



CONNECTIONS

August 2005

www.pryc.us

PORT ROYAL YACHT CLUB Redondo Beach, CA

A Friendly, Casual, Fun-loving Group Devoted to Social and Boating Activities

Port Royal
Yacht Club

555 N. Harbor Drive
Redondo Beach
CA 90277
310-372-3960

PRYC OFFICERS

Commodore
Russ Morgan

Vice Commodore
Sue Meyer

Rear Commodore
Penny Vowles

Secretary
Helen Morgan

Fleet Captain
Jack Laisure

Junior Staff Commodore
Dave Coleman

Quartermaster
Pat Paxson

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Commodore's Comments

On July 15th of this year, Helen and I packed up the old Lexis and began our vacation by motoring north to San Francisco for the express purpose of witnessing the Original Plastic Classic at the Bayview Boat Club.

When John Super came down to help us out, I put him and his crew up on *Seascope*. So when he invited us up to participate in their Plastic Classic, he told us he would find us a boat to stay on. "Seems only fair," he said.

Little did we know. One of his buddies that came down to

help, Pete McCool, invited us to stay on his boat - houseboat, that is. A three story houseboat, with our own private master bedroom. Our many thanks to Pete and his lovely wife Amy for their hospitality.

Next morning at the Bayview Boat Club, everything was in the flamingo pink theme. There were your typical plastic flamingos in the garden, inflatable flamingos decorated the club and the bow pulpits of some boats, and the commemorative t-shirts were in shocking flamingo pink. And to top it all off, so to speak, were the flamingo caps, as elegantly modeled by your photogenic commodore.

The Concourse D'Elgance we could only observe from afar. There were perhaps a dozen entries, but they were separated from the club by an obsolete pier that once was used for loading railroad cars onto barges that would ferry them to Oakland or wherever.

Then it was time for the regatta. It was our honor to serve on the Committee Boat and our opportunity to observe the race up close and personal. Sixty entries in six different classes. And once all the boats were started, the committee boat returned to port, and the finishers were documented from the tower of the clubhouse.

At this point, the band started playing and the party began.

Eventually the trophies were presented and John Super presented Port Royal Yacht Club with our own Plastic Classic Banner. A good time was had by all.

We left Bayview and continued north, to acquaint ourselves with the yacht clubs of Washington State. Oddly, most of them were closed. Why? Because most of the members were off cruising the San Juan Islands. We tried Gig Harbor YC, Port Ludlow YC, Port Townsend YC, Kingston Cove YC., the story was the same.

But at Poulsbo Yacht Club we found some action. We walked in and were greeted by warm, smiling faces, and free drinks. Later, we were invited on board a forty-five foot trawler that was headed for the Islands the next day. The evening was spent extolling the glories of cruising Puget Sound and the Poulsbo Yacht Club.

Meanwhile, back at home port, the END OF SUMMER BASH is coming up Saturday, August 27. There'll be fun, food, live music, and a silent auction that will feature fabulous items such as gift certificates for dinners at local restaurants, a month's free slip fee, merchandise from Boater's World, and gift baskets made up by our own members.

The object of all this is to raise some money for a very worthy cause related to our Corinthian pledge, the TopSail Youth Program. (See next pages)

Hope to see you there.

PRYC's End of Summer Bash to benefit TopSail Youth Program . Find out more about this worthy cause.:

TOPSAIL YOUTH PROGRAM

Since its founding in 1992, the mission of the Los Angeles maritime Institute's "TopSail Youth Program" has been to use sail training to provide youth with real-life challenges that develop knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to live healthy, productive lives. This multi-award winning program has become a model for others world wide.

The LA Maritime Institute is a tax-exempt public-benefit corporation founded by retired science teacher and sailing program pioneer, Captain Jim Gladson. With a current fulltime staff of two administrators and two licensed captains, the Institute utilizes the skills and enthusiasm of several hundred volunteers to sail, maintain and support the ships and programs.

The educational venue is the ocean on board classic-rigged sailing vessels. The twin brigantines Irving and Exy Johnson make a unique and challenging environment that nurtures the development of knowledge, skills, and attitudes that are necessary for the education of today's youth and difficult to teach in the traditional classroom.. Young people are encouraged to explore and respond to the world around them. Science, math, physics, biology, geography, world trade, economics, history, literature, and even poetry come to life on board these sailing ships.



The crew of mariner/ teacher/ mentors are charged with fostering the growth of communication, teamwork, awareness, and understanding as well as developing mature attitudes regarding persistence, patience, endurance, courage and caution. The ultimate goal is instilling each child with a sense of individual responsibility, competency and leadership.





“TopSail has helped provide many of our boys and girls with the skills and self-belief necessary to choose avenues that will serve them well in their future lives.”

-Mountain View School District



“...youth who participate in this experience return with a sense of accomplishment and a feeling that they can overcome other obstacles in their lives.”

Bresee Foundation

This article was excerpted from the TopSail website. If you would like to volunteer or want more information go to www.lamitopsail.org

“When our kids experience sailing, they soon understand it is a rare opportunity to live an experience which is far more generous and enriching than their daily experience.”

South El Monte High School



When you use your *Ralph's Club Card*, 4% of your purchase goes to TopSail!

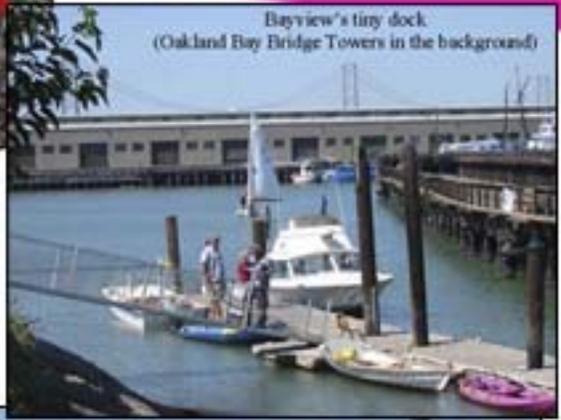
The Bay View Boat Club



The Original Plastic Classic



Bayview's tiny dock
(Oakland Bay Bridge Towers in the background)



Our Houseboat Hotel

Legendary "T-Mark" searching for the "Pink Flash"



John Super and Helen
in the
Bayview Garden

Lineup for Concours D'Elegance

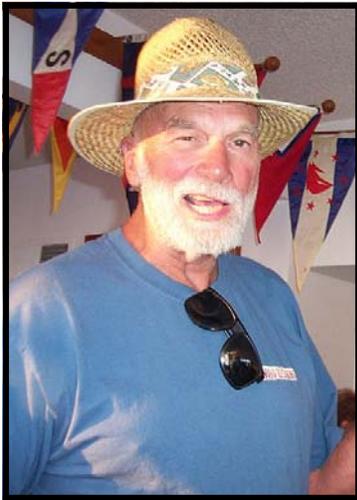


The Bayview Bar - (Half of it anyway)



Cool jazz
On the
Bayview Patio





Talking With Lobster Don Mueller

“Lobster Don” Mueller is a longstanding member of PYRC. He just stepped down as treasurer. He and his wife Cathy routinely supply us with fabulous lobster dishes for all occasions from the Chili Cookoff to Sunday Brunch as O.D.s But even better, Don is a great storyteller and his knowledge and love of the sea is apparent in this interview. am

How did you get hooked on lobsters? How many have you caught over the years?

Started lobster diving in 1976. Got hooked on lobsters for 2 reasons, 1) They are hard to catch (must learn how to find them, and then catch them, they are the fastest moving creatures in the water over a short distance. With the help of my teacher (Larry Brown) I was able to consistently get good numbers in about 3 years. You need fast hands which you develop by dropping \$20 bills 6 inches over a bonfire and then catching with your other hand before it hits the fire)

2) They are good to eat and impress the women. It used to work with Cathy but she learned how to catch her own.

Compare the Maine lobster to the Redondo lobster- aside from the claws are there any other differences?

The Maine lobster has a smaller tail, no spines, and holds it's ground and tries to defend itself by use of its claws. The spiny lobster has spines, a larger tail, and defends itself by hanging around a deep hole and kicking its tail and shooting backwards like shot out of a gun into the hole when threatened. There are people who swear by one or the other as to taste. These people largely don't know what they are talking about or have an agenda on their own. The taste of a lobster (or any seafood) is mostly determined by 2 things. 1) How fresh and how cooked. The best seafood is freshly caught and eaten the same day and 2) it is **NEVER** over cooked. Perhaps some day we should get a spiny lobster and a Maine lobster, both fresh and both the same size and cook then the same and have a taste test. I bet they would rank evenly.

How is that crossbreeding experiment progressing -California Clawed Lobster?

I have heard of Maine lobsters being caught in California waters, However I suspect they were planted by some sicko.

Have you encountered a Moby Dick of lobsters that has become your nemesis?

I have several Moby Dick stories. One time I reached into a hole to try and capture a 13lb bug. He was too big to get out of the hole so I gave up. When I tried to get my hand back, it wouldn't come. The bug had a hold of it and was chewing it's way through my wet suit to my wrist. My motivation to get this bug suddenly increased and I spent the next 15 minutes getting him out of the hole, all the time he had an unbreakable grip on me. I was in 50 ft of water and low on air. I suddenly realized how the lobsters must feel and in a last desperate effort he came out.

Many times I had a hold of large lobsters but gave up because I couldn't get them out (at least in one piece).

At one of my really top secret spots, I used to see a 25lb lobster way back, too far to reach. I visited him weekly hoping the some day I would catch him closer to the entrance. I went there a night hoping he would be out feeding. I just knew that I had to be smarter than this bug. However his 75 years of living in the

What is the strangest creature you've ever encountered during a night dive?

The strangest night dive ever was in Hawaii. I encountered large worms free swimming, parrot fish sleeping in a mucus bubble, moray eels free swimming, a large slipper lobster, giant sized plankton swimming like bees, glow in the dark cleaning shrimp, and many other really weird things. I have a video of this, the best I ever took. Maybe some night we can show it at the club.

Where were you born and raised and when did you first get into boating?

Born and raised in Dubuque, Iowa on the Mississippi River. Have been boating as long as I can remember (60 years or more). Used to set trot lines baited with crawdads for channel cats and traps baited with stink cheese for flatheads.

How long have you been a member of PRYC?

Colin Vowles was commodore when I joined.

What is your favorite sea creature besides lobsters, why?

I love them all and it is hard to choose. The most spectacular sightings have been sharks, for the beauty, grace and awesome power. For about 6 weeks last year we were diving with about a 6-foot mako off PV. Didn't get a picture because when I took my camera he didn't show. He liked to follow us around; at first he spooked me but after a while got used to him and looked forward to his visits. I have a good picture of a Mako on my boat, which looked just like him.

Of the mammals, I like sea lions the best because they will interact with you and will be your friend for life if you ever make the mistake of feeding one. They are very playful and sometimes can become a pest; but I forgive them for that. They have many good qualities, which overshadow their bad habits. The ocean is their environment; we are the visitors. I also love dolphins but they are hard to have underwater encounters with. Of the local mammals, my most spectacular underwater encounter has been a baby gray whale off PV. He followed me and approached me. I was later told his 30 foot parents were watching. My friend Doug was visited by one of the parents later.

watching from the surface while this was happening. My friend Doug was visited by one of the parents later.

What about your least favorite?

If I was forced to name one it would probably be the sea urchin. They are very diver unfriendly and get in the way and have a propensity of sticking you with their brittle spines and breaking off under your skin. I carry many around with me today and just recently had a half-inch spine work its way out from my leg. It had been in there 3 years causing many to ask what that bump was. I got tired of explaining it. Thank God it is gone. But even urchins have their place. They provide food for many creatures (including sea otters) and are a commercially harvest fishery. Their main bad point is that if things get out of balance due to man's interference in nature, they can overpopulate and eat too much kelp, which reduces the kelp forest and starts a negative down cycle.

Where did you catch your first lobster?

Probably at one of the islands on a TRW Sea Diver trip. The very first big one I caught was a 15 lber off the King Harbor breakwater, directly in front of the Chart House in 10 ft of water. I asked Larry Brown where a good spot to night dive was and he sent me there. He almost shit when I saw him later and told him about the bug. That is the biggest one I ever got.

How did they become known as "bugs"?

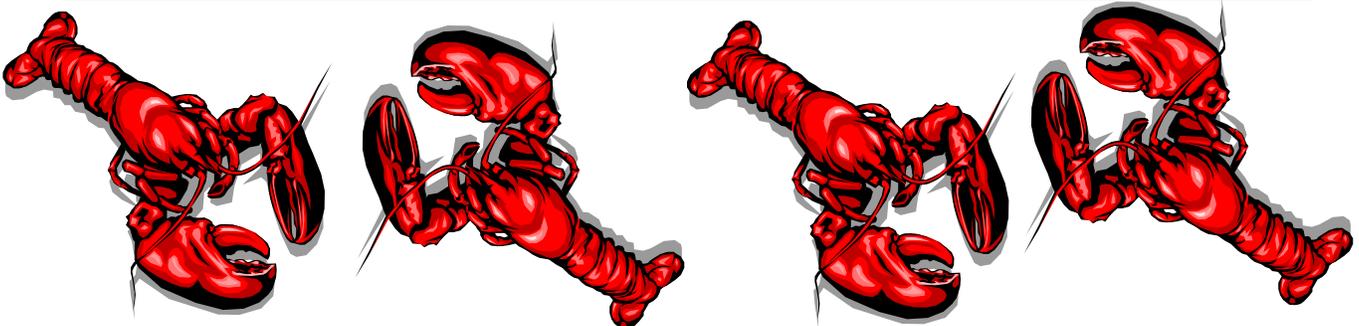
Because of their exoskeleton, which they share with many insects.

I know there's more to Lobster Don than "lobsters, any other stories of undersea adventures?"

Many, I could write a book. Too many for this interview.

I understand you're quite an expert on salmon, too. Tell me about that time in Alaska when you were fishing with the grizzlies.

Anything that is 12 ft tall, runs at 35 mph, has a set of 10 inch daggers for claws, knocks over trees while traveling and doesn't even notice, scares the hell out of me. I have been backpacking in Alaska with a bell and pepper spray for defense (that would do a hell of a lot of good). I've been fishing for salmon on a narrow stream and have heard the signs of a bear in the area (falling trees) but never have been attacked. If one tried to steal my salmon, I would probably hand it over. I do feel safer fishing with bears and swimming with sharks than I do walking around Bourbon Street at night (once got whacked on the ass with a board by a transvestite).



THE PORT ROYAL YACHT CLUB

MARGARITAS



\$2.00

PROUDLY PRESENTS



LIVE MUSIC



DANCING

OUR END-OF-SUMMER BASH

FRESH FROM THE BARBIE!
TRI TIP & CHICKEN
SILENT AUCTION! RAFFLE PRIZES!

**THIS IS A PRYC
TOPSAIL PROGRAM
FUNDRAISER**

ADULTS...\$12.00

KIDS...\$6.00

2:00 pm, Saturday, August 27, 2002

555 N. Harbor Drive

Redondo Beach

*Are you up for getting down & dirty?
Enter the Dirty DINGHY RACES!
SIGN UP AT THE CLUB!*

*(Subject to availability of Inflatable dinghies.
If you'd like to volunteer yours, please contact the
Fleet Captain, Jack Laisure.)*

