

Sierra Point Yacht Club



Established in 1984

**Weekly
Summer
Sailing
Races**

**Club
Social
Events**

**Cruise-outs
Cruise-ins**

**Monthly
Dinners**

**Club Managed
by Volunteers**



Website: www.sierrapointyc.org

July 2017 Edition

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1. Editor's Update

Ola. I am writing the editors update this month from a friends vineyard and winery in northern Spain, about 30 km's east of Barcelona. The air is warm and sultry and I am surrounded by lovely grape vines and olive trees, and a cellar containing thousands of bottles of delicious red and whites -bliss. What are you doing there? one may ask - well, I am doing a road tour of France and Spain with a dear work colleague and her daughter from Singapore - Emily and Alia. It has been incredibly hot over here, reaching 44 degree's C on some days. Western Europe - and this includes the UK - has been in the grip of a rare heatwave that has lasted almost two weeks. Fortunately, things are cooling down a bit now and it is more comfortable. We have enjoyed some fantastic visits to very historic and medieval areas of France and I will probably write an article of this trip to entice members into considering a road trip through France and Spain.

I am a little remote from the club this next two and a half months but will try to keep Spyglass interesting considering the geographic situation.

Prior to this road trip, I have launched my Swan Frolic and enjoyed some similar sailing conditions

to the club 'round Treasure Island race' of which Dennis has kindly forwarded some pictures for Spyglass. I hear that apart from lack of wind, the Treasure Island race was a fun day out and I am hoping we have some more fun races during the season and ideas would be welcome....how about a race down to Redwood City and back, with a 'medicinal' stop at the Spinnaker Yacht Club?



**Becalmed, but at least I
Have the outboard attached**



The wine cellar



**The grapes coming along
Well this year**

How about the America's Cup final race of in Bermuda. I have to admit that team New Zealand put in a superb performance during the best of 9 race final against

the defender's - Oracle. I suppose it is a bit of revenge, but I must admit, New Zealand outclassed Oracle in all races and deserve their win. I was not that impressed with the UK's performance skippered by Sir Ben Ainsley who was the winning skipper of the Oracle winner in the last America's cup held on the San Francisco Bay.

We have some article input for this month. Andy Jones has submitted an article on the book series *Swallows and Amazons*, and Katie has submitted part 1 of her involvement with the Standing Rock situation.

Just a reminder - The c Lub annual fees are due at the end of June, so please renew as soon as possible. This can be done using our website or in person to Terry C or kathy M.

2. Commodore's Commentary

July 1st begins our membership year. If you haven't renewed please do so right away. Your membership card can be downloaded from the website (after you log in check "Membership Card Instructions" on the documents page) or you can request a physical card. If you plan to travel and visit other yacht clubs a physical card might be best. Contact me or Michael Bell; it can take a week or two to get those made so let us know well before you need one.

Same with magnetic badges in the clubhouse – our supplier experienced delays this spring so there is a lead time for those also if you are new or need a replacement.

Take a look at the calendar because summer is our busy season: we have racing on Tuesdays, Sunday Breakfasts, Friday night potluck, monthly dinners, and cruise-outs every few weeks. If you are new these events are great opportunities to meet people and find out what we all do. Lots going on!

Quincy Bragg
commodore@sierrapointyc.org

3. Club General Update

No updates to report this month

4. Events Calendar

This month's dinner will feature a Spanish Tapas themed night on July 15th Hosted by Patty Palomino, Vera Jacobsen, and Donna Macedo. The Tapas menu will feature - Asparagus, Olives, Manchego Cheese, Marinated Mushrooms, Crostinis. The main menu will Feature grilled chicken and beef skewers, and for desert - flan and cookies. And of course great entertainment provided by the Macy Blackman Trio.

Adults - \$20

Child 12 and under - \$12

\$5 for walk ins

Hosts : Patty Palomino,
Vera Jacobsen
Donna Macedo

July 15th
A NIGHT IN SPAIN

TAPAS- 6pm
ENTRADA- 7pm
MUSICA - 8pm

MENU
TAPAS
Asparagus, Olives , Manchego Cheese,
Marinated Mushrooms, Crostinis
ENTRADA
Pinchos Morunos
grilled chicken and beef skewers
Patatas Bravas
mini Yukon potato bites
Ensalada De Verano
summer salad
POSTRES
Flan and Cookies

Welcome back
an old favorite
the
**Macy Blackman
Trio**

COST: Adult - \$20 :Child (12 and under)- \$12
\$5 surcharge for walk ins

Please register before noon on the day of the event. You may register on the website
(<http://www.SierraPointYC.org/calendar> and clicking on the event), by sending an email
(ASarahFitz@gmail.com), or a telephone message (415 412 7510). Please get the info to me
somehow. There will be a \$5 surcharge each if you are not registered

Breakfast at SPYC

The monthly breakfasts are on a summer weekly schedule until the end of August, so please join us for breakfast at the Club now and support our breakfast get-togethers every Sunday for the summer season and expertly managed by Jim Laurie and Terry Berger.

So. Join us for brunch every Sunday
from 9 to 11 a.m.

This is the best deal in town: Eggs, sausage, bacon, vegetables, fruit and waffles with choice of coffee or tea.

All are welcome - members \$7, and guests \$8

Jim and Terry are still looking for volunteers for the Sunday breakfast program: folks to take responsibility for one of the Sunday breakfasts in the remainder of

2017. Jim and Terry will take responsibility for ensuring you have the basic grocery supplies you need, as well as coordinating bar staff via Patrick, and set-up/clean-up support via Diane. Please contact Jim at: jklawrie@att.net or Terry at: mountainterry@yahoo.com

5. Cruise-Outs/Ins Update

While SPYC's jet-setting fleet captain, yours truly, spent the better part of May in France, strolling around Paris, living like a local in our lovely Airbnb in Arles, sipping delicious wines in Beaune, bussing around Lyon in the rain and cruising Burgundy's Nivernais canal with the Oliveiras and Davis's, you have all been waiting patiently to hear what's in store for the August 11th – 13th cruise weekend. If you signed up for Golden gate and haven't yet heard it's been cancelled; it's been cancelled. A regatta has been scheduled for the weekend of our planned visit and we're assured that we'll have priority accommodations in the 2018 cruising season. I have a plan for a fun cruise for that weekend but since it isn't finalized I'm holding back any further details until they can be confirmed.

I write this from seat 26D on AA flight 252 from ORD to SFO where my visit with lots of my blended family was extended due to the not-unexpected but sad death of my brother-in-law. My Chicago visit followed a week in sweltering Athens, GA chasing fireflies & taking long walks with my 5-year-old granddaughter, and sleeping with an affectionate Jack Russell named Bennie, and rocking to the rousing performances of 3 local bands, including my talented son, at the Georgia Theatre.

So, after being away again for the better part of June I look forward to next Friday's cruise to South Beach for the long July 4th weekend. Patrick and Nancy Lydon are welcoming at least 10 of our skippers and crew to their home port. We're so fortunate that, in spite of the move to their "city digs" a few years ago they have remained with the SPYC family as some of our most active members, AND we have the inside track to South Beach happenings. I have no updates since my June 7th entry on the "Cruising" page of the club website, so if you drop by and we're not on our boats we'll no doubt be out enjoying the city. I hope you'll do the same and look for the cruisers when you're done exploring. Check the club website, www.sierrapointyc.org/cruising for periodic updates and cruising calendar revisions.

So far the list for remaining cruise outs for 2017 are as follows (Golden Gate has cancelled due to other club commitments):

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Richmond Yacht Club..... | August 11th - 13th |
| Half Moon Bay Yacht Club.. | September 1st-4th |
| Marin Yacht Club..... | September 22nd -24th |
| Sausalito Yacht Club..... | October 13th-15th |
| Sequoia Yacht Club..... | Planning |

For information on our cruising calendar please go to our web site cruising section on www.sierrapointyc.org/cruising where you can find detailed info and sign up procedures. You can also contact our Fleet Captain Kathy Stern on: fleet_captain@sierrapointyc.org

Happy Cruising!
Kathy Stern, Fleet Captain

6. Racing Update for July



As you can see winds were light at the beginning of the Treasure Island Race on June 18. Not to worry, though, it's summer and this is San Francisco Bay so there was wind even though we had to wait a while and then go looking for it. The start was actually at about 1:08 instead of noon due to the wind. It was

patchy in places, strong in others, but there was enough and a good time was had by all.

The rules (everyone read the rules, I'm sure) required a picture be submitted showing the north light of Treasure Island as the boat passed – pretty clear this crew is having a good day.

The race ended up being about 17 n.m. (since we did not begin at the start) and the last boat to finish was at about 5:20. After the race we had a taco bar at the club so people took advantage of the warm day to relax on the deck and talk about the race into the early evening. Everybody had a good



time – sunny day, warm, a breeze, what's not to like? On June 6th we awarded prizes for the first series of five races. In the first race (PHRF 160 or above) Lackerli was first and No Name second. In the second race (PHRF 159 or less) Yunona was first with Papoose in second. Prizes were fabulous new Beer Can Racing t-shirts.

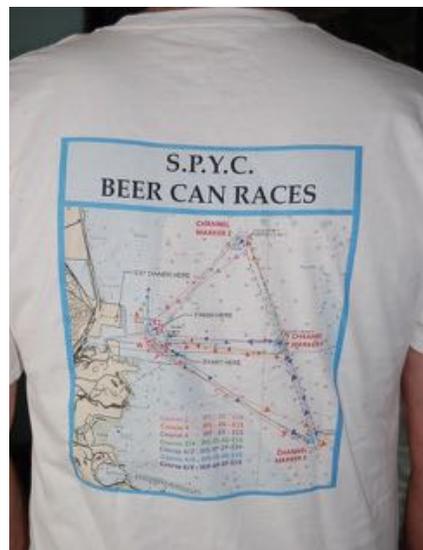
Shirts are available for \$20 after the races on Tuesday nights. Our size selection is limited so if we don't have it now we will re-order in July to get the one for you. Let me know what you want! Note that the one in the picture is a crew shirt; if you are a boat captain there is a different shirt in even more limited supply but those too will be re-ordered in July. Let me know

by July 18 because I'll order after that.

Racing this year has been good with no cancellations (knock on wood) and good turnout. Dinner in the club afterwards is always a party. If you are new to the club this is a great opportunity to volunteer either for the bar (contact Patrick Lydon) or to help with the food (contact Renee Hartig).

Note that there will be no Beer Can Race on July 4th.

Quincy Bragg
racing@sierrapointyc.org



**Pictures from the Treasure Island Race - taken by our own
Dennis Lien**



7. Bulletin Board

Did you know that we, at the Sierra Point Yacht Club are members of the “Cooperating Group” program from BoatU.S.. What does that mean to you? If you are a BoatU.S., member you get a discount on your membership from \$24.00 to \$15.00. Membership with BoatU.S. gives you access to on the road or on the water towing services, (I speak from experience the towing service is invaluable.) I suppose you could get these services without taking a discount, but why? To receive your discount, simply write “Cooperating Group GA84752Y on your yearly renewal form and get your \$9.00 discount. Easy right. Any questions, just ask. Cheers, Tom Munro

Our Katie still needs a car:

CAR WANTED!

Hi yachtees! I am still looking for a used car. If you have one or know of one that someone might be looking to get rid of. I really don't have any specific car I'm looking for, just something affordable. I prefer something lower to the ground so I can use it to take my grandma around, but I'm open to all makes, models & sizes. I do prefer something reliable & in working condition!

Thank you,
Katie Harrison
(310) 739-8787

DINGHY WANTED

Jason and Michelle Fox are looking for a gently used RIB (Rigid Inflatable Boat) made of Hypalon. If you have one or know of anyone selling one, please contact Michelle on: mfox1@stanford.edu

8. Tech Tips. Items for Sale

No input received for this month's edition

9. Swallows and Amazons Forever - Andy Jones

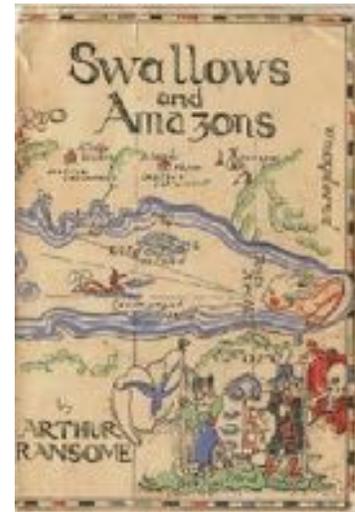
I was about 45 when I first heard about and become a devotee of Arthur Ransome's *Swallows and Amazons*, a wonderful tale of summer sailing. I couldn't believe my good fortune coming upon this treasure, although I was a bit sad that I hadn't read it when I was much, much younger. Still, to read it made it easy to enjoy the adventures of youth, and of course that was a very good feeling.

It felt even better when I found out that there were 11 more in the series, even though I ended up reading *Swallows and Amazons* again before going on to the second, *Swallowdale*.

The Wikipedia article on Ransome is pretty good and his life is unusual to say the least (think a sailor Louis Carrol merging with George Orwell), but all I want to do here is to make sure everyone knows about this splendid and magical series of books.

There are twelve works in the series (a 13th was on its way when Ransome sailed off for good), and while they differ greatly in what goes on, they share common themes that make them enjoyable for anyone who loves sailing adventures. To begin with, a group of young children on summer holiday take various trips and have unusual encounters on two small sailboats, *Swallows* and *Amazons*, on a lake in the British Lake District. While some of the later books go far afield (in *Missee Lee* they go to China and in *Peter Duck* they escape to the Caribbean), and some readers curmudgeonly complain they become too fantastic, the wonders of freedom and good health that sailing exemplifies, are always there.

The descriptions of their sailing fun are easy and enjoyable, and so are Ransome's drawings, so while it is clearly written for children, it is fun for adults who sail or are learning to sail or imagine they are sailing. In fact, he explains parts of the sailboat and sailing techniques in a wonderful, completely unpedantic way, so it clear to non-sailors as well.



Another interesting tidbit is that both girls and boys join in these adventures and in equal measures, which is great today but must have been something else 70 or 80 years ago when first published.

Some of the books were made into films, and I would heartily recommend them. I have not been able to find a cinematic *Swallows and Amazons*, but greatly enjoyed *Coot Club* and *The Big Six*.

So, if you like the naval adventures of Captain Aubrey or Hornblower, but are even more in tune with Coridon and Goddard in Herreshoff's *The Compleat Cruiser*, you will, guaranteed, love Ransome's Nancy, Jack, Uncle Flint, and gang as they sail in dinghies and schooners near home and in exotic locales around the world.

The series is still in print from Godine, and though not widely available, always worth the search, for I have no doubt you, too, will look forward to hearing their greeting, "Swallows and Amazons forever!"

Books in the *Swallows and Amazons* series:

Swallows and Amazons

Aallowdale

Peter Duck

Winter Holiday

Coot Club

Pigeon Post

We Didn't Mean To Go To Sea

Secret Water

The Big Six

Misslee Lee

The Picts And The Martyrs: Or Not Welcome At All

Great Northern

Coots In The North

Andy Jones

9. Standing Rock - Part 1 by Katie Harrison

I have been meaning to include an article from our very own Katie on the Standing Rock situation for some time and now will include part 1 of her report in this issue. This is not an article relating to sailing but I personally think, and I hope I am speaking for the whole club, that protecting our environment and culture is critical to a more harmonious world without greedy corporations and 'politicians ruining our planet, and look now at trump canceling the climate change accord - which has really angered the rest of the world. So here goes with Katies part 1.

"It is going to be a challenge to cram my experience at Standing Rock into a mere one page essay. So, I think I will divide this up among a few different posts if that's ok with you all. For the sake of those who helped make my trip to North Dakota possible (you all know who you are!), and for those who have helped build the Standing Rock camp and have remained there in peaceful protest since April 2016, it would feel unfair to me if I didn't paint a full and clear picture of what it is like going to, being at, and finally leaving Standing Rock, at least for one who is not from there.

Standing Rock to me is not a place, but rather defies place and time. Standing Rock is something that is in your heart and you carry it with you wherever you go henceforth, once you have experienced it first hand. Standing Rock is everywhere because it is an idea that has somehow brought people from every corner of the earth to stand (peacefully) for the earth and its natural resources, as well as the rights of the indigenous people who are at the forefront of this battle. People who gather at Standing Rock for the first time treat each other and are treated as family from the getgo. I am aware that this sounds a bit utopian, and I don't want to mislead you in any way - it doesn't lack its daily human challenges, hang-ups and problems. But the profound part about Standing Rock to me was that those challenges are all dealt with peacefully, with the utmost respect for those involved and with an open heart. That is the difference, and is what made this place so elevated and so incredible.

Let's go back though to why and how I got involved in this. It all started with a drunken Facebook post, not my own, but that of a frustrated coworker. She was expressing her pain at witnessing what was going on with our Native American brothers and sisters in North Dakota, and she had enough wine that day to decide that she would post an open invitation to join her on a bold journey to North Dakota to help bring aid to the "Water Protectors" at Standing Rock. The only thing is, she never ended up going. I did!

Once this seed was planted, I was unable to shake it, and so one day I made my own Facebook post (this one not drunken..... I think), asking for some assistance from my friends. First off, I would be traveling to North Dakota in early December, and it would be cold. How cold? Oh I had no idea just how cold a Midwest winter could get! But I would soon find out. The other aid I reluctantly asked for was monetary. These donations would be specifically to purchase items that would be needed for the children, women and workers who were trying to get through the harsh winter there. Items such as sub-zero snow clothes, firewood, propane, food, and water. Well, the help came through! I had friends from LA to San Francisco offering me winter jackets, boots, gloves and cash to take with me. Most of the help I received though came from my DEAR friends at the Sierra Point Yacht Club. [I knew how awesome you all are, but I had no idea how caring, generous and supportive you all are as well. My heart is forever indebted to you all. You will never know the extent of your assistance you brought to myself and to the people at Standing Rock.]

At this point it was late November 2016, and I knew based on my work schedule, I would be traveling to ND around the first week of December. So there was not a whole lot of time to plan or prepare, and I knew that to some extent I would be winging it. I was given some guidance from friends who had already been there, advising me to come with open ears and an open heart, to listen to the elders, leave any chivalry and ego at home (those things are not welcome, especially from non-natives), and to utilize any warm clothes I've received for myself, and only donate them once I was to leave. It turns out that the best aid one can bring to Standing Rock is self-sufficiency! Not rushing into uberly generous donations from Day 1 can prove to be a wise and more sustainable approach for one's duration there. This indeed proved to be the case for me, as I will divulge later on!

All in all, I brought with me for my journey \$360 in cash donations (most of which was from SPYC members – again THANK YOU!), some heavy weatherized work boots from my boyfriend (those would later end up with a man suffering from possible hypothermia and frost bite), and a few heavy warm jackets (only one of which I would take for the journey back). The cash donations were used at my first two stops, along with some of my own funds, to purchase firewood, propane, and LOTS of winter clothes, socks, thermals, & gloves for men and women of all ages and sizes. I also bought a compact camping stove which would prove to be my lifesaver for various reasons, and was also left behind to be utilized.

And so, with my rental Jeep packed with food, supplies, and optimism, I set on my way, with nothing but a vague general area marked on my GPS to point

towards. Hearing of various police blockades, the only thing I was sure of was that I would be taking a longer route than normal. In fact, I couldn't even fly into the airport closest to Standing Rock simply because every single rental car company there was sold out. Instead, I flew into the next closest airport where rental cars were still to be found, and that was in the small town of Minot, North Dakota in the northernmost part of the state. From there I would be driving an extra 2-3 hours at least before I would come upon the Standing Rock area. That extra driving time though allowed my mind to wander and worry and then finally accept that no amount of worry could prepare me for my experience; I would just have to wait and see.

The only added stress to my drive came from reports that there were random police stops en route to Standing Rock and people were being fined of up to \$1,000 if it was determined that supplies in their vehicle were intended for Standing Rock. Although I did pass my fair share of police cars hidden off the side of the road, luckily none of them rolled out to follow where I was going or peek inside my vehicle. All in all, the drive had its highs and lows: the beauty of the vast countryside being breathtaking, while the emptiness and the unknown being terrifying. There was one sign of reassurance as my GPS indicated I was more or less on the final thirty minutes of my drive. That sign came in the form of Christmas lights which were nothing more than a large lit up star on the front of the houses, just as we have in Brisbane! I couldn't believe my eyes. At that moment, though I was far from home, I felt my friends were once again near and with me.

With that, I think this will be a good stopping point for now. Thanks for taking the time to hear my story. I will share more with you all soon in the coming months."

Katie Harrison

11. Brit Expression of the Month

'Barking up the wrong tree'. - When someone tells you you are barking up the wrong tree, then what they mean is you are looking in the wrong place, or accusing the wrong person.

Thats all for this month folks.

