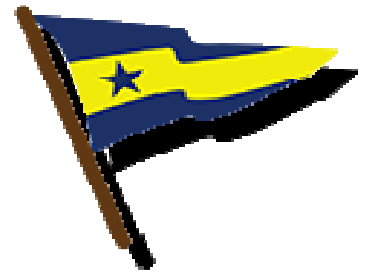


Navy Yacht Club
Long Beach

Scuttlebutt



NYCLB

NEW STYLE

FRIDAY NIGHT POTLUCK
April 2nd @ 5:00pm

ON THE MENU:

Cold Chicken Salad w/Feta Cheese,
Onion, Tomatoes and more!

Cost: Donations / Honor Bar Open
Arrive early, limited amount available.

Register on line www.nyclub.org



Inside this issue

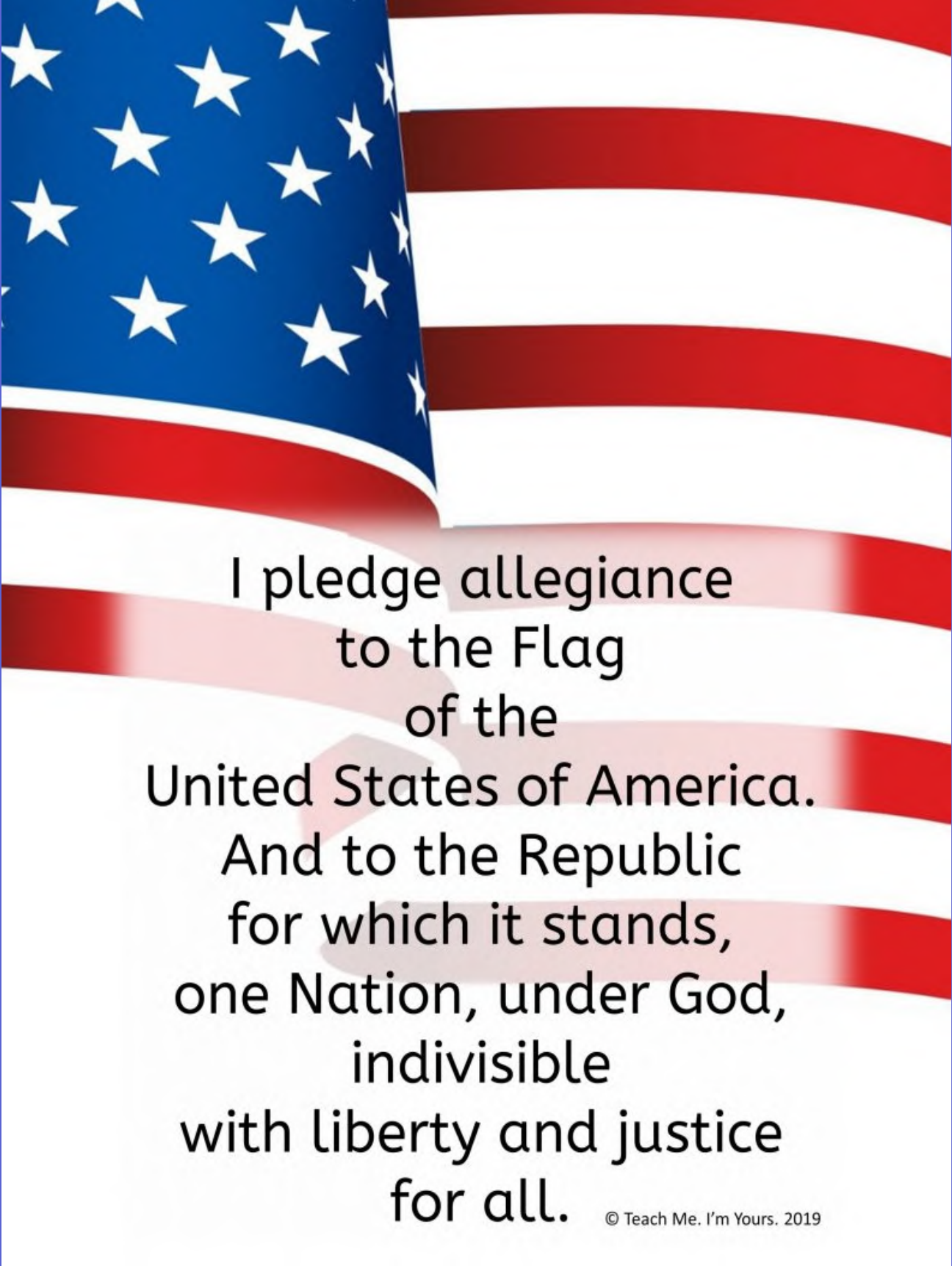
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Website:
<http://nyclub.org>

Address:
223 Marina Dr.

The background of the page is a stylized American flag with red and white horizontal stripes and a blue canton with white stars. The flag appears to be waving. The text is centered over the lower portion of the flag.

I pledge allegiance
to the Flag
of the
United States of America.
And to the Republic
for which it stands,
one Nation, under God,
indivisible
with liberty and justice
for all.

© Teach Me. I'm Yours. 2019



**Commodore
Becky Martinez**



Hello All,

Can you believe we are entering the second quarter of 2021! Finally, we can relax a little.

I am happy to report that through our membership renewals we have attained the income level to pay the club's bills for the remainder of 2021! Barring any unexpected expenses, we can maintain our financial responsibilities for the year and create and schedule some new activities and events! So put your fun hats on and email your suggestions to me.

Also, as always, we are ready to add new members to our yacht club family. If you have friends or dock neighbors who are or may be interested in joining a yacht club, email Rear Commodore Heinz Butner who will inform you of the application process including the military or USNSA requirement. Please note that an Ad Hoc Membership Committee is in the process of revising our application process. As soon as the new process has been approved by the board we will send out the updates to everyone.

As you are all aware, the restrictions on businesses for the past year, both for-profit and non-profit, have made it extremely difficult for business to maintain finances. NYCLB is no exception. Now that services have opened up with limited capacity, you may have experienced increased prices almost everywhere.

Unfortunately, our costs to host events have also increased more than you may be accustomed to. We will do our best to keep prices down; and although we need to maintain limited capacity for the time being, we strive to make our events available to as many of our members as allowed. For our Friday night gathering we ask only for a donation for the packaged meal and donation bar.

Our first New Style Friday Potluck in March was a great success! I was thrilled to see so many of you, and genuinely heartened by the good time everyone seemed to be having. It was almost like old times! I also want to thank everyone who attended for your generous donations for the food. Because of its success we are planning one Friday gathering per month, and, for the time being, we will need to maintain the practice of providing the food (no food contributions allowed). This event could not have happened without the generosity of our volunteers. A big thank you to: Dorothy Aho, who managed the food servings, donated the food containers and bread for all. Elena Yuasa made sure everyone was registered. Joya Ryerson assigned 2021 parking passes for those who attended. Cindy Ramirez ordered food, and Brenda Cuzzi and Colleen Taylor managed the honor bar. On top of all this, our club made a small profit! Also in March, the Commodore's Brunch with a St. Patrick's Day theme was well attended. The food was wonderful with plenty for all. We had a great raffle with all prizes donated by members.

Terry and Shirley Kyle donated a Golf certificate for four at the The Navy Golf Course with a value of \$250. Becky and David Byrum donated a beautiful gardening basket that included a gift certificate for \$100 at Lowe's Home Improvement, valued at \$200. Jay and Rosemary Zaidenberg donated a beautiful basket. Rodney and Joyce Coomber donated a variety of items. I donated a large gift basket and a Gondola ride for six valued at \$250. Cindy Ramirez donated a set of mule mugs. There were several additional beautiful baskets and items that our members donated. My apologies if I missed acknowledging you by name, but know you are appreciated! This raffle generated over \$400. Thank you to all who attended! Parking passes for 2021 are here! Joya Ryerson, Director, will assign passes when you stop by the club for a scheduled gathering. Keep your eyes on the Scuttlebutt calendar and flyers.

If you would like to get involved with your club send me an email at: Commodore@nyclb.org and let me know what your interest is; we need more volunteers! By the way your board has some wonderful news to share with everyone, keep an eye out for unexpected emails, or until next month's Scuttlebutt.

Until Next Time,
Becky Martinez
Commodore



Rear Commodore
Heinz Butner



Here we are at the beginning of spring of 2021 already. We should all have renewed our NAVY Yacht Club membership by now. However we are about 30-35 renewals short of our 2020 membership. That's not to unusual annual loss for for a club our size. Good news is that we are still seeing a great interest from new prospective members. Here is where the each member can help keep the club full of energy and enthusiasm - help recruit new members. Each of you is the best source of of the kind of members we are looking for. By replacing our lost members we can ensure we have the resources to make the club even better.

Last month I announce the addition of three new member/couples. this month I would like to introduce another new Regular member:

Robert and Terreca Endresen They have a 27' Regency Pontoon boat out of the area. Robert is Retired Army and Retired from DHS.

As you can see on the club calendar we are again having our monthly new members Friday Pot Luck. Be sure to meet and great our new members to make them feel part of our NYC family!

We currently have five additional new applications. After review by our membership committee we expect to be able to present these to the Board of Directors for approval next month.

As our communities and our club begins to open up again, I hope those of you who have not renewed will reconsider. There is still time. Just a reminder, if paid after February 28, 2021, please include a \$25 late fee. Thank You!

Thanks to all of you for your time and support of your club.

Heinz Butner
Rear Commodore
HeinzLB@icloud.com



Fleet Captain
Colleen Taylor



Hello Navy Yacht Club Family!!

The SCCYC and the HGYC annual cruise to Emerald Bay is on our schedule for 24-27 June the Corsair Cove Facilities has been reserved. The corsair is an additional cost separate from the mooring fee it is \$275.00 per club. We Reg and I were able to use the facilities in 2020, it was wonderful. We have one boat so far that has RSVP'd and of course Reg and I if he can get leave to fly back (fingers crossed). If not I will need a bunk on someone's boat if possible. This sounds like a great weekend.

The Weekend Itinerary

It's our annual cruise to Emerald Bay – one of the club's favorites! We will have full access to the private Corsair Cove facilities – fresh water, showers, bathrooms, picnic and cooking facilities.

Emerald Bay is wonderful both above and below the water. The snorkeling around Indian Rocks is unbeatable, and there is excellent hiking from the cove.

This year we're most likely not going to share dishes again, so please bring your own food and drinks. We'll be eating ashore at the cove and will do our best to spread apart; bring your dinner to grill on Saturday and something for breakfast Sunday Morning. We

We will have a separate e-mail to request volunteers to provide firewood and charcoal for the grill. PLEASE bring your own washable plates/cups/utensils to reduce the total amount of trash – We must pack out all trash.

Thursday: Bonus day in the Cove (for those who want to arrive early, we'll have snorkeling and a casual dinner ashore.

Friday 5:30pm: Happy Hour in the Cove

Saturday 9am: Morning Hike – Parson's Cove or groups' choice. Bring your camera to photograph the wildlife.

Saturday afternoon: Relax, swim, snorkel, kayak, fish (no shellfish).

Saturday 3:00pm: Join us at the cove to have fun and play some games.

Saturday 5:30pm: Happy Hour in the Cove.

Saturday 6pm: Cook your own. The BBQ grill will be ready for you to cook. We'll enjoy campfire, music, and camaraderie.

Sunday 9:00am: Breakfast at the cove on your own schedule

Please RSVP with Colleen Taylor 406-750-5288, or coolbeansct@gmail.com by the 15 of April please so I will have preliminary numbers and I will RSVP with Chris Kitchens.

Please NOTE: There will be a charge for the Corsair Facilities (separate from your mooring fees) depending on how many people attend.

More info to follow as we get closer
Stay safe and healthy.
Colleen Taylor



NYCLB

CATALINA CRUISE

Emerald Bay

June 24-27

At the Corsair Cove Yacht Facility

We will have access to:

- + Fresh Water
- + Showers
- + Restrooms
- + Picnic Area
- + Cooking Facilities

ACTIVITIES:

SNORKELING AROUND INDIAN
ROCKS, SWIMMING, KAYAKING,
ENJOY THE ISLAND &

HAPPY HOUR IN THE COVE!

For Reservations Contact:
Colleen Taylor, Fleet Captain
coolbeansct@gmail.com





Jr. Staff Commodore Rodney Coomber

Hello fellow Navy Yacht Club members

Wow!!!! This pandemic is creating problems everywhere and in everything. You may remember last month I wrote that we changed our opening day to avoid a conflict with another big local club. The date I chose was also undesirable as it conflicted with another club. It was obvious many clubs were changing their opening days to avoid possible CDC restrictions on gatherings. Some clubs outright cancelled their Opening Day. Other clubs had set tentative dates meaning they anticipated cancelling at the last minute. In my researching I noted Los Angeles Yacht Club had moved their opening day from January (they are usually the first club to hold opening day) to June 5. I thought "there is a club with a lot of really smart people, maybe they know something". So, I thought why not copy doing what they are doing. We have now settled on June 12 for our Opening Day. No conflicts. What with the vaccine program moving at a fast pace and we are already elevated to the RED category, it would seem we have a really good shot at celebrating a wonderful Opening Day.

In the meantime, we have fun activities scheduled for your participation and enjoyment. Please note the calendar at the end of this edition of the Scuttlebutt. I want to let you know Joyce and I will host a wine tasting at the club on May 8. We plan on doing 7 wines. It will be a blind tasting where the bottles are covered so you don't know what is being presented. You will taste, critique, guess the varietal, the vineyard, and the year produced. No prize for the best guesser, just a lot of fun and enjoyment. I think this activity will sell out as I will be limiting attendees to 30. We will also do a raffle of baskets that Joyce will make.

Rodney Coomber, Jr. Staff Commodore

NY CLB

FRIDAY POTLUCK

April 23rd



**PIZZA
NIGHT**
(sold by the slice)

Cost:
Donations /
Honor Bar
Open.



**Race Director
Heinz Butner**



The Saturday Sailors Series of five races completed on Saturday 27 March. After five races (and one thought-out) NYCLB racers finished on the podium. In the double handed class the J109 Shadowfax finished 1st on a tie breaker. In PHRF A the J109 Raptor finished 2nd by one point. Renegade racing for LSFYC finished 2nd in PHRF C, also by only one point. In the PHRF D fleet, new member Dennis Tran racing Pacific Wolf finished in 2nd. Dawn Patrol was 4th. Next race on the schedule is the Ensenada Preview sponsored by SIBYC on April 11th. Our next NYCLB race is the Armed Forces Day Race on May 22nd.

Tuesday Salty Sailors: NYCLB continues with our informal racing with the Tuesday Salty Sailors throughout the year. We still are not able to have meetings before our races. But, we have been getting more of the non-boat owners hooked up with boats by phone and getting more people out sailing. If you would like to join us as crew or boat owner send a note to the race chair "HeinzLB@icloud.com", we will include you on the race notice/results email. We have another new boat to the Tuesday Series, Ray Wilson sailing his Bavaria 38E called King's Gambit.



**Race Chairman
Tim Hohmann**



Navy Yacht Club Long Beach traditionally runs three regattas each year, the Armed Forces Day race in May, the All Hands race in September and the Navy Day regatta in October. Race Committee volunteers in on-the-water and shoreside roles are critical in putting on an efficient, well-run race and a pleasant event for participants at the club afterwards (COVID permitting of course).

On-the-water roles include timing, signaling, setting marks, communicating and sighting the start line. We'll provide training prior to your first race to make sure you know how to do your job, how you fit into the team and what to expect on race day. Shoreside roles include setting up and taking down tables & chairs as well as helping with the bar and refreshments.

If you're interested in helping out with any of these roles please contact Race Director Tim Hohmann (714-349-6009, hohmanntj@gmail.com) or Principle Race Officer Tony Rietdyk (714-362-1626, trietdyk@socal.rr.com)



Navy Yacht Club Long Beach
ARMED FORCES DAY RACE, MAY 22, 2021
NOTICE OF RACE

1. Rules: This event is governed by the rules defined in the current edition of the Racing Rules of Sailing.
2. Sailing Instructions & Course: NYCLB Course Chart OF 2021 and associated Sailing Instructions will be used. These are available on the NYCLB website (nyclb.org). Amendments will be posted to the Official Notice Board and NYCLB website not later than 1800 of the day before the race.
3. Eligibility and Entry:
 - 3.1. This event is open to members of all SCYA Yacht Clubs with a valid PHRF certificate. The following classes are invited to participate: Spinnaker, Non-Spinnaker and any One-Design Class of 3 or more boats. All boats shall use their Area C RLC handicaps. A boat wishing to race Non-Spinnaker shall use the non-spinnaker offset rating printed on her PHRF certificate.
 - 3.2. Eligible boats may enter by completing the entry form or entering online on the NYCLB website and submitting the required fee of \$15 to one of the addresses below not later than May 20, 2021.
 - 3.3. This event is part of the Long Beach Harbor High Point Series.
4. Schedule: One race will be sailed on May 22, 2021. The scheduled time of the warning signal for the first class is 1155.
5. Penalty System:
 - 5.1. RRS 44.1 is changed so that the Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by the One-Turn Penalty
 - 5.2. A boat may take a post-race penalty as described in U.S. Sailing Prescription Appendix V2
6. Risk Statement & Waiver of Liability:
 - 6.1. RRS 3 states: 'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue to race is hers alone.' By participating in this event each competitor agrees and acknowledges that sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks. These risks include strong winds and rough seas, sudden changes in weather, failure of equipment, boat handling errors, poor seamanship by other boats, loss of balance on an unstable platform and fatigue resulting in increased risk of injury. Inherent in the sport of sailing is the risk of permanent, catastrophic injury or death by drowning, trauma, hypothermia or other causes.
 - 6.2. The race organizers (organizing authority, race committee, protest committee, host club, sponsors, or any other organization or official) will not be responsible for damage to any boat or other property or the injury to any competitor, including death, sustained as a result of participation in this event. By participating in this event, each competitor agrees to release the race organizers from any and all liability associated with such competitor's participation in this event to the fullest extent permitted by law.
7. Prizes & Social: Trophies will be presented at NYCLB following the race. There will be a no-host bar and refreshments.
8. Further Information: For further information contact Race Director Tim Hohmann (714-349-6009, hohmannjt@gmail.com) or Principal Race Officer Tony Rietdyk (714-362-1626, trietdyk@socal.r.com).

NYCLB RACE ENTRY FORM
ARMED FORCES DAY RACE, MAY 22, 2021

Boat Name _____ Boat Type _____ Sail # _____

Yacht Club: _____ Class (circle): S / NS / OD PHRF Rating _____

Skipper's Name _____

Address: _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Emergency Contact (not on boat) _____ Phone/Email _____

By signing this entry form the skipper acknowledges having read the Notice of Race, including the Risk Statement & Waiver of Liability contained therein, and agrees to all terms and conditions.

Skipper Signature _____ Date _____

Submit this form and entry fee of \$15.00 not later than May 20, 2021 to:

Tony Rietdyk, Principal Race Officer	or	Navy Yacht Club Long Beach, c/o Race Committee
4156 Delphi Circle		223 Marina Drive
Huntington Beach, CA 92649		Long Beach, CA 90830

OPEN PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST OF ANY SUNSET FOR 2021

FROM THE NAVY YACHT CLUB

STARTING IN MARCH AND FOR THE NEXT TEN MONTHS

NYCLB is hosting the first photography contest of "SUNSETS 2021". This contest would include only sunsets taken at NYCLB. There will be 1 winner and 3 honorable mentions. This competition is only for members of the Navy Yacht Club Long Beach.

One of the most magical moments in a day is the sunset. Sunset is the time when the sun goes down in the horizon creating a beautiful view that the strongest words aren't enough to describe its magic. Indeed, the phenomenon of the sun drowning in the endless sea makes a magnificent prospect with its colors going from red to orange then a mixture of warm, dreamy colors like purple and indigo. Moreover, at some special places, trees especially palms are added to this amazing painting of mother nature looking like guards protecting this piece of art. Sunset is true magic from its colors to its protective trees given to us by the heavens.

Eligibility: Participants must be a NYCLB member and can send no more than one picture per month.

Submit your picture by the 23rd so it can be added to the Scuttlebutt of that month to:

rietdyk@socal.rr.com

Prizes: One member's picture will be selected from the ten months to receive an award when the contest is over in December 2021. This member's work will become the image of the year and will be used on the Scuttlebutt front page for the year 2022.

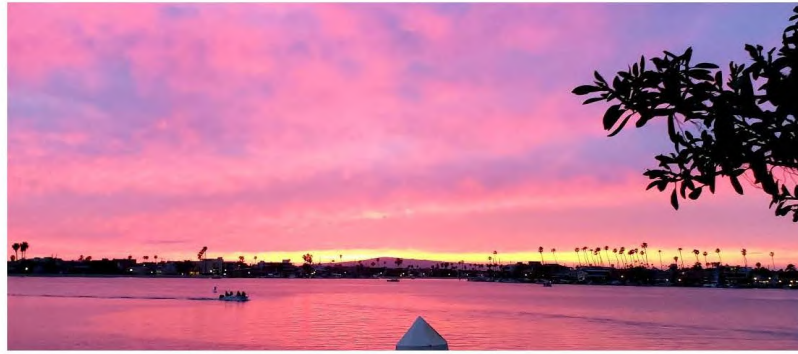
We're ready to start this coming month, so send me some pictures by March 23rd

Thanks

Tony Rietdyk

Port Captain NYCLB

SUNSET OF THE MONTH FOR MARCH 2021



1



2



3



4



5

PLEASE LET ME KNOW WHICH SUNSET YOU LIKE THE BEST.
EMAIL ME AT TRIETDYK@SOCAL.RR.COM

Navy Yacht Club Long Beach **Health & Wellbeing Communication Team**

NYCLB Joya Ryerson and Cathy Acevedo, Sunshine Lady
work together as your Health & Wellbeing Communication Team.

If you know of a club member that needs
cheering up or recently lost a loved one?

Email Joya Ryerson, team lead:
jrcavalier@verizon.net
Cathy will design & mail an
encouragement or sympathy card.

CUSTOMIZED GREETING CARDS.
You may also order
a customized greeting card.

Birthday

Encouragement

Retirement and More!



For personal customized cards Cathy
requests a \$3.00 donation to NYCLB
Email Cathy: Playdirt@hotmail.com

HEALTH & Wellbeing



NYCLB

2021 EVENT CALENDAR

JANUARY ❄️
 23rd & 24th –
 Open house
 NYCLB
 Meet & Greet
 2021 Officers
 12:00-3:00

FEBRUARY
 7th – ~~Superbowl~~
 Sunday, Burn your
 own BBQ
 14th – ❤️
 Commodore's
 Brunch/Valentine

🍀 **MARCH**
 5th –
 New Style Potluck
 13th –
 Commodore's Brunch

☂️ **APRIL**
 2nd-New Style Potluck

 9th– Little Ships Visit
 23rd Pizza Night

🌸 **MAY**
 7th – Military Spouse
 Appreciation Day

 22nd–Armed Forces Day
 Race

🕶️ **JUNE**
 4th– National Doughnut
 Day, Fun Time at Club
 12th Opening Day
 20th– Father's Day
 BBQ

JULY
 3rd– Alamitos Bay
 Fireworks
 4th– Independence
 Day 🇺🇸

☀️ **AUGUST**

 28th–Commodore
 Margarita Party &
 Quesadilla Cooking
 Contest

SEPTEMBER 🍁
 TBD –
 Wounded Veteran's
 Cruise
 11th –All hands
 Race

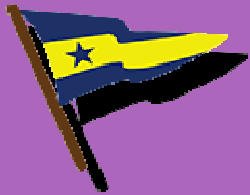
🍂 **OCTOBER**
 16th – Navy Day
 Regatta
 TBD - Octoberfest
 The Phoenix Club
 Restaurant

NOVEMBER
 11th – Veterans Day
 13th - Annual
 Meeting 🦃

🎄 **DECEMBER**
 4th Whale Watch-
 ing Newport, Lunch
 or Dinner at American
 Legion Newport
 11th - Naples Boat
 Parade

April 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 <i>Friday New Style Potluck</i>	3
4 <i>Easter Sun- day</i>	5	6 <i>Salty Sailor Race</i>	7	8	9 <i>Potluck Little Ships Visit</i>	10
11	12	13 <i>Salty Sailor Race</i>	14 <i>Board Mtg.</i>	15	16 <i>New Member Night</i>	17 <i>LSFYC Event 10AM Birthday Party 3PM</i>
18	19	20 <i>Salty Sailor Race</i>	21	22	23 <i>Potluck PIZZA NIGHT</i>	24
25	26	27 <i>Salty Sailor Race</i>	28	29	30	1st May



May 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3	4 <i>Salty Sailor Race</i>	5 <i>Cinc o de Mayo</i>	6	7 <i>Military Spouse Appreciation Day</i>	8
9 <i>Mothers Day</i>	10	11 <i>Salty Sailor Race</i>	12 <i>Board Meeting</i>	13	14	15 <i>LSFYC Fun Day</i>
16	17	18 <i>Salty Sailor Race</i>	19	20	21	22 <i>Armed Forces Day Race</i>
23	24	25 <i>Salty Sailor Race</i>	26	27	28 <i>New Member Night</i>	29
30	31 <i>Memorial Day</i>					

FIRST NEW STYLE FRIDAY NIGHTS 3/5/2021



What a Beautiful Evening



BRUNCH MARCH 13TH at NAVY YACHT CLUB



FRIDAY MARCH 26TH JANUARY, FEBRUARY AND MARCH
MEMBERS BIRTHDAY NIGHT



Members Corner

Frank and Lara in Antarctica...Part 1...Argentina

By Frank Franco

OK, it all started with my recently retired sister-in-law Pat telling my wife Lara that Antarctica was on her bucket list of places to visit...mainly to see some penguins. While Antarctica may be of interest to some folks as a place to visit, in my mind it would be near the bottom of a list of desirable world destinations...most likely after places more closely associated with warmth at that. So Lara and Pat scoured the travel sites and booked a trip, including myself and Pat's partner, Bev.

The configuration of this 3 week adventure was in 2 parts: Buenos Aires, Argentina/Patagonia and then the Antarctica Peninsula. After receiving final confirmation of the details by the trip provider (*Overseas Adventure Travel...OAT*), we faced the first problem...packing! The Argentine airlines set a limit of 50 lbs for the checked bag and 17 lbs for a 21 inch high carry on bag. A personal item was allowed though. This limit was further aggravated by the fact that we would be in 2 different temperature zones! Warm in Argentina and near freezing in Antarctica. OAT, in preparation for the cold condition, had sent each of us a bulky red parka emblazoned with the appropriate OAT patch proudly declaring our participation in the adventure. This bulky 2 lb parka had to be included in the items packed into the luggage. A vacuum bag reduced this down to the size of a pizza!

In our vast and varied inventory of suitcases at home, we had multiple carry on bags...all were 23 inches which are acceptable to US airlines. However, the Argentine carrier wanted 21 inch...we did find one, but not two. So I hunted hi and low shopping for another 21 inch bag...no dice. I finally decided to take a chance and go with one of our 23 inchers.

Now, what to pack to stay within the weight limits and the different temperatures zones? We anticipated existing in near freezing Antarctic temperatures. The recommended strategy for Antarctica was to layer up with thermal garments and then an outer covering of waterproof pants. The supplied parka would take care of the upper body thermal protection. Multiple phone calls and texts between Lara and Pat were generated: "*What are you packing?...I don't know, what are you packing?*". In addition to the arctic garments, of course there had to be the inclusion of the fashionable garments and accessories for the Buenos Aires trip as well as for the social life aboard the ship. This was a dilemma for Lara as she, if possible, would prefer to take a steamer trunk...the kind with multiple drawers. Eventually, we managed to jam everything into the carefully weighted containers and with passports and boarding passes in hand were ready to go on Feb 10, 2020.

After a pickup call to an Uber guy (who, like a radio, would not stop talking), we headed to LAX to meet Pat (coming in from SFO). Looking like the homeless, wearing coats, boots and the extra clothing we couldn't fit into the bags, we then all boarded the flight to Buenos Aires. Even though we were seated in Premium Economy to ensure a comfortable flight for 10 hours, we were still leery of the 2 dreaded nightmare scenarios of long haul flights: sick sneezing people with hacking coughs and/or screaming babies. To prepare for the first case we had sterilizer wipes and multiple hand sanitizer containers. Like we were preparing for surgery, we wiped down the seats, armrests, tray table and were considering to do the same to those passengers around us...even though they didn't appear to need it...but we thought that it wouldn't hurt. We also slathered our hands with the hand sanitizer stuff for extra protection. If I didn't have so much extra clothing on, I would have put it on my face and arms. Although we did not wear masks we felt adequately protected as if a witch doctor had cast a spell over us protecting us from all disease and flesh eating zombies.

Ten hours later, we landed in **Buenos Aires**, Argentina...of course, it was warm there. We met up with the OAT guide and some fellow travelers, grabbed the bags, went through customs and were loaded into the small bus to take us to the hotel appropriately named the *Panamericano*. Now this was first time to South America for me and did not really know what to (con't on next page)

Frank and Lara in Antarctica...Part 1 (page 2)

expect. My only comparison to a southern Latin American country was Mexico. As we headed to the hotel on the bus, we noticed the size of Buenos Aires...it is a big city. The skyline is an forest of high rise buildings rising out of the landscape...mostly apartment structures as most of the folks live and work in the city. The architecture is of European influence as well as the culture. The Spanish spoken is *castellan* as in Spain, not the colloquial spanish of Mexico. The city is bustling and vibrant, everybody is on the move...mostly young people. There is much more to say about the city, but at another time and place. But Buenos Aires is primarily known for 3 things: meat, the tango and Eva (Evita 'Don't cry for me Argentina') Peron...and did I say meat.

We arrived at the large and excellent hotel, checked into our assigned rooms, and after a restup met up with our assigned team leader and the balance of the "team" to discuss what the plan was to be. OAT caters strictly to Americans, so the team was comprised of folks from all over the country. All were physically fit and seasoned travelers (age range from 66-75) with multiple OAT trips under their collective belts. Later we were to learn there was a 90 year old lady on the trip!

The core trip was to Antarctica with an optional 5 day pre-trip to Patagonia and optional 4 day post-trip to Brazil. Since we had purchased the additional pre-trip, we got there 5 days earlier than some of the other travelers. There were 11 other travelers in our particular pre-trip team. (*Note: the total trip was comprised of 80 travelers, broken down into 4 groups of 20, each team had a separate team leader...all from Argentina. Each team leader had control of their respective teams and were kept separate from the other teams. Ultimately, we would all meet together on the ship*). The meeting discussion was focused on the Patagonia trip to the town of Bariloche the next day. After the discussion, we were told of a dinner for us later in the afternoon...and don't be late. After some brief sight seeing around the hotel and changing of some money (1\$=60 Argpesos, although Argentine merchants took dollars as well) we met up at the bus for ride to dinner.

The dinner was at large restaurant whose specialty was, you guessed it...meat...and lots of it. There were some of the other team's pre-trip members there as well...about 30 folks total. The menu was salad, drinks, dessert and beef (or chicken). The cut was sirloin, excellent...cooked just right. However, seeing and smelling the huge and plentiful platters of beef being paraded out of the kitchen and onto the tables I was certain I could feel my arteries began to harden.

The 3 hour flight to **Bariloche** required a 4 am wakeup and once again required taking the 50lb and 17 lb bags and gear with us as before. The flight was with a local airline with smaller aircraft that we anticipated to be a flying petrie dish of loose and undulating bacteria looking to latch onto the nearest unsuspecting host. So we took the same precautions as before, wipes and hand sanitizer, however, there was one person who coughed most of the trip. I just wanted to reach out and pull out the oxygen mask from the overhead and seal it to her face with hand sanitizer gel.

After landing in Bariloche and getting the luggage, we all followed our team leader Sebas to the awaiting bus to the hotel. The weather was a little on the cool side. Now Bariloche is a winter resort town located on the west coast of Argentina adjacent to border with Chile in the region of Patagonia. The area is comprised of lakes, mountains, forests, grasslands (pampas) and desert...a scenic wonderland. Summer and winter outdoor activities are the attraction for folks from Argentina, Brazil and neighboring countries. Over the next days, we hiked up and down mountain trails, rode chairlifts and gondolas, took boat ride to a scenic waterfall. The gals shopped in the local town as well as taking separate tours into the interior to see remote towns.

The highlight for me was a horseback ride into the pampas. A small group of 10 boarded the bus to a sheep ranch in the interior...way into the interior. After the bus left the highway onto a dirt road, I truly felt that this was Patagonia as it should be. After a bumpy ride which (*con't next page*)

Frank and Lara in Antarctica...Part 1 (page3)

felt like 2 tooth fillings had been jarred loose and I decided I really didn't need those last 2 vertebra anyway, we arrived at the sheep ranch. Now the sheep and cattle roam freely with the gauchos keeping an eye or two on them. The sheep ranch is a central location for the gauchos to resupply themselves after spending many days and nights on the pampas.

This ranch was also a spot to host tourists to introduce them to the life of a gaucho...but not so much the work part, just the eating part. After an introduction by the resident guide, we were taken to horses in the corral where each horse was assigned to each of the team members. So prior to this equestrian excursion, I had mentioned to folks that we take might apples for the horses as a treat. They agreed and we all left with pockets and bags bulging with apples from the hotel.

We all saddled up and like circus elephants nose to tail, followed the guides with a gaucho riding the sweep to make to sure no one falls behind...or falls off. The trail was thru brush and a creek and up and down some arroyos. The horses were docile enough but were primarily interested in getting back to the corral as soon as possible. In less than hour we arrived back at the ranch and de-saddled. It was at this point in time we happily extracted the apples and offered them to the ponies only to find that they simply weren't interested...at all! It turns out that the animals are free range and are let loose to feed themselves from the brush and whatever they can find, consequently, they had no clue what an apple was. If it didn't closely resemble a blade of grass, it wasn't on their menu.

Munching on our unappreciated apples, we then were led back to the dining room and informed that a typical gaucho style BBQ was to be served. Of course this meant more meat!...mutton, beef and sausage, along with salad and dessert. The food and drink were excellent and after a discussion of gaucho life and a musical interlude by one of the gauchos on an accordion, we jumped back on the bus.

Our next immediate excursion was a inflatable boat ride down a river. A 30 minute ride from the ranch brought us to the river bank where the large inflatable was set up for us. With a guide to steer and inform us of what to see, the boat slipped into the current and floated off. The current was mild, with no rapids and allowed us to coast along viewing the scenery, birdlife and enjoy the humorous narration of the guide. After about an hour, we pulled into the landing at a clubhouse where snacks and drinks were waiting for us. We hopped back on the bus and headed back to the hotel where we had to pack to get ready to leave back to Buenos Aries the next morning.

OK, now this was the reverse plane ride of the one that brought us here. Same 50 lb and 17 lb bags and stuff to haul back...same airplane...same sanitizing procedure. After settling in the seats I thought all is well, until arose airplane nightmare scenario No. 2: a screaming baby...and behind me at that. Fortunately, I had a Ipod with earbuds and the mother did attempt to calm the child and did so eventually.

Now we are back in humid Buenos Aires at the same hotel as before where we have a day and half to see more of the city. Only this time the core trip travelers have arrived from USA, meaning all 80 travelers are present at same place. That night we were all invited to a dinner in the city where menu was...you guessed it again...more meat...and still lots of it. We all had a great time meeting the new folks and food was great, however, I was pretty sure my left arm had started to go numb though. After the dinner, the gals had a evening reservation at a Tango show and enjoyed the time spent there.

The next day found us at the Eva (Duarte) Peron museum where the life of the wife of dictator Juan Peron was displayed by the presentation of various items depicting her tremendous impact on the Argentine people at the time. (*Go to Google for the background*). Upon her death at 33, the body was whisked away and hidden for many years due to fear of desecration. We later went to the cemetery where the body was later returned and interred in a mausoleum under 6 feet of concrete.

And so the big day had finally arrived, time to once again load the 50 lb and 17 lb bags and gear onto the bus and back to the airport for the 5 hour flight to **Ushuaia**, the capital of Tierra del Fuego, the southern most city in the world and the jump off point for the Antarctica peninsula.

(Part 2 to be continued next month...)

Argentina photos

Some photos from the trip (page 4):



Lara & Frank



Busy Buenos Aires street life



High rise apartments



Tango show



Evita plaque



Eva Peron mausoleum



Patagonia



Horseback thru the pampas

Argentina photos

More photos from the trip (page 5):



Gaicho BBQ



After BBQ music



A wannabe gaucho



Happy Hour in Patagonia!

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