



Classic Currents

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



SPRING ISSUE 2015

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Commodore's Report *by Susan Takami*

Welcome to a new year of classic boating! I am honored to take on the role as Commodore and, with your support, look forward to stewarding our organization as we steward our fine boats. Many thanks go to Chris and Julie James, and George Homenko and Candace Gable for a lovely Change of Watch dinner where we introduced our new Bridge.

I had the pleasure of also



Commodore Takami and husband Scott Andrews

attending the International Change of Watch in Tacoma where I met many CYA colleagues for

the first time and reacquainted myself with new friends. It was an honor to support our own Shawn Ball as she was relieved as International Commodore. During Shawn's tenure, she oversaw the beginnings of two important steps for the CYA: The transition of our organization to a non-

profit 501(c)(3), and the implementation of a new web service specifically designed for membership organizations.

This year, the Northern California Fleet

Bridge will concentrate our efforts on bringing our documents and procedures into compliance

with 501(c)(3) requirements, and expanding our presence in the digital world.

I am especially excited



Makoto on the Petaluma River

about our new website. Current members will find it easier to share information and photos, while the business of fleet is published and archived, and people with an interest in classic yachting will find it easier to discover the fun and benefits of participation in the CYA. Through the revamped website, we hope that prospective and new members will have access to

information regarding events, photos, and advice that will encourage their participation

Building and retaining membership is an important aspect of our organization and I would like to thank John Di Lillo and Stuart Kiehl for their work in introducing so

Continued on page 2

Visit our website at www.classicyacht.org



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

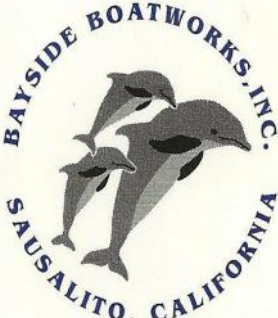
many new members and their beautiful boats into our fleet. We have already seen them actively participating and enjoying the waters of the Bay and Delta. Please reach out and welcome these new members as you see them at any of the wonderful events we have planned for the year! And thanks to all our hosts for organizing another exciting calendar of events.

Mark your calendars for

April 11th, when we kick off another season of boating at the Opening Day on the Delta, sponsored by the Pittsburgh Yacht Club. Opening Day on the Bay is April 26th and we are very proud that new member, Andrew Roettger aboard WANDA has been chosen to host the Blessing of the Fleet.

I hope this year gives you the opportunity to create many happy memories.

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Opening Day on Bay. Mark the date for April 26 “Youth in Boating” is the parade theme. A day aboard the Committee Boat is available – see www.picya.org for signup and particulars - \$85 gets you a cruise and food! Opening Day on South SF Bay celebrations are scheduled for May 1,2 &3 sponsored by the Sequoia YC. The historic South Bay YC will put on a breakfast on May 3rd

Yachting Yearbook 2015 –work in progress.

June 6-7th the Ebony YC Wine & Jazz Festival will be held at a new location, the Stockton Downtown Marina. Cruise-Ins are welcome!

Mark the date of June 6-7th for the annual Margo Brown Wheel Chair Regatta booked for Saturday Sept 26th and hosted by the Encinal Yacht Club. This will be the 19th Regatta honoring veterans and their families. You can support this very worthy event by volunteering your time (signup sheet lets you choose your job), boat, money. Check out the PICYA website for a listing of all of the particulars.

The entry deadline for the PICYA Scholarships is September 30! Three \$2,500 awards were given out last year. Relatives of

PICYA club members are eligible. All requirements are listed on website.

Donations to Scholarships or Wheel Chair Regatta (501©(3) tax deductible) should be made to “PICYA Foundation”. Notation (only on memo line) “Scholarship” or “WheelChair Regatta” if a preference.

RBOC News. – Greg Gibeson is the president of the organization for 2015 (Meeks Bay YC) Operator Certificate for those operating power boats is required for 20 year olds and younger by 2018 www.rbo.org lists age/year deadline. Regulations regarding copper bottom paint remains a work in progress. The RBOC position is to base the requirements on science and availability of effective economical substitutes. The ROBC is looking into the proposals for the construction of rock barriers in navigable waters of the Delta. Possible sites include Steamboat Slough and False River and Three Mile Slough.

Check out the website at www.picya.org To post club events, send Email to Roger Beebe Webmaster@picya.org Want more information, please contact Dick Engfer hil-totii@sbcglobal.net

Opening Day on the Delta—by George Homenko

The Classic Yacht Association boating season starts off this April 11th with a gathering at the Pittsburg Yacht Club to celebrate



Pittsburg Yacht Club, Pittsburg, California

opening day on the delta. The Pittsburg Yacht Club is a beautiful facility, somewhat centrally located between the San Francisco Bay and the Western Delta.

Friday night dinner is open for members to either take the short walk to a local eatery or have a meal on board. The

Saturday festivities start with breakfast being

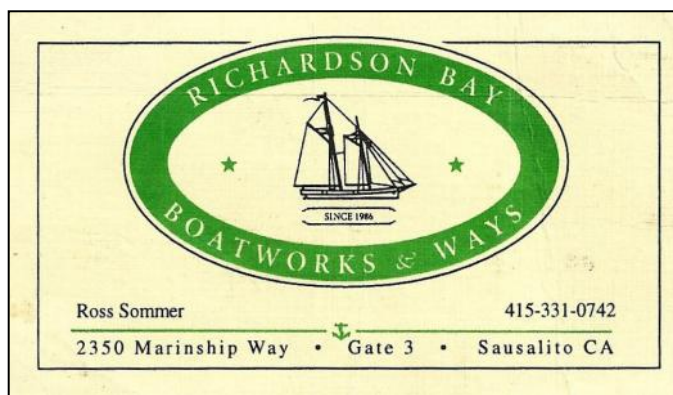
served on board the Catherine E. The crew of the Catherine E will be serving that old CYA favorite “Omelets in a Bag”. The

yacht club will open at 11:00 am with the skippers meeting set for noon. The parade and blessing of the fleet is set for 1:00

pm. The Pittsburg Yacht Club has Horse Races planned from 2:00 to 3:45 with dinner being served at 4:00pm. PYC will be serving Tri Tip and or Barbequed Chicken with all the fixin’s for \$15 per person.



We all are aware of the distances needed to be



traveled to attend some events and sometimes it is just not practical by boat. If you would like to attend this event you are more than welcome to come via land yacht. Space aboard a CYA boat is always available for our fellow club members.

The Classic Yacht Association has docks reserved for Friday and Saturday nights. Any vessels wishing to convoy from the bay area are asked to contact Tom Clothier. For reservations please contact George Homenko at ghomenko@gmail.com or 707 888-0653.

New CYA Website by Scott Andrews

As some of you may be aware, CYA International has introduced a new software system for the CYA website. This system, provided by a company called Wild Apricot provides a variety of features specifically designed for club management, including online event calendars, member management tools, and provision for online dues payments. The system also provides a variety of website management tools. At this point, most of the membership related elements have been transitioned, and we are working to update the CYA website to this new system. Portions of the old CYA website have been transitioned to the new system, and portions remain on the old server. Please bear with us during this transitional time. We are aiming to use this opportunity to make the CYA website easier to maintain and update so that it can be more interesting to non-members who may be interested in exploring classic yachting and possibly joining the CYA, and more useful to the existing members.

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Opening Day on the Bay by Steve Kadzielawa and Jim Sweeney

The 2015 yachting season is upon us and it begins with 98th annual Opening Day on the Bay hosted by the Pacific Inter-Club Yacht Association (PICYA), which represents over 100



yacht clubs in Northern California. Save the date, Sunday April 26th for this big event. For those of us planning on bringing our yachts to the parade plan to rendezvous at Harding Rock which is just west of the St. Francis YC off Crissy Field. The parade starts at 12:00 sharp and I generally inform everyone to be at the rendezvous location at 11:45.

The CYA fleet will once again lead the PICYA Opening Day parade along the San Francisco waterfront. This year's theme is "Youth in Boating!" The parade usually has over 100 historic workboats, fireboats, tow boats, classic and contemporary craft decorated to the theme competing for best decoration honors. As is traditional CYA yachts will only dress with flags.

Along the parade route the Officers and Directors of PICYA and other guests will cruise aboard

Hornblower's "San Francisco Spirit." This yacht is the one of the newer vessels in The Hornblower's fleet. Those who opt for this parade venue will enjoy a sit-down lunch with a no host bar and front row view of the parade. Boarding: 0915 hours and Returning; 445 hours (9:15 am-2:45 pm) from Pier 3, "Hornblower Landing," San Francisco which is located two piers north of the Ferry Building on the Embarcadero. If you are interested in this please sign up with the PICYA on their website.

Immediately after the parade CYA yachts will rendezvous at the Treasure Island Marina in Clipper Cove for our always remarkable pot luck lunch. I talked to the harbor master at Treasure Isle

recently and he informed me that the guest dock has been repaired. Last year, you may remember, we had to change plans at the last minute and tie up at Jack London Square due to the condition of the facilities at Treasure Isle. As Chair of this event I will send out further details and skipper sign-up information in the weeks prior to Opening Day.

As is traditional, the Corinthian Yacht Club hosts the "blessing of the fleet" before the parade. This



year Andrew Roettger's superb 90 ft. 1922 Ted Geary fantail yacht WANDA will be the Corinthian Yacht Club offi-

cial "blessing of the fleet" vessel for this ceremony. The chaplains on board Wanda bless pleasure vessels from about 10:00 a.m. until noon or a little thereafter. Wanda will be at the South end of Raccoon Straits standing off the entrance to the Corinthian harbor. The Corinthian Y.C. will furnish a banner to clearly identify WANDA as the blessing vessel. There are usually police and sheriff boats present to direct traffic and make sure all goes smoothly. Yachts to be blessed begin forming a single line at the North end of Raccoon Straits around 10-10:30 a.m. and cruise by the blessing vessel at a distance of about 50 feet.

Any questions or need for further information, feel free to contact me at skadzielawa@comcast.net.

STUART KIEHL
 PHOTOGRAPHY
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We have been cursed with some beautiful weather which is conducive to some good boating but is not doing much to counter California's drought. Many lakes and reservoirs are at record low levels but don't worry about the Delta though, it's water levels (subject to

ing with local business owners and boating groups as well as the Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW) to make sure this year is not a repeat of last year. One of the big problems has been that the Department of Boating and Waterways has been brought into the



Steve, Patrick and Jason at the St. Francis Yacht Club

tidal variations) remain constant.

You have all heard about the water hyacinth disaster along the San Joaquin River last fall. I am happy to report that at this time the waterways are relatively clear. The Delta Chambers has been work-

Department of Parks and Recreation and is under the control of people that have little knowledge or interest in the

Delta or boating. I am confident that with oversight from the public the DBW will be on top of the situation this year.

We have been invited to attend the Stockton Yacht Club's annual car & boat show on June 27th. Tom Clothier is putting to-

gether a fleet to attend. This is an excellent event, that will have some interesting historical automobiles as well as classic yachts. Last year we were treated to Richard Dunn's classic Stephens Siam teak runabout at the dock. Richard is in the process of repowering her but he says she should be ready in time for this year's event.

The Stockton Yacht Club is located less than a mile up the Calaveras River from it's confluence with the San Joaquin. It is one of the most beautiful spots on the Delta and the short trip up the Calaveras is like entering another world.

Unfortunately the legendary elephant boat that has been moored on the river for the last few decades recently sank but it is still an interesting trip.

Sue and I along with several other CYA members were honored to attend Rusty Areias' presentation about Stephens Brothers yachts at the St. Francis Yacht Club. He narrated a slide show (to a standing

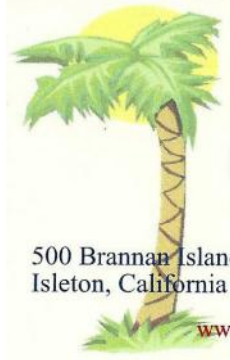
room only crowd) of the history of the company along with many anecdotes about the family and the business, along with photos of many boats. Several members of the Stephens family were in attendance and several folks brought their boats over to the club so we could admire them. It was an excellent afternoon and I think Rusty could have a second career traveling around performing his presentation for



Easy Way at the St. Francis Yacht Club

boaters throughout the area.

If you are into fishing check out the Delta Chambers fishing reports at <http://californiadelta.org/category/fish-reports/> you can also find listings of events and other activities at www.californiadelta.org



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The Voyage of a Relentless CYA Monument Man —by Les Cochren

By 2036, according to the National World War II Museum in New Orleans, "it is estimated there will be no living veterans of World War II left to recount their experiences." By the year 2036 it is my hope that the Northern California Fleet of the Classic Yacht Association and the Maritime Military Museum will be one of the major repositories where the story of the world's greatest generation can be found. As custodians of many of the vessels that were conscripted into the war and having amongst our ranks of members and honorary members are the USS Potomac, SS Jeremiah Obrien, Patent Pending, and Wanda to name a few, we are a natural to take on this role. For the past 11 years we have been receiving petals from the garden in Normandy "*Les Fleurs de la Memoire*" to sprinkle along with the wreaths we lay at the Forget Me Knot Ceremony.

I have come to understand that the Maritime Military Museum (M3) faces mounting challenges on several fronts. Rising visitor expectations and the need to do more with less, to fully utilize our resources and to implement creative approaches. The

Northern California Fleet of the Classic Yacht Association along with many other stakeholders and friends have provided the way for the museum to improve its business processes and to increase the yield of its most important resources: people and information. I was told by a sage when I was a younger man that the first person you pay is your help. To that end I would like to pay tribute to the NCCYA and so many others for their support.

It has been a year since we opened the doors to M3 and we have been very busy. We have consolidated many of our activities under the purview of the museum. These include:

- Forget Me Knot Veterans Wreath Laying Ceremony
- NCCYA Community Partner Liaison
- Kids on the Water
- Hooked on Jazz
- The Beverly Partridge Distinguished Service Award
- Research Institute for yachts conscripted into World War II
- The CYA coloring book project "I would if I could"
- The virtual museum "www.mycya.org"

Also during the past year we have participated in events which highlight the CYA and the museum. Such

events this past year have been:

- Vessels and Vines
- Taste of the Delta
- Museum Day
- National History Day

The museum has been acquiring small artifacts, books, videos and art about the CYA and Normandy. We have three computer video listening stations where visitors can view CYA opening day activities, WWII Normandy Invasion, Wanda restoration project and more. M3 is also on the internet and some of the videos are available as well as photos of CYA activities (www.mycya.org) We have added Jim Goff of the US Coast Guard auxiliary as our curator and we have established a Forget Me Knot work group to aid in event planning. Through

our joint participation with the Department Veterans Affairs, Community Outreach, located at Jefferson Barracks Cemetery, there are three memorial stones commemorating our Forget Me Knot placed at the following locations Grafton Illinois marina, Alton, Illinois marina and Anheuser-Busch memorial estates at Kimswick, Missouri.

In twenty years the last soldier from the greatest generation will be gone. We have a reason to continue to celebrate their sacrifice not only for our selves but for the younger generation that follow. My mother frequently told me in my early years "You just don't know when to quit". Later my teacher told me that "a winner never quits".

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As the CYA newsletter editor I would like to tell you about a new column that we will introduce in our newsletter with this first of the 2015 issues. This will be a daunting task and will require plenty of help from the membership to send me short news pieces that will be incorporated in the narrative and photos for the illustrations. Thinking about this project in some ways I feel, as did those columnists who followed Herb Caen must have felt, some trepidation. This column will not try to mimic or even come close to the style, prose and grace of our beloved **Clara Yeats Aseltine**. That would be a real hard act to follow. But I do feel that while coverage of Delta news is ably handled by our Bard of the Tule Dawdlers, the Bay hasn't had the same coverage. So we will try to do better and hit a mark that hopefully will be informative, interesting, and entertaining.

When the Spring newsletter reaches you our publication chief and her spouse will have returned from what she described to me as "Spring Training" somewhere in the South West. I asked her what sort of exercises she and Tom were planning do, or miles they were

going to run, but she only gave me a look as much as to say "what planet are you from." Apparently, they are not going by boat.

I had a fine lunch and



Richard Stephens and Mel Owen, talking "boating" of course

conversation with Mel and Gig Owen at their San Francisco Yacht Club hangout (You can hardly call that place a "hangout") and we discussed the scope of the Classic History column for this issue on the topic of Clipper Cove at Treasure Island, most fitting as the CYA will stage its annual Opening Day bodacious pot luck luncheon after the parade on Sunday, April 26th on those

recently repaired docks. After lunch we retired to the front patio of Mel and Gig's waterfront apartment enjoying the spectacular views of San Francisco and went over brochures and other memora-

abilia of SF Bay history that Mel has collected over the years and generously shared with me for the article.

One event I really didn't want to miss but did any-

way was the February 25th St Francis Yacht Club Wednesday Yachting luncheon that featured, from what I hear, a great talk on Stephens Yachts entitled "The Classic Yachts of Stephens Ma-

rine - Beautiful, Practical and Ageless." This talk by Rusty Areias (*Miss 102* and *Contessa*) and Martin McNair (*Allure*) was presented to a packed (standing room only) house at the St Francis which included many CYA members. The

docks outside the club were also filled with a number of member's yachts including Patrick Welch's *Triple Crown*, the Dodd's *Sea Breeze*, and Dave and Lynn Olsen's *Fleetwood*. In special atten-

A blue rectangular banner with white text and a logo. The logo is a stylized sailboat inside a circle, with "Est. 1973" written below it. To the right of the logo, the text reads "Almar Marinas" in a large, bold, sans-serif font. Below that, in a smaller font, it says "Everywhere you'd like to be" and "almar.com".

dance was Richard Stephens, 93-year-old son of the yacht builder's founder and designer of a larger number of the Stephens yachts, along with his wife and nephew Theo Stephens, Jr.

Stuart Kiehl keeps busy with his photography projects and wanted me to mention that he has completed shooting the last of three boats, *Flamingo*, *Sea Breeze* and *Aurora V* for *Classic Yacht Magazine*, with Commo-

dore Susan Takami and Gerry Kamilos coordinating. Susan was actually piloting Stuart's boat while he was shooting *Aurora V*. You can see these photos on Stuart's newly posted website, www.sfboatphotos.com.

Stuart is also going to be at the Los Gatos YC to

make a presentation and slide show of his nautical photography. Date to follow.

Over the bar. We sadly note the passing of one of the legends of the CYA, Bob Hamilton, who was member number 58 and owner of *Marcy* and along with his wife, Donna, for many years were regulars in CYA events. See below. We also say farewell to two other "associate" members of our group, Cynthia McMillen's son, Anton, died quite unexpectedly right after Christmas on December 28th. Anton was able to spend Christmas Eve with his mother at her new home in

Rossmoor. Anton who came to many CYA events on *Cielito* was 46.

Finally Darren Crose a close dear friend of ours who played with our children, watched them grow up spending countless hours on *North Star II* passed away just before Thanksgiving. Darren was a fine boatsman, owned his own sailboat, *Trio*, sailed with others across the Atlantic and two or three times from Hawaii despite a punctured, and consequently, sunk outrigger on one voyage and on the last trip on the same boat a de-masting on the way home. Darren was only 43 when he died. We pause to give thanks for knowing these fine men; Bob who lived a good life to the fullest, and Anton and Darren who went way too soon. We will miss you all.



Seabreeze at the St. Francis Yacht Club

Remembering Bob Hamilton—Member #58



When we joined the Classic Yacht Association, Bob and Donna Hamilton were two of the first people we met. Many a fun day was spent on their Classic Yacht, *Marcy*. Bob always had a smile, sometimes a mischievous one, but always in fun. One event I remember was at Moore's Riverboat and we received water guns in our gift package. Tom Clothier and Bob Hamilton enjoyed acting like kids, spraying each other. Bob will be a part of Eslo because of the stained glass panels we have in our galley cabinet. Bob traveled with his keyboard for many a sing-along at CYA events. We remember his love of life and especially of old wooden boats!Nancy Clothier

As the CYA has done many times in the past this year's Opening Day on The Bay celebrations will include our pot luck luncheon on the docks of the Treasure Island Yacht Club at Clipper Cove. The Cove itself has had a most interesting history tied to the construction of Treasure Island itself. Treasure Island was conceived in 1931 as the perfect location to construct a Bay Area airport that would serve the 2 million people of the region. With money secured from the U.S. Public Works Administration (PWA) the filling in of what was a shoal in the Bay was started in February 1936 and completed eighteen and one-half months later under the supervision of the Army Corps of Engineers. Eleven dredges were used in the project to create what was billed to be the largest man-made island in the world at the time. The island is 5,250 feet long and 3,400 feet wide and is thirteen feet above mean sea level.

The seawall that encompasses the island is more than three miles long and constructed with 287,000 tons of rock.

However, before ground



This line up includes Don, Clara and Mel Owen, living in Clipper Cove on Pat Pending I during the 1940 Fair.

was broke to build this airport it was determined by the civic minded folks at the time to use the newly formed Treasure Island as the site of a World's Fair. The San Francisco Bay Exposition Co. was then formed to sponsor the Golden Gate

International Exposition with a fund of \$7,500,000 dollars raised from popular subscription and additional funds totaling over \$50,000,000 obtained from the Federal government. The Fair first opened on February 18, 1939 and closed in 1940 when construction of the airport was supposed to begin. When the Fair opened numerous countries around the world, states, and municipalities in California were represented in expositions in the various building that were constructed through-

out the island. Both the Ford Motor Company and General Motors were represented among numerous other commercial enterprises. When the Fair finally did close on September 29th over three million people had visited the island.

Clipper Cove was created as a calm harbor between Treasure Island and Yerba Buena Island and became the American terminus for the famous flying boats or Clipper Ships operated by Pan-American airways that flew to a number of destinations in Asia, includ-

ing Hawaii, Manila and Hong Kong. Once a week on Tuesday a Clipper arrived and departed. The round trip to Hong Kong took two weeks.

A long dock extended out from Treasure Island on the west side of the cove. This dock was used for visiting yachtsmen. On the north side of the Cove was the boarding dock for the Clippers and this was adjacent to the West and East Hanger Buildings on the Island. An oval shaped area in the center of the Cove was reserved for the Clipper Ships that were moored there awaiting departures and "all traffic (was) barred in this area."

In the San Francisco Bay 1939 Yearbook the cost of tying up to the public docks was listed and ranged from \$1.50 for a 15 foot wide berth to \$6.50, a weekend rate for a berth that was 27 feet wide. Monthly rentals ranged from \$37.50 to \$130.00.

When the Fair finally closed all except three of the Fair's buildings would be torn down in anticipation of the construction of the airport that was never built.

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Stockton Yacht Club Boat and Car Show—Delta Cruise *by Tom Clothier*

The Stockton Yacht Club has invited us to participate in their Annual Car



and boat Show on Saturday June 27th so mark your calendar and plan to attend. The SYC is one of the best organized, most hospitable yacht clubs in the area and this delta event promises to be a great one. I will send out a sign-up sheet to the membership in early May which will detail additional options for extending the cruise to include a few extra days of Delta

“Dawdling” with stops at various locations on the river. Everyone is welcome to attend all or just part of this summer event.

The Stockton Yacht Club has informed us that we are welcome to bring our boats in earlier in the week to make it convenient for any logistical concerns anyone might have this weekend. The club will be waiving any dock fees during our stay. The Club will put on a TGIF dinner Friday night that is usually in the \$10 to \$12 range with bar open during the evening. We will plan to include this din-

ner invitation in our cruise package. Saturday, the Boat & Car Show will start at 10 am and start wrapping up by about 4 pm. A BBQ lunch will also be offered for about \$6. The club has also informed us that trailored boats and any CYA members or friends that would like to show a car will be welcome, just coordinate with the club on the year and type of car. A DJ playing appropriate music during the day and evening will also be part of Saturday’s activities. Award plaques will be given in limited categories.

Another club dinner will follow the show and the cost is about \$15. CYA boats are also invited to stay over Saturday night with the club providing breakfast for about \$6 - \$8 Sunday morning.

Some Key points of Stockton Yacht Club:

There are 270 feet of guest dock that will be available for the show (two long term boats from the bay tie up for the summer on west end, however.)

We can stern in any flat transom boats and others can be side tied within the limits of our available space.

Dual 30 amp service is available every 15 feet of dock, water is available too

A Pump-out facility is located on the guest dock.

Any questions contact Tom Clothier at tcloth@pacbell.net




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Coming Events

Opening Day on the Delta

April 11

Pittsburg Yacht Club

George Homenko, Chair

Opening Day on the Bay

April 26

Bay and Treasure Island

Steve Kadzielawa, Chair

Kids Day at the Sacramento Marina

May 8 (tentative)

Les Cochren, Chair

Salute to American Graffiti Classic Cars & Boats

May 14-26

Petaluma

George Homenko, Chair

Hooked on Jazz

May 29-June 1

Sacramento

Les Cochren, Chair

Stockton Yacht Club Car and Boat Show/Delta Cruise

June 27

Tom Clothier, Chair

Forget Me Knot

September 19

Sacramento

Les Cochren, Chair

PICYA Wheelchair Regatta

September 26

Encinal Yacht Club

Dick Engfer and David Cobb

Kruzin-4-Kids

Jack London Square, Oakland

October 17

Shawn Ball and John Di Lillo, Chairs

Lighted Boat Parade

December 12 (tentative)

San Rafael

Jim Sweeney, Chair



2380 Bay St.
San Francisco, CA 94123

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John Di Lillo, Treasurer—David Cobb, Port Captain Director

Tom Bottenberg, Public Relations—Jim Hackworth, Historian
Dick and Mavis Engfer, PICYA Reps—Alan Almquist, Newsletter Editor

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CLASSIC CURRENTS

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