

the Foghorn

Newsletter of the San Luis Yacht Club



View From the Bridge

by Bret Clark,
Commodore

A hoy everyone! I would like to start this month's article by recognizing the impact that the Los Angeles-area fires have had and will have on our membership and our members' family, friends, and loved ones.

Happy New Year and Happy 2025!

January was a very busy month for me. The first week brought the Polar Bear Plunge, the first board meeting of your 2025 officers, and the Old Board-New Board Dinner.

Starting with the Polar Bear Plunge, I was very pleased to see a very full clubhouse. I would like to thank Sr. Staff Commodore, **Ken San Filippo** for being OD and one of the cooks. His crew, consisting of **Thom Dimmitt, Sylvia Dodd, Gary Ross, Patrick Corrigan, Barry Stewart, Keith Pellemeier, John and Mary Janowicz, Tim and Sue Waag,** and **Michael Taylor** ensured that there were warm drinks and plenty of food after the plunge.

Next, came our first board meeting. One of our first tasks was to develop our initiatives for the year. They are to:

- Offer Advanced ASA Sailing classes to the Membership
- Complete the galley and bar refresh project
- Continue to support Avila Beach community needs
- Analyze fixed club costs and propose solutions
- Review, revise, and delete (as necessary) all Board documents

I am excited to work with the new board and our membership to complete these initiatives. If you have additional items that you would like to see your board work on, please contact me.

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Clubhouse Projects:

Vice Commodore, **Pat Mullen**, is heading up the work on the galley and bar refresh. There are too many volunteers for me to list here, but I would like to thank Pat and his group for the work that they are doing. We are on-track to have the project completed in March. During February, the bar will also be brought down while we replace the flooring and add some additional features. During this time, we will still hold our Friday socials. Due to a recommendation made by our social chairs, the Valentine's Day Dinner and Dance is cancelled, but I am still hopeful that we will be able to hold our St. Patrick's Day Dinner and Dance.

New Membership Process:

Junior Staff Commodore, **Bob Hurd** will be working with the New Membership Committee in January and February to hold information sessions, distribute new membership applications, and recommend the slate of new members to the board. At present, we do not know the precise number of openings because we still have not received dues payments for several Flag Members.

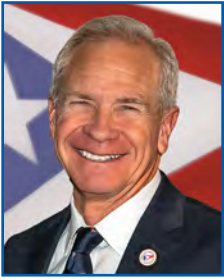
Volunteer Duties:

This year, when you go to the Membership page on our website, you will see the list of Flag Members and the date(s) of completed service. This will give you an easy way to ensure that you are meeting your 2025 volunteer requirement. To get to the original Membership Page (which houses Time to Sign-up) simply scroll to the bottom of the page and click the link. Vice Commodore, **Pat Mullen**, is monitoring Time to Sign-up to ensure that we are staffed for all of our 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 our course.



Nautically,
—Bret 



Vice Views

by Pat Mullen,
Vice Commodore

Greetings fellow Club Members. The Galley Refresh is in full swing! Every day for the past few weeks, our refresh team of **Marty Fuller, Dennis Dempsey, Steve Dahl, and Gary Cox** have been working extremely hard on the galley, adding new water and gas lines, new sinks and a new tankless water heater. They are making incredible progress toward what will be a fabulous new galley with stainless steel cabinets and shelving and new flooring. Please



be understanding of all the work going on if you happen to stop by the club. And when you see these club members, give them a big thank you. I also want to thank our team of volunteers who helped pack, move out and demo the galley including; Marty, Dennis, Steve and Gary and also **Mike Davis, Jack Luxton, Cindy Markham, David Butcher, Greg Jackson, and Nick Frost**. The club, galley and bar area will be closed to

events through March while the work is being done.

Reminder, you need to complete at least one service credit in the first half of the year, so sign up on TTSU now to get your service logged. If you have any concerns, feel free to reach out to me. We have many open spots that need volunteers to sign up. I also need some volunteers to help clean and repaint the galley stove so reach out if you're interested.

Volunteering is how you get to know other members better, learn more about the club and have more fun.

Cheers,
—Pat



Jr. Staff Commodore Report

by Bob Hurd,
Jr. Staff Commodore

Ahoy Members. By the time you read this there will have already been two Membership Application Meetings, January 16 and January 21, which per our current membership application procedures are the only time we distribute applications and sponsor forms. If you missed out, try again next year.

Going forward the timeline for membership is as follows:

- Deadline for submitting applications - 8 PM, February 7, 2025
- Notification of invitation to interview-Sunday February 16, 2025
- Interviews - Saturday February 22, 2025
- New members approved by the Board of Directors-Thursday March 6, 2025
- New members introduced to the Club on Opening Day-Saturday, April 12, 2025

Speaking of Opening Day, this year will be our 88th year. Look for an evite this year so we can get a better count of who will be attending.

If you have any questions regarding new membership, please contact me at jstaffcommodore@slyc.org or 805-550-9071.

—Bob



Rear Commodore Report

by Tom Swem,
Rear Commodore

A hoy Members. Yes it's now February 2025 and things at the Yacht Club are moving forward wonderfully. The first item to share is that our Galley Refresh project is coming along very nicely. A couple of the additions you may have seen at the Clubhouse are the coffee bar and the BBQ outside sink. The new coffee bar includes a storage space, a new coffee maker (disregard the coffee makers request for wifi, these things have minds of their own now days). Note the shelf above the sink area where we now have coffee pods and creamer. A special thank you to all our members who have stepped up to help with the Refresh; **Bret Clark, Pat Mullen, Dennis Dempsey, Steve Dahl, Marty Fuller, Gary Cox, Greg Jackson, Jack Luxton, Cindy Markham, David Butcher, Nick Frost and Barry Stewart...** Fantastic member participation.

Next I wanted to mention how members can reserve the clubhouse for personal reservations. Your Board has approved the following procedure for reservations (found in the Member's section of the YC website);

1. The board will not approve incomplete Reservation Forms For Facility Use. They need a completed Clubhouse Reservation Form, must be a member in good standing, and have submitted two checks (one for the rental, and one for the cleaning

deposit). When received, the Rear Commodore will assess if the event date is available and advise accordingly.

2. Once approved by the Board of Directors, the Rear Commodore will make a copy of the Clubhouse Reservation Form and staple the two checks to it and give it to the Treasurer.

3. At this time, the Rear Commodore will request that the event date be reserved on the YC Calendar.

4. The Treasurer will deposit the rental check and hold the cleaning deposit check that is attached to the form.

5. Once the event is over, the Rear Commodore checks the condition of the Clubhouse and, if the place is ship-shape, they notify the Treasurer that they can tear up the cleaning deposit check. If the Clubhouse needed to be cleaned, then the Treasurer deposits the cleaning deposit check.

Lastly, I wanted to let you know that our Large Water Containment Vessel in the attic (better known as the Hot Water Heater) is now gone...I'm pretty sure **Marty Fuller** only had to "Point at it" and like on TV, Got-Junk made it disappear...We now have an energy efficient on demand water heating system for the YC, our dishwasher will be happy to see a 120 degree sanitation cycle again. The issue we will be dealing with in the attic is the overabundance of STUFF...By the time the Refresh is completed, the attic will be cleaned and made habitable...Please do not go to Costco and buy a year's supply of anything and store the extras upstairs. On the bins for the special events; Please be sure the items in the bins are useful for the following year. PLEASE DO NOT USE THE ATTIC with the "bigger garage theory", where if you get a bigger garage you simple get more stuff to fill it. Thank you for your help on this.

That's all for now, so keep smiling as Springtime is just around the corner...

—Tom



From the Director

by Eddie O'Brien,
Director 2

Hello. My name is Eddie O'Brien, and I'm new this year as a San Luis Yacht Club Member and Director. I live in San Luis Bay Estates, Avila Beach, with my wife, Wendy. We moved to Avila Beach in 2020 from Morgan Hill, CA.

I'm retired, and my career was in real estate and finance.

Wendy currently works in high-tech. I enjoy being involved in our community, and I have served as the VP of our HOA for the last 2 years.

We are proud parents with 5 adult children, all college grads (3 with sports scholarships), and 6 grandchildren, with one family living locally in SLO County.

Although, our boating experience has been primarily with power boats, we look forward to learning more about sailing. The upcoming British Virgin Islands Sailing Trip should be an exciting initiation for us.

My duties as a 2025 Director will be monitoring our Club's Member Roster listed on the CA Alcohol Beverage Control website for Server ID (3-year) Certification status. I will notify Members, if they have 2025 Certification Expiration Dates.

Sincerely,
—Eddie



From the Director

by Freeman Tidaback,
Director 3

A hoy!
Me mother was a mermaid, me father was King Neptune. I was born on the crest of a wave and rocked in the cradle of the deep. Seaweed and barnacles are me clothes. Every tooth in me head is a marlinspike. Well, almost at least... Growing up in Santa

Cruz I ran to the ocean at every opportunity from the time I could totter around on the beach. Surfing, sailing and spear fishing were staples of my adolescence.

I entered the Naval Academy in 1999 and remained on active duty through 2015. My work in the Navy ranged from electrical officer, counter piracy/drug smuggling, as a boarding officer, to Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD)/Special Warfare integration.

While I got my MBA at UC Berkeley Haas in 2018 I decided my highest and best use was being a dedicated dad to my two wonderful daughters, Brighton and Margaux, who are 9 and 7 now. It's a lovely change of mentality from my military days. I look forward to serving the San Luis Yacht Club this year.

Sincerely,
—Freeman



Fleet News

by JJ Francoise,
Sail Fleet Captain

Hello fellow sailors and SLYC members!
I'm excited to introduce myself as the new Sail Fleet Captain for the San Luis Yacht Club, taking over from **Dave Ouellet**. It's an honor to step into this role and continue fostering the vibrant and passionate sailing community we all love. My sailing journey began at 15 in Brittany, France, where I fell in love with the water while learning to handle sailing dinghies like the 420/470/505 regatta series and Lasers. Since then, I've built on that

foundation with training at Les Glénans Sailing School, France, and earned ASA certifications ranging from keelboat to advanced cruising right here in California. Becoming a certified instructor has allowed me to share my love for sailing with others, and I'm thrilled to bring that same enthusiasm to our club.

This year, I'll be organizing the club's monthly races from May through October, and I can't wait to see sailors of all skill levels out on the water. In recent years, I've been teaching at the Santa Barbara Sailing Center, helping students gain confidence and independence as they discover the joy of sailing. Whether it's guiding a beginner through their first tack, mentoring an experienced sailor, or planning a fun race day, I'm passionate about creating memorable and rewarding experiences for everyone. I look forward to connecting with all of you on and off the water this year. Here's to a fantastic season of racing, learning, and camaraderie!

—JJ

Sunshine Committee



Remember to notify Kathleen O'Neill, Chairperson of the Sunshine Committee, of any illnesses, injuries, or surgeries of Club Members who may need some get well wishes and support from other Club Members. Please also notify her of the passing of any Club Member or their family members so that she may compose a tribute for them and send them a condolence card on behalf of the Club. As she and the Club always respect the privacy of Club Members, she will post a notice in the Foghorn about such illnesses, injuries, etc. only with the member's permission. Please contact Kathleen at 805-550-5010 or email her at koneill555@gmail.com.

— Kathleen O'Neill
Sunshine Committee

WILLO YVONNE CASHIER

November 3, 1932 ~ July 15, 2024

Willo and Dan Cashier joined the San Luis Yacht Club in 2000 and have been exemplary members. Sadly, Willo passed away in July 2024, which we only learned about while reaching out to update the directory for 2025. Following is the official obituary as written by Willo's family. Respectfully submitted by Kathleen O'Neill, "Sunshine" Chair

Willo passed away peacefully in her beautiful home which overlooks the Pacific Ocean in Pismo Beach, California.

Her passing is a loss to the many who knew her, but the loss we feel is insurmountable to the amount of Heaven's gain. She loved God and spent every day, especially Sundays, with time devoted to Him. Again, all our loss, but Heaven's gain.

Willo was born in La Jolla, California, on November 3, 1932. As a young girl growing up in the San Fernando Valley, she was very outgoing with friends and graduated from Van Nuys High School. Willo would remind us that she was a Tomboy growing up, always wanting to be outside, having fun and a little mischief!

Willo loved the Dallas Cowboys and the music of Rod Stewart. She also played softball well into her forties. She was quite an established bowler at the Conejo Village Bowl in Thousand Oaks for many years.

Along with her loving and kind-hearted husband, Daniel, they raised their three children, Debbie, Robert, and Denise. In the early years of their marriage, they lived in Granada Hills, California, and from there they moved to rural, Thousand Oaks, California, in the early 1960's.

While living in Thousand Oaks, Willo was very involved with girls' Bobby Sox softball and AYSO soccer teams. Her teams achieved great success and won many championships. From there, Daniel's career would bring them to years in Huntington Beach, Dana Point, and then finally to Pismo Beach in 1997.

Willo was involved in community activities throughout her life in Pismo Beach and on the Central Coast. She was on the San Luis Obispo Women's Shelter Board of Directors and helped with its fundraising activities at the Madonna Inn's annual musical shows.

Willo was also known to her grandchildren and great grandchildren as "WeeWee" and "Mama Wee-O". She lived a wonderful and long life, always putting her husband Daniel and her family first.

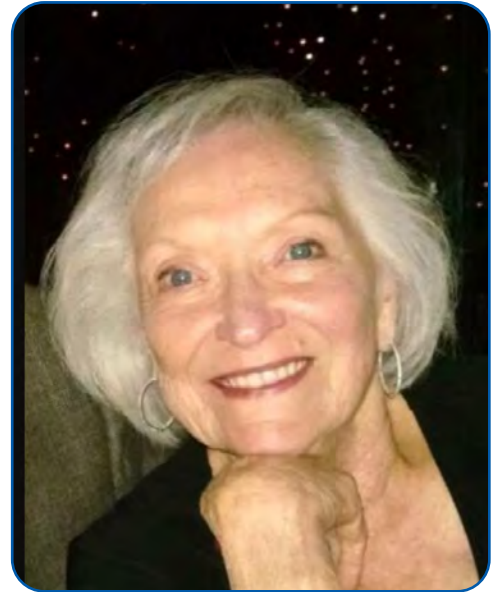
She was a strong loving woman who modeled poise, style, and grace throughout her entire life.

She balanced that grace, as we all try our best to do, while not shying away from challenges and was known for her honest opinions—never shying away from an intellectual discussion. If you wanted the truth, talk to Willo! Her honesty and integrity allowed anyone who knew her to share the things on their hearts, trusting that she would keep their confidences. She was a safe place and a trusted confidant.

Willo was preceded in death by her parents Robert and Monteil Cunningham; her sister, Sally La Mothe; and, sadly, her beautiful daughter, Debbie Scott.

Willo is survived by her husband, Daniel; her son-in-law, Jimmy Scott; her son Robert and daughter-in-law, Jennifer; her daughter Denise Cozza and son-in-law, Dan.

Willo was greatly blessed by her 7 grandchildren, Nicole, Cori, Simone,



Kristin, Cameron, Arlan, and Aaron; and furthermore, by her 6 great-grandchildren, Sydni, Sebastian, Armando, Enrique, Elijah, and, most recently, Penny, as well as, by her numerous nieces and nephews and their children.

Willo was loved and admired by the spouses and partners of her children, grandchildren. She loved them as if they were her own, and each one knows the blessing to have been welcomed into the life of such an extraordinary woman.

The friends Willo made are many and span all ages, as she was a magnet for deep friendships. Like the diamonds she so famously delighted in, she brought a brilliant glow into the lives of those around her, who were drawn to her radiant, funny, smart, and stylish personality.

Willo's beauty was deeper than the surface, and she had an even greater radiance within her heart and soul. Her taste, as refined as it was exquisite, was a testament to her exceptional grace.






Willo's wishes were for a small, private family memorial. In lieu of flowers, she requested that heartfelt contributions of any kind be made to the care of animals at the Woods Humane Society in San Luis Obispo, CA and the Feline Network of the Central Coast in San Luis Obispo, CA. Her love for her cats was profound, and she hoped that all creatures might receive the compassion and care she so cherished.

To grant Willo's wish, the family had a private Family Memorial Service for her. A Video of the Family Service was created. Please COPY and PASTE the link below into your internet browser to view the video. <https://youtu.be/vfLItV3T-eI>

Polar Bear Plunge 2025



Events Calendar FEBRUARY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 No Reservations Allowed	27	28	29	30	31 No Reservations 6pm - Social Hour 7pm - Potluck 	1
2 No Reservations Allowed	3	4	5	6 6pm - SLYC Board in Clubhouse 	7 New Membership Applications Due No Reservations 6pm - Social Hour	8
9 No Reservations Allowed	10	11 New Membership Committee Meeting	12	13	14 No Reservations Valentine's Day 6pm - Social Hour 	15 6pm - Valentine's Dinner CANCELED
16 No Reservations Allowed	17 Presidents' Day 	18	19	20 3pm - Friends of Avila Pier	21 No Reservations 6pm - Social Hour	22 10am - New Member Interviews 4pm - New Member Deliberations
23 No Reservations Allowed	24	25	26	27	28 No Reservations 6pm - Social Hour 7pm - Potluck 	1

Events Calendar MARCH 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
23 No Reservations Allowed	24	25	26	27	28 No Reservations 6pm - Social Hour 7pm - Potluck	1
2 No Reservations Allowed	3	4	5	6 6pm - SLYC Board in Clubhouse 	7 No Reservations 6pm - Social Hour	8
9 Daylight Saving Time Starts No Reservations Allowed	10	11	12	13	14 No Reservations	15 6pm - St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance 
16 No Reservations Allowed	17 St. Patrick's Day 	18	19	20 3pm - Friends of Avila Pier	21 No Reservations 6pm - Social Hour	22 11am - New Member Orientation Brunch
23 No Reservations Allowed	24	25	26	27	28 No Reservations 6pm - Social Hour 7pm - Potluck 	29
30 No Reservations Allowed	31	1	2	3 6pm - SLYC Board in Clubhouse 	4 No Reservations 6pm - Social Hour	5 9am - Annual Clean-up Day 

Bar Host/OD Schedule

February 2025

- 7 Friday Social
—JJ Francoise, OD
Bar Hosts: Bill McInerney
Rick Bertram
Food Hosts/Clean-up: David Erbstoesser
Margo Fraser
- 14 Friday Social
—TBD, OD
Bar Hosts: James Mattison
Ray Mattison
Food Host/Clean-up: Edward Henry
Sally Krenn
- 21 Friday Social
—Ken San Filippo, OD
Bar Hosts: Reid Hester
Thom Dimmitt
Food Host/Clean-up: Melenie Ristow
Janet Leonard
- 28 Friday Social/Potluck
—Tom Swem, OD
Bar Hosts: Tom McNeill
Janine Lamond
Kitchen Help/Clean-up: Don and Kathy Hannula
Hal and Kelly Hannula



- 14 Friday Social
—Pat Mullen, OD
Bar Hosts: Brandon and Delaney Spiller
Shad and Shelly Springer
Food Host/Clean-up: Andi Tennant
OPEN (1)

- 15 Saturday St. Patrick's Dinner/Dance
—Kristin Rasmussen, OD
Bar Hosts: Brandon and Delaney Spiller
Shad and Shelly Springer
Chief Cook: Debbie Collins-Johnson
Assist. Cook: Marty Fuller
Cook Crew/Clean-up: **OPEN (2)**



- 21 Friday Social
—Bret Clark, OD
Bar Hosts: Georgina Peterson
Patrick Hood
Food Host/Clean-up: **OPEN (2)**

- 28 Friday Social/Potluck
—Bob Hurd, OD
Bar Hosts: Bill McInerney
Mike Davis
Kitchen Help/Clean-up: Sharon Williams
OPEN (2)



March 2025

- 7 Friday Social
—Carter McGowen, OD
Bar Hosts: Karl and Carolyn Blum
Patrick McGowen
Food Host/Clean-up: **OPEN (2)**

Reminder-Bar Hosting



Attention to all club members who wish to complete their club services as a Bar Host. All bar hosts and/or anyone who checks ID's, serves alcohol, serves as a cashier, manages, or trains those who are responsible for alcohol-related duties, must complete a California State Responsible Beverage Service Training (RBS) course. Your training course must include the successful completion of an Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) administered RBS exam. The certification requirements for AB 1221 must be renewed every 3 years. You will find an RBS Training course from one of the Department-approved training providers online and must pass the Department's alcohol server certification exam with a 70% or better. The California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) offers an online Responsible Beverage Service Portal! This portal provides access to all the tools you will need to ensure compliance with the mandatory RBS training requirements for Alcohol Servers, Licensees, and Training Providers. www.rbstp@abc.ca.gov.



San Luis Yacht Club

Officers, Staff, and Committees 2025

Officers

Commodore Bret Clark	805-704-2608 commodore@slyc.org
Vice Commodore Pat Mullen (Volunteer: TimeToSignUp)	805-305-3364 vicecommodore@slyc.org
Rear Commodore Tom Swem (Facility)	805-544-4422 rearcommodore@slyc.org
Secretary Kristin Blecha	805-459-5115 secretary@slyc.org
Treasurer Lily Curtis	219-299-9087 treasurer@slyc.org
Port Captain Carter McGowen (Liaison to the Port)	805-550-6072 portcaptain@slyc.org
Sail Fleet JJ Francoise (Racing)	909-561-6746 fleet_captain@slyc.org
Power Fleet Captain Michael Ginn (Chase Boat)	805-788-8850 powercaptain@slyc.org
Cruising Captain Kristin Rasmussen	805-471-7127 cruisingcaptain@slyc.org

Directors

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3 - Freeman Tidaback	805-888-1621 Director-3@slyc.org

Staff Commodores

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Bob Hurd	805-550-9071 IStaffCommodore@slyc.org

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Sunshine Committee Kathleen O'Neill	805-550-5010 koneill555@gmail.com
Webmaster (Scuttlebutt) Michael Dobrzensky	805-801-4988 webmaster@slyc.org

Committees

Finance—Pat Mullen	See "Vice Commodore"
House—Tom Swem	See "Rear Commodore"
Membership—Bob Hurd	See "Staff Commodores"
Steering—Ken San Filippo	See "Staff Commodores"
Nominating—Ken San Filippo	See "Staff Commodores"
Social Directors Chair—Terry Whitney	805-406-9196 twhitney@ati7.com
Co-Chair—Brenda Noakes	805-748-4001 skihut21@yahoo.com