



# THE TELL TALE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CORINTHIAN YACHT CLUB OF SAN FRANCISCO

November 1999

## Commodore's Column

By Jeff McQueen

Somewhat like the last of the Mohegans, I have had the unique privilege of being the last Commodore of the Corinthian Yacht Club of San Francisco for the second millennium. My sincere thanks to the membership for this honor and support during the year. This is my last report.

I hope 1999 has been a good year for you all. We are indeed very fortunate to live in this wonderful part of the world and belong to this wonderful yacht club. We have had a wide variety of enjoyable events this past year, on and off the water. Our sailors have had many successes, at home and abroad. These, and the other club boating events are the essence of the club. The principles on which the club was founded 114 years ago are as true and alive today as they were then and we all have a sacred duty to maintain these same principles into the future.

The organizational structure of the club is working very well. The numerous committees covered a wide range of events and situations. The results speak for themselves, from the general appearance and condition of the Clubhouse and property to the new breakwater and internal slips. From the quality of the entertainment events and members dining to the performance of the staff. Thanks to all of you for giving so freely of your time and talent and thanks to the outgoing Officers and Board of Directors for the effort they put into making 1999 a successful year.

As we enter the third millennium, we will see history in the making with the election of the first-ever woman Commodore of the Corinthian Yacht Club of San Francisco. Join with me in congratulating Diana Fischer on her achievement, together with the other Flag Officers: Vice Commodore, John Bogue, Rear Commodore, Dan Carico and Port Captain, Andre Klein. To them and to the new Board of Directors, we say good luck and best wishes. Let us make the year 2000 the best ever.



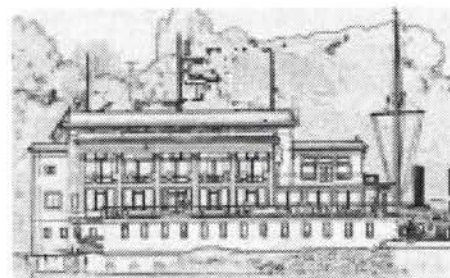
## Around the Club

By Dick Slottow

The Angel Island to Sam's Anchor Cafe one nautical mile swim, featuring some of the fastest swimmers in the country, held September 28 was a huge success. The leaders finished the course in 21 minutes, just five minutes slower than the Angel Island Ferry, and the last swimmer made it across the finish line 45 minutes after the start.

A large number of Corinthian stalwarts who worked with event sponsors helped make it a classic event. As in years past, rowboats provided a safety line over the entire course, accompanied by kayak volunteers from Sausalito. Leading the CYC rowing contingent were John Wood, Karl Lange, Evan Pugh, George Berticevich, Aldo DeTomas, Matt Gorton, Dave Donzel, and Charlie Locati. Three members of the San Francisco Yacht Club also arrived in row boats but failed to provide their names. In addition, John Colver carried 12 members of the press corps in his powerboat, and in our power boat Jean and I accompanied by Jeff McQueen hauled one of the event managers to sweep the end of the race. Also participating was the Corinthian Catering Company which provided early morning coffee and donuts to the gathering swimmers and spectators.

Helping as safety managers were the Marin County Sheriff's Department boat and the Sausalito Fire Department Rescue Team. One swimmer was picked up about 300 yards from Sam's but was dropped at the entrance to the harbor so he could cross the finish line (see photo below).





Although this event is not an exact replica of the Corinthian 1950's swimming event, it was close enough. If CYC had not done this in the 50's, perhaps no one would have thought about doing it again. The event was proclaimed so successful that planning is now underway for the 2000 swim.

### **The Annual Meeting Is Coming**

The 114<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Corinthian Yacht Club will be held in the ballroom on Friday, November 12, 1999. Although everyone has received information regarding the meeting, this article is designed to urge all members to attend.

This is the only time members are asked to get together to discuss items of general interest. Some Annual Meetings have been boring while others were well worth attending. Also, this is the "free drink" meeting where the new Commodore foots the bill for all drinks following the meeting's successful conclusion.

A number of years ago a meeting was held the night of a large storm and the power disappeared. The attendance was so small the meeting was almost canceled due to lack of a quorum. Fast thinking members called some locals who walked to the Club and made it possible to hold the meeting. Candles lit the stage and a few Coleman lanterns appeared from Pneumonia Alley, but the continuance of the Annual Meeting was preserved.

On several occasions items of interest have caused an overflow of member exuberance culminating in some of the best fistfights in the area. There is a rule which specifically prohibits fighting in the ballroom during the meeting, but many have been held in the bar and on the decks.

One never knows what will happen at an Annual Meeting, so we urge all to attend, speak up, and help the new Commodore reach for a new drinking record.

### **The Commodore's Ball**

And what a Ball it was. On-the-house hors d'oeuvres were available to all before the dinner, accompanied by champagne, year and vintage unknown. But it was good.

The dinner was something to write about, accompanied by the 7 piece "Jubilee Jazz Band" complete with vocalist. This was not just your run-of-the mill dance music, but was classic Dixieland performed by musicians who had obviously done this for many years. Even without the dinner it would have been a night to enjoy real music.

But to make it even better, Chef Ian came up with a dinner to die for. Lobster Tart started things off, followed by Beef Wellington, Baked Tomato with Regianito Parmesan and Gratin of Potato. The third course was butter lettuce with mustard dressing and Roquefort & Camembert with red currant jelly. For dessert, Creme Brulee and Madeleine Cookie. Probably the best cookie ever brought to the ballroom.

Highlight of the evening was a short speech by Commodore Jeff McQueen who recognized the past commodores present and said nice words about the Club and all its members. Well over a hundred attended the event, and a good time was had by all. It was also noted that the attendees all looked great. All who attended were dressed to kill, without any exceptions. It was truly a fine looking group. If you were not able to attend, that's really too bad, as it was a wonderful evening.



### **The Cat Story**

A complaint was received by the Club from a member who felt he was being discriminated against. Our Club rules prohibit dogs from the upper deck, but nothing seems to bar cats from having free run of the premises. Of course cats are more difficult to catch, and most cats that visit the Club don't belong to anyone.

Back in the 70's and early 80's we had a cat named Ugly (appropriate name) who belonged to George Haggett, now a long-gone loyal and most active member. Ugly had the run of the Club, and members were forever feeding him scraps and other things. One day, the health inspectors visited the Club, and during the inspection found Ugly sleeping on the preparation table in the galley. This did not go over very well with the inspectors, and the galley was shut down.

The Commodore at the time called a special board meeting and had Ugly's membership rescinded. The cat was banished from the upper deck but was allowed free run of Pneumonia Alley and the lower deck. Ugly finally died, leaving a legacy of having been the only cat ever to have his membership rescinded by board action. This has nothing to do with discrimination against dogs, but the rules now apply also to cats, parrots, deer, raccoons, and other things that may attempt to scrounge the upper deck of the Club.

### **Cruising**

By Dan Carrico

Congratulations to all the Cruise Leaders who made the 1999 season a truly wonderful year for so many CYC Cruisers! Those who have done it know how much work goes into each cruise-out before, during and after. Each cruise was unique and made into a special occasion. Attendance and fun-quotient records were broken. Thank you Augusto, Bjorn, Herb, Eric, Richard, Ron, Chris, Mike and Peter - all jobs well done!

Who could forget the "Petaluma Chicken Run" a special exercise in ditch navigation where you could jump ashore from the middle of the channel and where Charlie and Virginia White spent a cold night on the mud flats! The saying is "charity begins at home" and we have Herb and Wilma Rodricks to thank for creating the First Annual Opening Day Members' Cruise-in. And how about the Benicia cruise where Steve and Marie Parodi (as everyone did) fought gusts to 40 knots back through San Pablo Bay to claim a record 9 hour elapsed time? And they're still cruising! For our Half Moon Bay Cruise into the "Deep Blue Sea" we had delightful weather and were treated to a marvelous wine tasting at which that famous wine connoisseur, Jim "the nose" Snow, stomped the competition! This year the now famous Pt. San Pablo Yacht Club "Meatloaf Cook-Off" Cruise made it to legendary status as the people's cruise with CYC cruisers offering up their best comfort food - meat n' potatoes! All of our cruises showed record attendances and more and more "asphalt cruisers" made it this year.



And Tinsley Island. As the St. Francis Yacht Club aptly states, "In all the world there is only one . . ." – the best for last? Perhaps yes. Corinthian had 26 boats and 79 persons and, as always, special efforts made the difference, such as Eric and Elaine Artman providing disc jockey music for dancing and Herb and Wilma Rodricks providing us all a wonderful lox and bagel breakfast. Truly, truly, the one dimension which makes our "cruising family" so wonderful is the Corinthian spirit in which each of us, in our own way, expresses our joy in being together, sharing our friendship and conviviality.

The close of the 1999 cruising season would not be complete without a sincere "thank you" on our behalf to our host yacht clubs for their tremendous hospitality extended to CYC. This has been done. They were to a one genuinely gracious, wonderful and helpful! We can be proud that we, as Corinthians, have earned this rapport over the years. We should endeavor to continue earning such goodwill in the future whether as individuals, or reciprocally as a Club.

What a fantastic cruising year 1999 has been! We approach the year 2000 cruising season with great momentum and high expectations. I encourage everyone (asphalt cruisers too) to maintain your high level of enthusiasm and participation. One axiom that has never been truer, the more you put in – the more fun you will have. Volunteer to lead a cruise or to help out with a cruise. Your fellow Corinthians will appreciate any effort you make and you will be enriched by the experience.

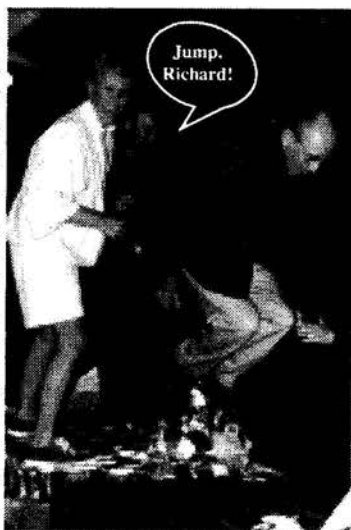
One final word. I am very excited to announce that Bill Canada has volunteered to serve as CYC's 2000 Cruising Fleet Captain! Speaking for all of us, we thank him and wish him success. The next time you see Bill around the club, ask him "What can I do?"

## The Corinthian Catering Company

By Jack Cooper, president of the Corinthian Catering Company

The Corinthian Catering Company, (CCI) is currently negotiating with the Club for a renewal of its lease for an additional five years. During negotiations it became evident that numerous misconceptions about the Catering Company existed. It therefore seems appropriate to explain how and why the Catering Company was formed.

For many years the Club operated a deficit run galley using a parade of independent caterers who produced inferior quality food and service. The Club needed to increase both food quality and



income from the upstairs ballroom but keep within the 15% IRS restrictions for outside parties due to the Club's tax exempt status. In 1992, after months of discussion a "for profit" corporation, the Corinthian Catering Company was formed by selling \$1,000 worth of stock to 17 Club members. The objective was to provide good quality food in the Club dining room at a fair price, and charge market prices for the upstairs ballroom affairs.

The Club retained bar operations and income. Net profits of the new corporation would be accumulated and used for crucial improvements to the Club galley services. Such use would prevent the IRS from considering the Club and Catering Company as a single corporation.

Although the first year was successful the following several years were difficult with several of the investors loaning money to CCI on unsecured notes, all of which have since been paid off. Salaried personnel include Leila Haymen our Sales Manager, and Chef Ian Morrison. All other staff are hourly paid. Dividends to stock holders have been \$150.00 per year when funds were available, increasing the past two years to \$200 due to increased activity. In keeping with the original purpose of CCI, sufficient funds are now available to subsidize the upstairs ballroom elevator (\$95,000) and modernize the old rope pulley dumb waiter in the galley (\$15,000). Present plans are to continue making important improvements as long as funds are available.

Event deposits and payments are retained by the Club and these funds are an integral part of the Club's working capital. CCI bills the Club for food and service and related charges after the event. To put the operation in perspective, it costs CCI \$1.69 for every \$1.00 of sales in the members dining room, \$1.27 per \$1.00 received from Club events. CCI's cost for private ballroom parties is \$.80 for every \$1.00 of sales which is how we offset member dining losses and accrue funds for necessary improvements. All stockholders are members of the Club except for one member who resigned subsequent to his stock purchase.

I hope the preceding will help explain the workings of CCI and lay to rest some members perception that investors are profiting from the Club. Without the net effect of private functions held in the ballroom, Regular member dues would have to be increased approximately \$50.00 per month to continue the same quality of food and service now associated with member dining services. The new terms of the CYC/CCI agreement have been approved in principal and I hope by the time you read this article the new agreement will have been concluded and in force.

## TGIF

By Steve Schneider

(This article was reprinted from a spring 1991 issue of the *Telltale*.)

April 19th is the 17th anniversary of the 'official' Friday Night Race series. The original Friday Night series is actually 19 years old. Briefly, the idea started over Black Labels at Tib Tom's. I was complaining to Lloyd 'Buck' Benson about having to sail *Skylark* all the way over to Golden Gate YC to race on Fridays. You know, cold, wet and home late (no motor). Lloyd suggested we try to get some people interested in a local series, so we came up with the idea of sailing Fridays (*Skylark* and Lloyd's *Soling*) to spark interest. At that time, I believe the Club was closed on Fridays (or maybe just the bar was open?), and we thought races would get



people to the Club and, thus, be a good reason to open the Club on Fridays.

The first races were around Alcatraz and back to the Club. We had no start or finish signals. Karen sailed with me, and Lloyd's wife, Jackie, sailed with Lloyd until she decided no more Solings around Alcatraz and started sailing with us. After some time and prodding, the next participants were Dick and Donna Cardoza in their Ranger 26, *Quente*, and I believe we got Whit Simpson from Brand X YC (SFYC) to sail his Ranger 26 also. Twenty years is a long time ago, and I don't remember all the secondary participants or the order in which they entered. Eventually, we got Patry (*Boogaloo*) and others to join us and we even got someone to leave the bar to shoot a gun for our starts.

(Editor's note: Since this article was originally published in 1991, this year, 1999, was the 25<sup>th</sup> year for CYC's Friday night race series.)



## A Tribute to the Race Committee

Story and photos by Marcia Peck

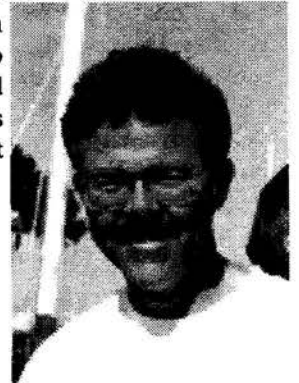
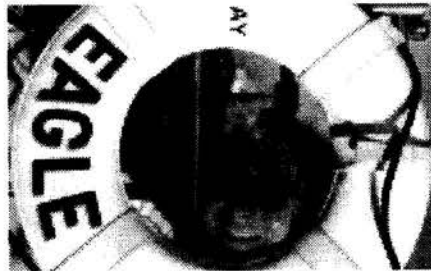
Do you know how many Friday nights there are between April and September? A lot of them! We who race cannot forget we owe our Friday evening fun on the water to the race committee. They've done it with style, grace, humor, and yes, even accuracy! They even did the final Friday and awards ceremony in black tie! Our hats are off to Matthew Gorton and crew Eric and Elaine Artman, John and Mary Anne Bogue, Jeannie Pagnotta, Bob Crenshaw, and no doubt others.



## Corinthian Racers in the News

Steve Schneider once again won the Islander 36 season championship on *Absolute*. Says Steve, "The big cup will stay at the end of the bar for another year."

Charlie Brochard's *Baleinau* won the Olson 25 nationals, which was sailed in conjunction with the NOOD. With two bullets and two seconds, Charlie walked away from the seven boat fleet. It was particularly satisfying for Charlie to beat multiple national champ, Bill Riley.



In intracub action John Nootaboom's *Racoon* won the Friday night series; Marcia Peck won the Corinthian Women's Reunion Regatta; Bill and Chris Canada won the non-spinnaker division of the E. Ross Wood Memorial regatta on their Catalina 36, *Athena*, while Mike Eagan's *Sabertooth* won the spinnaker division of same.

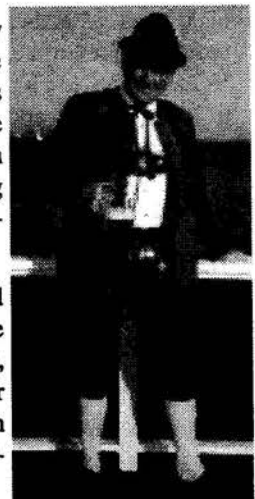


## Das Oktoberfest War Wunderbar

By Harry Blake

Once again this year Hans Roeben and Sally Huse organized a fantastic Oktoberfest at the club. The dining room was packed as all us northern European wannabes listened to live accordion music, sampled the six or seven German beers that Andy was dispensing free, and eat a great German dinner that included a lot of stuff I can't spell.

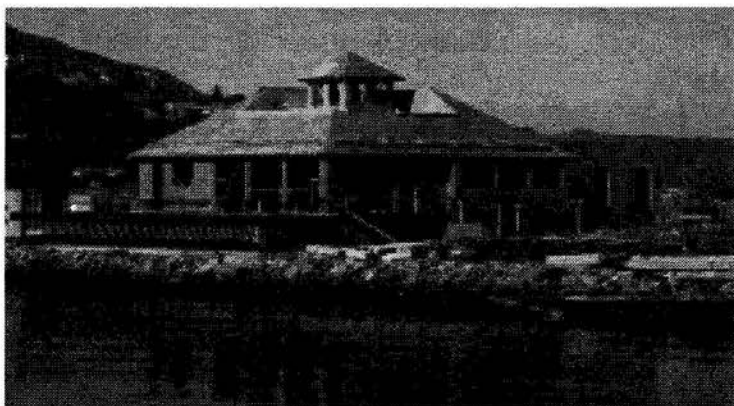
The usual rivalry jokes that the northern and southern Germans tell about each other were absent, as the archetypal northern German, Hans Roeben, suited up in a borrowed pair of Lederhosen, a decidedly southern German outfit. This obviously made southern German, Ingo Schreiber, very comfortable, as you can see from the shot on the right.



## I Get Asked about the Tiburon Yacht Club

By Harry Blake

As a member of the Tiburon YC I am frequently asked by fellow CYC members about the progress of our new clubhouse. This past year has been one of transition for the club as this next year will be. The old clubhouse has been torn down, cruise-ins are not feasible, and we are not yet in the new clubhouse which we broke ground on earlier in the year. The new clubhouse is going up near the eastern tip of the north-most finger of Paradise Cay. As you can see from the photo below, there has been a lot of progress. In fact, we're about ready to roof the place. We're hoping to enclose the structure before the worst of the winter rains come and have something we can occupy in some form next spring.



## Soundings from the Deep

By Hillary Don, M.D.

From *The Sausalito News*

January, 1890

Last week the Corinthian Yacht Club members elected the following officers for the ensuing year: Commodore, G. E. Billings; Vice Commodore, W. P. Harrold; Secretary, T. F. Tracey; Treasurer, F. D. Spalding; Port captain, Chas. E. Miller; Measurer, H. O. Eckman; Directors, A. I. Lyons, J. A. Shephard, J. H. Johnson; Regatta Committee, W. A. Stringer, H. Keil, A. D. Cross. This was the regular ticket.

John F. Mackin, well-known in Tiburon as the Captain of the yacht Thetis, died at his home in San Francisco on the 15th inst., after a short illness. His was a noble character and his demise is felt by a large number of friends outside his own immediate family, who deeply mourn his loss.

### Humor of the time

Mr. Lumkins (looking up from his paper suddenly)-"Rats!"

Mrs. Lumkins (jumping on to a chair)- "Good gracious! Where?"

Mr. Lumkins- "In the White House."

"What do they do with a man when he gets full and is arrested?"

Johnny How Come You- "Why, treat him as they do boats when they're full - bail him out, of course."

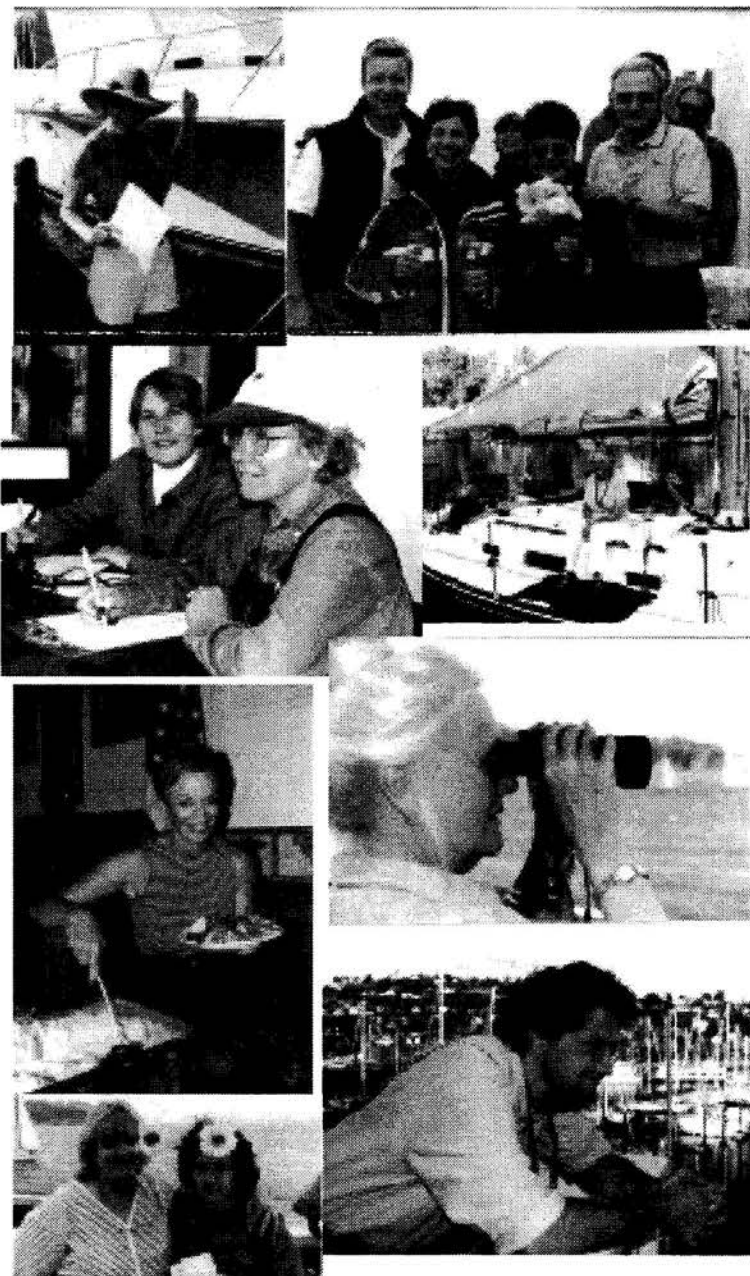
(Editor's note: Hillary Don is a retired physician living in Belvedere who writes a column in the Ark called *100 Years Ago*. Material

for this column comes from the *Sausalito News*, and Dr. Don has graciously offered to send the *Telltale* anything he finds of interest to CYC history buffs.)

## Images of CYC

By Marcia Peck

(Editor's note: almost all of the photos that have appeared in the *Telltale* since I began publishing it earlier this year have been taken by Marcia, and this issue is no exception. She always seems to be where the action is, so we get complete photographic coverage of just about everything that's worth printing. I personally agree with the adage a picture is worth a thousand words. Believing this also suits my purpose as editor here because getting a thousand words from y'all can be hard to come by. So, I'm grateful for Marcia's significant contribution. She is a talented photographer and her stuff brings life to what would otherwise be a droll newsletter.)



John C. Colver  
250 Beach Road  
Belvedere, CA 94920

Corinthian Yacht Club  
43 Main Street, Tiburon, CA 94920



# Calendar of Club Activities...

## NOVEMBER

Wednesday 1	Auxiliary Bridge	11:20 AM
Sunday 7	Opera Night	6:30 PM
Friday 12	CYC Annual Meeting	7:00 PM
	Members Dining	5:30 PM
Thursday 18	CYC Board of Directors Meeting	6:30 PM
Thursday 25	Thanksgiving Dinner, Members Dining (offices closed)	3:00 – 6:00 PM
Tuesday 30	Holiday Decorating – Clubhouse	6:00 PM

## DECEMBER

Wednesday 1	Auxiliary Bridge	11:20 AM
Saturday 4	Eggnog Party	6:30 PM
Wednesday 8	The Corinthian Women's Annual Meeting	7:00 PM
Sunday 12	Santa's Brunch	10:30 AM – 1:00 PM
Thursday 16	CYC Board of Directors Meeting	6:30 PM
Friday 24 – Sunday 26	MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE (the clubhouse will be closed for the holiday weekend)	
Friday 31	New Year's Eve Party	8:00 PM
Saturday, January 1, 2000	Clubhouse Closed	