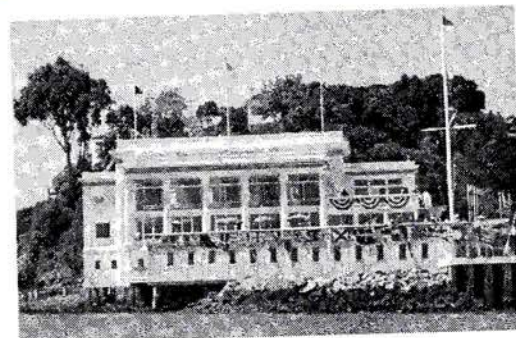




THE TELL TALE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CORINTHIAN YACHT CLUB OF SAN FRANCISCO

May 2006



Commodore's Column

By John Warren



Spring is upon us...the hills are turning green and the wildflowers are beginning to bloom, but will it ever stop raining? With the approach of our Corinthian Opening Day festivities I encourage every member to visit our historic building and see the upgrades and changes made during

this winter. Our stately facility is more beautiful than ever. Come celebrate our 120th anniversary by enjoying your favorite beverage overlooking the most beautiful city in the world or visit the dining room for a scrumptious meal prepared by Chef Alberto. Remember the dining minimum began February 1st.

A special "thank you" goes out to all who worked so diligently this winter. I appreciate your contribution of time, energy and funds to improve our club. A special "thank you" to Julie Le'Vicki for graciously donating the lettering facing the Bay. So many people sail by our clubhouse and don't know what it is...no longer. The name of our club is now in predominant gold letters. Also, check out our newly remodeled upstairs restrooms.

We had another successful MidWinter racing series. It is considered "best on the Bay" by many other yacht clubs and sailors. This event gives us considerable exposure and is always instrumental in attracting new members. Your Rear Commodore, David Johnson, and his team did an outstanding job. Once again, we exceeded expectations.

To celebrate our 120th anniversary, we have launched a special membership drive. It is an excellent time to encourage friends and colleagues to join CYC. Everyone will benefit. You should have received a packet containing the specifics, applications, etc. If you have any questions, please contact our Membership Chair, Jytte Birnbaum or for additional applications, call Frances at our office.

Earlier this year Sharon and I went online to www.cyc.org and filled in our social calendar with the many events already scheduled. WOW, it is going to be another fun-filled year. Com-

ing soon...Friday Night Racing, Opening Day on the Bay, Cruise Outs and much more! Also, remember that our historic facility is a great place to celebrate special occasions, personal and professional.

Now that spring is here and you'll be using your boats more often, I'd like to remind you of some basic routine and simple maintenance. It's a good idea to do the following. You should check your dock lines and look for chafing. Replace those old lines if necessary. Check the electrical connections between our docks and your boat. If you see any signs of melting of the connectors, that typically means a poor connection on either side. Melting means heat, heat means the potential of fire. On your boat, you should check your zincs, top off your fluids, clean the sea strainers, check your battery voltage, fan belts, filters, bilge pumps and through-hulls. If your boat has been sitting for a long period of time there might be condensation in your fuel. Also, for safety reasons, check what is required for your size boat from the Coast Guard. Look at the expiration dates of your current flares and safety equipment. There's nothing worse than going out with friends for a fun day on the Bay and being towed home.

Also, is it time to buy a new burgee? Let's fly those burgees proud!

Sharon and I look forward to seeing you at the club. I encourage you to call me with comments. Your opinion counts. Our goal is to always make the club a better place for our members.

Entertainment

By Kathleen Barr



The year has started with a bang. Esther Lerner Carrico did a wonderful job creating a romantic dinner dance for Valentine's Day. Excellent food and music was enjoyed by all.

D.J. Tilton kept the club tradition going hosting the Cooks & Waiters in early March. (I would love to tell you all about that event but, being of the female sex, it was off limits to me. Don't we

wonder, ladies, what really goes on that day?)

Teri Nix did a super (get it, ha ha) job on the annual Super Bowl Sunday chili cook-off.

For those who missed the Crab Feed — well what can I say . . . Alberto & his staff cooked the crab to perfection; the salad, pasta and dessert weren't bad either! There was SO much crab that even the diehards were satiated. Thanks to our magnificent hosts that night, Sharon Barr and Mary Anne Bogue. They were outfitted so cute!

We have some exciting plans in the works for the rest of the year. The season will start off with a bang over Opening Day weekend. The Committee is hard at work filling the weekend with fun and festivities. Pull out your beads and masks and get ready for some dazzling New Orleans food and music.

Father's Day at CYC will be a fun-filled, family event. Are you geared up for dingy racing? How are your rowing skills? Mark your calendars for June 18th and be sure to include the whole clan. Look for more information as the date draws near.

Mary Ellen Wetlesen is putting a call out for those very talented CYC members who want to show off their talents at a USO show at the Commodore's Ball in September. So get out your uniforms and get ready to boogie down.

Keep an eye on the club web site and calendar for those and other upcoming events you definitely do not want to miss.

We are always looking for new blood to co-chair events. If you are interested please let me know. I can be reached at kat-barr@pacific.net or 707 621 0997.

South Beach Cruise Out

All I can say is that the rain gods must like the Corinthian Yacht Club. After day after day of rain and a cancelled Friday night race due to high winds and rain, the sun came out and shined for the annual cruise out to South Beach and the Giant's game.

Good fun was had by all. There were fifteen boats from CYC, forty people at the ballgame and forty-five for dinner. We were happy to see several new members attending: Mick & Cindy McCaffrey and Steve & Leigh Allocca.

It's so much fun to just exit the harbor and walk right into AT&T Park (yes, it's been renamed once again). No reason to rush out of the park to sit in traffic; just take a leisurely stroll back to the harbor. And the Giants won, filling the bases like crazy. It sure seemed like every three minutes Bonds was up to bat again. For bonus entertainment, Allyn "The Wild One" Schafer led our group in song & dance in between innings. We even had people around us joining the party. And those garlic fries — yummy.

After the game brought rest & relaxation for a few. Most members piled onto Joe & Andrea Holko's *About Time*; they can sure fit a lot of people on their boat. I hate to find out what the empty bottle count was! The party then continued on *Three Graces*, *Sans Souci*, & *Bounty*. Thanks go to Jeff & Cam Barnes,



Jim & Donna Purvis and Jim & Bernadette Sweeney for graciously opening their boats and hosting the *Roaming Cocktail Party*. There were wonderful munchies on the boats provided by the attendees — I'm still tasting those wonderful basil, mozzarella, tomato kabobs made by Teri Nix. Congratulations go to Dan & Esther Carrico and Doug & Andrea Owen for winning the raffle; I understand that the prizes never made it out of the restaurant.

Dinner at Momo's was wonderful as always. It's a good thing they have a private area, as we didn't exactly keep the noise down.

The weather gods continued to shine on us on Sunday waiting till afternoon to unleash the rains again. How lucky can we be!



On the Water

By David Johnson

Much to tell — our Racers and Cruisers have been busy.

CYC MidWinters was held with 134 boats competing in typical mid-winter conditions — sun, rain and no wind all in the same hour. A special thanks to our PRO Larry Burnworth and all the volunteers who made this a showcase event for CYC.

The Horsfall / Vincent Memorial Regatta was held under mild winter conditions with no wind and a strong ebb at the start and then the wind filling in nicely. Congratulations to Ed & Dianna Fischer and John Colver who won their divisions — two new boats both winning for the 1st time!

Race Committee Training — 10 Corinthians went to YRA / US Sail Certified Race Officer Training, a full day of classes followed by a test. The goal is to have more Certified Race Officers at CYC.

The Corinthian Challenge is a new 4 race club series with 2 divisions — under and over 33ft.LOA. Congratulations to Steve Schneider and John Nooteboom who won their divisions on April 1st. Next race is July 8th.

Our almost world famous Friday Night Races are underway with 22 races to be sailed through September 1. This year we are introducing a new Cruiser Division!

HELP WANTED — we need more volunteers for our Friday Night race committee — a great way to spend time with your friends, meet new people, and enjoy a wonderful evening at the club. Try our new online sign-up process. The link can be found on



the main page of www.cyc.org.

Cruising – in spite of the weather we're off to a great start and have cruised to Emeryville and South Beach. Cruising is a great way to meet and hang out with fellow Corinthians. Sign up for the Ballena Bay Cruise on May 6 & 7!

We look forward to seeing you on the water.

Who Are Those Guys?

By Marcia Peck



Ronald Edward Simpson has belonged to this club longer than any other member. Born in Burlingame in 1918, Ron joined the club in 1936. He is a life member and has many stories from our past.

Ron's parents came to San Francisco from England so his father could work at Crocker Bank. One item shipped from England was his grandmother's clock. As Ron recalls, "The packing case for that clock became my first boat, as I used it to paddle around in the backyard pond at about age 6. We still have the clock."

That packing case led to a series of boats that Ron sailed and raced in Richardson and SF Bays. An early highlight came in 1927 when he sailed in a Bird Boat owned by Lester Jarvis and the late Russ Schneider. A short time later he joined our club as a Junior Member.

Ron's involvement with boats and the club spans a lifetime. He had a 22 foot boat that he raced in Division 15 of YRA during the Hearst years for the Examiner's Trophy (1929 – 1940), a beautiful bronze trophy. He was racing during the World's Fair of 1939 – 1940 and remembers all the excitement.

Regarding the club in those days, Ron recalls, "In the early days all the club members were male. Ladies could come as guests and their locker room was upstairs. The men's locker room is where the dining room is now." Asked if they managed to drink at the club during prohibition, Ron says with a wink, "Well, the men's lockers had a spot for two bottles and shot glasses, so if you wanted to entertain, you just went to your locker."

Ron's sailing days included midnight sails with his lifelong friend and legendary sailor/boat builder, Myron Spaulding, who also joined the club at about the same time Ron did. Also he sailed on a Farallon Clipper (with Arch Manson) and on Bear Boats and Hurricanes. He even spent his honeymoon going up the San Joaquin River!

During the war years Ron's boating skills got him a war job teaching cadets lifeboat skills, navigation, and seamanship. They used double-ended wooden boats, much like old whale boats. They also had a converted fishing boat they used for target practice. Smiles Ron, "We shot an old Lyle gun (a small cannon) at the crab house at Coyote Point. Couldn't do that today."

Ron made it through Prohibition, The great Depression, and WWII. He became a banker like his father – at Bank of California.



He married, moved to Tiburon, then Belvedere where he lives today. He and his wife raised two boys and spent many years power boating up the Delta to Tinsley Island. Says Ron, "During the upheaval years of the 1950's many members also joined the San Francisco and St. Francis Yacht Clubs. I joined the St. Francis. Now after 80 years of sailing on the Bay I can say I have had a lot of fun with the Corinthian Yacht Club."

The Commodore's Cup, a.k.a. Challenge Cup

This newly christened race series consisting of four race days spread over four months started on Saturday April 1st. It would be difficult to assemble ten CYC Staff Commodores for a club business meeting but ten showed up to participate in this new race series. Seen on the course were Bruce Powell, John Warren, Diana Fischer, Bill Canada, Ron Roberts, Dan Carrico, John Colver, Jeff McQueen, Tony Fisher, and George Berticevich. The winners of this first race in the series were Steve Schneider in his Islander 36, *Absolut* in Division 1 and John Nooteboom in his Cal 20, *Tension II* in Division 2. Crewing for Steve was Chris and Bill Canada, David Israel, Jim Snow, Mike and François Sousa. And as always, crewing with John Nooteboom was George Berticevich. The prize for first place was a Foster Farms chicken (deceased).



OPENING DAY! (Again.....)

By: Doug Owen



I can't help but wonder what Opening Day Weekend is like for a Life Member; after the first 35 years, is it still exciting? Is there still more to look forward to? I'd personally like to think that there is, but from this writer's standpoint, having only written about Opening Day for seven years, I've spent a lot of time looking at a blank page trying to think of things to tell you that you don't already know!

Of course, there are a number of newer members of CYC who are not entirely aware of all of the traditions surrounding Opening Day Weekend; many of which were begun by our Club, and which have endured to the enjoyment of the public as well as the Membership over the succeeding years.

I heard a story a few years back that there used to be a lagoon in the area where the Belvedere Post Office and the parking area behind the shops now sits, and that the "ark" type houseboats, as well as other small craft, would anchor in this lagoon during the winter months, to avoid winter storms. As the weather improved with the advent of spring, the bridge to the lagoon would be opened to allow the craft to return to bay waters; hence, "Opening Day". I wonder if this act coined the term "Opening Day", now used as a generic term, signifying the official start of the boating/yachting season? Did it begin in San Francisco? In Belvedere/Tiburon??

Have I gotten your interest? Are you willing to keep

reading? Okay, this year, Opening Day Weekend is the 29th and 30th of April. If you close your eyes, you can envision brilliant sunshine, deep blue skies, temperatures into the 70's with light breezes....., and you, dancing on the main deck at the Club to the band, having just finished the barbeque.....WAIT! I'm getting ahead of myself!!

You know you want to be there; even I know you want to be there! Whether you call **Herb Rodricks at 415-789-1947** to make reservations to bring your boat (**L, R and RS** members only, please) into the harbor for the weekend, or call Frances in the Club office to make your reservations for yourself and your guests for the various events, **don't delay!** Imagine how nice it would be to be able to spend the weekend on your boat, just steps away from all of the fun going on. No stress, no driving; just relaxing and enjoying. Also imagine how nice it would be to include friends that you would like to introduce to your Club on one of the most festive weekends of the year! Pile them into the car and bring them along! Gee, and right in the middle of a membership drive!

Of course the Friday night races will have begun by this time, and don't forget dinner in the dining room or the Racer's Buffet!

Saturday will see a lot of activity on the docks for the **Annual CYC Decorated Boat Contest**, as boats are decorated to this year's theme, "**Mardi Gras on San Francisco Bay**"; as most of us know from previous years, a number of the boats in the harbor really go "all out" for this event, with some amazing decorations, as well as some really good "bribes" for the judges! There are so many wonderfully and whimsically decorated boats that it's difficult for the judges to complete their task of viewing every boat in the harbor in the allotted two-hour time period! This event is not limited to boats regularly berthed in the harbor, as a lot of the cruise-in boats for the weekend come up with some of the best ideas! Don't miss seeing this wonderful event, and if you have the required elements (a membership, a boat, and a spot in the harbor during the weekend) come up with an idea and participate!!!

There will be music during the afternoon on Saturday, with lunch at **The Big Easy Grille**, (formerly and subsequently known as the Pelican Grill) and the judging of the Decorated Boat Contest will begin at 1400 hours; always a fun time to follow the judges as they review the boats in the harbor. And of course, dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Saturday evening.

You gotta be there early on Sunday morning!!! God willing, the God Squad (they said it, I didn't) will be officiating at religious services and the blessing of the boats in the harbor on the main deck at 0800. This is a wonderful moment in our lives each year, and should not be missed! As I said before, it's a good time to have your boat on hand! Everybody looks so nice in Opening Day finery, Club blazers and all.....

Then it's up to the ballroom for a wonderful brunch with local dignitaries, USCG brass and the crew of the *TERN*, which the Coast Guard has graciously assigned to us once again for the Blessing of the Fleet in Raccoon Straits, in keeping with our forty-three year tradition. There will be a performance by the **Corinthian Men's Chorus**, and new Life Members **Allen Blair, Donna Block, John Ellis, Dana Hemberger** and **Lee Johnson** will be honored. Maybe we can ask if it is still exciting after 35 years!

Okay, brunch is over, now it's into party clothes for the rest of the day! There will be entertainment for children during the day, part of which will include the building of a boat, somewhere in the vicinity of Pneumonia Alley, supervised by Richard Solomon and Jim Purvis. The band will start in the early afternoon, lunch will again be served at **The Big Easy Grille**, and you'll be dancing on the main deck (I finally caught up with myself!) and

having a wonderful time.

Around 1500 hours, the prizes will be presented for the Decorated Boat Contest, and sometime around there the band will begin. The **Bill Canada Jazz Experience** with Bill, Harry Blake and the gang (plus a vocalist!) has been booked for this time slot, and earlier in the day we have the Jay Stapleton Trio....which may include a refugee sax player from New Orleans! Now how can you miss that??? The **French Quarter Bistro** will begin serving dinner, probably from around 1630 – 1830.

With all of this fun, it's important that you get your reservations in early, and your guest list to Frances in the office before the preceding Thursday! **Embarrassingly, guests will not be admitted to Club property if they are not on the Guest List at the front gate!**

That's about all for now, except for the fine print:

Here I am again before everything is nailed down; if I knew the names of all of the bands at this writing, I would tell you, but it's the first of March! There will be lots of neat prizes for the Decorated Boat Contest, but we don't know what they are yet....your Committee is working on that. We don't know who our Club entry in the PICYA Parade/Contest will be at this writing. The CYC Men's Chorus may/may not also appear on Sunday afternoon. There will be additional children's activities, sponsored by the Corinthian Women. As to the boat the children will build, there is no guarantee of seaworthiness. Herb Rodricks hates that I publish his phone number, but understands the necessity. You can go on a diet May 1st.

Women's Sailing Seminar

By Deborah Newton



We are excited about this year's Women's Sailing Seminar and plans for it are under full sail. Our sailing seminar is one of the few in the Bay Area designed by women for women. We feature a lot of hands-on instruction both on the water and in the classroom. Over the last couple of years, participants have loved our new skills-based stations where they practice tying knots, articulating the rules of the road, sending radio messages, handling lines, and trimming sails. We appreciate all the members who help with these stations and serve as skippers and instructors throughout the event.

As you may know, the seminar is a wonderful way for women sailors and want-to-be sailors to enjoy the world of sailing. Several women have become CYC members as a result of the seminar. If you have any women friends, you would be doing them a great favor by introducing them to the club, new friends, and our beloved world of sailing. Seminar dates are:

- Beginning Seminar — May 20-21, 2006
- Intermediate Seminar — June 10 (one day only)

If you know anyone interested in the seminar, please send her to the CYC website where she can download a registration form or you may get a form from the club. Feel free to also send any potential participant's contact information to Deborah Newton, Seminar Coordinator at: Deborah@ovationstudiosllc.com or call Deb or Rich at 415.789.1721. We have already signed up many skippers, instructors, and volunteers. If you want to help out, let us know. Please come to the reception on the deck Sunday, May 21 around 4:00 pm and share your experiences with this new and excited group of sailors.

Home Again

By Dick Slottow



There will always be the guy who sails to the front of the Club and then asks his crew, "Is this Corinthian Yacht Club, or is that it over there?" as he points to San Francisco Yacht Club. Because his crew knows little more than the skipper, they end up lost only 100 yards from shore. However, thanks to the generosity of Julle Le'

Vicki, that problem has been solved. New gold letters spelling the Club's name now rest on the top beam of the Club facing south. They are very attractive and reflect the antiquity and beauty of the Club's architecture. No doubt Julle was coming home one night after sailing the Bay and wondered where he was. At that time he made a vow to eliminate any confusion regarding to which club one might be aiming. A light flashed in Julle's head, and we received a new set of letters. A second set, white on black, can also be found on the breakwater at the entrance to the harbor. Julle, being a bright and clever guy went to the only person who could help select the proper typeface, and also figure out where to get them and how they should be mounted. Our Port Captain Andre Klein provided the talent required for typeface selection and mounting.

No one knows when Julle made this earthshaking decision, and no one really cares. The important part is, after 120 years the Club has a beautifully inscribed name, which faces south. For the many sailors and tourists who will forever be taking pictures of Corinthian Yacht Club, there will be little question regarding where they are and what they are seeing. We are thinking of engraving a small brass plaque to honor Julle for his gift. If you wish to participate in its mounting, raise your hand.

Thanks to Julle and Andre from everyone!

A Few Historical Items

As you enter the Club at the front door, stop for a second and look at the wall to your right, and then to the left. On the right is a picture of the Club dated 1886, the year the Club was founded. On the left is another picture of the Club dated 1887. These pictures are labeled incorrectly. Actually, the picture on the right is 1887 and the one on the left is 1886. No doubt back in eighteen hundred and something, some member decided to frame probably the only two original pictures of the Club. After preparing the frames he placed the pictures in the wrong places.

So why haven't we changed them? If we tried there is always the chance they will crumble and disappear. Better we have them wrong than not at all. However we want all members to have the true story. Now, didn't this make your day?

Move two steps forward and you are greeted on the right by a huge ship's wheel with a plaque identifying it as having come from the *Apache*. This is not true. The wheel came from the *Arrow*, an old paddle wheel that had been grounded at Hunters Point in 1927 by the then bankrupt Monticello Ferry Co. On May 21, 1927, the American Bridge Co. opened the Carquinez Bridge and drivers left the ferries in favor of a new bridge with a toll of 25 cents.

Two Stanford students and Bill Hynes (who became a Corinthian member a few years later), boarded the *Arrow* late one night and removed the 7-foot wheel. It languished in some basement for many years before it arrived at the Club. We do not know who brought it to the Club or exactly when, but we think it came sometime in the 30's. Two of the original wheel thieves showed up at the Club a few years ago and told us what really happened. The

incorrect information on the plaque will probably remain incorrect until the Club Historian gets around to fixing it. I should add that this story appeared a few years ago, but it's new to many new members.

Now take a few steps backward until you are outside the Club. Look closely at the doors and note that the glass on both panes feature an etched image of an old sloop. These doors were a gift from John Colver in 1986 to commemorate the Club's Centennial. The sloop has not been identified, but was taken from a piece of Club stationery where it appeared as a watermark. During the Centennial the image of the sloop was used on the Centennial burgee and all other printed material. We know nothing about the sloop that resides on our entrance doors. A photograph of the doors appears on the opening pages of the Club Directory, and will probably remain there for many years to come.

CYC/TYC Friendship Race Year 7

Saturday June 17

By Harry Blake

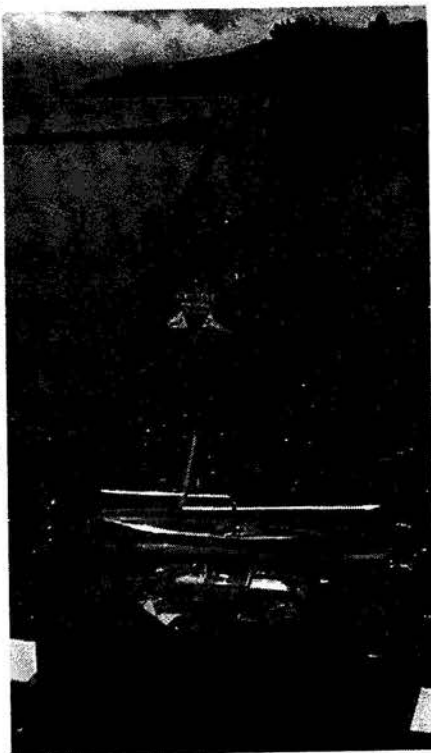


As many of you know this is a series in its 7th year where CYC competes with TYC on a team basis. It's run off the Corinthian in two divisions (spinnaker and non-spinnaker) where each club's finishes are averaged per division with the lowest overall average winning the Lucite sailboat perpetual trophy. Last year, TYC won this regatta by a very slim margin. Here are the results since the beginning: 2000 TYC; 2001 TYC; 2002 CYC; 2003 CYC; 2004 TYC; 2005 TYC. The turnout has been fairly even over the years with 26 boats competing last year.

Typically there is a **crew meeting in the CYC bar at about 11 am** where the course (s) for the day are determined (I typically wet my index finger in my tongue, stick the finger in the air and then choose the courses). **The first sound signal (for Division 1) will be at 12:25 pm.**

While it's TYC's turn to be host this year, we will still run the regatta at CYC due to the lack of docks at TYC. As in past years there will be a \$10 entry fee to cover trophies. This may be paid at the crew meeting preceding the regatta. As always the modestly-priced Pelican Grille outdoor BBQ will be open after the race, providing the hungry sailors with burgers and dogs (no host).

Let's get out there and recapture the perpetual on June 17! TYC has beaten us in attendance four years in a row, so let's change that too. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board in front of Frances' office.



John C Colver
250 Beach Road
Belvedere, CA 94920

Corinthian Yacht Club
43 Main Street, Tiburon, CA 94920



Calendar of Club Activities...

APRIL

Saturday 29
Sunday 30

Opening Day
Opening Day

MAY

Thursday 4, 11, 18, 25
Friday 5, 12, 19, 26
Saturday 6—Sunday 7
Thursday 11
Saturday 13
Sunday 14
Thursday 18
Thursday 18
Thursday 18
Friday 19
Saturday 20
Sunday 21

Bistro Nights
Friday Night Races
Cruise to Ballena Bay
TCW Board Meeting
Full Moon Cruise
Mother's Day
Harbor Management Committee
House Management Committee
Membership Committee
Friday Night Race
Women's Sailing Seminar (beginners level)
Women's Sailing Seminar (beginners level)

6:35 p.m.
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 a.m.

10 a.m.
6 p.m.
6 p.m.

JUNE (partial list)

Saturday 10
Saturday 17
Sunday 18
Saturday 24—Sunday 25
Saturday 24
Sunday 25

Women's Sailing Seminar (intermediate level)
CYC/TYC Friendship Regatta
Father's Day
Cruise to Vallejo YC
SSS TransPac Race - various starts
Master Mariner's Wooden Boat Show

9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
10 a.m.—5 p.m.