



View From the Bridge

by Bret Clark, Commodore



A brief look back...

May was a very busy month for the Club! The first Saturday of the month brought our first Kentucky Derby Days event. You will see a detailed article in this month's Foghorn, but I would like to recognize Andrea Jackson for her work in bringing this event to the Club! During this same weekend, some of our members attended the Nor Cal Pacific Sail and Power Boat Show. I wish that I could have attended both of these events, but work commitments made me choose the Kentucky Derby Days. At least that made it easier for me to decide between the two. The Saturday after this event brought our Commodore's Dinner. This event had been on hiatus during the COVID-19 pandemic, and it was really great to see so many of our Staff Commodores enjoying being together again. This event also assisted me in learning more about the history of the club and the background of the decisions that were made. A special, "thank you," goes out to Barry Stewart for his work in making this event a success. Cruising Captain, Mike Ginn organized a sail to Pacific Corinthians Yacht Club at the Channel Islands harbor. It is good to know that several boats were flying the San Luis Yacht Club burgee at this event. Our Friday night socials continue to be well-attended despite Avila getting busier as we head into the summer.

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Looking ahead...

We have several events planned for the early part of the summer. This includes our annual Port San Luis Sail Day and BBQ, Ocean Races, and our annual Cheeseburgers in Paradise 4th of July event. I will be setting up reservations for the Cheeseburgers in Paradise event in Square in the next week. Be sure to prepay to reserve your spot so that we will be able to properly plan for food for the event and ensure that there is space for you. As always, if you have any issues paying for the prepaid events using Square please contact me and I can help!

We had a good response to the Sailing Survey that I sent out last month. The board will analyze the information to develop ASA class offerings and make "Second Wind" and the Hobie Waves more accessible.

I would like to thank those of you who have signed up for volunteer duties in June; we are looking much better! There are still a few opportunities left in June, and many openings for the remaining months. I would like to remind those members who have yet to complete a service requirement that they will need to complete one by June 30th in order for their membership to remain in good standing. I also request that all of our members look at Time to Sign Up (https://www.timetosignup.com/sanluisyc/ folder/10389/) and try to sign up for at least one additional activity during the second half of the year. We have more than enough members to staff all of our remaining activities, assuming that each membership volunteers for two different events.

If you have any questions or concerns about the club and the course that we are on, please be sure to drop me a line. I will do my best to be transparent, informative, and open to opinions as we continue to chart through new waters.

Nautically, $-Bret \stackrel{\bullet}{\downarrow}$





Vice Views

by Bob Hurd, Vice Commodore

hoy!

With the June Foghorn we are halfway through 2023. I have had no problem with writer's block with all the events we have been having and the more routine things to talk about

in the Foghorn and I am not on strike.Since my last Foghorn article there was a Potluck on April 28, the Kentucky Derby "Run for the Roses" Watch Party, (see photo below) an outing to the Nor Cal Pacific Sail and Power Boat Show, a Wet Wednesday, and a Commodore's Dinner. Look for articles on the events throughout this editon of the Foghorn.

With all the activities we have had and more coming I think I can echo what Commodore **Bret Clark** has been saying, that we are getting back to normal—even better.

June will be the first ocean races of the year and there are openings on Time To Sign Up for the various tasks to put on the race.

Speaking of Time To Sign Up, there are several opportunities for volunteers that need to be filled:

Friday, June 2, Social-Food Host/Clean-up

Sunday, June 4, Ocean Races-(2)Race Committee

☞ Friday, June 9, Social-Bar Host, andFood Host/ Clean-up (2)

Saturday, June 17, Sail Day/BBQ-Bar Hosts(2)

 Friday, June 23, Social-Bar Host(2) and Food Hosts/ Clean-up

➡ Friday, June 30, Potluck-BarHost and Kitchen Help/ Clean-up

Remember, this year we have a new requirement that requires members to sign up and/or complete 1 service by June 30.

As Chairman of the Finance Committee, I can report that we have met several times so far and we will have some recommendations for the Board that I can talk about in a future Foghorn.

Thank you all for helping make our Club so much fun.

See you at the club or on the water. $-Bob \downarrow$



SLYC crowd cheering for their 'bets' at the Kentucky Derby "Run for the Roses" Watch Party

Sau Luis 🎓 Yacht Club



Sr. Staff Commodore Report

by Mike Davis, Sr. Staff Commodore

hoy Members!

It is my responsibility as the Senior Staff Commodore to develop a Nominating Committee made up of past Commodores with the charge to put together a slate of officers for 2024. I will be presenting our committee to the Board for approval in June. Once the Committee is approved, we will post their names in the Foghorn and Scuttlebutt. The Nominating Committee will be talking to current Board members, reviewing new interested members, and putting together the slate of officers for 2024. The Committee's recommendations will be submitted to the Board for approval at the September Board meeting.

Please, if you are interested in serving on the Board, talk to the current officers, and nomination committee members and read our Constitution, which is printed in our directory, as it delineates what the Board positions entail. Being on the Board is the best way to get to know the working of the club. You can be instrumental in shaping our club's plans for the coming year.

> At your service, always, —Mike 🕹



From the Director

by Tom McNeill, Director 2

hoy Shoppers!

If you haven't seen the new merchandise that is available at the clubcheck it out! **Jana Barter**, the club's Quartermaster, has done another great job helping organize the designs and purchasing the new apparel. Do any of you have trouble with knot tying? There is a shirt for that too! My new favorite design is the t-shirt that has illustrations on how to tie 10 common sailor knots. The only problem with the design is that it is on the back of the shirt—not very accessible in an emergency.



— Tom 🕹



convention fees.

Cruising News

by Michael Ginn, Cruising Captain

Kate McInerney, Kyle Soucy and Anna

Mullen reviewed information (at the club) from the sailing convention they attended in April. Each of them were provided \$150 for reimbursement of their





From the Rear Commodore

by Joe Montgomery, Rear Commodore

A hoy! The news this week could seem mundane to most of you; however, I promise to end it on something adventurous. Finally, I got around to replacing all the metal pipe hangers that hold up our sewer and water lines, under the club house. Now, new plastic hangers will support all pipes exposed to the salty elements. At last I received the three estimates on the upgrades to the galley. I think its going to be a great upgrade, something that we all could be proud of...Now, for a short story that I thought would be fun to write about. I drove the two and half hour drive north to Moss Landing, with the idea of solo sailing my 35ft Tartan, Sloop that is berthed there. I spent the night sleeping on "Dances with Waves" her given name, thinking about and preparing her for tomorrows sail. The next day at 1100 I sailed out into Monterey Bay with both sails up with a nice gentle breeze. Joining me, were a couple of Bottlenose Dolphins that swam along side of me for a brief moment. I sailed onward on a nice starboard tack about four miles off shore. Noticing the wind picked, I put her in Auto Pilot and put a second reef in the main sail. White caps became apparent, and I was just about ready to come about when I saw a rather large, humpback whale coming at me from a perpendicular angle. I held my course not knowing what to expect. The whale, passed under the bow, disappeared and then came up on my starboard side. It looked at me with its large dark eye, as I looked back staring at this magnificent creature. I could have touched it, for he/she was that close. Then...It was gone...At about that moment, I realized that the weather was picking up, and my comfort zone was diminishing. I came about, heading for port at 6.8 knots! I backed "Dances with Waves" into her slip and couldn't wait to share my story with the local live-aboards. So, I thought, why knot share it with you.

P.S. To identify the humpback whale they have long pectoral fins and a torpedo shape body, tapered at both ends. They grow to 55ft in length. The one that visited me was longer than my 35ft hull.

Smooth Sailing, —Joe 🕹



Power Report

by Pat Mullen, Power Captain

A hoy! We kicked off the season with three recent Chase Boat orientations to give new club members a chance to crew and skipper Chase Boat. The weather for each training was great and it was so fun to be out on the bay on a boat in nice weather! Participants reviewed towing and trailering, conducted equipment checks, launched the boat at the PSL Sport Launch, skippered Chase and practiced approaches and departures to load and unload crew members, inflated and set race markers, docked and retrieved Chase using the sling at Port San Luis and then rinsed and flushed the engine for storage. Participants included: **Phil Borgardt**, *Randy Kingsbury*, **Kristin Blecha** and **Michael Mazzella**, **Anna Mullen**, **Mike Ginn**, **Jack Luxton**, **Nick Frost**, **David Butcher** and special thanks to **John Stocksdale**, **Mike Davis** and **Rod Valine** for serving as co-instructors. If you want to learn how to crew or run Chase Boat, just let me know.

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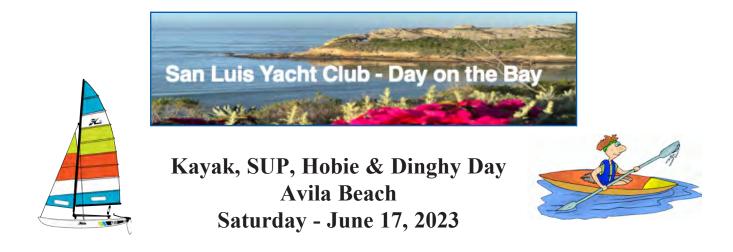


Our Community Relations committee's Avila and PSL Beach Clean Up event was a great success with over 30 participants! It was a sunny morning at the club where we found lots of trash, old tires and even a set of rental car keys....and then reunited the keys with their owner who was so incredibly thankful for us finding them! Saved her over \$500 dollars! Mimosas, coffee, and doughnuts helped fortify the team. Club volunteers included: **Kristin Blecha, Sally Krenn, Reid Hester, Shannon Donahue, Tom** Swem, Mercedes Swem, Randy Kingsbury, Carol Kingsbury, Barry Cleveland, Matt Roberts, Kathleen O'Neil, Ray Koenig, Paula Dempsey, Bonnie Gardner, Catherine Ulrich, Philip Borgardt, Chris Barrett, Dennis Kunkel, Cathy Kunkel, Margie Weintraub, John Maulhardt, Anna Mullen, Pat Mullen, Jack Szytel, Jeff Szytel, David Butcher, and community members Supervisor Dawn Ortiz-Legg, Rocco Horner, Achilles Horner, Chad Ianneo. It was a fun morning in Avila – and made a difference.

> Cheers, −Pat 🕹



Upcoming Events



Plan on having some fun at our local paradise beach with popular water toys like kayaks, stand up paddle boards (SUPS), Hobie Wave's and even our dinghy's. Everyone is welcome to come out and play at the beach even if they don't have a water toy to share.

We will launch from Port San Luis and Fisherman's Beach to go play on the bay, paddle over to the Lighthouse for tide pool exploring, and end the day with a BBQ at the yacht club.

Upcoming Events

July 4th Avila Boat Parade Noon-2pm followed by Cheeseburgers in Paradise at the club. See you there!



"As you can see, 4th of July is one of my husband's favorite times of the year."

2023 Commodore's Dinner

After a hiatus of several years due to COVID 19, the San Luis Yacht Club hosted a Commodore's Dinner on Saturday, May 13.

In the past the Commodore's Dinner, hosted by the current Commodore, was in January. The beginning of the year is a busy time, and this year the dinner was moved to May, after Opening Day.

Another change this year was that instead of the dinner being a fully catered event, club members **Barry Stewart** and **Marty Fuller** prepared the multi course meal.

Fifteen Commodores in all attended this year, including: **Del Hollinger**, 1965 and 1967; **Darrell Rundstrom**, 1989; **Charlie Nichols**, 1992; **Jay Chapel**, 1996; **Patrick McGowen**, 1998; **Karen Hiatt**, 2005; **Dori Zwinger**, 2008; **Michael Dobrzensky**, 2009; **Bob Hurd**, 2011; **Warren Ristow**, 2012; **Bill Dyer**, 2013; **Tom Swem**, 2014; **Mary Matakovich**, 2017; **Barry Stewart**, 2019 and 2020; **Bret Clark**, 2023.

It was fun to see so many commodores in one place at one time and enjoy the sumptuous meal prepared by our own members.

Barry Stewart and Marty Fuller were assisted in preparing the meal by Lettie Fuller and Kristin Rasmussen. Kevin Daily had no problem tending bar with the assembled commodores.

A big thanks also to Carol Thom for laundering the white tablecloths from the event.

Dinner included salad, beef filet mignon or salmon, baked potato, vegetables, and dessert. And of course, wine.

The successful event sets the bar for future Commodore's Dinners and shows that a dinner commemorating past commodores for their service can be done with an eye to watching costs.

-Bob Hurd, Vice Commodore 🕹



2023 Kentucky Derby "Run for the Roses" Watch Party



Photo collage by Michael Dobrzensky

The Kentucky Derby is held on the first Saturday of every May at Churchill Downs in Louisville, Kentucky, and it is said that the Kentucky Derby is, "The most exciting two minutes in sports,"—it just takes all day to get to those two minutes.

The build up to the race was what Member Andrea Jackson wanted to capture with her idea for the San Luis Yacht Club First Annual Kentucky Derby "Run for the Roses" Watch Party.

By all accounts the inaugural event was a success with over 30 people in various hats and outfits, just like in Kentucky.

Over 30 race fans enjoyed food fit for the occasion including croissant sandwiches, potato salads, cookies, and pineapple.

At the bar you could order a mint julep or a pomegranate orange vodka cooler.

And while on the big screen the pre-race ceremonies played out you could partake in a sailboat race designed by **Greg Jackson**, dressed in a Panama hat.

Credit for the successful event goes to many people. Bar Hosts for the day, serving up mint juleps and more, were **Sylvia Dodd** and **Ray Mattison**. **Colleen Mattison** assisted at the bar. Food was provided by **Andrea Jackson**, **Mary Bucher**, and **Georgina Pease**. Assisting Andrea with the decorations was **Terry Whitney** and **Brenda Noakes**. I am sure I missed someone, but you get the idea, there were a lot of people that made this event so much fun.

Clean up was made light work by everyone that helped.

With the first annual First Annual Kentucky Derby "Run for the Roses" Watch Party under having been so much fun I am looking forward to next year—and improving on my outfit.

−Bob Hurd, Vice Commodore 🕹



Big Dig - 1997

DAVID, GOLIATH

AND THE BEACH

CLEANING MACHINE

HOW A SMALL CALIFORNIA TOWN FOUGHT AN OIL GIANT-AND WON!

RBARA WOLCOTT

EXPLOSION AND STINK IN AVILA BEACH

The first indicator that something was wrong in Avila was its smell. Locals wrote it off as "that's just the way Avila smells". Imagine a combination of seaweed and tar. Unbeknownst to them, there was an underground lake of leaked oil stretching from San Luis Creek to the west, to San Luis Street in the East, and south fifty yards out under the sea.

The second indicator was an explosion. In 1977, a young man named Everett and his girlfriend Linda were painting in their basement apartment next to what is now the only still vacant lot on Front Street. Suddenly, an explosion underneath thrust them out a closed window. Glass shattered everywhere but, miraculously, they landed on their feet alive. Their hair was singed, and paintbrushes were still in their hands. Yacht Club member **Pete Kelley** witnessed them coming through the window.

These details surrounding Unocal's Big Dig in 1997 come courtesy of Pete Kelley as well as Barbara Wolcott author of David, Goliath and the Beach Cleaning Machine. This book is available to members and can be found in the Club's library to the right as you enter our building.

The following is excerpted from the book:

"Over the years that Unocal was the major economic player in Avila Beach, there had been a number of known aboveground spills. Pete Kelley is...a big man with a gentle manner, Kelley had a dream...to launch his first enterprise...in Avila Beach on Front Street...It was an exciting time for Kelley and it was successful from day one. Offering Caribbean cuisine...it quickly became an area favorite and was called 'Pete's Seaside Café'. (However, and) according to Kelley, anyone who dug underground always hit oil. He added, 'My landlady, old Miss Barbara, (bar owner of Miss Barbara's By the Sea) had fumes in her apartment, and I think she suffered some health problems because she lived closest to the leak."

In the ensuing years, Unocal offered many solutions but finally settled on tearing down all the buildings in downtown and saving the only two historic buildings—the San Luis Yacht Club and the Avila Grocery. The Yacht Club was moved to Cherry Canyon for two years while



San Luis Yacht Club move. Moving the Yacht Club was complicated by its width, which is greater than the bridge over which it had to travel on its way to a temporary berth at Cherry Canyon. Experienced professionals had some anxious moments until the flatbed truck made it past the barrier without mishap. © Dale Reid Ginder

the lake of oil was dug up.

"Moving the Yacht Club was complicated by its width which is greater than the bridge over which it had to travel...Experienced professionals had some anxious moments until the flatbed made it past the barrier without mishap."

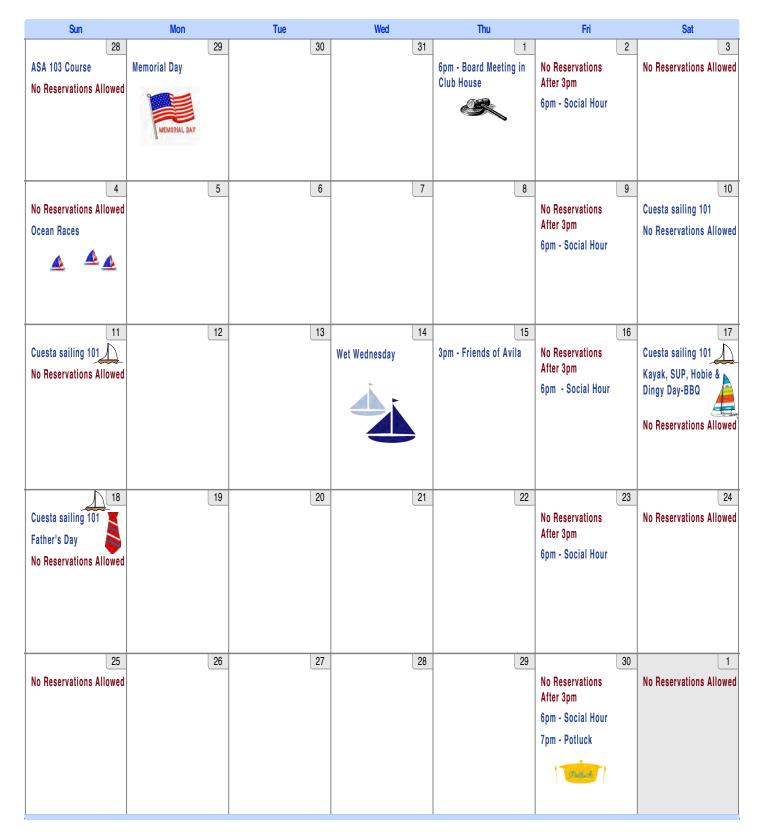
When the dig was completed, construction began on rebuilding Front Street, and this is the Avila we see today.

> -Club Member, Margie Hurd J

Photo by Dale Reid Ginder

Events Calendar

June 2023



Events Calendar

July 2023



Bar Host/OD Schedule

June 2023

2 Friday Social

—TBD, OD Bar Hosts: Robin Tucker and Tom Kisinger James Madison Food Hosts/Clean-up: Brady Moore OPEN (1)

9 Friday Social

-Pat Mullen, OD Bar Hosts: Dave Tennant OPEN (1) Food Hosts/Clean-up: OPEN (2)

14 Wet Wednesday – On the Water

-Tom McNeill, OD Bar Hosts: Janine Lamond Ray Madison Chef Cook: Dennis Law Crew: Mardee Whithouse

16 Friday Social

-Bret Clark, OD Bar Hosts: Pat Mullen Gary Joralemon Food Hosts/Clean-up: Anna Mullen Laura Mullen

17 Saturday PSL Sail Day/BBQ

-TBD, OD Bar Hosts: OPEN (2) Chef Cook: Marcia Scott Food Hosts/Clean-up: Tammie Casiano Robert Lucas

23 Friday Social

-Bill McInerney, OD Bar Hosts: Mark Machala OPEN (1) Food Hosts/Clean-up: OPEN (2)

30 Friday Social/Potluck

- David Ouellet, OD Bar Hosts: Gary Joralemon OPEN (1) Kitchen Help/Clean-up: David and Patty Ouellet OPEN (1)

July 2023

4 **Tuesday – Cheeseburgers in Paradise** – Michael Ginn, OD *Bar Hosts*: Sylvia Dodd <u>OPEN (1)</u> *Chef Cook*: Jeff Bucher *Cook Crew*: Rod Valine <u>OPEN (2)</u> *Kitchen Help/Clean-up*: OPEN (1)

7 Friday Social

-Tom Swem, OD Bar Host: OPEN (2) Food Hosts/Clean-up: OPEN (2)

12 Wet Wednesday

-Bill McInerney, OD Bar Hosts: Ellen Sheffer OPEN (1) Chef Cook: Judy Bellis Cook Helper: Cori Burnett

14 Friday Social

- Bill McInerney, OD Bar Hosts: Nick Frost Chan Butcher Food Hosts/Clean-up: Chan Butcher Diane Frost

21 Friday Social Tom McNeill, OD Bar Hosts: OPEN (2) Food Hosts/Clean-up: OPEN (2)

28 Friday Social/Potluck

 Kristin Rasmussen, OD
 Bar Hosts: OPEN (2)
 Food Host/Clean-up: OPEN (2)







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Business Advertising



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Learn to Sail



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San Luis Yacht Club

Officers, Staff, and Committees 2023

Officers

Commodore Bret Clark

Vice Commodore Bob Hurd (Volunteer: TimeToSignUp)

Rear Commodore Joe Montgomery (Facility)

Secretary Katie Gillespie

Treasurer Mark Corella

Port Captain Tom Swem (Liaison to the Port)

Sail Fleet David Ouellet (Racing)

Power Fleet Captain Pat Mullen (Chase Boat)

Cruising Captain Michael Ginn

Directors

- 1 Kristin Rasmussen
- 2 Tom McNeill

3 - Bill McInerney

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Mike Davis

Ken San Filippo

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Boatmaster Greg Jackson

Small-Boat Master Hank Johnston

Burgees Bob Rollins

Editor (Foghorn) Donna Ellison

Historian Pete Kelley

Purser Denise Reynolds

Quartermaster Jana Barter (Ship's Store)

Sunshine Committee Kathleen O'Neill

Webmaster (Scuttlebutt) Michael Dobrzensky

Committees

Finance-Bob Hurd

House–Joe Montgomery

Membership-Ken San Filippo

Steering-Mike Davis

Nominating-Mke Davis

Social Directors Chair—Terry Whitney

Co-Chair-Brenda Noakes

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See "Staff Commodores"

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San Luis 🎓 Yacht Club