

The Wave Length

January 2008
Volume XX Number 1



Vivete lente, navigare celeriter

The Official Newsletter of
South Beach Yacht Club

SBYC Brings Holiday Cheer to Kids from 1 to 92

In its own unique way last month, SBYC continued beloved traditions of ringing in the holidays—from past Commodore Martin Fay using leg power on his scooter to escort 12 brilliantly decorated boats along the South Beach waterfront to Santa arriving via outgoing Commodore **Richard Forst's** boat *Udjat*.

Daring Dozen Dazzles Waterfront

On an unusually warm, remarkably no-precipitation December 1 evening, a daring dozen SBYC boats gathered in blazing holiday finery (and hum of electric generators) and proceeded roundtrip from McCovey Cove to the Ferry Building in our eighth annual Lighted Boat Parade. While over 60 members and their families and guests gathered to keep vigil over holiday refreshments in the clubhouse, **Martin Fay** sped along the promenade via scooter to accompany the glowing boats. Unbeknownst to the masses, **Martin's** journey was not merely to burn a few calories in advance of the delicious homemade chili feast back at the club. He was also judging the procession with extraordinary diligence to award the highest SBYC honors of the season: Best Sailboat, Best Powerboat, and Best Boat Overall.

Upon their return to South Beach Harbor, most of the boats even ventured down the slipway between C and D docks for the crowds up-close inspection of decorations and close-quarters turning skills. **Tad and Libbie Sheldon's** *While I Can* won raves for their impeccable pirouette and tremendous wattage output, and took away the Best Boat Overall award. Italian stallion **Tom Rogers and wife Elissa** lit up the night and won the Best Powerboat category with their beautiful new *Marara*. Though the full list of boats wasn't available at the time of this writing, other stand-outs in the judge's mind were *Sierra II* (**Paul and Elizabeth Eisenhardt**), *Star Ranger* (**Simon James**), and the biggest family entry, *Equity Kicker* (**Karsten Mau**). Thanks go to all the skippers and crew. Start planning now for next year's parade! Not to be outdone by the St. Francis Yacht Club, which remarkably got a photo in the SF Chronicle, Martin has laid down the gauntlet: "We want to dazzle the waterfront, so we're looking for 50 boats in 2008!"

Santa Sails South Beach

At half past noon on December 9, to the delight of a whopping 45 kids in the clubhouse, a call came into **Christina Joyce's** cellphone that **Santa** had successfully parachuted onto the good

sloop *Udjat*. Within minutes, an excited crowd saw the boat carrying Santa and an emerald-clad elf glide into sight. After alighting along the headwall, **Santa** was escorted by a swarm of kids and adults to the club, where gifts were dispensed with great cheer. The cheer was no doubt due in part to Christina's brilliant mix of milk and cookies for the kids and caviar and bloody marys for the older crowd.



The SBYC deck offered a perfect spot to view both the Lighted Boat Parade and Santa's arrival by boat the following week.

More photos available at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/olivaglobal/tags/sbycsantabyboat>.

Gift Exchange Hones Strategic Swapping Skills

The last member meeting of 2007 featured our special gift exchange and a delicious potluck supplemented by fresh-grilled hamburgers and sausages. With non other than **Martin Fay** once again at the helm of the proceedings, those who had brought a gift for exchange were called one by one to beg, borrow and steal their way into the gift of their holiday dreams... or not.

Very special thanks to **Martin Fay and Christina Joyce**, and all who helped organize and who volunteered to staff these events. We wish you all the best for 2008!

Paul V. Oliva, Director

Santa Photos by Paul Oliva

Commodore Report:

I am excited to be back as Commodore of our club in 2008. I look forward to working with the board of directors for the goals of the club in 2008, our 20th anniversary! Our club has sprung from a parking lot meeting twenty years ago to our beautiful new club house. We have a lot to celebrate and be thankful for. Goals we will be working on include:


- 1 - New upgraded website.
- 2 - Improved race program and possible a committee boat.
- 3 - Improved auction to support all the clubs capital items.
- 4 - Community relations.
- 5 - 20th Anniversary celebration.
- 6 - Improved member communication.
- 7 - Possibly implement an improved point of sale system.
- 8 - Finish & complete everything at our clubhouse.

Gary Van Giersbergen



The kids and parents waited with great anticipation for Santa to land and come to the clubhouse

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As I was saying...

(continued from last month)



"Wow, another year gone, 1988 is here already," said the nostalgically sensitive sailor to his partner. "I wonder what the delicate draft of destiny will deposit on these docks in the coming year." "Is that like the fickle finger of fate?" asked the handsome one. "Ah... similar, only different. You

know, deep down inside," he said placing his fist on his chest, "I have a feeling there'll be a new day a-coming to our sleepy little marina this year." "Hmmm, more'n likely it's that chorizo, jalapeño breakfast burrito you're feeling. No, the only things I see making deposits on these docks are seagulls. And if we don't get some more boats in this harbor pretty soon, those wonderfully zany and camera-friendly sea lions up at Pier 39 just might decide to come slip-sliding down here. Wouldn't that be swell?" "That's all South Beach Harbor needs: About four dozen of those cuddly critters establishing squatters' rights on the empty docks and they won't be able to give these berths away. We'll need a cattle prod to get to your boats and—if they're still floating—fire hoses to clean them up so we can get aboard." "Amen to that, partner. I wonder if there's any chance of starting a sea lion petting zoo on seal rocks out by the Cliff House. You know, so the tourists could see those magnificent animals in their natural habitat, and as nature intended... down wind." "Yes, Seal Rocks would be nice but the Farallones Islands would be better still. Speaking of rocks, did you ever notice that seagulls are attracted to white rocks?" asked the observant partner. "Whoa, that's it! How about a Bird Watching Society? A lot of people do that. They walk around and count them, and name them... and... we got birds..." the idea died of a natural death." (To be continued. Really)

Ray Hall - *DANCING BEAR*

Membership Report:

As I start my term as Membership Chair for 2008 I'm looking forward to getting to know more of you and to serving you in the year ahead. I have some big shoes to fill as I take over from Christina Joyce who did an outstanding job in leading our committee in 2007.

One of our first goals as we start the year will be to establish a set of goals and objectives for the year. I'm very open and looking forward to hearing any input and feedback you might have on areas covered by membership so please feel free to email me with your ideas.

Finally, we're looking for people who are interested in serving on the membership committee so if you feel like contributing to the development of our club in this important area then please get in contact with me via email (membership@southbeachyc.org).

WELCOME ABOARD

Please welcome **Robert Fairbank, Donald Olgado, and Kim Spanoghe** in the Partnership 3 Category. Many of you Friday night racers will recognize their names and boat, *Double Play*, a Yankee 30, berthed on D Dock. This partnership's sponsors are **Paul Osborn, Doug Gooding and Scott Selover**. Volunteer interests include house maintenance, accounting, computer info systems and photography.

NEW APPLICANT

A recent relocation to San Francisco brings **Thomas Miller**, an attorney, to SBYC as an applicant in the Associate category. Former owner of power boat, *Sea of Defects*, a 50' Bertram Sportfisher, Thomas was also a member of the Balboa Bay Club in Newport Beach from 1991-2005 and hopes to soon join the ranks of "boatownership" once again. He is sponsored by **David Latch, Wendy Hanrahan, and Mike Kastrop**.

Gerard Sheridan

(with help from Chris Joyce, 2007 Membership Chair)

Classifieds

Looking to form partnership

I am interested in forming a partnership with others on either a powerboat or sailboat with 3 to 4 partners. I currently have a Slip B13 and my boat is for sale, I have moved her to a sales dock in Alameda. My slip is on sublet with the harbor until April 1st. I'm interested in any opportunities that may be available before then.

Any interest or questions, please email or call:

Paul Janofsky - paulj@valleyins.com - 925-519-2330

Happy New Year!

From your WaveLength Crew

Tad Sheldon, Editor

Ray Irvine, Layout Editor

Letter to the Editor

Dear Tad,

I recently found a photo of Richard Forst at the helm of our boat while doing his turn during an offshore passage, sort of like him taking his turn in his Commodore role this past year. In this case, he has relinquished the helm to take it easy. Any use for this in the Wavelength, or too late?

Pete - pbsorenson@earthlink.net

Dear Pete: A picture like this is always welcome to put in the Wavelength any time. Thanks for the picture, and Richard, thanks for a job well done!

Tad



Friday Night Finish: SBYC's Friday Night Races were a lot of fun last year, even when viewed from AT&T Park. We look forward to great things in 2008 from South Beach Yacht Club with more fun activities on water and land.

Picture Credit: Norm Pearce



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It Could Have Been Much Worse - a close view of the *Cosco Busan* after the Oil Spill – Tad Sheldon

It was a sunny day the first weekend the bay was open to pleasure boating. My sister was in town with her family. We were going to take them on the usual tour of the bay, and ultimately had a great time, as one always does when you tour the beautiful waterfront from South Beach all the way to the Marina District. As we headed out of South Beach Harbor, we decided to look at the Bay Bridge Pier to see the damage, and was surprised to see the pier still covered in oil on the corner where it had ripped the Cosco Busan bunker crude fuel tanks apart as the ship bounced and scraped along the bridge pier. We snapped pictures, and then tacked back to the Cityfront.



Oil still stained the Bay Bridge Pier where the Cosco Busan hit more than a week later

Photo credit: Lynn Sheldon

Please turn to page 6



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Cosco Busan from page 5

It was a bit cold and foggy along the Fisherman's wharf area, so we furled the jib and motored in close to view the USS Pampanito Submarine and USS Jeremiah Obrien before heading into the commercial harbor by the Hyde Street Pier. My young nephews were excited to see the sights and steered the boat with great concentration, wandering from their course only occasionally.

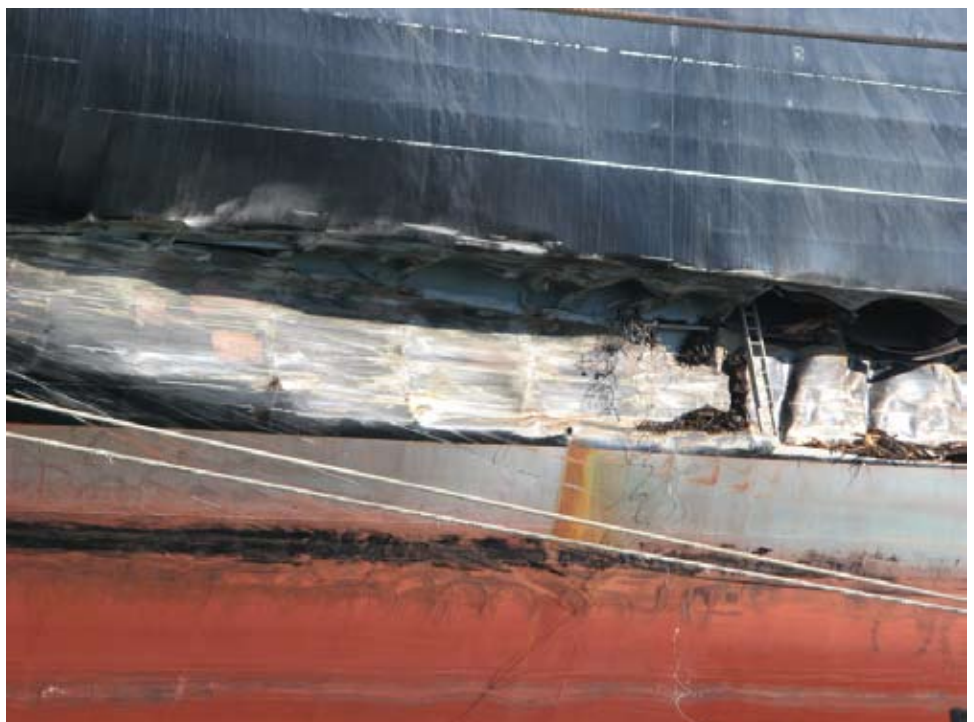
As we headed back out of the fog and into the warm sun along the city front, I shut down the engine and we pulled out the jib, and sailed along the waterfront past the Ferry Building, Firehouse No. 1 and South Beach Harbor. As we continued down the bay, I noticed a container ship next to the Drydocks at the Shipyard, and we dropped sails to go in to take a look. Sure enough, it was the infamous Cosco Busan herself, empty and riding high in the water on a Sunday afternoon. She must have arrived at the shipyard that morning after offloading her containers in Oakland. Our chatter grew silent as her damage came into view. Razor wire still hung off her hull where it had been ripped from the bridge pier. The gouge along her side penetrated into her interior container bulkheads, and extended perhaps 250 feet along her side before she bounced off the pier.

Viewing a representation of the Cosco Busan track at the BoatingSF Website, <http://www.boatingsf.com/busan.php>, it appears that the ship was on course out of the Oakland Estuary, hesitated, then turned directly into the Bay Bridge tower before proceeding into the main part of the bay where she eventually stopped to assess the damage.

The one thing that impressed me while looking at the Cosco Busan was how lucky we all are that the ship did not strike the bridge directly, and instead only hit with a glancing blow. Sure, the oil spill caused a lot of property damage with a cleanup cost that exceeded \$60 million. But it could have been a much worse disaster than it was. We can only wait for the NTSB Report to come out to see what happened for sure.

Our Maritime Industry is a very important part of the economy of the San Francisco Bay Area. But it, as any industry, is not without risk. While working on Race Committee, I'm always struck by the skill of pilots who maneuver their huge ships while we are conducting a race. And I'm even more surprised when we get a call from the Pilots themselves asking where we are sending the racers, so they can make sure to give our racers plenty of room so everyone has fun. They are usually very courteous in their dealings with our race operations. With Rule No. 9, they don't have to be.

So, next time you see a big container ship or tanker on the bay, think about those Pilots who navigate their huge ships through some of the most treacherous conditions in the world. Steer clear of them. The pilots earn a lot of money, but they deserve every penny.



It could have been much worse for the Bay Area
Photo credit: Lynn Sheldon

Vice Commodore Report:

Looking Forward to 2008

The new year brings a host of activities to SBYC. As I'm used to having a full schedule on the water, looks like that is following us to the club! It will be another busy year for the entire club. I am very excited about all the social events coming up. A top-line look at this years events include (subject to change – check the calendar for updates):

February 3rd – Super Bowl Party
February 9th – Marti Gras Party
March 16th – Easter Egg Dying
March 16th – St Patricks Day Dinner
April 27th - Opening Day on the Bay BBQ
May 10th – KABOOM (Estimated date)
June 15th – Fathers Day BBQ
July 4th – 4th of July BBQ
July 19th – 60's Summer of Love Hippie Party
August 16th – SBYC 20th Anniversary Party
August 29st – Jazz Cup Party
September 13th – Life's a Beach Party
October 31st – Halloween Party
November 8th – Annual Crab Dinner/Feast

This will all be in addition to the events for the Water programs. The club will be a very busy place this year. So, be sure to watch the website and your email for updates throughout the year. If you have any suggestions of other activities you would like to participate in at the club, please let me know.

HOOD

I am happy to welcome **Rob Moon** to the House Volunteer Group for 2008. Rob will be serving as HOOD for this year. Any member who is interested in becoming an OOD should contact Rob directly to get information.

A special Thanks goes to **Lisa Gidley** for all her hard work this past year as HOOD. **Lisa** did a great job getting us up and running in the new clubhouse and making sure all the OOD's were trained in the new club. Thanks again to **Lisa** for her hard work.

Volunteers Needed for House Activities

In order to run such a full program for 2008, lots of volunteers are needed. If you are interested in volunteering helping with ANY of the House events please let me know – even if it's just for one day.

Nancy DeMauro

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Island Fever Race #2 Results -- Emmanuel Uren

Sail #	Skipper	Boat	Boat Class	Elapsed	Corrected	Points
Spinnaker 139 & below - Start 13:15 Distance=3.9 nm Course: 02						
50	John Lymberg	Savage Beauty	Flying Tiger 10M	2:55:21	2:52:37	1
39	Don Sellers	Josie	Dehler 39	DNF		9
49143	Max Crittenden	Solar Wind	Martin 32	DNF		9
28362	Paul Eisenhardt	Sierra II	Sabre 362	DNF		9
33562	Jonathan Gutoff	Stink Eye	Laser 28 ODR	DNF		9
18679	Lloyd Ritchey	Breakout	Santana 35	DNF		9
87323	Chips Conlon	Fancy	Ericson 33	DNF		9
15	Fabio/Cino Maino/Bonardi	Centomiglia	Flying Tiger 10M	DNF		9
Spinnaker 140 & Above - Start 13:25 Distance=2.8 nm Course: 01						
1383	Ray Irvine	Crews Nest	Catalina 34	3:07:23	3:00:31	1
S476	Sally Taylor	Auggie	Santana 22	3:17:50	3:06:55	2
5850	Warren Wilson	Tricaps	Ranger 26	DNF		9
420	Dan Knox	Luna Sea	Islander 36	DNF		9
108	Baskin / Brosowsky	Sea Spirit	Catalina 34	DNF		9
447	John Melton	Freedom Won	Islander 36	DNF		9
5843	Tim Walsh	Star Ranger	Ranger 26	DNF		9
28440	RDK Partners	Double Play	Yankee 30	DNF		9
Spinnaker 180 Only - Start 13:35 Distance=2.8 nm Course: 01						
5504	Joe/Ray Askins/Hall	Dancing Bear	Catalina 30	2:49:26	2:41:02	1
6375	Amanda Deisher	Huge	Catalina 30	2:54:24	2:46:00	2
1210	M&L Kastrop	Goose	Catalina 30	2:56:37	2:48:13	3
4494	Russell Calvery	MissyB	Catalina 30	3:02:50	2:54:26	4
38911	Andrea Mariotti	Mutual Fun	Newport 30 MkII	3:09:22	3:00:58	5
28619	Roger/John Tennyson	Grinnin' Bear	Catalina 30	DNF		7
Non-Spinnaker - Start 13:45 Distance=2.8 nm Course: 01						
33	Ruth Summers	Popeye & I	Cal 9.2	2:39:47	2:32:05	1
38115	Pete Hamm	Seaview	C&C 115	2:45:51	2:42:38	2
265	Ken Naylor	La Maja	Islander 30	DNF		5
6289	Paul Berger	Bianca	Islander 30 mk II	DNF		5

Full details can be found at: <http://www.southbeachyc.org/racing/index.htm>

**The SBYC Racing Community thanks the Race Committee
for their efforts during 2007**

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The "Wave Brief"

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Event	Start Date	Start Time	End Time
Board Meeting	1/3/2008	7:00 PM	10:00 PM
Installation Ball	1/12/2008	7:00 PM	11:00 PM
Nautical Knots	1/18/2008	12:00 AM	11:59 PM
Island Fever #3	1/19/2008	10:00 AM	6:00 PM
Board Meeting	1/31/2008	7:00 PM	10:00 PM
Ground Hog Day	2/2/2008		
Super Bowl Party	2/3/2008	2:00 PM	7:00 PM
Hosted by the Tennysons			
Member Meeting	2/8/2008	6:30 PM	9:30 PM
Marti Gras Party	2/9/2008	7:00 PM	11:00 PM
Hosted by Jayne Williams			
Nautical Knots	2/15/2008	12:00 AM	11:59 PM
Island Fever #4	2/16/2008	10:00 AM	6:00 PM

WINTER CLUB HOURS: FRI 1800-2200, SAT 1400-2000, SUN 1400-1800

The online version of this Wave Length can be found at:
<http://www.southbeachyc.org/Documents/Wave/current.pdf>

Tear this section out and post on your fridge or whiteboard to stay current with club events

INSIDE:

SBYC Brings Holiday Cheer	1
Commodore Report	2
As I was saying	3
Membership Report	3
Letter to the Editor	4
It Could Have Been Much Worse	5
Vice Commodore Report	7
For Sale	7
Island Fever Race #2 Results	8
Contacts and Calendar	9



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.... to form a sociable community of persons having common interests to promote yachting on San Francisco Bay, to provide a common bond for recreational boaters and their families, to sponsor and encourage yacht racing, to encourage family participation in boating, and to enjoy the beauty of San Francisco Bay and its environs.

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