rat pack night

What a night, it was on Saturday February 11, thanks to our manager Kelly’s vision of turning ABYC’s second floor into a Chicago nightclub of the 60’s. To say the least The Rat Pack Night was a complete hit. As the guests arrived they were greeted by a show quality ’57 Chevy cherry red in color. Prom pictures were taken beside the car before the guests entered the nightclub by commodore Jon Robinson. Guests entered through the red ropes to be greeted by Sheila to confirm they were on the list. As the guests climbed the stairs to the nightclub they were astounded on how the club had been transformed. They instantly knew they were taken back in time to the days of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin. You first saw that the club was completely draped in black curtains; the couches and cocktail tables were arranged around the dance floor. The tables were adorned with Martini glasses glowed with red candles. Palm trees with up lighting were placed strategically around the club to provide additional mood lighting and to create the perfect club atmosphere.

Music was provided by Tim Gill and the All Stars that played big band swing music. The bandleaders were a match for Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin and used the same banter. The band was great and played music that you could dance to and quiet enough that you could talk over. At most events with bands and dancing you will see as much as 30% of the guests dancing; at one time everyone in the place was dancing except Reggie and Susan.

Reggie and Susan who expertly made Martinis of various flavors staffed the bar. The standard Martini was the most popular but the Lemon Drop and Cosmopolitan were in high demand. Unlimited appetizers were available and ranged from tasty kabobs to mini Beef Wellingtons. A particular favorite was the King Shrimp.

Kelly really hit a home run with this event. He was the idea man and the driving force behind it. Everyone had a great time and said it was the best money they ever spent. In the past the Commodore’s Ball has been our only dress-up event, I can say The Rat Pack Party brought out the best dressed with a real bang. We are already planning next year’s event. Be sure to check out the pictures on our Facebook page. Congratulations Kelly!

Jon Robinson

...continued page 7
The Super Bowl Party was the first Sunday in February. It was a casual event following the Super Bowl Etchells fleet race. The bar was open; we dined on brats and Italian sausage and chili. Oh yes, the game was on. We had two pools, a $1.00 and a $5.00 per square. I was fortunate to win the first two quarters in the $1.00 pool.

I have to congratulate Kelley; the Rat Pack Party was a real success. Everyone had a great time. The band was wonderful, the food was great and the drinks were powerful. How could it be any better dine, dance and drinks? Everyone was dressed to the 9’s and we even had a show quality ’57 Chevy to set off the evening. Check out the article and pictures.

The Laser fleet had the responsibility for the General Membership meeting. Tugboat Captain Scott Culver from Foss Tug Boats spoke on how the commercial and pleasure traffic is managed in the Los Angeles and Long Beach harbors. Scott is not only a commercial tug boat captain and Los Angeles Pilot but also an accomplished sailor. This was a very informative talk and held the audience’s attention. Members were still talking about the talk the next day on the patio and in the race management room at the Midwinter Regatta.

The next day was the 83rd annual Midwinter Regatta. The classes are 505, Beach Cats (one-design & Portsmouth), Cal 20, CFJ, Finn, International 14, International 420, Laser Master, Lido 14 A & B, Portsmouth (monohull), and Viper 640. Look to Jennifer Kuritz put in a lot of work staffing and organizing the event. I would like to thank her and here volunteers for a job well done.

Looking forward to March, the E.E. Manning Regatta is March 3 & 4. If you do not have a keel don’t miss this one, it is Free and that is a good price.

The March General Membership meeting will be held on March 16. The multihull and 505’s have the duty. There will be an Irish theme since it is so close to St. Patrick’s Day. This should be a lot of fun.

Olympic Classes Regatta is next on the agenda for March. This is a regatta that we run every year. This year we are hosting the Laser Midwinter West regatta in conjunction with the regatta. Laser Midwinter West is a 3 day regatta and will play host to some 80 or so competitors. OCR will host 29erXX which will contend for their US National Championship, 470, 49er, Elliot 6m, Finn, RS:X, Star will also be competing. There will be a steak dinner and a band on the Saturday night. Come and join in the fun.

Coming up in April, we have Easter and Spring Spruce-up. These are always fun events and worth attending.

We are still looking for a few good members. Actually we are looking for a lot of new members. We have a promotion going on through May and would like to see our membership break 400. If anyone knows of a potential member please let me know. I would like you to bring them to the club where I could meet with them and answer any questions. Remember all you need to do is sign up 2 new members and you will be on the Commodore’s council and have your name on the plaque.

ABYC IS THE PLACE TO BE.
See you around the club.

Jon Robinson

What a fun month! The Social Advisory Committee has been doing a terrific job with events. We started with the Club ABYC Appetizer contest. The grand prize went to the Cal 20 fleet with 473 points closely followed by the Lido 14 Fleet with 464 points. Cal 20s inched ahead with points for hospitality (must have been Patty Nash, Trish Clay and Elaine Wood charming everyone over to the table)! The Lido’s display was gorgeous with the lighthouse and nautical theme. Certain Lido sailors did try to mix things up with a bottle of Tequila and a shot glass. At one point, I’m not sure why, Paul Makielksi and Chris Erickson were crawling on the bar floor (spilled drink)? Many thanks to all the fleets that participated – I have the recipe for Sabotinis and want to know where the Viper ribs came from (yum). Hopefully this will spur the competition for Opening Day snacks.

Rat Pack Night was a roaring success! Kelly Whitlow showed his true passions putting together the party. On display outside the main entrance was a completely restored 50’s Chevy painted cherry red. A red velvet rope walkway guided us into the club and upstairs. Everything was re-arranged and decorated like a Chicago speak-easy and the martini drinks flowed like water. The buffet was delicious and Bonnie Robinson’s dessert bar was amazing. Tim Gill and the All-Stars serenaded us with big band dance music and kept us entertained with a Dean Martin type comedy act. Wow, some of our members can really dance! I’m already looking forward to the party next year.
The 2nd Annual Chili Cook-off was held in conjunction with Midwinters. We only had seven entries – but there were some very creative chilis. The winner was Catalina Island Buffalo Chili. It was a bit disappointing that we ran out of food, but I think those that sampled had a great time. Squeeze Box played music from the 60’s and 70’s.

The March General Membership meeting will be a St. Patrick’s Day party, so be sure to make your reservation. Hosted by the Sr. Sabot fleet, dinner will be traditional Irish fare. After the meeting, the program will be an Irish Folk Singer. We’re working on getting Guinness beer on tap and will have other Irish theme drinks. Please look for the Drink of the Month – “The Latham Bell.” Please watch the Weekly Reader for information about the March Club ABYC.

Other than social, my other duties this month involved being the Regatta Chair for Midwinters. Midwinters are not hosted by one of our fleets, so many thanks to everyone that volunteered for the weekend. Martyn Bookwalter was PRO for Ocean classes and had 9 different classes. We had a special guest on-board Patience Mr. Olivia Bovyn who is the F-18 Class President. He was visiting us ahead of the F-18 Worlds that we will host in September. (If you are interested in volunteering to work the F-18 Worlds, please contact Chris Erickson.) Inside PRO was Steve Kuritz. Inside had three classes Lido A, Lido B and CFJ. Weather for the event was typical southern California winter weather – sunny skies, a bit cold and variable breeze. Saturday the wind was mostly from the South, but Sunday we had our normal direction with strength building throughout the day. Special thanks to Rich Roberts for publicity, Jim Morford for computer scoring and Latham Bell for organizing the protest committee.

Jennifer Kuritz

**Got Sails?**

Do you have any old sails sitting around that you don't use anymore? Not sure what to do with them? Well, here's your chance to get rid of those old sails and help the ABYC Junior Board at the same time. Please check out the details in the Junior Board column on page 8.
Next time you see Dave Kofahl or Bob Anders on around the club go up and give them a big “Thank You”. Dave and Bob were the duo that installed the new windlass on Patience. As you know the windlass is a very important piece of equipment that needs to be in perfect running condition and be reliable. Next time you are down at the club, have a look it should serve us for many years. We are repairing the old windlass to use as a back up so we will not be without a windlass if it were to break down on a big regatta weekend.

The Board of Directors has unanimously approved the bid for new canvas for Patience. During this process we will upgrade the cover to be more “user friendly” putting the cover on and off. So keep an eye out in the next couple of months for new canvas!

We continue to work on the whalers and are in the process of installing bilge pumps on 5 of the whalers that don’t have one. This will help us keep them bailed out after a rain or rinsing them down after a regatta.

General membership meeting was a big hit, Scott Culver Tugboat Captain for FOSS gave a very informative Power Point presentation about tugboats in the LA/Long Beach harbor. All I can say is next time you see a tugboat or barge, give them some room! LA/Long Beach has the first Hybrid tugboat so they are really making the effort to be GREEN!

We just completed the 83 Midwinters Regatta held on February 18-19 with 87 competitors in 11 classes. Many thanks to Jennifer Kuritz board liaison, Martyn Bookwalter Ocean PRO, Steve Kuritz bay PRO and the many volunteers that make it look so easy to run a regatta. We had two good days of racing with great competition.

Next up is the Manning Series March 3-4 so if you would like to come down and help out please contact Jeff Newsome, you will have a great volunteering! ABYC is the Place to Be!

Cheers, see you around the club!

Chuck Clay

The Fleet Membership Challenge is off and running. We currently have a three way tie at the top between the Lido Fleet, Cal 20 Fleet and Juniors. It is early in the first leg, so if you know someone who you think would like to be a member, now is the time.

Unfortunately we have had quite a few members resign over the winter, so our numbers are significantly down. With the sailing season starting to crank up, I am hopeful we will have renewed interest from sailors wanting to join the best club with the greatest sailing venue in the World.

We would also like to welcome the following new members who were introduced and presented with a club burgee at the February general membership meeting: Delana Miller, Brooke and Tom Jolly, Brad and Mary Thompson, and David Schack.

Again, thanks for your support.

Chuck Tripp and Dan Millechik
hanks to the good graces of Staff Commodore Chuck and Nita Hardin, as well as the donations made by Staff Commodore Jerry and Marilyn Montgomery, the current gap in our collection of SOU’WESTERs from January through September, 2002, has been closed. We’ll resume reporting on that period next month. But now we’re off on our voyage of rediscovery.

THIRTY YEARS AGO:
As one would expect, the SCYA Midwinter Regatta was front and center in the SOU’WESTER for March, 1982. Commodore Adra Kober reported that ABYC again hosted the largest number of boats in the regatta: there were 187 of ’em in eight divisions among six classes (both the Lidos and C-15s sailed “A” and “B” fleets). Among the familiar names in the J/24 standings was “Golison,” but it is not clear which one: I think it was Bruce, and he got second. Jack Wills was in the standings among the I-14s (I think that’d be Senior, not Junior) while future Olympic medalist Mark Reynolds was second in the Snipe fleet.

Ben Schwegler was top C-15 “A” ahead of fellow ABYC skippers Ken Green (second) and Ted Stoker (third); Bill Van Cleve was third in the “B” fleet. Charlie Cummings was second in the Lido 14 “A” fleet, ahead of the third-place Chris Raab; Bill Moore won in the Lido 14 “B” fleet. And there was a fleet of Cyclones racing as well

The Commodore herself—the first-ever woman Commodore of ABYC—had participated in the Los Angeles Yacht Club Opening Day Regatta, competing for the Keating Coffee trophy. LAYC awards a trophy annually to the top-finishing yacht-club commodore in the race, and Adra sailed a J/24 then owned by her husband Chuck Kober and Steve Moffett. While her comments sounded gracious, I’m not sure: she said in her column she wanted to thank Chuck, Steve and Brad Ellerman “for all three being tacticians, for helping me get a terrible start and for never letting me think I was doing anything right.” She finished with some grace by saying that it “wasn’t the day for PHRF racing in a J/24.” Evidently not...

The “Board Notes” column has some interesting tidbits that were indicative of the times. A reminder was made that “everyone using the VHF radios have...a license,” and that the “procedure for connecting and operating VHF radios should be thoroughly checked and understood before leaving the dock.” Unlike now, anyone using a regular VHF radio needed to be individually licensed. Also, in those days ABYC whalers were fitted with console-mounted radios, fixed antennas and power packs made of motorcycle batteries mounted inside a lunch box. The radios were finicky and expensive, and keying a mic if the antenna was not connected would cause something in the radio to burn out, so knowledge of operation was critical. It would be another five or six years before ABYC acquired hand-held VHF radios for the whalers.

Meetings were being held and plans were being made for the 1982 Pre-Olympic Regatta, a ramp-up event for the 1984 Olympic Regatta; it was said that the regattas would “take an enormous number of volunteers” but would be “a unique opportunity...to be involved in a once-in-a-lifetime event”...bids had been received and an order placed to build and install three lighted trophy cases for the ground floor of the main building; the House Committee was managing that...an announcement was made for the St. Patrick’s Day party—or, as the article styled it, “The Annual Meeting of the Alamitos Bay Yacht Club Stew Eating and Whiskey Drinking Society;” it would be held on Wednesday, March 17, 1982.

TWENTY YEARS AGO:
The cover of the SOU’WESTER for March, 1992, showed a familiar scene: taken from the boatyard looking toward the basin, there were Lasers and Sabots at the dock and Snipes and C-15s headed out. But it was not taken during the 1992 SCYA Midwinter Regatta, for one reason: there was no sailing at ABYC during the 1992 SCYA Midwinter Regatta.

In the winter of 1992 the seawall that shores up the southwest edge of Basin Five was scheduled to be repaired. It was, but the schedule had been uncertain and it was feared that it would not be done—and the docks would not be in place—in time for Midwinter. So ABYC and SCYA farmed out the classes ABYC usually hosted to other clubs. Cabrillo Beach Yacht Club took all the Cal 20s; King Harbor Yacht Club got the I-14s; Newport Harbor and Lido Isle Yacht Clubs took the Lido 14s; and Mission Bay Yacht Club took the Olympic classes.

Los Angeles Yacht Club, then in Fish Harbor, took the C-15s and Snipes—and got an ABYC race committee with it. PATIENCE and three whalers went down on Friday afternoon, and an ABYC contingent was slated to join a team of LAYC members to run these races (LAYC had its own slate of big boats to run, so their RC boat, the legendary BOSUN, and the regular LAYC race committee was unavailable). While Sunday was glorious, a heavy winter storm that blew in Friday night led SCYA to call off racing on Saturday; additionally, polluted runoff led to the closure of both Newport Bay and Mission Bay that day. But it all worked out, and all clubs had a great time.

ABYC would make up for it later in the year. The “Commodore’s Comments” included a list of events on the calendar for 1992 as well as the contact for each regatta for potential volunteers. Besides the regular Holiday Series events and our “one-day, two-day” regattas like Spring Tune-Up—and other annual events like the SCYA Manning Regatta and the Olympic Classes Regatta—the calendar called for the Thistle PCCs and Snipe Districts to be run concurrently in May, the US SAILING/Nautica Youth Championship and Naples Sabot Senior Championship in June, the Etchells NAs and Snipe Nationals in July and the Star Districts in August.

Speaking of Olympic Classes, there were a lot of ABYC sailors racing Olympic Classes the winter of ’92, and a lot of them in Florida for the Miami OCR. Among them were Pete Melvin and Pease and Jay Glaser in Tornado, Jackie Golison in women’s
470, Keith Dodson and Mike Bartell in men’s 470, Jay and Mark Golison in Flying Dutchman and Debbie Willits and Ruth Pauling in Europe dinghy. Pete took the gold in Miami.

The second-ever ABYC Club Championship Regatta would be sailed on ABYC Opening Day in May; this year the winner would be presented a perpetual trophy dedicated to the memory of former ABYC junior Kim Thompson, who tragically died in a fall while attending university classes in Europe...advertised for sale in the ABYC Boatique were long- and short-sleeved Henley shirts for $13.50 and XXL golf shirts for $13.00; smaller sizes of the golf shirts were a dollar less...Vice Commodore Mark Townsend reported that both the parking lot and boatyard would be slurry-sealed in 1992, the parking lot in March and the boatyard in October; he also reported that the seawall project had led to the contractor laying down some new “tar-mac”.

Chris Ericksen, Club Historian

the bay clogger
(junior sailing)

The month of February kicked off to a great start with the first Spring Clinic! We had a lot of great participants from new Laser and FJ sailors, to Sabot racers coached by Mark Gaudio. It was a fantastic day on the water and everyone had a great time.

Later that month we had a full boat of ABYC juniors match racing in the first round of the SODA in Governors Cup 21s. The team was brand new to big boats, large spinnakers, and match racing so it turned into a great learning experience for everyone.

ABYC sent a total of 9 racers down to the Sabot Mid-Winters at Newport Harbor Yacht Club. The competition was fierce and the wind was surprisingly high for the entire regatta. Sean Ayale had an impressive 10th place C3 finish, Ryan Schack and Brett People finished 12th and 15th respectively in the C2 class, Sammy Elsharhawy finished 12th in the C1s, and Ryan Ayale made an impressive 8th place overall with top finishes of a 2nd and a 3rd. In the Sabot A Fleet Alan Peoples finished 12th, RJ Ivory placed 10th overall right behind Ethan Michaelis in 9th. Jacob Rosenberg finished 6th overall with two 2nd place finishes and Matt McDermaid was the top finishing ABYC sailor taking 4th place with two 3rd place finishes and a bullet in the seventh race. Not to be forgotten was Vince Valdes, owner of Columbia Yachts, sailing his new Columbia in the Sabot starting area on Sunday afternoon and running aground! Luckily some of the heftier coaches were able to dislodge the boat along with the help of the NHYC launch. We would like to give special thanks to the Peoples family for towing down the coach boat and the Michaelis family for bringing down the Sabot trailer.

Mark your calendar for the Shadden Series #4 on March 3-4 as well as our next Spring Clinic on March 18th. ABYC is still accepting application for summer sailing instructors. The program will run from June 18th to August 3rd. Please send your cover letter and resume to abyc.jrprogram@gmail.com

a junior perspective

Last weekend I had the incredible opportunity of sailing in the Governor’s Cup Match Racing Championship at Balboa Yacht Club. Teams from all over California were represented in this race that took place in the specialized Governor’s Cup 21’s that were provided for us as well as in Santana 20’s. Our crew of four: Taylor Schack, Steven Hopkins, Nick Odegard, and I were briefly coached in match racing tactics but otherwise had very little experience with keelboats and how they operated. After an incredibly brief practice session with the boat the afternoon before the race, we dove into the competition early Saturday morning and soon realized that the conditions were not exactly to our liking. Swells were nearly four to five feet and wind speeds averaged five knots, making all of us in the boat(some more than others) a bit queasy and lightheaded. This, combined with the little experience that we had really hurt our performance and lowered our confidence for the remaining day of competition. Sunday, however, turned out to be a much better day with wind speeds up to ten knots and more reasonable sized swells. We were able to work together and our overall performance was much improved. Overall, I thought that this regatta was a lot of fun and my crew and I were very thankful to have been given the opportunity to participate in such an important event. A huge thank you to all of the parents that supported us, especially Jennifer Golison and Cindy Odegard for keeping us organized and well fed. It was a great opportunity for all of us.

Kevin Leddy
The Juniors sail recycling program is off to a great start. As you may know, the Juniors are collected used sails of any size and shape and recycling them into tote bags for now, and other items later. The first batch of tote bags came in and they look great! Sea Bags of Maine made custom tote bags for us with the ABYC burgee on one side. These bags retail for $175, but the Juniors are selling them for only $85. You can see one of the totes in the lobby display case. You may purchase one from the front office or at the general meetings. Proceeds from the sales of the bags will be used to support the Junior Fund. You may recycle your old sails by simply dropping them off anytime at the Junior Room or the Junior Office.

The Juniors joined the yacht club for Beach Clean Up on February 26. Other Beach Clean Ups are schedule for April 29 and July 22. Come down around 9:30, enjoy a donut and then stroll the beach with your friends for two community service hours. Bring your sailing gear down too, and go out for fun sailing afterwards.

Please join the Juniors for the April General meeting where ABYC member Russ Boudreau, a practicing coastal engineer, will present his program “Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Tsunamis.” We will have a 50/50 raffle that night and will sell our Sea Bags as well. Hope to see you there!
Look for new ABYC Gear this spring. We’ve ordered high performance micro-fleece ¼ zip pullovers, white polos with a more feminine cut for the ladies, and long sleeve dry shirts with ABYC down the sleeves for easier identification of our sailors when they have their lifejackets on. All styles will come in adult and children’s sizes. We’ve also ordered more ABYC belts in the popular sizes, key chains, a few dog collars, and flip flop sandals for ladies and girls. More hats are on the way as well. Some of our older styles are on sale to make room for the new gear. Look for our sale table upstairs at the April General Meeting. We would love your suggestions for other gear, or let us know if you would like to help with sales at the general meetings and big regattas. Contact Jennifer at jen@golison.com if you are interested.

Sunday, April 8, 2012
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Featuring all the traditional Brunch favorites!

EASTER BUNNY AND EGG HUNT
Photos: 11:00 AM
Egg Hunt: 11:30 AM

Reservations by April 4, 2012
$18.00 Adults
$10.00 Children under 10

At the Door
$25.00 Adults
$15.00 Children under 10

RSVP: abyc.sheila@gmail.com
The ABYC Laser fleet played host for the February Membership Meeting on the eve of the 2012 SCYA Midwinter Regatta. Owing to a number of early arriving racers for the Midwinters and maybe interest in the evening’s presentation, we enjoyed good attendance nearly causing panic in the kitchen as to whether there was enough food (there was).

Following dinner, a brief membership meeting and welcoming new members to the club, our presenter for the evening was introduced. Mr. Scott Culver is a Tug Boat Captain with FOSS Maritime serving commercial traffic in the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles. Scott was a most engaging speaker who described the tugs used by FOSS and how they are used to safely move ships in and out of the harbor. Scott also described where ships anchor, what VHF frequencies are used for communication and myriad other details including how commercial and recreational craft can safely share these waters. Scott asked for and fielded numerous questions from the audience, many of whom told me how much they enjoyed Scott’s presentation.

I wish to thank again my fellow Laser Fleet members who volunteered to serve and prepare for an enjoyable evening; Jorge Suarez, Chuck Tripp, Kevin Taugher, Bob Anderson, David Schack, Lars Rosenblad, Yon Carpenter, Bruce Johnston and Bonnie DeMoss.

2012 ABYC Holiday Regattas to Feature Laser & Laser Radial Racing in the Bay

In an effort to provide a variety of racing opportunities for Laser and Laser Radial sailors, ABYC is offering the option for Laser and Laser Radial racers in ABYC Holiday Regattas to race in the Bay. Laser and Laser Radial racers who wish to race in the ocean can continue to do so.

Laser racers wishing to race in the Bay may register on-line with Regatta Network as Laser Bay or Laser Radial Bay. Unless turnout deems separate starts, Lasers and Radials in the Bay will start together, but score separately.

We look forward to seeing a new group of Laser racers joining us at the ABYC Holiday Regattas beginning with the Memorial Day Regatta! Please ignore the article in a prior Sou’Wester describing Lasers racing in A & B fleets.

Laser Masters Race at SCYA Midwinter Regatta

Even as late as 9:30AM Saturday morning it looked like I’d be a Laser Master fleet of one for the 2012 SCYA Midwinter Regatta at ABYC. I was the only mailed-in registration and there were no on-line entries. Sanjai Kohli called me at the club Saturday morning to ask if we were going to have a fleet. Sadly I told him no, but would call back if things changed. I resigned myself to helping with race management duty when two other Lasers arrived. I called Sanjai to say we now qualified as a fleet (three boats) and for him to come on down. I went to rig my boat and before the skipper’s meeting, we had nine Lasers in the boat yard.

The over 35 year old Laser Masters sailed four races in light 5 to 7 knot breeze Saturday, while the wind increased to 15 knots for three more races on Sunday. This was Jay Golison’s regatta from start to finish as he dominated with straight bullets save for a second in the last race Saturday when Trey Gallagher finished first only to withdraw later, realizing he had incorrectly passed through the leeward gate mark.

Laser Masters Handicap scoring was used for the regatta which adds extra points to a racer’s finish position with younger Masters receiving more point than older racers. Accounting for this, after racing Sunday, Jay was first followed by Sanjai. Matt Wenke, an Australian airline pilot on his layover who has joined us to race at ABYC before, finished third. Other ABYC racers finishing in order were; your author, Bruce Johnston, and John Bergan.

2012 ABYC Laser Fleet Championship

In an effort to reward high placement in ABYC hosted regattas and promote membership in the Laser Class, the 2012 ABYC Laser and Laser Radial Fleet Championship will be determined by results and participation in the following events and regattas:

- February ABYC General Membership Meeting, Dinner and Presentation Each ABYC Laser Fleet member will receive Championship Participation Points for hosting this event.
- E.E. Manning Series Regatta
- Memorial Day Holiday Regatta
- U.S. SAILING Area J Singlehanded Championship Qualifier
- 4th of July Holiday Regatta Note: Each ABYC Laser Fleet member will receive Championship Participation Points for participation in managing this event.
- Laser District 25 Championship/ABYC Labor Day Holiday Regatta
- Charity Regatta
- Halloween Regatta
- Turkey Day Regatta

Competitors earn points in reverse order of their placing in a regatta, i.e. the first place finisher will receive points equal to the total number of competitors in their fleet, second place finisher will receive one (1) less point, etc.

The top scoring racers qualify to represent the ABYC Laser Fleet and compete in the 2013 ABYC Club Championship Regatta.

Steven Smith, ABYC Laser Fleet Co-Captain
The Fleet to Be In!

This year’s MidWinter Regatta brought out nearly ten boats and the Cal 20 class proved to be as hotly contested as any group out there. Saturday brought a slight chill in the air and a southerly breeze making the sail out the jetty a couple of tacks and done. Bravura’s Jeff Ives and Damon Kunkle started quick out of the gate with a couple of firsts. Retread’s Stan Gibbs and Pat McCormick prevailed in race 3. Lickity Split’s Mike & Ron Wood had a daily first in race 4 to round out the day.

Kinda warm MidWinter Sunday started out again with a breeze from the south and another pleasant sail out, but then quickly shifted west once we got out there. The race committee wasted no time adapting, and racing was quickly underway. Bravura took a bullet in the first race of the day, race 5, but Retread was not flustered (despite son Sawyer giving Dad a good natured ribbing out on the race course) and went on to win race 6.

Throughout the regatta, Lickety Split was in the thick of things, as well as Breakfast Club’s John Merchant and Rob Fuller, and Steve George and Suzanne on their beautiful new boat #1150. Steve and Suzanne did a great job being new to the fleet and are definitely a boat to watch out for. Also, Dave Robertson and Rick Shaw on the mighty Green Machine were out there mixing it up, along with Bezerklee’s Lee Smith and Mossy Kennedy making good use of boat speed.

With the final standing still very much in doubt as the fleet went into the 7th and final race, Retread, Bravura and Lickity Split new what they had to do. This last race was intense with the lead changing several times and the strongest breeze we’d seen all weekend. Ultimately, Retread crossed the finish line first, and thus won this years edition of the MidWinter Regatta. Next was Jeff Ives, Phil Soma, and Damon Kunkle on Bravura, and the Woods and crew Tom on Lickity Split in third. Congratulations to Stan and Pat! Well done to all the racers, as it was a tight group the whole weekend. To the rest of you, we missed you, ok maybe not Rubber Dog (just kidding Keith & Chuck), and hope to see you out next time.

Thanks to all the race committee, who ran a flawless two days of racing. Its hard not to be impressed by a well oiled ABYC race committee machine. Nice job Patience and all of the crew, including our own Chuck Clay setting perfect leeward gate marks right up on the beach. The gate is terrific because it adds quite a bit of strategy based on, of course, wind direction, but also boat management and which side of the course you want to go. It was particularly exciting several times racing from the gate to the finish of a double sausage. Just about every race had Chris Erickson on his toes calling extremely close finishes. Very cool. Final thanks to Jennifer Kuritz for her leadership in making this whole regatta great fun for members and guests alike.

Next up, look for Patty (Waka Waka) Nash’s e-mail blasts and monthly fleet races. If you are interested in the monthly fleet race contact Patty and/or John Merchant. Then, before we know it, Wet Wednesdays will be starting again. Later, this summers National Championship Regatta is slated to be hosted by our friends across the bay at LBYC. They are going to have a brand new long dock over there and the Cal 20′s are going to fill it up. Last year was 53 boats, and you know Chuck Clay and his organizing committee working with Craig Stenberg (Lightweight) and John Strong of LBYC want to go for 54 or more!

So for now, perhaps that winter boat project, order a new set of sails, fix the trailer, sand the bottom, or just keep her put away high and dry waiting for the next beautiful day of competitive, exciting, challenging, fun, and affordable, one-design racing!

See ya on the starting line!

Dan Bates/Jeff Ives

KEEL BOAT FLEET ON WATCH

Let me say that the following article in no way impinges on the wonderful work that Ann Exley did, and that Chris Ericksen continues, on the history of ABYC. However, I am going to try and bring some of the history of the Keel Boat Fleet to this monthly article. I find that my mind is getting a little hazy, as is my peers, so any corrections will be welcome and also any suggestions or stories of our Fleet’s past.

The first thing that I remember was that most of us were very budget minded and there were plenty of 25’s both Cal’s and Coronado’s in the fleet. I would like to start with a short note about the history of the Coronado 25. As in all great stories the exact birth of the Cor. 25 is not quite clear with the date being ’64, ’65 or ’66. But according to Wikipedia Frank Butler took over the indebted originating company as early as 1961 and produced, among others, the Victory. Butler called the company Wesco Marine and in ’64 produced the Cor. 25. In ’68 it was sold to Whittaker, who also owned Columbia Yachts, and was in production at the Costa Mesa plant until 1974. The Cor. 25 was also sold in a kit form and Ernie and Pat Marr bought one. In talking to Steve, the oldest son, construction was an all family affair. Two funny stories that he remembers is during construc-
On January 29th the Senior Sabot fleet headed out to the waters of Alamitos Bay for the first Sabot Sunday of 2012. Competition was challenging with 7 Sabots on the starting line, and a different winner in each of the four races; Lee Berlinger, Terese Ivory, Bobby Ware and Jane McNaboe. The results were: Bobby Ware (choosing the milk chocolate bar) in first place with 10 points, followed by Jane Ellis-McNaboe (choosing the dark chocolate bar) with 11 points, followed by a 3-way tie (14 points) for third place (Lee Berlinger, John Ellis and Terese Ivory), won by Terese Ivory sailing her first ever Sabot Sunday at ABYC.

Our second Sabot Sunday drew a competitive fleet of 6 sailors to the starting line on February 12th. Three Sabotiers won races, John Ellis, Jane Ellis-McNaboe, and Bobby Ware (two bullets!). The dark chocolate bar went to Jane Ellis-McNaboe, the milk chocolate bar to Bobby Ware.

Thank you to our PRO’s Captain John McNaughton and Jennifer Kuritz, with helpers Don Wilson, Robert Ivory, Tom Newton, Jerry McNaboe and Brian MacLean.

You too could take your Sabot off the rack and join the monthly Senior Sabot Sunday races. A bargain price for fleet dues, $7.00; $5.00 to race (and you might win a chocolate bar or a bottle of Two Buck Chuck (winners choice)).

The Senior Sabot fleet welcomes beginners as well as experienced sailors. If you need some help rigging your Sabot, would like some help with the basics, or anything else please contact Jane McNaboe. Our fleet would be happy to help you get started. We can arrange to meet before any of our Sabot Sunday races.

Our Schedule: first start at 12:00 hours, usually one race followed by a leisurely lunch and social hour. Lunch hour is followed by two or three more races, a fleet meeting with chocolate bars or two buck chuck presentations, $1.00 glass of wine for all, and a nice dinner prepared by Jesus.

Please come and join the Senior Sabot fleet for an enjoyable Sunday. Our next Senior Sabot Sunday will be on March 11th.

Jane McNaboe
Drink of the month
“The Latham Bell”

Mt. Gay Rum, Ginger Ale, Blue Curacao

TSUNAMIS! Everything you wanted to know, and maybe didn’t want to know about Tsunamis. Our guest speaker for the April General Meeting will be Russ Boudreau. As a practicing coastal engineer, he will tell us about what causes tsunamis, and share dramatic realities of recent tsunamis in Japan, Chile and Indonesia. Are we at risk here at ABYC? What are the chances? He will also give some background of the sleeping giant known as the Cascadia Fault, and what that may mean to anyone living in near the coast in the Pacific Northwest.

ABYC General Meeting and St. Patrick’s Day Celebration!
Friday, March 16, 2012
Menu: Corned Beef and Cabbage
Short meeting followed by
The music of Kelly Fitzgerald

Hosted by the Sr. Sabots
Midwinters launch F-18 winners into worlds

Word of warning to Formula 18 catamaran racers who plan to be in Long Beach for the class world championships in September: Matt Struble and Damon LaCasella own these waters.

Or at least they did this past weekend during Alamitos Bay Yacht Club’s part as one of 34 clubs hosting the 83rd Southern California Yachting Association Midwinter Regatta. The sailors from San Diego won all seven of their races in the largest class of 15 boats.

Altogether there are 86 boats in 11 classes, who after a squirrely day of light wind Saturday found the “normal” southwest sea breeze Sunday building from 6.5 to 15 knots through the afternoon.

Olivier Boryn was impressed. As president of the international F-18 class he was on a scouting trip from his home in Brittany, France to check out the site. He watched all of the racing from the flying bridge of the race committee boat Patience.

“We should have a wonderful regatta,” he said afterward. But he also said that Struble and LaCasella probably won’t be the favorites. That would be Australia’s Darren Bundock, the four-time world champion and double Olympic silver medalist in Tornado catamarans.

Struble, 38, said overconfidence won’t be a problem.

“Today was more problematical,” he said. “The whole fleet was doing better so we had to find our way out of a bunch of holes.”

LaCasella, 41, owns the boat that they have sailed together for three years. So why doesn’t he drive his own boat?

“We sailed against each other a lot of years,” he said. “I like being on the front of the boat. You’re more in control of the boat doing mainsheet and the spinnaker.”

So, we’ll see in September.

On the Cal 25 offshore course managed by the nearby Long Beach YC, Art and Scott Melendres of Whittier, Calif. finished first overall, beating out Rick Sottile and Felix Basadre of Westminster, Calif. by just one point.

Art Melendres described how luck played a role.

“The first race of the day as we were rounding the leeward mark someone let the spinnaker halyard go without anyone dousing it,” he said. “Well, it went under the boat and we shrimped it real good. We knew there was a windward mark change and when we got it all sorted out we looked up and we were the only boat pointed toward the new mark. It looked like everyone else was headed for the old mark. If it wasn’t for shrimping the spinnaker we wouldn’t have gotten the jump on the rest of the fleet.”

Some would say, well, that’s sailboat racing.

Rich Roberts
PERPETUAL TROPHY AWARDED FORTY YEARS LATER

Jeff McDermaid traveled to Newport Beach from Alamitos Bay and found his name on a Perpetual Trophy that he had won forty years ago. And he won again.

The Southern California Yachting Association Midwinters Regatta was held on February 18 and 19 throughout Southern California at various Yacht Clubs. Adult Sabot racers convened at Balboa Yacht Club to combine Midwinters racing with their monthly Super Sabot Saturday Series. A beautiful day and good winds made the first two races enjoyable for the competitors. The winds increased before the third race, encouraging some to watch from the dock, but those that raced all returned safely.

Trophies were presented by Jim Mahaffy, representing SCYA. Jeff McDermaid of Alamitos Bay Yacht Club emerged as the victor, winning two of the three races. Terese Ivory, also of ABYC came in second, winning the third race. Placing third was Lynn Acosta of BYC. An Historic Perpetual trophy from Lido Isle Yacht Club went to Jeff McDermaid for the lowest score in the over forty class. The second trophy was dedicated long ago by the International Naples Sabot Association. Jeff had won the INSA trophy forty years ago when he was the winner. That trophy has since been rededicated to go to the racer with the lowest score who is over 65 years of age. Bob Reilly, who placed fourth overall, will have his name engraved on it now.

The busy traffic and choppy water made racing difficult but Gator Cook guarded the racers from the rescue boat. Happily no rescues were necessary, especially with the very cold air and water. Pinky Greene served as Principal Race Officer with Deanna Rollins, timer and Pat Heath as recorder.

Nancy Mellon, BYC