



SANTA BARBARA  
YACHT CLUB

**Fred (Bud) Toye, 2007**

This native Californian Commodore grew up in Sherman Oaks. Although not a beachside town, he did realize a love for water sports when he learned how to water ski on Lake Arrowhead when he was ten.

After meeting Sigrid, his sister's sorority roommate as students at USC, the two were married here in Santa Barbara in 1961. Soon after, they moved to the Woodland Hills area where they worked and raised their children. It was during this time that they bought their first water ski boat, "and have never been without a power boat since". We have all heard that old phrase "the apple doesn't fall far from the tree", so it's not surprising that Bud and Sigrid's two children, Vicki and Fred, grew into avid water skiers.

They moved to Santa Barbara in 1996, and four years later decided to buy a slip for their ski boat. The slip came with a derelict sailboat in it. Not one to toss chance aside, Bud engaged his good friend Duke Yabsley to teach him how to sail. The two sailed nearly every afternoon for the next five years. Though Bud claims it was because he was a slow learner, others might suspect that he was quickly learning that the enjoyment of sailing might just rival the excitement of power boating.

At this point, his former neighbor and Catalina Yacht Vice President Gerry Douglas told him, "Since you've learned to sail, you need a new boat." He suggested the newly-designed Catalina 270 because it would fit perfectly in the slip. Bud ordered one and named it Ferdinand. Now he had two boats – one power, and one sail – side by side in Marina One. What more could a guy want?

Bud joined the club after a dinner party one evening in 1999 where he met SBYC members Dean and Melinda Mars. Dean took Bud to lunch at the club the following Wednesday, and "I made my deposit for membership the next day".

Since then, he has "enjoyed all aspects of club involvement and relished everything that came my way". When he was approached to take on the responsibilities of becoming commodore, he "simply felt honored and said 'yes' when asked. I promise you, I didn't see it coming. I was preoccupied with all the stuff I was doing" with and for the club. For example, in 2002, Bud was asked by Commodore Ken Clements to become SBYC webmaster. Realizing it was a way to showcase the yacht club, its history, and all the things it represents, he turned the website into an in-depth database. "It's meant to inform people; race results go back 10 years." Around the same time, he was asked to assume leadership of the CHRF racing program. He has ever since "been fully dedicated to its role in bringing racing to boats not designed or equipped to compete in traditional PHRF classes. CHRF handicaps emphasize how you sail, not necessarily what you sail. I wrote software to score and calculate handicaps for that fleet 11 years ago which is still in use today. I enjoyed doing it and it just happened to benefit the club."

He continues to enjoy activities that just happen to benefit the club. Bud is one of the Founders of the Center Table (in the lounge). This is not an exclusive group and has actually become a staple of the lunchtime environment at the club. The German word *stommtisch* translates to "same olds" and that's who generally show up. "Some new members have heard about it and show up. They have met other members and have started crewing on races. I like to meet and greet, and that's another gift from Duke."

One of Bud's fondest memories of his commodore year was Opening Day. "The pageantry with the clubhouse decked out with colorful banners, the music, and the legions of visiting brass...there to celebrate our big day with us." What really stood out was the Parade of Fleet "as I stood on the bow of Ferdinand with Sigrid returning the salutes of what seemed like an endless line of passing boats...with club fleet members, visitors and the Santa Barbara press corps. I will never forget it."

Bud also credits the many volunteers who helped make the year successful and memorable. One of those was Sigrid, "whose contribution is in full view of harbor visitors every day." Sigrid spearheaded the breakwater flag project and still stewards the program today by "coordinating and obtaining the flags for the many Santa Barbara non-profits still lining up for an opportunity to display their flag. This has become an enormous success."

The club has given back to Bud, too. In 2002, when he retired and sold Toye Corporation, a manufacturer of electronic security systems he had run for 40 years, he had time on his hands for new things. "The club trusted me with responsibility and gifted me with the opportunity to share the things I knew how to do. I will always be grateful for that." Reflecting more on his experiences of being an active member of SBYC, he said, "You will never regret the time you spend volunteering or getting involved. You will meet wonderful new friends and enjoy the club in ways you could never have imagined."

So, if you find yourself at the harbor at lunchtime, come on up to the Center Table, grab a chair, and share a meal with Bud and the stommisch. You'll be glad you did, because you'll undoubtedly make some new friends.