

Pacific Coast Yachting Association



THE PENNANT Spring 2015 Vol. X, No. 1



**Commodore
Gary Green's
Column**

This year, 2015 is the 92nd year of continuous operation of the Pacific Coast Yachting Association. The geographic area that we serve is vast, from San Diego to Vancouver, B.C. We rely on our dedicated volunteers to help us serve the many yachting and cruising associations in this wide area. We will continue in 2015 to strive to address and to better serve our diverse yachting constituencies. This edition of the PENNANT features the history and traditions of Opening Days in several of our harbors. We hope you find these articles of interest and that we see you at some of the Opening Day celebrations.

PCYA held its Annual General Meeting on January 17-18, 2015 at the Silver Gate Yacht Club in San Diego. The following officers and directors were sworn in by Staff Commodore Cleve Hardaker.



**S/C Cleve Hardaker swears in PCYA's
2015 Bridge and Board**

Commodore Gary Green
Vice Commodore Kate Humphreys
Rear Commodore and Treasurer,
Terry Van Winkle
Secretary, Cindi Mathieu
Jr. Staff Commodore Bruce Campbell
Director Robert Ehlers
Director, Doug Hipsley
Director, Jeanne Irwin
Directors (not pictured),
Martha Jean Geisler
and Fred Cole.

We are looking forward to our PCYA Mid-Year Meeting to be held on Friday, June 19th at Silver Gate Yacht Club in conjunction with the Barusch-Castagna predicted log contest set for June 17-20 in San Diego. We hope you can attend.



**Virginia Howard is presented with the GARRETT HORDER MEMORIAL TROPHY
On behalf of the Del Rey Yacht Club
Junior Program**

The Garrett Horder Memorial Trophy is awarded by PCYA to the member organization judged to have shown the greatest improvement in its Junior Boating Program. The 2014 winner was the Del Rey Yacht Club Junior Program. Shown accepting the award is Del Rey YC's Junior Coordinator, Virginia Howard and her club's Commodore, Peter Glick.



The Garrett Horder Trophy with plaque for 2014 winner, Del Rey Yacht Club Junior Program.



PCYA Commodore Gary Green presents The Charles A. Langlais Trophy to Dedrick Denison at PICYA's Installation Dinner

The Charles A. Langlais Trophy is awarded by PCYA to an individual who has demonstrated "exceptional, outstanding and meritorious service to the sport of yachting." The 2014 awardee, Dedrick Denison exemplifies these high standards through his decades of service to the San Francisco Bay Area yachting community.



PCYA Commodore Gary Green, Vice Commodore Kate Humphreys and their spouses at the PICYA Installation Dinner held at the St. Francis Yacht Club

CARR REGATTA DATE SET

The Carr Regatta is set for Saturday-Sunday, May 30-31 at South Beach Yacht Club in San Francisco. Spectator boats will be available.

OPENING DAY TRADITIONS

Our featured articles for this edition of the Pennant describe the varying traditions and history of Opening Day ceremonies and celebrations in Southern California, San Francisco Bay and Seattle. This diversity of traditions enriches all yachting associations served by PCYA.

OPENING DAYS IN MARINA DEL REY

This year, 2015 marks the 50th anniversary of Marina del Rey. This anniversary will be the focus of Marina del Rey's Opening Day celebrations this year set for March 7th and 8th. Officially commissioned in 1965 after years of dredging and breakwater improvements by the Army Corp of Engineers, Marina del Rey is the largest man-made small craft harbor in North America in terms of number of slips. While the trend toward larger recreational vessels has led to a somewhat reduced number of slips of greater size in recent years, Marina del Rey currently has approximately 5,200 slips in 23 anchorages and marinas available to the boating public, as well as dry storage and a boat launch ramp.

Unlike other PCYA areas, the focus on Opening Days in Marina del Rey and elsewhere in Southern California is on the ceremonies held at the individual yacht clubs. Traditionally, officers of visiting clubs and visiting dignitaries make the rounds of the six Opening Day celebrations scheduled: three ceremonies are held on Saturday, March 7th and three are held on Sunday, March 8th. Attending Opening days in Marina del Rey is unique in that visiting yacht club officers and dignitaries are transported between clubs by boat. All this is coordinated by an Opening Day coordinator appointed by the Association of Santa Monica Bay Yacht Clubs.

OPENING DAY PACIFIC INTER-CLUB YACHT ASSOCIATION

One of the signature events that the Pacific Inter Club Yacht Association (PICYA) sponsors each year is Opening Day on San Francisco Bay. Sunday, April 26, 2015 will be the 98th. The committee boat will drop the hook in front of the City near St. Francis Yacht Club. All boats will gather near the Golden Gate Bridge after being blessed and will then parade east, past the committee boat for judging, and then down the City Front to Pier 39. The blessing of the boats occurs in front of the Corinthian YC in Tiburon, including the committee boat after they sail through Raccoon Straights.

The boat parade consists of four main groups. Group 1 is led by fire boats, USS Potomac (FDR Floating White House), various USCG assets and large party boats. The rest are historic boats from the Classic Yacht Association, the Master Mariners Benevolent Association, the Bay Area Rowers Association, and finally the Historic Work Boat Association. Group 2 consists of the decorated boats in five different categories. The theme for the coming Opening Day is "Youth in Boating." Group 4 is for undecorated recreational boats wishing to parade and receive participation credit for the PICYA Club of the Year (COTY) competition. Group 4 will include various contemporary vessels from our modern era. These are often seen at work, in local waters, but they seldom appear as a group because they are so unique in their purposes.

All member associations of Pacific Coast Yachting Association (PCYA) are invited to join the judges for the best seat on the Bay. A day on the committee boat includes a continental breakfast, elegant lunch, no-host bar and the best seats to enjoy the parade. The Grand Marshal this year is Admiral Joe

Sevido USCG. Major sponsors for this event include Boats US, West Marine, and numerous local businesses and yacht clubs scattered around the Bay.

Besides the Opening Day on the San Francisco Bay, the regional clubs of PICYA have their own Opening Day celebrations. These regions include the South Bay and the Delta Area Clubs. The 1st Regional Opening Day is on January 1st of every year when all seven of the Alameda yacht clubs sail around Alameda Island.

All members and friends are invited to join us on the committee boat on April 26th. We board around 0930 and return around 1500 from the Hornblowers Pier near the Ferry Building. If you are interested and want further information, contact PCYA Director, Doug Hipsley at djhpacifico@gmail.com.

HISTORY OF OPENING DAY IN SEATTLE

The official opening of Seattle's boating season is sponsored by the Seattle Yacht Club and includes a celebration of many kinds of water activities. This year's festivities will include a morning of crew races, a sailboat race and of course, the grand Opening Day boat parade on Saturday, May 3, 2015.

From its earliest days, Seattle has celebrated important occasions with water festivities. Back in 1895, following a regatta, an illuminated naval parade was set at night to be followed by a naval sham battle. The Post Intelligencer described the events: "...a monitor is to be bombarded and then blown up...the parade will consist of two lines of yachts, brilliantly illuminated with Japanese lanterns and armed with Roman candles instead of cannons. The monitor will run the gauntlet, spitting red and blue balls at the fleet, which in return will bombard the monitor until her magazine

catches fire and she blows up, throwing out myriads of stars, balls, and rockets." Alas, the wind was too great for the event, extinguishing the candles.

In May 1908, the "Great White Fleet" stopped in Seattle on its round the world tour. Seattle organizers festooned the city, held land and water parades, dances and receptions to honor the fleet. Area yachtsman organized a welcoming committee to sail out and meet the visiting armada as it sailed into Elliott Bay. The following year, Seattle hosted the Alaskan-Yukon Exposition on the University of Washington campus. The Seattle Yacht Club acted as the official host to visiting boatmen. As part of the festivities, the Commodore and his club members arrange a public "Potlatch Parade" which took place at the Seattle Yacht Club clubhouse, which was still located in West Seattle.

According to the 1964 reminiscences of a Seattle Yacht Club member, the first Opening Day took place in early May 1913. He recalled a parade and a regatta in Elliott Bay. The first Opening Day parade through the Montlake Cut was in 1920 after the Seattle Yacht Club moved to its new (and present) facilities in Portage Bay. Spectators lined both sides of the Cut to view the 25 to 30 boats as they paraded by, fling their dress flags. The boats finished with celebration with a regatta in Lake Washington sponsored by the Queen City Yacht Club.

The Opening Day Parade and Regatta became a spring tradition, which survived the war years. Opening Day 1946 was the biggest and most festive ever. It included members of every yacht club in Puget Sound and the Royal Vancouver and Royal Victoria Yacht Clubs from British Columbia, Canada. A theme was first used for the 1959 Opening Day, *Hell's a Poppin*, and since then participants have decorated their boats around a theme. Prizes are awarded

to the best-decorated and best-dressed boats in several categories.

Over the years, Opening Day activities have changed. Events such as the University of Washington crew races have become a part of the day's traditional festivities. Many spectators watch these popular races through the Montlake Cut from the shore, boats or TV. Opening Day 2015 marks the 29th anniversary of the Windermere Cup.

The commissioning ceremony on the Seattle Yacht Club lawn is attended by the Commodores of participating yacht clubs and starts off the Opening Day festivities. The clubs' burgees are hoisted, dignitaries are recognized, the Chaplain says a prayer, and the band plays! As always, the Opening Day Parade starts at noon the first Saturday in May with the blast of a cannon and the raising of the Montlake Bridge. Seattle Yacht Club's Opening Day has become the nation's largest regional celebration of water, spring and the opening of boating season. Participating yachts will be decorated to illustrate this year's theme for Opening Day, Toys Ahoy. And, if tradition is honored, there will be sunshine breezes and, maybe a few showers.

Opening Day in Seattle is a family affair. Families decorate their boats for the festivities and parades, spread blankets on the shoreline and spend hours watching and picnicking. Families dream of the boats they someday will own. The boating season officially never ends in the Seattle area. It tapers off during the blustery, wet days of winter, but the faithful keep sailing and cruising. Opening Day, however, kicks off a busy spring and summer of boating for many avid boaters in the Seattle area. Opening Day offers some outstanding photo and story opportunities. You'll not find anything like it in the U.S.

PLEASE VISIT PCYA'S WEBSITE AT www.pcya.info for the latest updates on our activities and plans.

We look forward to seeing you at the Mid-Year meeting on June 19th at Silver Gate Yacht Club San Diego



Predicted Log Race held in San Diego Bay 1949

**BARUSCH –CASTAGNA
June 17-20, 2015
SILVER GATE YACHT CLUB
SAN DIEGO**

**Be sure to have your club represented,
In the BEST OF THE BEST
competition.**