



COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

- BY LARRY FOX -

Ahoy Maties!

I'm happy to be writing to you as your new Commodore for 2026!

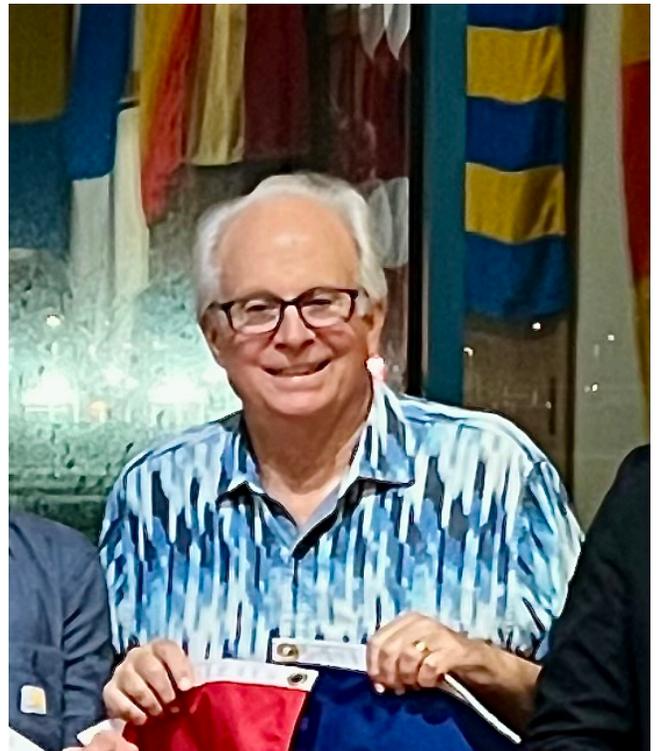
January will start out with a bang with our classic around the island race on New Year's Day! We call this a race, but it's really more of a rally: dinghies, stand up paddle boards, canoes, kayaks, essentially any human or wind powered craft, are encouraged to participate. The bridges are a little low for our keel boats so bring out your small craft and we'll have a wonderful first day on the bay!

The crab feed is scheduled later this year on February 15 so there's a better chance of actually having crabs to eat. This super fun event is also our awards dinner where we honor the victors and the above-and-beyond servants of the club! Come on out and cheer your mates while enjoying lots o' crab or spaghetti!

We've planned several new activities this year that promise to bring some different and cool vibes. We're going to expand the In-Bay keel boat racing series to include races on the first Saturday of the month, beginning January 3. We'd like to make the race day a little less intense than last year with longer races so that boats don't finish a race in 10 minutes. We're thinking 1 or 2 races per racing day depending on conditions and race committee direction.

Since these races occur on the first Saturday of the month, our monthly social hour will follow the last race of the day. Always fun to talk it over with a cold one after a fun race!

We're also introducing Class racing this year for the first time ever, beginning January 10! We have enough Holder 20's and Olson 30's to race two classes. I'm thinking I want to also include an open class on class racing day so if you don't have an Olsen or an Holder and you wanna race on Class racing day, enjoy the Open Class.



AND, be sure to take advantage two educational opportunities in January: a Spinnaker Round Table on the 14th, a Coastal Cruising Clinic on the 21st. Both starting at 1800 hrs.

I'm looking forward to a great year sailing with all you wonderful people!

Cheers, Larry

WHISTLER

Flag Officers Dinner



WHISTLER

SKIED HALYARD?

from Richard Hendry

If like me, you have ever had a halyard pulled to the top of the mast (or “skied”) and worried about how to retrieve it, you might have tried going aloft, using a long pole with a hook, or unstepping the mast at the dock.

But here’s something else you might try first: the potato masher!

This method involves attaching a potato masher to a spare halyard, sending it up the mast, and using the masher to hook and pull the lost halyard back down.

Here are the steps: (1)Tape a potato masher (preferably a metal wire one) to the spare halyard. (2) Use the spare halyard to raise the potato masher up the mast, just above where the lost halyard is snagged. (3) Maneuver the potato masher from side to side until its wires can catch the shackle or loop of the lost halyard. (4) Once the masher has caught the halyard, gently pull down on the spare halyard to bring the lost one down with it.



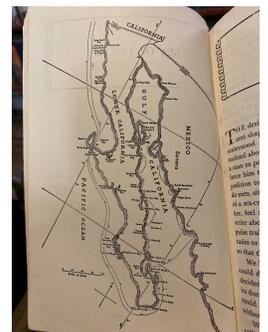
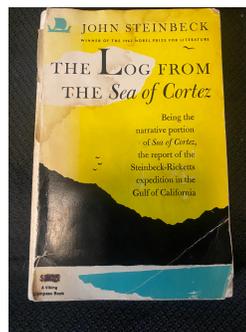
I had a skied main-halyard just as I was about to start the Veteran’s Day Race in November and could not participate. The next day, with a little consultation and help from fellow club-member Stephen Buck, a potato masher worked in minutes with great success, and I didn’t even need a bosun’s chair.

Seas the day Y’All.

Here’s a book that while it’s not specifically sailing story, it captures the pace I hope to find in a long cruise. John Steinbecks **“The Log from the Sea of Cortez”** is a record of a scientific journey in a fishing boat out of Monterey around Baja capturing tidal life. Rather than taking an in-depth study of one species, they attempted to establish relationships between life forms in varied conditions. For example the same species found at the top of the gulf were also found on the pacific side. How and why did they develop into the dominant species? How could they have migrated around the tip?

The book includes charming philosophical waxing about how overly flamboyant variations signal a deep danger to the species pending collapse.

Deep thoughts.... Also lots of lounging, fishing and beer fueled adventures with the locals.

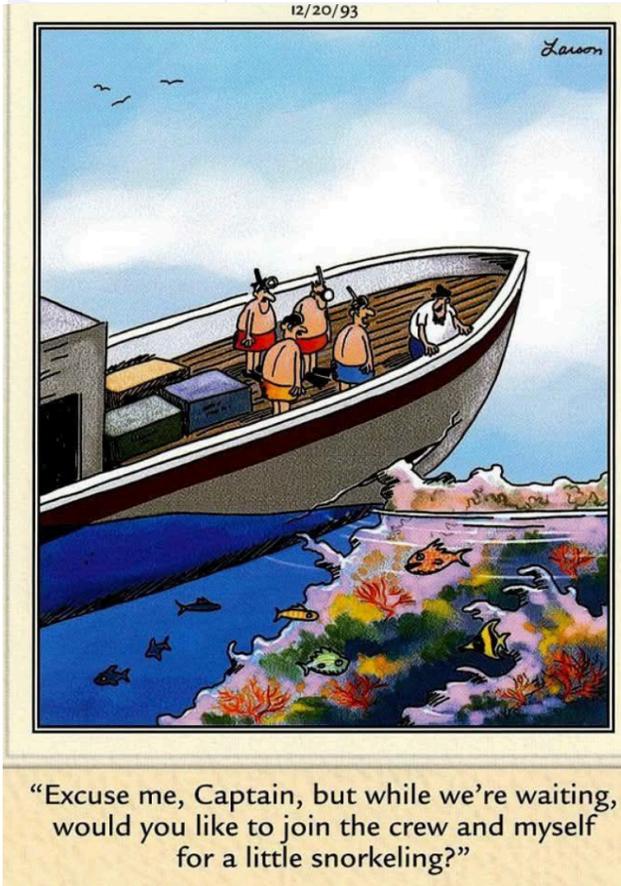


Perfect rainy day read. Dreaming of hot beaches and cool waters!

— **Bridge Randall**

WHISTLER

Today		<	>	January 2026		!	📅	🖨️	Month
SUN 28	MON 29	TUE 30	WED 31	THU Jan 1	FRI 2	SAT 3			
				• 12pm Around the Isl:		• 2pm Fog Race • 2pm In Bay Keel • 5pm Social Hour			
4	5	6 • 6pm Potluck	7	8	9	10 • 1pm Class Racing De • 2pm Fog Race			
11 • 3pm New Member O	12	13 • 6pm Board Meeting	14 • 6pm Spinnaker Rour	15	16	17 • 2pm Fog Race			
18	19	20	21 • 6pm Coastal Cruisin	22	23	24 • 6am Room Reserved • 2pm Fog Race			
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 • 2pm Fog Race			



“Excuse me, Captain, but while we’re waiting, would you like to join the crew and myself for a little snorkeling?”

*Feeling winter? Need a smile?
A little love poetry?*

Celia, Celia
By Arian Mitchell

When I’m sad and weary
When I feel all hope is gone
When I walk down High Holborn
I think of you with nothing on!

Happy New Year!



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Bridge Randall

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