



CONNECTIONS

July 2005

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PORT ROYAL YACHT CLUB Redondo Beach, CA

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

Port Royal Yacht Club

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Redondo Beach
CA 90277
310-372-3960

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COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Well, whaddya know, the year's half gone and then some. A lot of good things have happened, and a lot of good things are coming up.

We've joined the SCYA and the ASMBYC and U.S. Sailing. Attending these association meetings has been a real education. For one thing, they're always at different yacht clubs, and it gives us a chance to see a variety of approaches to the Corinthian Spirit. And there's always an educational presentation: what it's really like to be in a Transpac race; what the Catalina Island Conservancy does (and why you should volunteer).

We've had some great parties, a great cruise to Santa Barbara Island (wherein your commodore discovered that ocean water is just as wet as bath water), a "Super" Plastic Classic race which may not have made much money, but established a precedent which promises an optimistic future.

And what's coming up? The Board of Directors decided to reinstate the Summer Isthmus Cruise. The date is July 30-31. Getting moorings in the middle of summer is a gamble, so cruisers are advised to check their ground tackle before they leave. More details will be forthcoming.

The End of Summer Bash is coming up. Mark your calendars, people, it's August 27th. This is our big fundraiser, so we're asking all our members to get involved. There's lots to do. The main features are a silent auction, a raffle, dinner, and dancing. In order for these things to happen, we need to solicit businesses and members for auction items and raffle prizes, and we need volunteers to operate these venues.

And what happens to the funds we hopefully will raise? We want to contribute to a program called Topsail which gives seafaring experience to disadvantaged young people. We also want to give something to the USO to help our young people in the Armed Services.

And something else is coming up. Our intrepid Race Committee Chairman, Dave Coleman is planning the 2nd Annual LaRue Thomas Memorial Predicted Log Race in such a way that it will coincide with the Redondo Beach Yacht Club's Octoberfest Celebration at the Isthmus. Stay tuned for details.

Right now, as soon as I finish this article, Helen And I are packing up the car for a visit to the Bay View Boat Club in time for the original 21st Annual Plastic Classic Regatta. We'll get to see first hand what, hopefully, our club will be doing twenty years from now. We'll bring back lots of pictures.

Mystery muck in the marina!

Something has gone very wrong in our marina as of late. The nasty gunk that has been floating on the water has been attributed to red tide, sewage runoff , a combination of the two as well as a selection of other mystery pollutants thrown in. Not only is this an eyesore and a hazard for boaters, tourists and marine life, it's also bad for business. Congratulations to our very own environmental detectives from PYRC who did their own independent investigation into the situation and presented the city with their findings and suggestions for a solution. Here is the latest update from **Don Mueller**:

We met with the city and had a very good meeting. **Kevin Herrick, Jack Laisure, Dick Krebs** and myself met with Mayor Mike Gin, Councilman Chris Cagle, and city manager Bill Workman. They listened and agreed 100% with us. Chris and Mike are introducing a resolution to establish a Water Quality Task force at the next city council meeting this Tuesday. It will be to educate and inform the public and advise the city on water quality issues. The task force will be about 15 people and consist of the city, businesses, visitors' bureau, harbor commission, environmental groups and most importantly boaters such as represented by the RBBA. Kevin and I are planning to attend the council meeting on July 19 and one or both of us will speak in favor of this resolution. We will let you know what happens.



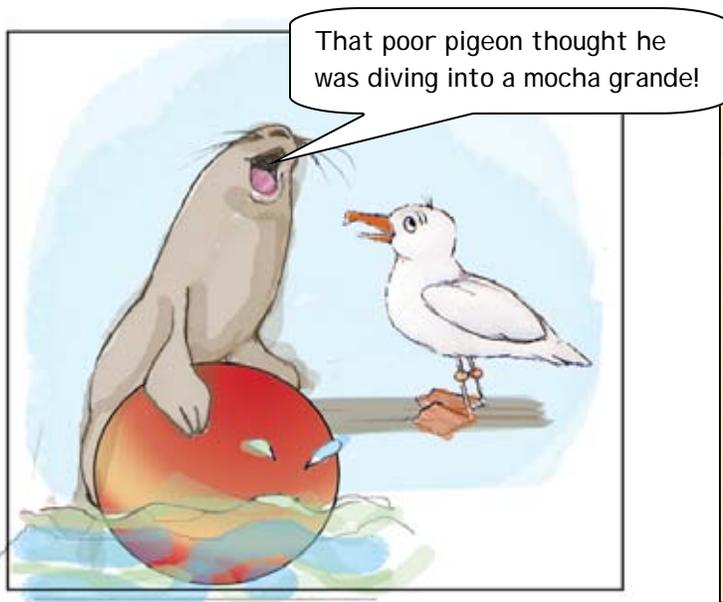


I am VERY optimistic. Bill Workman has a lot of experience dealing with harbor pollution issues from his previous posts including Huntington Beach. He has a lot of technical knowledge on the issue. The mayor is a young, dedicated guy who wants to get the job done. Chris is an excellent people person on the council, very accessible, an excellent communicator and has worked effectively with us in the past especially on the Heart of the City. The city has already taken some action on the problems. They are upgrading the offending Porto-

fino Way lift station, they are making sure all restaurants in Redondo are in compliance with grease trap rules. They think they have fixed all the sewage leaks on the pier which have caused the beach south of it to be graded F.

There is no instant fix to all our problems but I am confident that significant progress will be made. The task force will put together a plan to react to red tide incidents and get the dead fish out of the harbor in a timely fashion as well as study methods to maybe even reduce the kill.

Don Mueller



Thanks to Don, Jack and Doug collecting the water samples, investigating the sources of the muck and contacting the city with the data they observed.

Don's Powerpoint presentation to the city was very straightforward and to the point. We can thank them because nothing was being done about the situation until they took action on their own.

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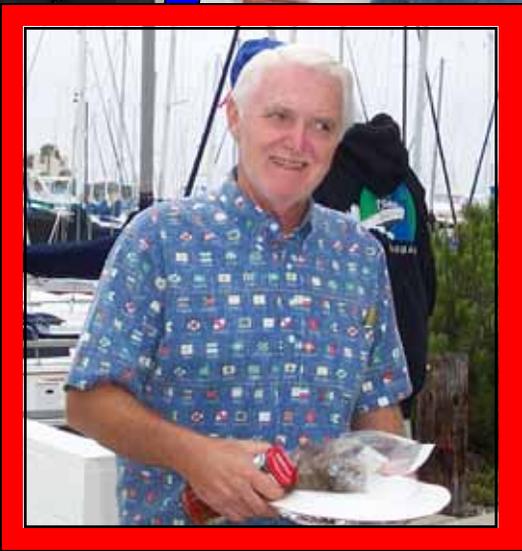


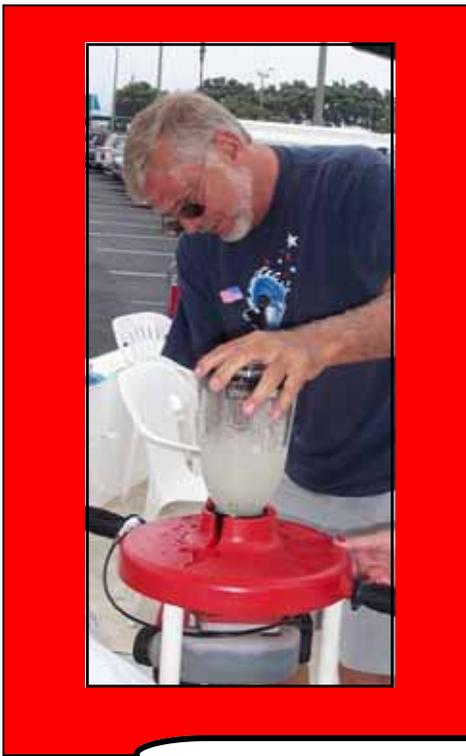
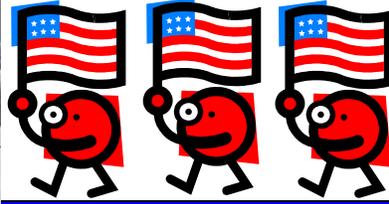
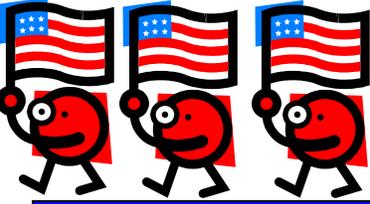
Where's my hot dog?

4TH OF JULY

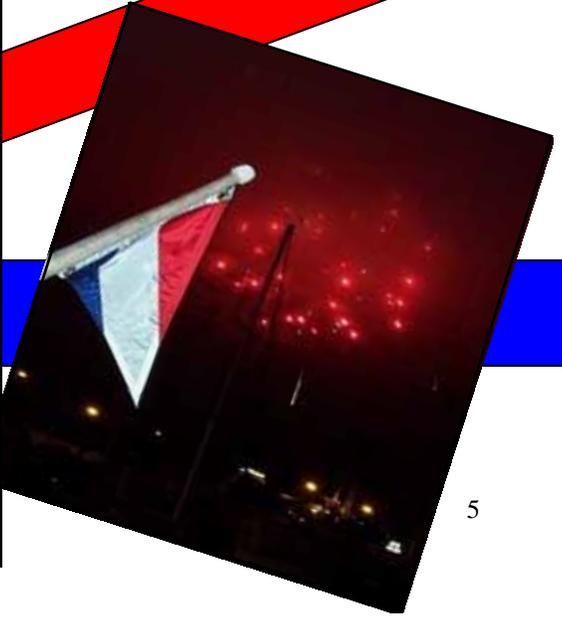


Fireworks, franks and fog was the order of the day for this annual celebration. The day started beautifully but an out of season "June Gloom" settled in at night giving the marina an eerie glow as the fireworks lit the sky. A good time was had by all but Skippy who shall remain home with the windows closed next year.





Stop the Insanity!



Trip to Santa Barbara Island



On Memorial Day weekend, Knotty Girl and Breakaway set sail for Santa Barbara Island in the Channel Islands. The day was overcast and there wasn't very much wind, but that didn't curb the enthusiasm of either crew. Breakaway, captained by Andy Davis with crew members Terry Lunn and our own Commodore, Russ Morgan left the marina at 5 AM after a quick trip to Starbucks. Jack Lasure captained Knotty Girl with Pat Paxson and myself as crew departed after loading last minute supplies around 10 AM.

With Breakaway far ahead, and after a late night, Jack set the autopilot and went below for some much needed rest. Pat kept watch and I kept her company. We had no wind so we motored with the mainsail up, nevertheless, it was really exciting for us because neither of us had been there before and Pat was going on the first long trip on her boat so it would be a great learning opportunity as well. At first, it was so quiet, we saw maybe one or 2 small boats in the distance, not even a bird or a sea lion as we got further out to sea. Then the water became as still as glass. It was eerie, just the way it is in a horror movie before the prehistoric creature explodes out of the deep and eats the boat. Jack came on deck to check the radio as we crossed the shipping lanes. That was very cool for me because I live in San Pedro and see the watch the giant container ships loading and unloading at the port. The shipping lanes reminded me of the 405, just one after another for as far as you could see. For some time we saw nothing at all but finally Santa Barbara island appeared on the horizon. We anchored close by Breakaway in the harbor. There were only a few other boats and a few sea lions and seagulls to meet us.

Terry came over to greet us and join us for a beer. Later on he went back to get Andy and Russ. We had a little cocktail party and discussed items I could add to the newsletter but I don't remember where I put the notes. Probably just as well since we all had had plenty to drink- especially the crew of the Breakaway who had a much earlier start!



Saturday morning we went ashore on Santa Barbara Island along with Russ. The island has 9 miles of trails. It is a rookery for sea lions and elephant seals as well as a nesting reserve for Pelicans and seagulls. We climbed the ladder onto the island equipped with water, sack lunches, binoculars and cameras and were met by the park ranger who is the only fulltime human occupant. Jack brought him a bag of fruit from the mainland as he always does when he comes to visit. Even though it was still overcast, the weather was fine, just a light breeze and lovely temperature. There were great views from the top and the seagulls were yelling and diving at us as we walked by the nests scattered along the trail. Although the rare indigenous Calyopsis plants had already bloomed there were other small blooming shrubs and ground cover that camouflaged the dried grass nests containing tan and gray mottled eggs. We even saw a few that had just been hatched. The chicks were the same colors as the eggs, just little balls of fluff. We could hear the sea lions and seals before we could see them. They were swimming and playing in a beautiful secluded cove with grottos where they could bask and lounge about. It reminded me of a hideaway for the rich and famous (don't ever tell Donald Trump about this place!) We ate our lunch before dropping Russ off at Breakaway and getting back on Knotty Girl.



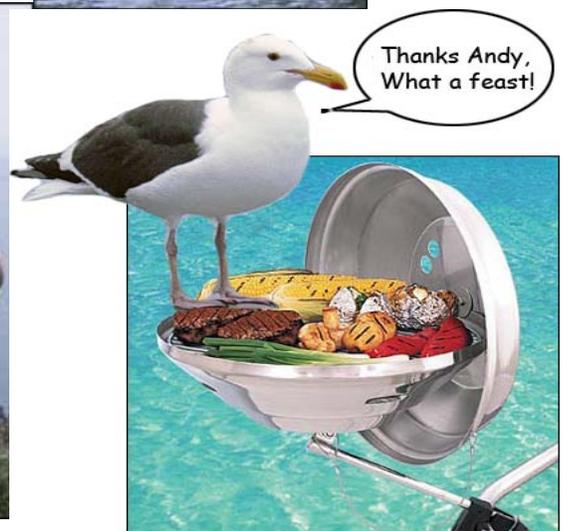
Jack had to work hard rowing us back and forth since the dinghy wasn't holding air and the motor didn't work.

As the sun set, the seagulls were coming around looking for food. We saw one seagull on Andy's boat actually eyeing the grill, then we watched in disbelief as he actually hopped onto the grill and grabbed something. Terry came over later to see if we had anything to eat. He never got any dinner. Andy cooked chicken for himself and Russ and left Terry's burger on the grill. The seagull had eaten it! The night was clear and there were a million billion stars out. Life is good.

Sunday, the Breakaway departed, suffering from hangovers, missing a cell phone and pair of glasses and homesick for their wives, they headed straight for Redondo. Jack decided to take Knotty girl to Catalina Harbor for the night. On the radio there was a call for vessel assist. A motor boat had run out of gas and we went to their rescue with our spare can of fuel which was traveling in the leaking dinghy. The sea was choppy as Jack lined up alongside the distressed vessel and Pat handed them the fuel can. They maneuvered it perfectly in one try. We got a mooring at the isthmus and got a ride to the island. After dinner and a little dancing, we hitched a ride on a dinghy back to our boat. Unfortunately I was in the wrong place when the man started the outboard motor and he accidentally hit me with his elbow. After the swelling went down I got my first shiner.



Memorial Day was beautiful and clear as we headed for home. There still was no wind, and we saw lots of boats heading back to the mainland along the way. Even though we couldn't do much sailing, we did a lot of laughing, eating and relaxing and experienced a unique and remote spot accessible only by sea. We had a fabulous time and I look forward to the next PYRC outing.



STRANGE BUT TRUE:

There are chicken bones scattered all through the trails and terrain of Santa Barbara Island. We asked Ranger Terry if they were in fact chicken bones and if so, why were they there.

It seems the gulls enjoy dumpster dining at Kentucky Fried on the mainland. They eat everything, and what they don't poop out, they regurgitate when they get back home. Ranger Terry said he's even found ketchup and mustard packets!



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