Chairperson, Tom Clothier

### **Grindstone Joe's Cruise-in and Bridge Meeting**

May 10-12, 2019

(tentative due to Grindstone Joe's  
renovations)

Chairperson, Scott Andrews

### **Classics at the Corinthian**

September 13-15, 2019

Chairperson, Gerry Kamilos

### **Oxbow Marina Cruise and Bridge Mtg.**

October 25-27, 2019

Chairperson, Kim Korth

### **San Francisco Yacht Club Cruise In**

June 7-9, 2019

Chairpersons, David and Bunny  
Cobb and Mel and Gig Owen

### **San Rafael Lighted Yacht Parade**

Saturday, December 7, 2019

### **Bridge Meeting at Encinal YC**

August 10, 2019

Chairperson, Scott Andrews

### **Change of Watch Trader Vic's Emeryville**

December 15, 2019

Chairperson, Rob Sesar

### **Mid Delta Cruise Pittsburg Marina**

August 16-18, 2019

Chairpersons, Rob Sesar and  
Scott Andrews





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**2019 Northern California Fleet Bridge Officers**

Scott Andrews, Commodore, Bernadette Sweeney, Vice Commodore

Rob Sesar, Rear Commodore—Gerry Kamilos, Staff Commodore

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