Community & Club Life

A Century of Civic Contributions

Chapter Eleven

Opening Day, which kicks off the official yachting season, is a tradition that comes from the east coast yacht clubs. When the boats were pulled out of dry dock and readied to sail after a long cold winter, and when the incoming spring season melted the ice and brought sufficiently warm weather and fresh breezes, the yachting season was anticipated and officially launched with Opening Day celebrations.

Originally, Santa Barbara Yacht Club's Opening Day was held in May of each year. That date slowly crept up earlier and earlier in the year, until, starting in the mid 1970s, Opening Day was established on the first Sunday of March.

Because Santa Barbara is one of the first clubs in California to start their annual yachting season, their Opening Day attracts dignitaries from the statewide sailing community, in addition to local civic officials.

Colorful nautical flags hang from the eaves and the red carpet is rolled out as the members proudly host visiting representatives of yacht clubs throughout Southern California. The morning begins with the current bridge and their wives forming a receiving line to welcome each guest to the Yacht Club.

During the early 1960s, a hearty breakfast buffet was provided with provisions courtesy of club member John Daul, who was owner of Uncle John's Pancakes on State Street.

Breakfast chairman Bill Azbell was in charge of a gang of volunteers who came in at 5:30. They started the grill up to cook some 1,000 pancakes, bacon, and eggs for several hundred people from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m.

In 1967, Azbell came down to the Yacht Club at about 5:00 a.m. to find the refrigerator unit power had gone off during the night. All of the pancake batter, eggs, and sausage were spoiled and could not be used. He quickly thought to call nearby Sambo's Restaurant on the beach and asked the manager, Mr. Vodden, if they could come to the Yacht Club's rescue. From then on, Sambo's supplied the menu items at wholesale costs, including 15 gallons of pancake batter, syrup, whipped butter, and 50 dozen eggs.

Opening Day starts off with remarks given by the SBYC commodore; next, officers are presented, and the corresponding flags are raised on the deck. Then, as each guest and dignitary is introduced, they acknowledge with a snappy salute.

In the early years, the Sea Scouts and Carpinteria Girl Mariners raised the flags and played the bugle. In more recent years, a variety of band music is featured.

LEFT: Opening Day at the Santa Barbara Yacht Clubhouse on Stearns Wharf in 1932. Photo courtesy: Jean Gourley.

Left: Kem Weber (Commodore 1949) whips up pancakes for Opening Day breakfast in early 1950s.

Below: The Jefferson Cannon annually signals the end of ceremonies and the opening of the yachting season on Opening Day.

Toward the end of the program the names of those members who have "passed the bar" are read to the assemblage as eight bells ring throughout the clubhouse in their memory. Then, as the commodore declares SBYC officially "open," the report of the Jefferson Cannon shatters the silence to conclude the ceremonies. Guests are invited to board members' yachts as they pass in review before the anchored commodore in front of the clubhouse.

Later, the fleet boats race for the Caspers Opening Day trophies and an award is presented to the best maintained boat. Those power and sail boats contending for this prize put their craft in "ship shape" for the honor of having their names inscribed upon the Jefferson Cannon. The day concludes with a post race barbeque and awards ceremony, and a renewed appreciation and pride in the Santa Barbara Yacht Club.

Community Support

Throughout its existence, the Santa Barbara Yacht Club has had at its core the cream of the community's leaders in government and business. These gentlemen – as individuals and collectively – have given generously to their community in terms of both time and money.

Over the course of the 20th century, Yacht Club members raised money and donated manpower or services of the Santa Barbara Yacht Club to help a number of organizations serving the needs of the youth and marine communities:

G.O.G.	Girl Mariners
B.O.A.T.	Semana Nautica
Sea Shells	Youth Sailing Foundation
Sea Scouts	San Marcos Sailing Club

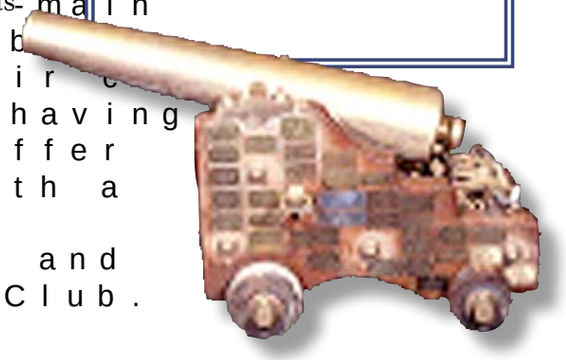
Right after breakfast,
somebody will try
to shoot the cannon
by pulling the trigger.

But it will stick.

Then they will hit it
with a hammer...
the cannon will go boom

and the Season
will be Open!

Scuttlebutt
May 1966



Working With and For Our Santa Barbara Community

For more than a century, the Santa Barbara Yacht Club has lent its services, raised money, donated manpower and created partnerships to serve its community — with a special emphasis on youth and nautical-related activities — working with community groups, local government, teachers and schools, the U.S. Navy, and non-profit organizations.

Above: Here SBYC secretary Bob Cornwall takes community women on an informational sail in the Santa Barbara Channel as he explains our maritime history and culture. These community service cruises were especially popular with teachers. 1942: photo courtesy Mark Cornwall

Below: Commodore Ken Urton and Miss Semana Nautica (Patricia Burke) discuss the upcoming summer events in 1957. The Yacht Club was an integral part of launching the annual festival in 1931. Photo courtesy Elaine Urton.

Charity Regattas

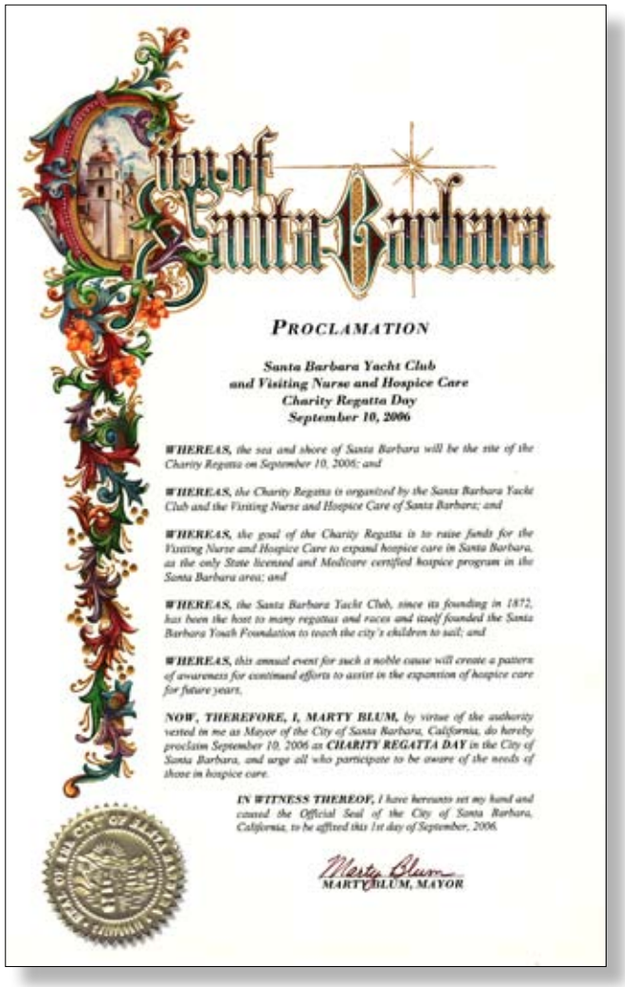
At the end of the twentieth century, the Santa Barbara Yacht Club decided to focus as an organization to help other deserving non-profits in the community that were non-marine related. This started off in the 1990s when several regattas were held to benefit local organizations Hospice of Santa Barbara and Villa Majella.

In 2005, a major milestone was achieved when the entire Yacht Club got behind creating the SBYC Chaity Regatta, which raised $50,000 for Visiting Nurse and Hospice Care of Santa Barbara.

Every active fleet participated, from the various PHRF fleets to one design J24, J105 fleets and the ever-popular Club Handicap Racing Fleet (CHRF). The top three finishers in each fleet received trophies, along with the top three in the combined fleet handicapping system developed for the event. The overall winner received the SBYC Charity Regatta Trophy. Some 35 boats participated in the event.

The following year, the success and popularity of the event had attracted nearly double the number of participants – with some 60 skippers signed on. Each participating boat paid an entry fee, which became a contribution to Visiting Nurse and Hospice Care. From every corner of the club, members volunteered their time, energy, and money to make a most memorable day for the charity.

An accomplished skipper, radio host celebrity Dr. Laura Schlessinger shows her winning form at the Santa Barbara Yacht Club Charity Regatta. Photo by Sharon Green



City of Santa Barbara

PROCLAMATION

Santa Barbara Yacht Club
and Visiting Nurse and Hospice Care
Charity Regatta Day
September 10, 2006

WHEREAS, the sea and shore of Santa Barbara will be the site of the Charity Regatta on September 10, 2006; and

WHEREAS, the Charity Regatta is organized by the Santa Barbara Yacht Club and the Visiting Nurse and Hospice Care of Santa Barbara; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the Charity Regatta is to raise funds for the Visiting Nurse and Hospice Care to expand hospice care in Santa Barbara, as the only State licensed and Medicare certified hospice program in the Santa Barbara area; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Barbara Yacht Club, since its founding in 1872, has been the host to many regattas and races and itself founded the Santa Barbara Youth Foundation to teach the city's children to sail; and

WHEREAS, this annual event for such a noble cause will create a pattern of awareness for continued efforts to assist in the expansion of hospice care for future years.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARTY BLUM, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Santa Barbara, California, do hereby proclaim September 10, 2006 as CHARITY REGATTA DAY in the City of Santa Barbara, and urge all who participate to be aware of the needs of those in hospice care.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of the City of Santa Barbara, California, to be affixed this 1st day of September, 2006.

Marty Blum
MARTY BLUM, MAYOR

As the steel drum band and Tahitian dancers entertained the guests, the sailors headed for the starting line for the all-fleet Yacht Club Charity Regatta. Every boat proudly flew the regatta burgee specially designed for the event. Each sailboat was given a handicap based upon past performance, and the winner would take home the SBYC Charity Regatta Trophy.

At the conclusion of formal ceremonies, guests eagerly proceeded to the spectator boats to watch the regatta at sea. Other community members lent a hand as crew on the boats, or happily served as ballast. Landlubbers who preferred to watch the race from the comfort of the Yacht Club deck enjoyed Dixieland music and the hospitality of the SBYC Women and volunteers from Visiting Nurse and Hospice Care.

One of the interesting components of the regatta was the powerboat "Predicted Log" event. This was the first time in 15 years that the "Cruiser Navigation" trophy had been contested at SBYC. Powerboats participated to determine who was the best "dead reckoning" navigator. Skippers knew only the distance around the course, but had to "predict" their finish time. Then, while closely watching their tachometers and compass, they had to execute the course without use of an electronic helper, such as a GPS. The skipper who could most closely predict his time on the course was awarded the SBYC Navigation Trophy.

In 2006, Mayor Marty Blum presented the Santa Barbara Yacht Club with a Proclamation from the City of Santa Barbara declaring the day as SBYC Charity Regatta Day, which ultimately raised $75,000 for Visiting Nurse and Hospice Care of Santa Barbara.

Mayor Marty Blum presented the Yacht Club with a proclamation recognizing their efforts on behalf of the Visiting Nurses and Hospice Care of Santa Barbara. The Yacht Club held charity events and regattas throughout its history; they became an annual feature starting in 2005

The following year, the Yacht Club raised even more money for Visiting Nurse and Hospice Care of Santa Barbara, and the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Blackfin joined the fleet of spectator boats.

Regatta Chairman Dennis Friederich (Commodore 2004) summed it up, "This effort paid off in many ways. The Yacht Club raised a significant amount for Visiting Nurse and Hospice Care, the community had an opportunity to learn about sailing and how the Yacht Club operates, and the club itself benefited by bringing all our members together – power boaters and sailors alike – in a common effort to make a difference in our community."

Above: British navy officers for HMS Durnam with Yacht Club officials in 1928. Courtesy Jean Gourley

Below: Admiral Asa Walker, commander of the U.S.S. Concord in Manilla was received by Yacht Club officials when he came to Santa Barbara in 1906.

> *"No place I have ever visited as part of the American Navy has made a deeper impression on me than Santa Barbara."*
>
> Admiral Hugh Rodman
> Commander-in-Chief of the Pacific Fleet
> August 24, 1919

Navy Support

The Santa Barbara Yacht Club has served as an unofficial chamber of commerce for the waterfront, welcoming visitors and yachtsmen from around the state, country, and world who pull into port.

One of the significant roles the Santa Barbara Yacht Club has played is that of "Community Ambassador" to the Navy and other armed forces. Since the nineteenth century, Yacht Club officials have hosted and entertained Naval officers and dignitaries.

In 1906, Mayor Thomas Wood, a Yacht Club member and later commodore, hosted one of the largest dinners ever at La Cumbre Country Club, for Admiral Asa Walker. Other Yacht Club members who were leaders in business and government welcomed the Navy official, who had commanded the USS *Concord* in Manila.

The Yacht Club played a significant role in welcoming the Naval dignitaries accompanying the Great White Fleet arriving in Santa Barbara in 1908 (as detailed in Chapter Two).

Admiral Hugh Rodman sailed into the Santa Barbara Channel in August 1919 with the flagship *New Mexico* (novel in that it was electrically driven!) and the Pacific Fleet. The entire fleet – which included the super-dreadnaught *Mississippi*, battleships *Wyoming* and *Arkansas*, cruisers *Birmingham* and *Anthony*, and 14 destroyers – was strung out three miles, extending from the city to the Montecito shoreline.

Santa Barbara's yachtsmen organized a flotilla to sail down the Channel to greet the Navy ships and accompany them back to the harbor. Allan Loughead, early Santa Barbara aviator, happily buzzed over the ships with his "aeroplane," on the bottom of which was painted, "Welcome to Santa Barbara!"

– a stunt that today would have him either arrested or shot down! (He went on to become famous with his brother as co-founders of "Lockheed" Aircraft.)

The officers were received and entertained by Yacht Club leaders such as John Percival Jefferson (his Jefferson Cannon is used on Opening Day) who provided the first society function for these Navy guests. Additionally, the Yacht Club, along with the entire Santa Barbara community, welcomed and looked after the 8,000 sailors during their brief stay.

In 1925, the *Los Angeles Times* reported that a Santa Barbara Yacht Club delegate was among the 100 prominent distinguished civilians called to a dinner honoring Rear Admiral Ashley Robertson, commander of the Eleventh Naval District, along with Admiral Robert E. Coontz, commander in chief, and thirteen other admirals.

A three-day celebration honoring Navy Day and Theodore Roosevelt was planned by a committee of Santa Barbara Yacht Club leaders in 1927. It commenced with the arrival of the USS *Colorado*, which Captain Gatewood L. Lincoln opened for public visits.

The British warship HMS *Durban* brought Prince George Windsor (later the Duke of Kent) into Southern California in September 1928. Prince George and several junior officers were cordially greeted by Santa Barbara Yacht Club officials.

J.P. Kennedy, president of the Chamber of Commerce, drove the Brits along Alameda Padre Serra (APS) on a sightseeing tour on the way to a dinner hosted in their honor by Yacht Club member J.J. Mitchell at El Mirador, his Montecito estate.

Since the very first Semana Nautica, the Santa Barbara Yacht Club has annually welcomed and entertained the officials from the visiting Navy ships.

During the 1960s, the Yacht Club opened up its clubhouse to the Air Force Academy for Cadet Day – a luncheon and leisure day for 420 officers and cadets. The City of Santa Barbara and Vandenberg Air Force Base donated food, which was prepared and served by the Yacht Club women. The men took the 300 cadets out on cruises in the Channel. The young ladies of the Yacht Club, aged 16–21, were asked to help hostess the other activities, which included swimming, ping-pong, volleyball and a dance.

To celebrate the Fourth of July in 1931, a dance was held at the Yacht Club on the wharf for members and officers of the Coast Guard and USS *York*.

Above: Prince George "Lieutenant Windsor" (and later Duke of Kent) sailed in on the H.M.S. Durban that anchored at Santa Barbara; he spent time in Montecito with local yachtsmen and the president of the Chamber of Commerce.

Below: "You've Come a Long Way Baby" – Young U.S. Navy officers of the 21st century, hosted by the Santa Barbara Yacht Club. Photo by Dennis Friederich.

Educator and sailor Stan Darrow, left; Waterfront Director John Bridley addresses a crowd for the Monday Lunch Forum

EDUCATION

Member Education

For some time in the 1960s and 1970s, members presented classes to benefit other members. Stan Darrow taught classes on sailing and seamanship. Nancy Mendal taught Basic Aids to Sailing. Norm Dawley provided a seminar on sailboat racing.

Monday Lunch Forum

A weekly gathering of Yacht Club men began back in the late 1940s. It was then an impromptu gathering of guys who met up for an informal lunch on Mondays to rehash the stories about their weekend of sailing. During the 1950s and 1960s, the gang met at the luncheon room at the El Patio Hotel on the corner of Cabrillo Boulevard and Castillo Street. For a brief time in the late 1960s, the gang met at the Yacht Club on Wednesdays, but old traditions fell hard. They moved back to the El Patio on Mondays.

In 1975, Commodore Glenn Stabler opened the luncheons to the ladies and named it the Monday Luncheon Forum. It was held as a buffet luncheon at the clubhouse, and featured speakers who covered topics ranging from science to art, history, politics … and even sailing.

Breakwater Flags

The Flag Project was originated in 1978 by Paul Mills, Director of the Santa Barbara Museum of Art, who proposed and installed historic flags at the breakwater. The flags were supported through a non-profit organization dedicated to locating sponsors, fundraising, and maintaining the 26 flagpoles and their colorful flags on the breakwater.

After 25 years, the organization was folding and needed the Waterfront Department to take over management of the breakwater flags project. Waterfront staff was reluctant to do so because of the expense involved, as well as the time commitment needed to fundraise and obtain sponsors for the flags.

By 2004, Paul Mills had passed away and the flags had been taken down due to their poor condition. The flags were not flown for two years, but they were not forgotten. There was much interest within the harbor and Santa Barbara community to restore the flags to the breakwater. With the flags flying, the harbor looked great and took on a festive ambiance. The Flag Project was important for tourism and therefore to the city and the merchants. However, no group was in a position to take over the project.

Commodore Bud Toye and his wife Sigrid went to the Waterfront Department to determine what it would take to get the flags flying again. Primarily, the city needed a responsible group to provide stewardship of the project. In June 2006, Santa Barbara Yacht Club stepped forward to express an interest in restoring the flags to the breakwater.

Not only were the flags a colorful attraction to the breakwater, but they also had an additional benefit of helping sailors judge relative wind speed and direction when starting a race. The Yacht Club indicated it would be willing to have its staff raise and lower the flags, and also to undertake the task of locating sponsors for the flags.

The City agreed to maintain the flagpoles and rigging. The Yacht Club took on the task of selecting and maintaining the flags, purchasing replacement flags at its own expense, raising and lowering the flags, and carrying liability insurance to cover breakwater flags and operations.

The Waterfront Department provided approximately $3,000 for the first set of 26 flags to get the project restarted. Sigrid Toye spearheaded this effort and her team selected and ordered the first set of flags.

Waterfront Business Manager Scott Reidman praised the Santa Barbara Yacht Club for their willingness to take custody of the Flag Project, which was a gift to the entire community of Santa Barbara.

To ensure that Paul Mills's legacy was not forgotten, the Yacht Club created The Paul Mills flag, which resides in the Flag Project along with the Yacht Club burgee.

Right: The Yacht Club took on the Breakwater Flag Project to ensure the colorful pageantry started by Paul Mills in 1978 would remain a community tradition. Photo by Hank Boehm.

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"Mambo Italiano" held in honor of Commodore Tony Papa completely transformed the Yacht Club clubhouse into an Italian bistro with scenes of a Tuscan villa as a backdrop.

PARTIES

After sailing, social activity is the reason members love their Yacht Club. The first record of social activities dates to 1887. The Yacht Club hosted a Promenade Concert in the dining room of the Arlington Hotel on the eve of the Fourth of July. Dancing began at 9:00 in the parlor of the hotel. During the 1920s, social events were held at the Montecito Country Club, the Arlington Hotel, the Elks Club, and the Potter Hotel. Barbecues were held at Oak Park.

In the 1940s, Yacht Club events were held at the Veterans Memorial Building, Restorante del Paseo and the Coral Casino. During the 1950s, the small clubhouse was not large enough for dances. However, the members had an active social life that centered around their renowned barbecues. The most frequent and popular were the swordfish barbecues put on by member George V. Castagnola, steak barbecues by Staff Commodore Alex Funke, and the ribs cooked on the patio by Mr. Murphy, a very popular local chef.

Alex Funke's celebrated punch was a regular feature at Yacht Club parties.

RECIPE

Alex Funke's Fish House Punch

Squeeze one dozen lemons, saving juice, rinds, and pulp in one bowl.
Add one pound brown sugar and enough water to boil the mixture into a syrup.
Boil and strain the syrup, toss away rinds and pulp.
Add two quarts water (do not use local tap water)
to syrup, and add two quarts dark rum.
Add one quart brandy, and a dash of peach brandy to taste.
Pour over large chunk of ice one hour before serving.

The Santa Barbara Yacht Club
NOW HERE THIS!

NAUTICAL PARTY------SATURDAY------JULY 11, 1964
LIVE MUSIC by "THE SEVEN MUSICAL YACHTSMEN"
BIG STEAKS and all of the TRIMMINGS!
cocktails 6:30 DANCING until the WEE HOURS!
dinner at 7:30 ALL of THIS for $3.00
reservations - Ramage 7-2675, Roberts 9-0481, Azbell 2-6770
Nautical garb, but please--NO TOPLESS BATHING SUITS!
It will be all right for you to come, as we won't put you to work. RGR

New Year's Eve

Once the Yacht Club moved into the current facilities in 1966, New Year's Eve parties have been held at the clubhouse. A "Black Tie optional" affair, the staff goes all out to dress up the dining room as well as themselves in formal attire to make the night elegant. Red carpets are rolled out from the parking lot up the stairs to the clubhouse entrance, champagne is handed out as members enter and a photographer captures the moment for future reflection as the live music draws in the crowd. Troubles are checked at the door as everyone is in a jovial mood and ready to start fresh on New Year's.

After the millennium, Chef Russell started a tradition of a "surf and turf" combination, along with a surprise dessert. To welcome the New Year, wine flows freely in celebration – and the bar does a brisk business, to boot!

Somehow, it always seems that the new year is ushered in with a full moon, as its reflection on the water creates a magical and picturesque memory.

At midnight, after the noisemaking has abated, an announcement is heard over the loudspeakers that, "Someone is parked in the Commodore's spot!"

Of course, it is the "old" commodore of three minutes. The revelers head for the parking lot as tradition calls for the outgoing commodore to move his vehicle out of the "Commodore's Parking Space" into a staff commodore's spot. Other officers in turn move their vehicles to the appropriate assigned spots and then everyone returns to the clubhouse for more dancing and after-dinner aperitifs. Sometime during this sojourn, the outgoing commodore's picture is unceremoniously removed from its spot at the head of the stairs and deposited in the nearest trash receptacle. Subsequently, the incoming commodore's picture is installed in its rightful place on the wall and a new year begins.

The styles may change and the music may differ, but the Commodore's Ball is always a special occasion to dress up and dance ... and honor the incoming commodore.

Left: Glenn Stabler and his wife Belle with Stan and Nelda Darrow in early 1970s.

Right: The Commodore's Ball in the millennium

Commodore's Ball

Although the new bridge of officers officially takes over on January 1st, the formal Change of Command ceremony takes place at the Commodore's Ball held at the end of January. A sold-out event nearly every year, the Commodore's Ball is an evening of mixed emotions as the outgoing officers pass the helm to their replacements and the new officers take on their new responsibilities.

Prior to 1966, the Commodore's Ball was held at the Montecito Country Club or the Coral Casino. After 1966, balls were held at the Biltmore Hotel, La Cumbre Country Club and Birnam Wood Country Club. Around the millennium, the balls were held at the clubhouse. Along with the change in venue, the head table for officers and directors was abandoned in favor of a more relaxed atmosphere with a family table for the new staff commodore and his guests.

The position of emcee for the event is handled by a Yacht Club member, usually a past commodore. For many years in the 1960s Stan Darrow was emcee, and Jerry Geneau left his mark on the position as well. Doug Ewins and Kent Pierce alternated serving as emcee for several years during the 1990s and 2000s. Club member and actor Fess Parker was the most famous "master of ceremonies."

Over the years, the Commodore's Ball had become a somewhat staid affair, which many of the members felt was appropriate for a formal evening.

In 1999 all of that changed.

At the end of the traditional ceremony, a group called "The Commodores" made up of staff commodores Ed Attlesey, Bill Lenvik, Doug Ewins, Kent Pierce and Ken Clements decked out in Afro wigs and "hip" clothing of the time – turtleneck sweaters – they provided a take-off of the 1970s funk group as they line-danced to the hit song "Brick House" and literally brought down the house. The reception was so successful that a tradition was born and from then on the Commodore's Ball has been capped off with a variety of skits, pranks and tongue-in-cheek humor that leaves the crowd on a high note, laughing all the way home.

Several episodes that will be retold for years to come are: Ken Clements and Elsbeth Kleen married in a shotgun wedding by Attorney John Berryhill.

Berryhill's commodore year judged by a jury of his peers and

John Demourkas – being of Greek descent - promoted from "Commodore" to "Greek God." Who says a yacht club has to be stuffy?

The Luau

The Yacht Club tradition of the Annual Luau began back in the 1950s with the Caspers family. Rudy Caspers was a prominent banker from Pasadena who loved to sail up the coast to Santa Barbara with his sons Ronnie and Bill and their wives. He had a second home on Miramar Beach.

As a Yacht Club member, Rudy arranged wonderful Luaus at the club, for which he pulled out all the stops. He had been happily influenced by the Los Angeles luaus popularized after the war, in particular at the Annandale Golf Club, which famously held festive luaus with costume and music and libations. Rudy's boat the *Aloha*, and later the *Samarang* had crossed ukuleles on the burgee. (It was said that "no one in the family ever goes to a party without one," as father and sons all strummed their ukes and sang.)

Rudy's wife and daughters-in-law were former theatrical dancers or Las Vegas showgirls – and they were the entertainment! Rudy also brought up Reggie Valencia's band from Los Angeles (his favorite) and they put on entire island-themed productions for the Yacht Club.

The entertainment took place in the Yacht Club's first West Beach clubhouse and out on the deck. Because the clubhouse was so small at that time, the "catering" was a bit arbitrary. For instance, one year Cork Otis provided pork roast for some of the wives who cooked them at home (no kitchen in the clubhouse). The rest of the food he bought at a Chinese restaurant on State Street. A charge for the party covered the expenses.

The Caspers' luau remains an annual tradition, with variations on the theme added from year to year – Tahitian Luau, Surfer Luau, and even "Circus Luau?!"

Yakkity-Yak on the Yacht Club

***Montecito Journal* February 21, 2007**

If you really want to know how to party – you need look no farther than the Santa Barbara Yacht Club. No need to joke about drunken sailors here – these guys are hyper just drinking ginger ale…and they have the parties to prove it. EVERYBODY dances and is up on the dance floor at their shindigs.

Probably the reign of 2006 Commodore Demourkas will be remembered as the Year of the Great Parties. John Demourkas – a local Greek – just finished out his year with a Commodore's Ball highlighting his achievements of the past year, including his pantheon of parties.

One of the great theme parties was My Big Fat Greek Wedding – that's probably all you need to know about it, and I am terrifically sorry I missed it. Then there's the annual luau.

This year, party chair Sharon Wolfe – who can never leave wild enough alone – decided the theme should be "circus" luau. So if you're saying to yourself, "Hmm… 'circus' and 'luau' don't go together," then you haven't been to enough Yacht Club events.

To set the mood… as you entered through the parking lot there were Hawaiian Isle decorations right along with a big carnival dunk tank – with our beloved commodore John Demourkas sitting on the dunk seat. Big burly guys were lining up, winding up, and throwing the ball smartly and expertly … and missing. About six feet ahead of the guys at the "wussy line" were the women who – not surprisingly – threw like girls, and missed by a mile. Well, until one little gray-haired lady lobbed the first happy hit in an hour. WHAM! Down went Demourkas in his Hawaiian shirt and shorts. So that set the opening of the Circus Luau.

On the lawn our carnival luau theme continued. Here was a carnival bell-hammer thing, and then a magician, and many bird of paradise plants. See? Circus Luau indeed!

In the building, lush tropical vegetation sprouted from the corners and along the walls to set a Maui motif. But then in the middle of the banana leaf or fern – there would be a clown. Yep, a clown. Now you see the connection?

To dress the part, some folks like Jack and Karen Byers sported circus styling, while others like Gail and Bob Young were in tropical attire and Tahitian grass skirts.

Time to dance. The room crowds the floor – some hot dancers, some happy dancers, and some hippity-hop dancers. Did I really see our demure Mrs. Young hoisted by her friends UPSIDE down in the middle of the dance floor? Now that's a Yacht Club party!

Amazing theme parties entertained members and guests: Cinco de Mayo, Mambo Italiano, Saint Patrick's Day, Fiesta and "My Big Fat Greek Wedding".

Cinco de Mayo Party

With costumes optional but highly recommended, the members eagerly kick off their topsiders, dust off their serapes and don their sombreros for this annual night of dancing, twirling, eating and drinking with their amigos. To provide authentic ambience, stunning Spanish and fancy flamenco dancers from the local studios are brought in to perform the traditional numbers – complete with castanet clicking and fancy footwork. (For several years, Lindsay Papa, daughter of Tony Papa [Commodore 2008] was a performer!) If only for a brief moment in time, everyone is transported back to the olden Spanish days of Santa Barbara when it was just a sleepy pueblo along a rugged stretch of the California coast.

After the talent has performed, the members are invited to join in on a Mexican Hat dance, or to try to break open the piñata, all in great fun. As the night progresses, the tequila casts its spell and the dance floor becomes a solid mass of human bodies weaving and bobbing to the sounds of brassy horns and twanging guitars playing the music from south of the border. As if anyone needed any encouragement to dance, hundreds of balloons suspended from the ceiling are dropped onto the dance floor and the revelers do their best to stomp and pop the balloons while keeping time to the music.

Theme Parties

The Yacht Club has had a number of other theme parties over the years that have brought out the talent and creativity of its members.

Some party themes would be popular for several seasons in a row. During the 1960s and 1970s, some of the regularly featured parties included Monte Carlo Nights in spring, summer barbecue, and Mardi Gras Night.

An "Old Timers Nite" dinner was held to honor the long-term members. These gentlemen would then share fascinating stories of early times as well as their own histories on the waterfront (i.e. Earl Graham intrigued the audience with his adventures sailing the old square-riggers!).

Doug and Sharon Ewins served as social chairpersons in 1996 and put on a "Haunted Hollywood" Halloween party (come as your favorite dead actor/actress). This event was complete with a haunted house in the downstairs part of the clubhouse and a cemetery on the front lawn! Sharon was a dead ringer for Marilyn Monroe, and Llew Goodfield could have been "The Duke" himself (if he hadn't been dead for more than 20 years at the time).

Also during the Ewins's era, a dramatic Arabian Nights theme was created. More than a dozen spinnakers were hung from the

center of the dining room and draped to form a huge tent in which everyone sat on large pillows and ate traditional Middle Eastern food. The effect was so real, the crowd expected to see a camel tied up in a staff commodore parking spot.

Sharon Wolfe was largely responsible for putting together several other memorable bashes, including My Big Fat Greek Wedding (when John Demourkas was commodore), and the circus-themed luau, complete with a dunk tank for the commodore.

Another standout of the century was the "Mambo Italiano" party held in honor of Commodore Tony Papa's heritage. Trisha Davis, the 2008 Social Chairperson was nicknamed "The Fun Boss" for the occasion. She stealthily gathered information and photos of Tony's childhood, family (he was the son of Italian immigrants) and favorite foods.

Specialty menu items – antipasti items and cannoli– were flown out from Arthur Avenue in the Bronx, from the same stores where Tony's mother shopped when he was a boy. Hours of Italian "mood music" were collected, the list of artists naturally led by Sinatra and Dino.

As they climbed the stairs into the clubhouse, the "mob" of partygoers (a sell-out crowd) was serenaded by an accordion player singing "O Sole Mio."

Once inside, they found their clubhouse was transformed into an Italian bistro in a Tuscan setting. Trellises were suspended from the ceiling, with beautiful backdrops of the Italian countryside and a 3-foot high replica of Michelangelo's "David." The trophy cases were emptied of their usual wares and replaced with cans of Italian tomatoes, imported pastas, breads and cheeses reminiscent of delicatessens in the Bronx.

At the beginning of the evening, the "Bada Bing Bar" was full of folks enjoying beverages and the festive atmosphere; shouts of "Ciao, bella!" could be heard throughout. Four of Tony's family members flew in for the event – two sisters, a nephew and his Uncle Joe, a priest who was nicknamed "Joey the Collar" for the event.

While feasting on fabulous fare and sipping chianti, the crowd was surprised speechless when a "waiter" broke into song! He was joined by two other "waiters" whose phenomenal operatic voices blended into a "three tenors" revue.

Thinking the party could not get any better, guests were then treated to fabulous desserts: tiramisu, hazelnut gelato, and cannoli (flown Federal Express jet from Tony's old neighborhood in the Bronx). This was topped by fabulous dance music; the band handpicked by the Commodore was the "Cowsills," pop recording stars from the 1960s and 1970s!

Sock Hops have been another favorite party theme since everyone loves to roll back the clock to the Happy Days when poodle skirts and t-shirts with cigarettes rolled up in the sleeve were the coolest of cool. Adding to the authenticity, local DJ personalities like The Baron (originally on air locally during the 1960s) spin the platters of the '50s and '60s. Just like in high school, room on the dance floor is a scarce commodity. For a few hours, everyone feels like they are 16 again and more than one kiss is stolen during the stroll down memory lane.

Left: Girls just want to have fun... on Opening Day in the late 1920s

Right: Isabelle Martin exemplified the competitive skill of Santa Barbara's female sailors early on when she crewed the winning Star Lipton in 1934 and again in 1936, seen here with her husband, skipper Niels Martin.

Women at the SBYC

During the initial decades of the Santa Barbara Yacht Club, women played a role in yachting – both as sailors and in a supporting capacity – although it was not a custom of the time for women to be members in male-dominated sports clubs.

After World War II, when the yachting culture changed from a wealthy man's sport to a recreation enjoyed by the middle class, women really entered into the picture.

During the 1950s, the Santa Barbara Yacht Club began to incorporate women into the fold. Flag membership was first extended to the widows of its members: Fern Grim, Irene Roche and Patricia Hewitt. Many wives were active sailors, such as Fran Funke, Elaine Thompson, Mary Parker, Betty Crawford, Janice Lewis, Cynthia Hollister, Betty Ainsworth, Harriet Cole, Betty Barnes, and May Allison.

Women were proving themselves to be competent as competitive crew - a tradition started by the Santa Barbara Yacht Club in 1934 when Isabelle Martin crewed for her husband, Dr. Niels Martin, as he skippered the winning boat to take the Star Lipton in both 1934 and 1936. An annual Lady Skippers' Race was begun in the 1950s, as women jumped up to the helm. Since women showed such interest and talent in racing as skippers, Commodore Wilmot Hughes even created a trophy for their Ladies' Day Race.

Not all women raced, so on Sunday afternoons wives hung out at the clubhouse and bustled about in a variety of activities. Each week, one of the wives was assigned to provide snacks. Food for the adults was served in the main room and a table of cookies for the children was set up in the Creosote Room. There was a comfortable feeling among the women that the Yacht Club was also their home away from home.

Sometimes theme dinner parties were held, usually in the Main Room. For the "luaus," Cork Otis would purchase pork roasts and dole them out to the ladies to cook at home. They would buy rice and trimmings at the local Chinese restaurant, and these "luaus" as the parties were called, were sometimes held in the Creosote Room.

The 1956 roster of chairwomen indicated the activities typical of the era:

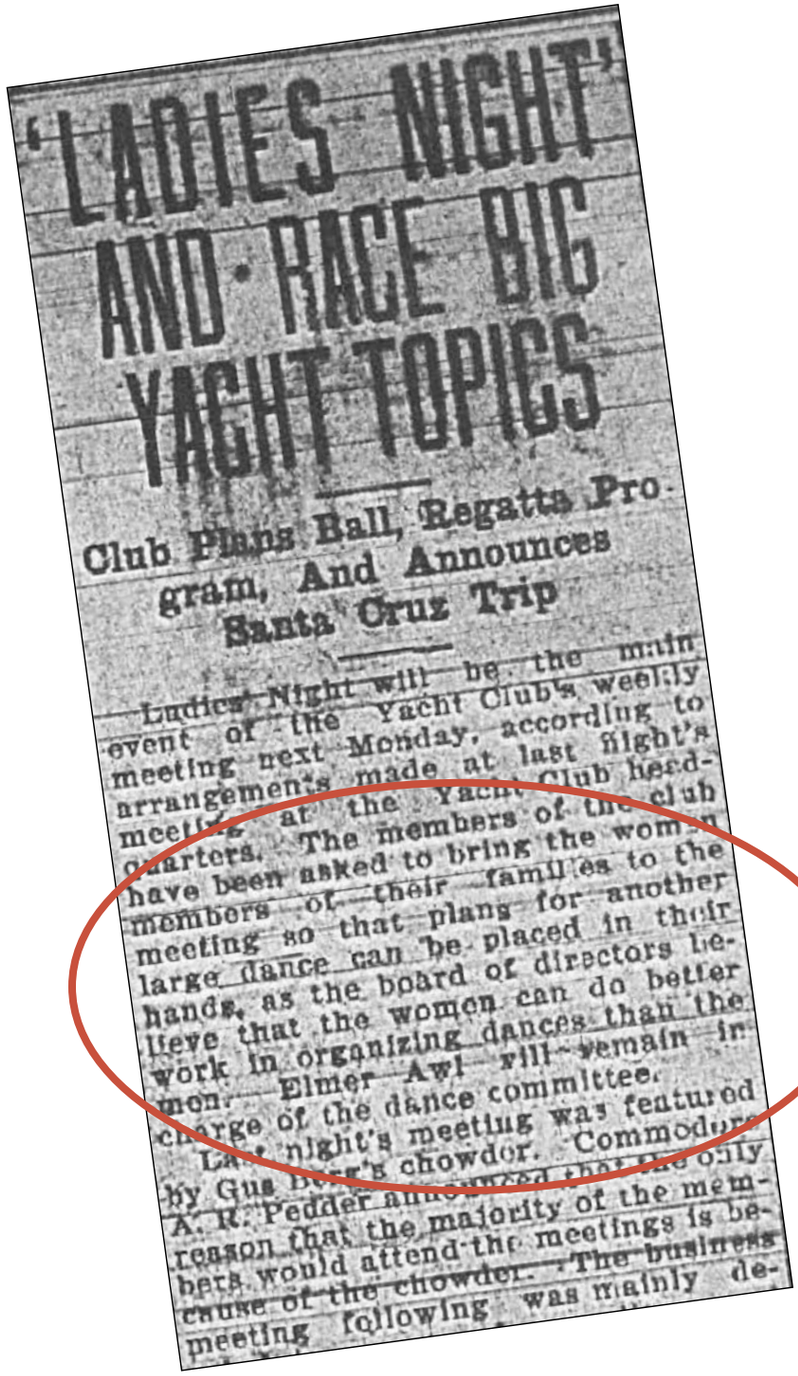
Flowers: Mrs. William Allison
Coffee: Mrs. Carl Anderson
Historian: Mrs. Walter Parker
Bridge: Mrs. Marcus Gerlach
SBYC Summer Regatta Social Affairs: Mrs. Paul Backman, Mrs. Jen Christiansen, Mrs. Wiley Cole, Mrs. Alex Funke, Mrs. Paul Kolyn, Mrs. Kenneth Urton

In 1956, the idea was broached to take bridge lessons. The proposal was met with instant approval and excitement. The commodore's wife, Madge Hughes arranged to have Miss Dodge (one of Santa Barbara's experts in the field), meet with interested ladies on Tuesday afternoons at the clubhouse. Her dedicated students were Mary Ames, Betty Barnes, Muriel Bledsoe, Elsie Chiperfield, Harriet Cole, Effie Derringer, Dorothy Gillum, Jean Goergen, Gina Gray, Annette Hughes, Madge Hughes, Marion Smith, Belle Stabler, Vi Vail, Marnie Warner, Barbara Jobbins, and Ginny Wilcox. Bridge remains one of the longest-standing social activities of the Yacht Club.

Coming into the 1960s, the women – nicknamed "The First Mates" – unofficially organized their own activities within the Yacht Club along four components:

1) Create separate social gatherings of interest to women
2) Provide hospitality for the Yacht Club itself and for visitors
3) Teach and promote basic sailing skills for the women
4) Offer support services for the Yacht Club

These early members brought a new dimension and social configuration to the Yacht Club. By organizing regular activities for wives and families, they created a new level of camaraderie for the members and support for the Yacht Cub. These important "founding mothers" included Joyce Reichel, Frances Swift, Ginny Wilcox, Shirley Wilson, Nina Grey, Emma Travis, Madge Hughes, Cindy Kendrick, Sheridah Gerard, Eloise Lannan, Sally Otis, Mary Rice, Gina Gray, Jo Prisbey, Nelda Darrow, Margaret Kolyn, Vi Tower, Ruth St. Oegger, Betty Cooke, Elaine Iddings, Maria Trivey, and Laura Robertson.



'LADIES NIGHT' AND RACE BIG YACHT TOPICS

Club Plans Ball, Regatta Program, And Announces Santa Cruz Trip

Ladies' Night will be the main event of the Yacht Club's weekly meeting next Monday, according to arrangements made at last night's meeting at the Yacht Club headquarters. The members of the club have been asked to bring the women members of their families to the meeting so that plans for another large dance can be placed in their hands, as the board of directors believe that the women can do better work in organizing dances than the men. Elmer Awl will remain in charge of the dance committee.

Last night's meeting was featured by Gus Boer's chowder. Commodore A. R. Pedder announced that the only reason that the majority of the members would attend the meetings is because of the chowder. The business meeting following was mainly de-

The Morning Press on June 1923 highlights one early role of Yacht Club women coming to the aid of the organization ... the men felt they would do a better job at organizing the dance!

Sailing Skills

The women at SBYC also taught the basics of sailing: sailing terms, knot tying, handling the tiller, and Nancy Mandel even taught galley cooking!

The annual Ladies' Day was both an occasion to draw attention to the competency and accomplishments of the female sailors and a social activity that included a luncheon and fashion show.

Betty Cooke and Nancy Mendal and other women and "deck wives" assisted on the starts and finishes for the Salty Saturday and Wet Wednesday races, and provided dinners for Wet Wednesdays ... for 75¢.

"Cover Girls" - Yacht Club women Charlene Shook, Toffee Kern Leftwich and May Allison aboard Senrab in the 1950s showcase sailing in a popular visitors' publication of the time.

Lee McFarland, wife of the 1975 commodore, contributed a tremendous amount of time and energy in support of the activities and events at the Yacht Club.

Lee McFarland

Lee's first experience on a sailboat was frightening for her. If she could have walked ashore, she would have done so. When she first realized that we weren't going to "tip over," she adopted the attitude that the boat was stronger than the crew. She was a small person, pushing five feet two inches, and weighing 102 pounds - - so we both knew she wasn't going to handle the foredeck. Our first sailboat was a 28-footer on which we cruised the East Coast waters. Of necessity, I handled the heavy work, while she was at the helm. She learned quickly, and became a good helmsperson - particularly going to weather.

When we came to Santa Barbara and joined the Yacht Club, we became interested in racing. Our first competitive boat was an Ericson 35. In the days when the Wilson races circumnavigated the islands, Lee was known for her brownies at night, and that she took turns at the helm. I well remember racing down the backside of Santa Cruz Island with the chute up, when a gust from between the hills knocked us down - with Lee on the helm. The crew was hanging on and the spreaders were in the water. I looked back at Lee and she was braced with her feet across the cockpit and water up to her knees. When we got the chute in and the boat upright, all she could say was, "Let's not do that again."

Lee passed away from lung cancer in 1994 - and has since been honored by the Santa Barbara Yacht Club Women who have named their Woman of the Year award the "Lee McFarland Memorial Trophy."

– by Don MacFarland- Commodore 1975

Jane Watkins, an accomplished skipper and enthusiastic promoter of women in competitive sailing

Jane Watkins

Jane Watkins, a veteran sailor and a veritable pioneer among local women in yachting and racing, became a member of the Santa Barbara Yacht Club in 1975 and was among the first women to serve on its board of directors.

Her unabashed enthusiasm for sailing and racing led her to teach racing clinics for women and to found the Women's Yacht Association of Santa Barbara. When Sylvan Malis donated his boat for the women to use in racing, it was renamed the She-Bop. Jane took over as skipper and rounded up women to sail, training a team to start racing. She started the first all-female crew to race on Wet Wednesdays and in the local J24 events. With SBYC member Jerry Shalhoob, Jane Watkins began the Shalhoob Women's Invitational Regatta hosted by Santa Barbara Yacht Club.

An accomplished sailor, she was the only female crew among the 17-member crew for *Taxi Dancer* (which won the West Coast Championships) and other 70-foot boats. A tireless promoter in all aspects of yachting and racing, Jane served as Executive Director for the California ULDB 70 Association for two years, and was a frequent contributor for regional yachting publications and newsletters. Jane chaired any number of yachting events and regattas including the Fiesta Cup Regatta (previously the J105 Regatta), the Santa Barbara to King Harbor Race (three years), the J105 Fleet 8 Southern California 2003 Regatta, and she served as the Yacht Club's Women's Racing Representative.

In recognition of her extraordinary contributions to the Yacht Club and its women as a female sailor, Jane Watkins was honored with the Lee McFarland Woman of the Year Trophy in 1996 by the Santa Barbara Yacht Club.

In 2001, the Southern California Yachting Association presented The Peggy Slater Memorial Trophy to Jane. The most coveted award for female sailors, the Peggy Slater Memorial Trophy is awarded to a woman involved in the sport of sailing who best demonstrates outstanding contributions to the enhancement of women's participation in sailing or individual achievement in the sport of sailing.

Kathy Becker created the Lady at the Helm Trophy to encourage more women in sailing.

Kathy Becker

Kathy and her husband left Newport Beach in 1977 on an extended cruise to circumnavigate the world in their Cal 34, *Jocelyn*.

When they returned six years later, in 1984, they moved to Santa Barbara and bought a restaurant called "Judge for Yourself." After a divorce, Kathy found herself running the restaurant on her own, and she met many Yacht Club members who frequented her restaurant.

Kathy missed sailing. When she expressed an interest in joining the Santa Barbara Yacht Club, Staff Commodore Ed Attlesey and Bob Roman sponsored her membership in 1987. She immediately joined the bridge group and became very involved in other activities of the Yacht Club.

One day, when Kathy was playing bridge with Sally Otis, Jean Roman and Nelda Darrow, Staff Commodore Stan Darrow Sr. entered in dismay and told his wife that one of his crewmembers had not shown up for a race. This was a Wednesday—a Wet Wednesday! Nelda smartly sized up the situation and immediately volunteered Kathy for the job. Kathy proved her maritime mettle and continued crewing for Stan thereafter.

In 1989, at the organizational luncheon for SBYCW, Mary Lou Baldwin (wife of Staff Commodore Lester G. Baldwin, Jr.) nominated Kathy to serve as co-president with Brenda Geneau. Although Kathy had been a member less than two years, her willing spirit and leadership skills were well appreciated and put to use. Even after serving at the helm, Kathy continued to hold a board position.

About this time, Wayne Harris brought CHRF class racing to the Yacht Club. Wayne and Kathy came up with a "Lady at the Helm" race and Wayne welcomed Kathy's offer to deed a perpetual trophy to that race. Having spent six years of circumnavigation, Kathy wanted a tangible way to encourage more women to "Take the Helm."

Social Activities

The ladies hosted luncheons for the women to socialize and meet other ladies. The commodores' wives held teas, and the Annual Tea in the spring honored wives of new members.

When word got out that the SBYC "First Mates" were a "happenin' crowd," the president of the Presidio Savings and Loan invited the ladies only (no men or children!) to be the guests of the bank at their afternoon films. (The first was the Academy Award-winning film *Gigi* with Leslie Caron and Maurice Chevalier in the summer of 1969.)

Bridge, without a doubt, continued as the most popular activity for SBYC women. Club champions in the initial years were Belle Stabler, Alice Selwood, Effie Derringer, Betty Barnes, Elsie Chipperfield, Debra Isaacs, and Madge Hughes. The Vi Vail Trophy – named in memory of one of the bridge players – was awarded to an annual outstanding bridge player. As time went on, the business of cutting the cards got a little more cutthroat. Commodore Cork Otis (1978) was contacted by one indignant lady who wanted him to "do something" about another player who was continually bidding out of turn – and she was *not even a member!*

Above: Hats off to Reta Howe and Kay Brownwood as they laugh it up while addressing Yacht Club women.

Below: Bridge started up as a popular club activity in the 1950s after lessons were given for interested ladies at the club

Captain's Bridge.... Integrated!
Scuttlebutt March 1968

"Integration of captains and their non-flag member galley mates has at last taken place over the bridge tables on Friday nights at the Yacht Club between 8 and 11 pm. Although husbands were, at first, rather reluctant to enter the female bridge stronghold, through diplomacy, pressure, politics, power, not to mention threats, the home commodores have successfully pulled their rank in getting their husband to join them in a fun night at bridge.

"Bridge rules and etiquette have been eased somewhat to allow husbands free rein in their rather unorthodox and varying strategies. It is not unusual to hear Henry Holsman bid seven no-trump,only to be doubled by Jim Patillo and redoubled by Barbara Jobbins. At another table, an opening bid of four spades by Stan Darrow may be heard -- or you may see Belle Stabler shake her head in bewilderment as Pinky calmly bids and makes three no-trump with only two suits stopped. These are somewhat commonplace happenings at our Friday night bridge session."

Co-ed checkers and dominoes were added in 1968 to the mix of table-top divertissements - with an official "Domino Trophy" donated by Norm Thompson in 1989 for the champ of the black and white bricks.

In 1971, the women created a cookbook for the centennial of the Yacht Club. It featured useful recipes for meals to prepare ahead to take along on races or to cook on cruises and camping, tips on how to handle and prepare fish, and even a special section devoted to recipes suitable for a two-burner range.

Above: Nelda and Kathy Darrow with Betty Cooke at ?????????

Below: Mary Ames amid the beautiful bouquet and silver service for an elegant members' tea.

Club Support

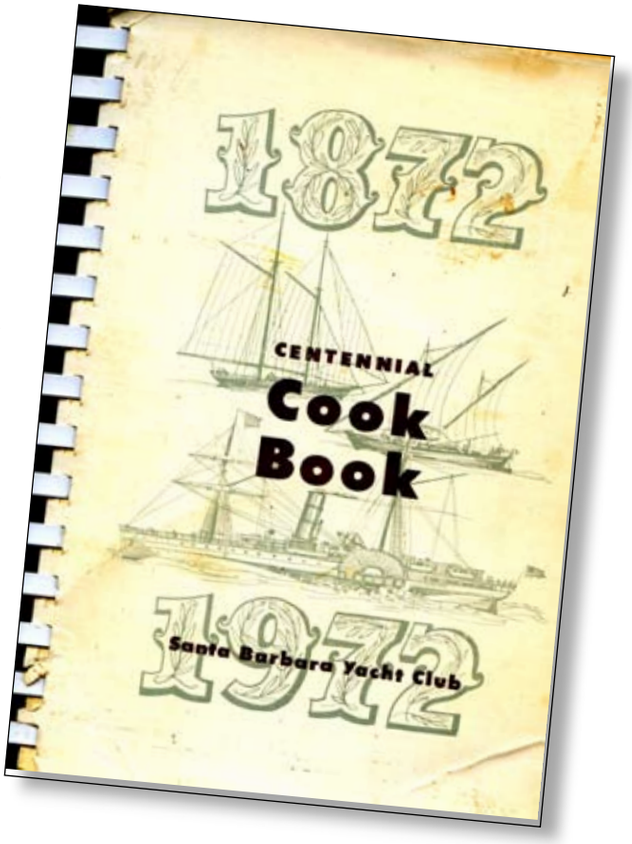
When the women got involved in the Yacht Club – they got involved in the clubhouse. One of their first orders of business was to make the place a bit homier. They created a committee to provide flowers for the clubhouse, with a new chairman elected each month, and for many years, Lois Sidenberg created all the flower arrangements. To provide some new furniture for the clubhouse in the 1960s, the women launched a campaign to save Blue Chip Stamps!

After the new clubhouse was finished, many families joined and the members clamored for a directory. Although compiling a directory would entail much work, the women took on the task of implementing a phone committee to prepare the Yacht Club roster.

In 1953, a Sunday coffee hour was inaugurated. The women took turns hosting the afternoon coffee (3:00 – 5:00 p.m.) for families who came out to sail on Sunday afternoons. Around 1967, "Mothers-in-Charge" was started to take turns watching the kids. For younger kids, or those who were not sailing, activities were set up on Sunday afternoons.

When the Yacht Club started *Scuttlebutt*, the monthly newsletter, several of the women – notably Mary Lou Baldwin, Nancy Mandel and Annette Hughes – served as editor or publisher to help get the publication off the ground.

A number of the First Mates created a set of signal flags. Joan Levy made the patterns and supervised the efforts of a dozen women, as well as a few daughters and husbands, who lent a sewing hand.



Coming into the 1980s, the participation of the women dropped off. The trend nationally found that younger women – traditionally the mainstay of organizing activity – were now working full-time. They did not have as many leisure hours during the day to devote to clubs or daytime activities. Perhaps a touch of the women's lib movement dampened the enthusiasm of younger women for seemingly outmoded activities such as preparing flowers for the clubhouse.

While enthusiasm for the Yacht Club's bridge games remained strong (and indeed has never faded!), the "First Mates" were losing momentum, and these organizers of regular activities dissipated as a group.

Hospitality

The women of the Yacht Club organized hospitality committees for visiting boats and Navy dignitaries and their crews, and also provided sightseeing excursions for these visiting families and wives.

During the 1960s and 1970s, the ladies hosted a wide variety of community members and visitors. They served in the galley to supply victuals for the visiting cadets from the Air Force Academy. The women hosted two dozen residents of Hillside House at the Yacht Club – many of whom had never been to the waterfront before.

For the Commodore's Ball and other special events, the womanly touch was added – and the ladies dreamed up the decorations, table designs and seating. They decked out the clubhouse for Christmas and Easter when a variety of family activities for the kids were planned.

Right: Lee McFarland and Shirley Lynn help host the dessert buffet at the fashion show for Yacht Club women.

Santa Barbara Yacht Club Women

In the latter 1980s, a new group of Yacht Club women met in Jan Attlesey's kitchen and pondered anew the idea of organizing the women into a club of some sort.

No one wanted this new group to be called an "auxiliary." What did other clubs call their women's group? What would they do? They needed a name, purpose, and bylaws.

Their proposed purpose was to enhance the warm, friendly atmosphere of the Santa Barbara Yacht Club by providing various opportunities for members to become better acquainted and to become more involved in Yacht Club activities.

A luncheon was planned by the founding members – Jan Attlesey, Kay Brownwood, Betty Cooke, Nelda Darrow, Erline Goodell, Barbara Harlow, Joyce Renz, Sally Otis, Charlotte Valentine, and Joan Watson. Weeks later, some 40 women turned out in force to hear about and help plan for a new organization. They also suggested names for the organization – which ranged from "fishies" to "skippers."

Thankfully, the name "Santa Barbara Yacht Club Women" won out. Board positions were filled with Kathy Becker and Brenda Geneau as Co-Presidents. Erline Goodell drew up the first draft of the by-laws to be presented at the first board meeting. The founders wanted SBYCW to make a commitment and so initiated dues. A calendar of events was planned... and the women were on a roll! Karen Marini designed the "knot," the first logo.

To get the gals going, the women already had a project ready to launch – a cookbook. *Welcome Aboard – A Cookbook for the 90s* was put together by Barbara Harlow, Barbara Reed, Cindy Hughes, Lee McFarland, Judith Eaton-Larsen, Elaine Iddings, and Carol Brugier, with artwork by Karen Marini. As a sign of the times, this cookbook

Left: Don McFarland presents Marilyn Goodfield the Lee McFarland Memorial Trophy for SBYCW Outstanding Woman of the Year.
Right: A check for $5,000 presented by the Santa Barbara Yacht Club Women to the Santa Barbara Youth Sailing Foundation.

included heart-healthy recipe substitutions from a nutritionist and tips on using the new "non-stick" skillets.

The Santa Barbara Yacht Club Women then organized a separate foundation (501-c-3), to be able to collect and provide financially for charitable causes in 1997.

In 1991, President Marilyn Goodfield recognized that the women could be a real fundraising force. She proposed that the women take their efforts a step further and establish the "Scholarship for Sailing Program" for the Youth Foundation to focus on as a specific fundraising goal. The women responded positively and sold raffle tickets at their luncheons, held five times a year. As momentum and enthusiasm for the project grew, a Christmas Boutique was added to the fundraising efforts. Items were offered for sale from both outside vendors as well as member artists who provided their paintings. Later, the boutique became a silent auction fundraiser during the Christmas Luncheon, and became even more profitable.

The scholarship program proved a significant success, with recipients competing and winning nationally and internationally...bringing honor and prestige to both the Santa Barbara Yacht Club and the Santa Barbara Youth Foundation.

President Sheila Zimmerman in 1994 worked with Don McFarland to craft the 'Deed of Gift' for the Lee McFarland Woman of the Year Trophy. Lee was a respected sailor and a role model as a woman. The Lee McFarland Memorial Trophy is presented annually to an outstanding woman who has made a significant contribution to the SBYCW and/or to the Santa Barbara Yacht Club.

Kathy Blanton Becker donated the beautiful crystal "Lady at the Helm," a perpetual handicap trophy to encourage women sailors in the CHRF fleet.

The millennium found the Santa Barbara Yacht Club Women with 230 members.

Never resting on their laurels, the group found more ways to make their mark in the community. They collected for Christmas Unity and provided a box of presents for teenage girls. They made a $1,000 gift to the Maritime Museum. Their major contribution to the Catalina Island Community Pool was acknowledged by two donor tiles. (Designed by Staff Commodore Jim Zimmerman and inscribed 'Santa Barbara Yacht Club Women," the tiles are on permanent display on the pool's donor wall.)

One of several boats (here a CFJ) for the Youth Foundation made possible by the efforts of the Yacht Club Women, represented by Susan Jorgensen, Marilyn Goodfield, Gillian Launie, and Shirley Lynn

The Santa Barbara Yacht Club Women stepped up the fundraising another notch by requesting in their annual membership renewal a donation for their premier cause – the Santa Barbara Youth Sailing Foundation. Due to these efforts the women were able to present the foundation with a check for $2,000. Within four years, this amount had more than doubled; 16 scholarships were awarded in the amount of $4,150.

The following year, SBYCW christened a new CFJ sailboat – their gift to the Santa Barbara Youth Sailing Foundation. A total of $10,000 (including the boat) was donated to SBYSF. A year later, the ladies provided for 8 scholarships – and *another* CFJ.

In 2005, the Santa Barbara Yacht Club Women set a goal to raise $25,000 for the newly established SBYSF Endowment Fund. A check for $5,000 was immediately put towards that goal, and a year and a half later, the women had raised the entire $25,000. Although they were not, *per se*, a fundraising organization, the Santa Barbara Yacht Club Women ultimately managed to provide an astounding $120,000 for the Youth Foundation over the course of seventeen years through their dues, auctions, and solicitations for boats and monetary contributions.

PRESIDENTS SANTA BARBARA YACHT CLUB WOMEN

1989-Kathy Becker/Brenda Geneau
1990-Kay Brownwood
1991-Marilyn Goodfield
1992- Toffee Leftwich
1993-Dorothy Warnock
1994-Sheila Zimmerman
1995-Ruth Topping
1996-Doris Caswell
1997- Joan Brair
1998 -Ammon Hoenigman
1999-Terri O'Brien
2000 - Cheryl Miller
2001- Janet Kelleway
2002- Billie Eitel
2003 - Joan Watson
2004 - Gillian Launie
2005 - Judy Lee Rawles
2006 - Patricia Hinds
2007- Lynel Lemon
2008 -Trisha Davis
2009 - Kathleen Yabsley
2010 - Lorraine Reichel

Santa Barbara Yacht Club Women — Founding members (in bold) and Past Presidents
Back row: Marilyn Goodfield, Kathy Becker, Terri O'Brien, Gillian Launie, Billie Eitel, Dorothy Warnock
Third row: Ruth Topping, Ammon Hoenigman, Janet Kelleway, Lynel Lemon, Brenda Geneau, Sheila Zimmerman
Second row: Toffee Leftwich, Trish Davis, Judy Lee Rawles, Patricia Hinds, Cheryl Miller,
Front row: Jan Attlesey, Joan Watson, Barbara Harlow, Charlotte Valentine, Sally Otis, Nelda Darrow