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WAVELENGTH

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTH BEACH YACHT CLUB

VOLUME XXI ISSUE 22 MARCH 2014



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IS IT AUGUST YET?



Well, that's that! The SF 49ers are no more. It sounds odd in a sad kind of way. Yep, they flew the coop, gone; a defunct organization! Or as they say in Spain, Vaya con Dios, baby!!

Yes sir, they are now the San Fernando Farmers, or is that the San Anselmo Agriculturalists? Anyway, they ain't us anymore.

It's too bad, because they had a great team: a quarterback who could throw the ball through a brick wall and a linebacker to give him the time to do it, a coach that would just as soon arm-wrestle the opposing coach in place of the coin flip and a defense tougher than Russian grammar. But now they're the... the San Leandro Sea Lions or... whatever.

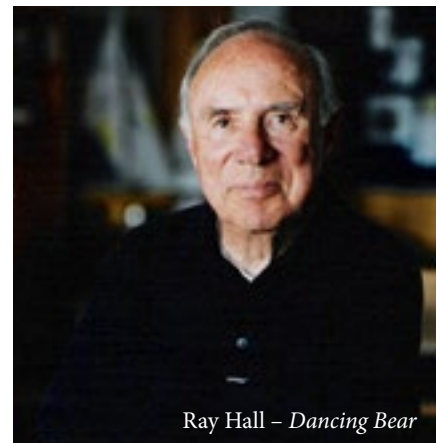
The 'Frisco 49ers' first appeared in 1946. They practiced at the polo field in Golden Gate Park. Great big guys in all white jerseys, pants and helmets (without face guards) doing exercises.

No one had any idea who they were. Star players had part-time day jobs! College football was the big deal at the time. Just mention Herman Wedemeyer (later he played Detective "Duke" Lukela on the crime drama *Hawaii Five-O*) and Forrest Hall and everyone knew Saint Mary's Galloping Gaels were playing the USF Dons at Kezar Stadium.

Right from the beginning the "Niners" played all home games at Kezar Stadium. The seats were so close to the field you could hear the plays called as well as the thump and clash of the shoulder pads. The LA Dons, Chicago Rockets and the Cleveland Browns were the big games. Afterwards you could walk across the field to catch a streetcar. There was no parking by Kezar so you took the street car to and from the game. And, with a dozen streetcars lined up in both directions waiting after the game, even a 59,942 capacity crowd was on their way home in no

time. Civilized, no rush, no fuss. (In 1955 tickets to the game were \$5.00 each – while one fellow across the street from the stadium was getting \$10.00 to park in his garage).

But, 'It is what it is'. From now on I'm going to root for the Saint Ignatius girls' field hockey team; Go you **WILD KITTENS!** Okay, I confess; come August, when NFL practice starts, maybe, just maybe, I might check and see how they are doing. Maybe.



Ray Hall – *Dancing Bear*



COMMODORE'S REPORT

They're coming to SBYC! The Clipper Yachts will be leaving Qingdao, China on March 16th to begin a 3,350 NM race across the Pacific to San Francisco, with South Beach Yacht Club as the Destination Club. They are expected to start arriving in the Bay on April 8th and will be in our harbor until their departure to Panama on April 19th. While they are here, we will have opportunities for some of our members to sail on the yachts in the Bay and to visit with the crew members about their experiences in this incredible race. The Club will be the center of activity for this stopover. Follow the progress of the yachts in their attempt to conquer the Pacific Ocean on their site [Clipper Round the World Yacht Race](#).

Save-the-date for Sir Robin Knox-Johnson on Saturday, April 12th. One of nine sailors to compete in the *Times Golden Globe Race*, Sir Robin set off from Falmouth on June 14, 1968. He had no sponsorship for his attempt to conquer the Everest of the sailing world. With his yacht *Suhaili* packed to the gunwales with supplies – including bottles of whisky and fruitcake baked by his aunt – he set off on a voyage that was to last just over ten months. He arrived back in Falmouth after 312 days at sea, on April 22, 1969, securing his place in the history books as the first man ever to sail solo and non-stop around the world. In 2007 he



Switzerland claims its first win of the Clipper Race during Race 7 to Brisbane, Australia

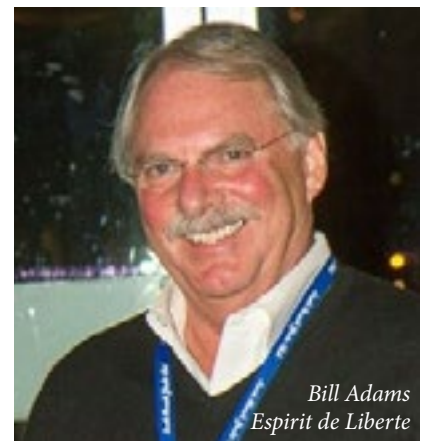
completed his second solo circumnavigation when he competed in the VELUX 5 OCEANS race.

On Sunday afternoon, April 13th, Clipper-Ventures will hold a recruiting seminar at the Club to give our members an opportunity to learn about the Race and about the Crew training experiences. Amateur sailors, working with professional skippers and mates, are provided the opportunity to live onboard 68-foot and 70-foot yachts. From day one it's team building, learning the ropes, cooking, cleaning and racing. Plus basics of yacht maintenance and management, racing tactics, survival at sea and weather routing. After this deep dive into the details you may decide to join the next Race!

On Saturday, April 19th, get out on the water to watch the start of the next leg of the Race to Panama. Twelve of the matched yachts will start the race in the central Bay near Alcatraz on the City Front. Let's give them an enthusiastic SBYC send off!

This month we will vote on our Capital Budget at the member meeting, so be sure to address any questions you may have to our treasurer, **Roger Ladwig**. With the approval of this budget, the Club will be moving forward with plans to add the "Access" dock space, additional Jr. Sailing boats and other improvements to the Club.

B I L L A D A M S



*Bill Adams
Espirit de Liberte*



VICE COMMODORE'S REPORT

First of all I would like to thank **Susie Fay** and all the volunteers who made Valentine's Day so special. Susie transformed our club into a French cabaret with a seductive show that included sword swallows, magicians, beautiful dancers and other incredible acts. And thank you Chefs John and Dan for a really excellent meal. The whole experience was wonderfully fantastic.

I'm at present trying to make some sense out of our storage units in pier 40. **Ken Ludlum** and I spent a day going through things, boxing and labeling items for future use. **Tom Rodgers** and **Pete Hamm** are also helping in these endeavors. If you have interest in what is in the storage please let me know and I will make sure we do not dispose of anything until you look it over. We are not going to touch the sailing unit because that looked reasonably tidy.

In related Club news, **Kevin Moss**, our new club steward, will be taking some time off in March to fulfill commitments he made prior to starting his job at our Club.

Commodore **Bill Adams** and I are working together to make your club experience as enjoyable as possible. Remember this club is for you, so if you would like to host a Club party call Kevin or myself and we will work with you to make it happen.

Speaking of, the Mardi Gras party was a huge success. Our hosts **Greg & Cathy Sherwood** hired both lively Brazilian Samba Dancers and the get-on-your feet-and-dance band **Bleu**.

Here is a list of upcoming events so that you don't miss out - pencil in your calendar now: welcome parties for the 12 Clipper Race teams from April 8th thru April 12th with special guest Sir Robin Knox-Johnson on Saturday, a farewell send-off on the 19th and April 20 a Easter Sunday



BARRIE WHEELER

Brunch; plus Opening Day on the Bay, Sunday April 27 with a lively BBQ; and the annual OOD Appreciation Day, Saturday, March 22.

Hope to see you at the member meeting Friday, March 14th. If not, drop in the following day for the final races and awards of the Island Fever Regatta. Please register early online!



S P L I C E T H E M A I N B R A C E

I have the great privilege of chairing SBYC's Hospitality Committee, a group of self-sacrificing men and women who leave no beer unquaffed or wine bottle unopened in tireless pursuit of their quest to fulfil the committee's mission of "improving the bar experience" at the Club. I can't tell you just how hard they work on your behalf, because much of what they do involves countless hours of diligent research on their own time, scouting numerous bars and wineries for new brews, booze and wines to bring home to you, our members. And sometimes, just sometimes, we have something new to show for all their efforts.

Like now, for example...

WINE OF THE MONTH

While our latest wine line-up is drawing good reviews from our members and their guests, look out for a featured "Wine of the Month" to show up on our wine list and on the bar whiteboard as a new listing or as a temporary replacement for an existing selection. If we bring in a wine as a temporary replacement and our members really like it, we will continue it. We have already identified a few candidates of the month but if you know of a great value wine that you'd like to recommend, we want to hear from you!



HEALTHY SNACKS, ANYONE?

We have often looked for so-called 'healthy' bar snacks in place of the cholesterol-laden chips that we love to consume. The problem has been they either taste like cardboard or cost far more than our present chips – on which we already spend over \$4,000 a year, or 5% of our total bar expenses. So watch out for two new snack offerings that we will be selling at the bar:

- Fresh veggies and tasty dip
(in collaboration with Chefs John and Dan in the kitchen)
- Individual bags of nuts.



H U G H C O P P E N

Just like everything else, if you like the options, we'll continue with them - and if you don't, we won't!

OOD TIP OF THE MONTH

Just a reminder to work with our BAADS friends in implementing the new BAADS badging policy which we agreed with them and which I advised you of in a recent email. For a refresher, it is also posted in the OOD Manual on the bar. Splice the mainbrace, y'all!



Here's Kevin in the cockpit on our first evening delivering the boat south from Yacht Haven in the north east of Phuket down to Nai Harn Bay in the south.

REAR COMMODORE REPORT

Most of you will have seen my emails in recent weeks on two educational seminars on Tactics and the Racing Rules of Sailing. However, some of you (35 of you to be precise) have turned off email notifications so maybe you've missed it. It strikes me that the same people may also be missing out on receiving a link to the Wavelength every month.

First off, we have the seminar on Tactics on April 2nd at 7pm. Two colorful personalities are leading this event, **Kame Richards** and **John Super**. Kame is the owner of *Pineapple Sails* along with his wife Sally. He also leads a very interesting tour of the Bay Model in Sausalito every year. This is a scale model of the entire SF Bay and the rivers feeding into it and shows the turning of tide every 15 minutes.



GERARD SHERIDAN

This is a most informative tour and I strongly encourage any of you to catch it. Many of you also know him well for his very successful campaigning of **Golden Moon**, an Express 37.

John Super is Staff Commodore of our good neighbor, the **Bay View Boat Club**. An interesting bit of local sailing trivia; he is the founder of the infamous annual **Plastic Classic Regatta** hosted by BVBC every July.

John has a pretty keen understanding of the current patterns here, south of the Bay Bridge and I thought that would be a good dimension to bring to the Club event.

I'm looking forward to learning something new for my racing and I'm looking forward to a full house!

Late last year I took a two-day Advanced Race Management class, which I mentioned here last month.

At that course I met Mike Gross and when he heard I was going to be the new Rear Commodore for 2014, he offered his help for races or talks.

Well, I decided to take him up on that offer when I ran into him at BVBC at the launch of their AS1 buoy party in November. Mike has an encyclopedic knowledge of the Racing Rules of Sailing and I'm delighted that he's doing a session with us on April 10th.



A view of Nai Harn Bay from the beach. We spent two nights here in this bay before provisioning for the trip to the offshore islands.



Nai Harn Bay and the Longboats that are a common form of water taxi and fishing boat around Thailand.



Cheese & wine before dinner on our last night before our sail to the Similan Islands, a 6-7 hr day sail north-west of Nai Harn. L-R: Adam, Hans, Gerard, Karsten & Kevin.



We had the idea that we'd head over in the tender and barter for some fresh fish! This was so much fun and one of the highlight of the trip for me.

Both events are free so there's no excuse for not taking advantage of the knowledge of these three men. Go to the website and sign-up now!

Some of you have remarked to me recently that I've missed the first two Members Meetings. Of course I have very good reasons for both, but my favorite is the first – two weeks sailing aboard the fine yacht, **Yasooda**, a 70ft custom-built German racer/cruiser based in Phuket, Thailand.

So how did I swing this one I hear you say. Well, it's kind of a long story but it has a strong SBYC connection. Hans, the owner, is a very good and longtime friend of our fellow member, **Karsten Mau**. I first met Hans when he came to visit Karsten while he was in the hospital here in September 2011.

Kevin Wilkinson and our mutual friend **Adam Simmons** and I really liked Hans and our suspicions about him being a really cool guy have proven to be correct.

Now, Karsten was not so well at the time but Hans was confident he'd make a full recovery and to celebrate that he promised we'd all get together for a 'celebration of life' cruise aboard his beautiful Yasooda in Phuket at the appropriate time.

Thankfully, Karsten has made a remarkable recovery and joined us recently with his wife Kirsten, here in South Beach during the America's Cup for a two-week vacation. Much of the Yasooda cruise plan was hatched then and in subsequent weeks over email with Hans, who lives in Singapore most of the time.

It's fair to say, I've not anticipated a trip as much as I had this

one. I know the same goes for us all involved. So it was with great excitement, a small bag of luggage and a backpack of camera gear that I joined Hans, Karsten, Kevin and Adam in Phuket on January 12th for two glorious weeks. There we met JoJo, Yasooda's Captain, who has been with Hans and the boat for over 6 years, so he knows it really well and takes really good care of her.

I'm not going to give a full account of the cruise as that is beyond the space of this article, but I will let my [Flickr](#) pictures tell the rest of the story! The photos here are just a small sample of 4,500 pictures and video I shot during the two weeks. It was six good friends, celebrating life and having some good clean fun just messing around in boats. And isn't that what we're all about here at SBYC?

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AC34 AFTERGUARD AWARD

Lisa Gidley received her Afterguard Award at the February Members Meeting. Our Club became known throughout the Bay, and around the world, as not only as a friend to the America's Cup, but to the cause of enjoying fellowship on and around the water, thanks to Lisa's efforts along with those of many dozens of member volunteers.



VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Recognized at the February Members Meeting, **Hugh Coppen** is an amazing volunteer who is truly extraordinary.

He is the financial engine of the club...no, correction...HE IS OUR CLUB. His inventory control system is exceptional...run with precision and profitability while still giving us the cheapest drinks in town and always providing new and interesting selections behind the bar. And when it comes to people management...whew, don't we all wish we could have a manager like Hugh?

He continually vies for the GOM stool, he drives the coolest car in the Bay area, has the most beautiful smile in town, and is one of the nicest people you'll ever meet. Thank you Hugh!

SOUTH BEACH YACHT CLUB EVENTS CALENDAR

Friday, March 14	6:00 PM	Member Meeting - Please pre-register
Saturday, March 15	2:00 PM	Book Club ~ A Confederacy of Dunces by John Kennedy Toole
Saturday, March 15	3:30 PM	Island Fever Race Finale & Awards
Saturday, March 22		OOD Appreciation Day
Wednesday, April 2	7:00 PM	Race Tactics Seminar With Kame Richards & John Super
Thursday, April 10	7:00 PM	Racing Rules of Sailing Refresher
Saturday, April 12		Special Guest Sir Robin Knox-Johnson - details to come

visit www.southbeachyachtclub.org for details and reservations