

South Bay Cruising Club

From The Masthead

Vol. 54 Issue 4

May 2004

COMMISSIONING DAY - MONDAY MAY 31

From the Helm

John Davis

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The season has begun and Commissioning Day is almost here. We will celebrate the official start of the 2004 SBCC sailing season in the traditional style on Memorial Day, Monday, May 31st at the Babylon Yacht Club. Beginning with the single-handed Creepstakes race starting at 1100hrs, and the festivities at BYC starting at 1200 hrs, you will be able to enjoy spectacular food and beverages followed by the Commissioning Ceremony and Race Awards.

Also included will be some informative guest speakers and Coast Guard Auxiliary people offering courtesy boat inspections. As an added bonus, the 2004 Yearbooks will be distributed to all members present. This event will be brought to you through the combined efforts of the Hospitality Committee and the Program Committee, so you know you can expect something good. You will find more information in this issue of the **Masthead**, and you will be receiving an invitation in the mail soon.

We have had a lot of positive

feedback from those of you who were able to attend one of this year's SBCC parties and we appreciate your comments. The Hospitality Committee is working hard to bring you events that not only give you your money's worth, but will leave you wanting to attend the next one. If you haven't been to an SBCC event recently, give it a try and let the committee people know what you think of it.

In an effort to improve the availability and operation of boat pump-out facilities, the SBCC has formed a special Pump-Out Initiative Committee to work toward that goal. The committee is now gathering information and formulating a plan of action. If you would like to get involved or you have an interest in this important project, we expect to have some information available to you on Commissioning Day.

Regretfully, I must inform you of the recent passing of three South Bay Cruising Club members: Robert Malloy who resided in Massapequa Park joined the club with his wife Ellen in 1996 and sailed on

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From the Regatta Captain

Jack Morgan

Well we made it. The SBCC racing season is finally here. I am sure we are all working hard to get those boats ready for the first race. I hope to see good turnouts for these early races. Here is what we have coming out of the gate:

- Twilight racing begins Wednesday May 26 in Bay Shore, and Thursday May 27 in Babylon. The start time for both series will be 19:30.
- Don't forget the Creepstakes on Commissioning day Monday May 31. Tie up at the Babylon Yacht Club before the race, or go directly to the starting area. Start time is 1100. Of course, be sure to come into the basin after the race to attend the Commissioning Day Ceremonies.
- Early June will see the Spring Family Race out of Watch Hill on Sunday June 6.

- The West Cup will be held Saturday June 12 in the Babylon/Lindenhurst area. Start time is 1900. Post race festivities will be held at Unqua Corinthian Yacht Club in Amityville.

When your Race Committee assignment draws near, please read the Race Committee Procedure Guide carefully. We made a few changes this year. For example, use a numeral pennant to indicate the approximate number of minutes between classes. No numeral pennant means rolling start.

If you have any questions about anything regarding our racing program, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Phone: 631-422-6531

E-mail: redwing137@yahoo.com

See you on the starting line. 🏆

From the Fleet Captain

Dennis Krug

The Dismal Swamp Canal

On a recent visit to the Virginia Beach area, where my parents and sister live, there was an interesting article in the local newspaper. The title of the article was "Cuts Threaten Dismal Swamp Canal". Never heard of the Dismal Swamp Canal? The Canal became the first Interstate when it opened to commercial traffic in 1805. Slaves began building it in the late 1700s, after George Washington and other notables pushed for the Canal's construction. It is the oldest continuously operating canal in the United States and is on the National Register of Historic Places. Bob Van Tassel and I transited the canal last spring during *WINDQUEST's* return north. Bob graciously invited my father to join us on the trip through the Dismal Swamp Canal.

The canal itself is 22 miles long, with locks at each end. It is barely 60 feet wide in spots and the trees of the swamp overhang the canal making it even narrower. Commercial traffic no longer uses the canal; however, many cruising boats traveling the Intracoastal Waterway make the detour to transit this historic canal. Our transit was not without incident. The day we passed through the water level was very low and *WINDQUEST* bumped on many underwater logs (the result of fallen trees). At one point the canal was completely blocked by a fallen tree. We thought we would have to turn back, but three Army Corp of Engineers workers cleared the tree out of our way. The resulting delay caused us to miss the last opening of the

lock out of the canal that day. We tied *WINDQUEST* to the bulkhead by the lock and shortly after Adrian and my mother joined us. We bought some Chinese food and enjoyed dinner on board. With pinecones on the deck from hitting overhanging trees and bangs in the keel from underwater logs, Bob vowed never to do the Dismal again. Could conditions get worse yet?

Back to the article. It stated that President Bush's 2005 budget proposal allots \$435,000 for the Dismal Swamp Canal for the next fiscal year. The Army Corps of Engineers, which operates and maintains the Canal, received an average of \$1.1 million annually for the past five years. With such a drastic cut, the Corps would not continue to clear debris from the channel and operate the locks that allow large boats to pass through.

So you say "so what? I may never transit the Dismal Swamp Canal." However, we do transit many channels in our area that are maintained by the Corps of Engineers. My own slip on Browns River is becoming a high-tide-only access point, as are many places in the area. The South Shore's inlets and waterways require dredging periodically for us to safely navigate through. It wouldn't hurt to remind your local officials how important these waterways are to us and that funding their upkeep is necessary. 

CRUISE MEETING NOTICE

There will be a Cruise meeting on Tuesday, May 11, 2004 beginning at 19:00 hours at the following location: WEST ISLIP PUBLIC LIBRARY
3 HIGBIE LANE
WEST ISLIP, NY

Cruise Captain Dorothy Becker will discuss the three week cruise, including a visit to Mystic Seaport on the 4th of July. This cruise begins on June 25th. Cruise Captain Dave Tedesco will overview the cruise to the Jersey Shore beginning on July 2nd and Cruise Captain John Rambold will cover the one week "In the Bay" cruise which begins on August 15th.

Hospitality

Allison & Jim Reichel

Commissioning Day 2004

Commissioning Day is the formal kickoff of the 2004 sailing season. Hopefully the weather will prevail and allow us to fully enjoy the use of the Babylon Yacht Club. The Hospitality Committee will be on hand to provide you with great deli-style sandwiches, homemade salads and desserts, hot dogs for the kids, and more - all at a price that can't be beat. Beer and soda will also be provided. Food service will run long enough for the single-handed racers competing in the Creepstakes to get a well deserved bite.

Kick off the season the right way and watch your mailbox for more detail or email Jim Reichel at jim@sailchoice.com.

Sailing Through The Decades Recap

The 2004 Spring Cocktail Party "*Sailing Through The Decades*" was a great success with 111 in attendance and set the mood for a fun-filled, active season to come. Special thanks to Hospitality Committee Members Bill and Colleen Harbert, Bruce McMahon and Carol Napolitano, Kathy Davis and her mother Barbara Schermerhorn for baking an assortment of delicious desserts. Thanks also to Jack Morgan and Kathleen Farrell for their help at the door; Nancy Sherman for the great idea of melting record albums to make flower pots; and Mike and Jennifer Einsetler for setup and selling raffle tickets.



Congratulations to Walt and Barbara Kachel for holding the winning raffle ticket. They took home a wonderful basket filled with nautical cheer (pictured with daughter Colleen Harbert). Photo courtesy of Alison Reichel



Chris DeMarco and Will Reichel enjoy a rest after dancing all night to musical hits from the past five decades!

Photo courtesy of Alison Reichel

Programming

Rich Troy

Commissioning Day (May 31st) SBCC Special Events

Have you ever wondered if the fire extinguishers or flares on your sailboat are out of date? Or, have you wondered what the Fire Island National Seashore (FINS) plans to do with Watch Hill and Sailor's Haven, now that they are "under new ownership".

If you've wondered both of those things in the same day, you might be doing too much wondering! Just kidding... or you might be a member of the SBCC who is fortunate enough to be attending our 2004 Commissioning Day on May 31st at the Babylon Yacht Club.

The SBCC is proud to announce that we will have two outside organizations joining us for our 2004 Commissioning Day:

- 1) Our special guest speaker for the day will be from the Fire Island National Seashore (FINS) organization, describing this year's news about the Fire Island National Seashore, the FINS marinas, the major FINS 2004 programs, and other interesting

topics. Anyone who has enjoyed Sailor's Haven, Watch Hill, Davis Park, or the Robert Moses State Park Boat Basin will be interested in this!

- 2) Our other special guests for the day will be members from the local United States Coast Guard Auxiliary (USCGAUX). These local USCGAUX friends have offered to provide free boat safety inspections during our event. If you haven't done this safety inspection in a while, you should! We may even have the honor of the USCGAUX Color Guard joining us, to provide a special and unique dignity to our event!

Our special guests will also be available during parts of our Commissioning Day event to answer questions you may have. Give them a big SBCC "thank you" when you see them!

Just contact Rich Troy with your thoughts on what you'd like to share, or, if you know of someone outside of the SBCC who you feel would make for an interesting speaker, pass the contact information to me at 516-935-5367 or richa@newsguy.com

Please help keep up the tradition of Commissioning Day by bringing your boat to the event! Babylon Yacht Club has invited us to bring our boats beginning on Sunday, May 30. Please be aware the 2004 season starts when the cannon is fired during the Commissioning ceremony (approx. 1400 hours), and as such, the SBCC burgee should not be hoisted until then. Dress flags are certainly appropriate

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Second Wind. Also Elisabeth Hamstra who resided in Salisbury, Maryland after she and her husband Howard retired and left Babylon. The Hamstra's joined the SBCC in 1964 and sailed for many years on *Slim*. Evelyn Davies, wife of former Commodore Andy Davies, joined the SBCC in 1972 with their two sons, Doug and Peter. Evelyn and Andy retired to North Carolina several years ago, and have remained there until now. The entire SBCC Board extends their sympathy to the families and loved ones of Robert, Elisabeth, and Evelyn

Now that we have begun sailing again, keep in mind that the SBCC is a member of the *Yachting*

Club of America. Yacht clubs all over America reciprocate with each other and make most of their facilities available to participating clubs such as the SBCC. The *Yachting Club of America* maintains an internet site as a reference guide for its members, www.ycaol.com

As always, you can reach the commodore any time at (631) 422-2242 or Jdavisfly@aol.com

Enjoy your sailing.

John 

Runaway Sails Home

By Mike Duffy

I recently had an opportunity to crew for one of our new members, aboard *Runaway* for her trip back north. This 47 foot Conser Catamaran is owned by Bill and Maureen Danilczyk. Built by Endeavour, she carries a 24 foot beam with a mast height of 65 feet. *Runaway* has low profile racing hulls with a well-equipped salon for cruising. The passage was from Key Largo to Bay Shore and took six and one half days including one lay day in Ft. Pierce Florida.

The winds were against us, but the weather was great for the first four days. We saw sea turtles, flying fish and a spectacular nighttime rocket launch of a communications satellite off Cape Canaveral. When the wind finally came around we went wing and wing with the asymmetrical spinnaker. It was "Surfs Up!" the following day. With crew member Bartek Dawidowski at the helm we were reaching speeds up to 20 knots off Delaware. Bartek is an expert sailor, professional pilot and photographer. Dolphins were in pursuit as far as South Jersey; swimming alongside, off the bows and even between the hulls.

Our Captain, Bill Danilczyk, has learned an amazing amount about sailing, navigation and weather, in just a few short years. Bill holds a first and a second in the Around Long Island race in two attempts. In addition, the crew was grateful that he also learned a little about cooking from Simon Williams.

We ran Fire Island inlet 0200 on April 20th with *Runaway* surfing at 16 knots under power in twelve foot rollers. This enabled us to stay awake without coffee, as we passed under the outer bridge with only tidal clearance.

I became a member of SBCC less than two years ago, having previously sailed only as far as Sailors Haven. It seems almost too good to be true, that including sailing with Eric Forsyth aboard *Fiona*, I have now sailed the entire Eastern Seaboard from Maine to Key Largo, as well as participating in the Around Long Island Race. The best part, is arriving just in time to get aboard *One More Time*, and spend the season with friends, who simply are too good to be true.

Notice to Mariners Information

By Rich Troy

Effective April 1, 2004, the United States Coast Guard will no longer print and mail copies of the "Local Notice to Mariners" (LNM).

Why is this important? Here's a good example: A friend of mine had decided he wanted to move his sailboat from the Long Island south shore to the north shore. So one weekend in the early spring he got up at the crack of dawn and, with no wind, being available to sail, he started motoring out of Bay Shore. He was very happy with his progress, getting to one of the State Channel drawbridges in what was record time for him - the currents were helping him along the way.

Approaching the drawbridge in his sailboat, he tried calling the bridge tender and got no answer - apparently no one was staffing the drawbridge at that time in the day. About an hour later my friend was finally able to talk with someone about the drawbridge. He was surprised to find the drawbridge was closed for the season for construction and it would not re-open for another three weeks.

My friend had to turn around and take another path. His final damage: A loss of about 2+1/2 hours of productive travel time, all of which could have been avoided. That bridge closure was listed in the USCG "Local Notice to Mariners".

The story is also told of another sailboat owner who lost the instrumentation at the top of his mast to the construction scaffolding that was hanging under a bridge. That bridge construction information and reduced clearance was listed in the USCG "Local Notice to Mariners".

Motorboat owners and commercial boaters also benefit from the LNM - it's not just for sailboats, in spite of the examples provided above.

The "Local Notice to Mariners" (LNM) weekly supplement mailing has been a very important source of information for all boaters on subjects such as buoy changes, chart updates, waterway bridge work (including listings of non-opening drawbridges!), channel dredging, marker light changes, obstructions to navigation, the location of approved nautical gatherings (such as the locations for 4th of July special anchorages), and even, in the 3/30/04 issue, the locations of endangered right whales.

The USCG now requires boaters to acquire the latest LNM by either (1) going to their website or (2) registering for automatic email delivery.

To view the Local Notice to Mariners, go to this website on the Internet:
<http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/lnm/default.htm>

To register for automatic email delivery of the latest Local Notice to Mariners, for our area only, go to this website on the Internet:
<http://cgls.uscg.mil/mailman/listinfo/first-cg-dlnm>

Sign up to receive your automatic email delivery of the Local Notice to Mariners the next time you are using your computer!

Flotsam & Jetsam

The Editor

Start Off a New Sailor or Tune Up on Basic Skills - and Don't Forget the Kids!

Narrasketuck Yacht Club in Amityville is offering its annual SNAP program, available to anyone over 21 years of age interested in learning basic sailing skills right on the Great South Bay. This class is taught by volunteers and is not for profit. Classes are for novices or returning sailors who want to brush up on their boat handling skills. Four hours of lecture and twelve hours of sailing in small groups with plenty of hands-on opportunity in comfortable and responsive O'Day Mariners. Groups are small with emphasis on individual attention.

Class Dates: Wednesday, June 2nd and Wednesday, June 9th 7:15 - 10:00 PM Classroom Lecture and Saturday, June 5th and Saturday, June 12th 9:00 - 3:00 Sailing

Contact: SBCC members Nick & Eniko De Marco who head up this program at 631-598-0168 or visit www.nycsail.com and look for the link for adult sailing classes

Narrasketuck also offers an excellent summer sailing camp for kids 9 years of age and up. Two sessions are available at skill levels ranging from Beginner through Advanced. Great fun in the sun! To learn more call Cathy Powell at 631-264-2941 or visit our website at www.nycsail.com and follow the link to Youth Sailing.

Please note the corrected email address for Programming Chair Rich Troy richa@newsguy.com who passes along the following From Barry Sullivan, of the Fire Island National Seashore (FINS). "This was the worst winter since 1927 (at least January). Sailor's Haven is effectively closed to sailboats due to ice damage having affected the water depth in the entry way. Most of the other FINS marinas have also suffered extensive ice damage."

Reminders

- South Bay Cruising Club has a **phone number** members can call to retrieve a recorded message about SBCC events. If you need updated information regarding a race or a rendezvous please call **631-422-2242**
- SBCC Members can enjoy a **discount** on **BoatUS membership**. By using #GA83761S all bona fide members of the club pay a reduced membership fee and are allowed to renew at the same special rate.
- You must **sign your handicap certificate** to be scored in races. Contact Steve Brice with any questions.
- The **Atlantic Highlands Yacht Club** of Atlantic Highlands, NJ has extended club house and anchorage privileges to officers, members and guests of the Club. **Sag Harbor Yacht Club** had extended club house and dock privileges to officers, members and guests of the Club.

!!Congratulations!!

To Rear Commodore Joe and Christine Mulle.

Their new baby, Elizabeth Kathryn, was born 1900 on April 26. She weighed in at 6lbs 12oz, 19.5 inches long and joins sister Laine and proud grandparents, and club members, Tony and Toni Mulle.

Chris & Baby are doing great!!

Clams Returning to the Great South Bay

Sue Montana

There's an exciting project underway this spring to rejuvenate our beautiful bay.

In 2002, the Bluepoints Oyster Company donated 11,500 acres of the bay bottom to the Nature Conservancy (TNC), a group that is interested improving the ecological integrity of the Great South Bay and the larger South Shore beaches and bay system.

As part of the restoration efforts in the Great South Bay, TNC is restocking large numbers of adult clams on spawner sanctuaries in the bay. Bringing the clams from the dock can be labor intensive and TNC has been very fortunate in the past to have the help of generous boat operators to help with the clam stocking.

Stocking the clams began in early April. During the last week of April, there were daily deliveries of about 300 bags of clams to the West Sayville docks to try and meet the goal of transplanting 250,000 clams this spring.

Stony Brook University has been assisting in this project as well. They have been monitoring the clams at various points of the process. So far, all stock and transplanted clams have been reported to be happily filtering within 15 minutes after being put in a tank.

The project was challenging as plans often change on short notice according to the weather in the harvest areas and in the Great South Bay, so all TNC staff and volunteers were on the alert - foul weather gear, thermos' of hot coffee, boats all at the ready waiting for the call.

Once the call came the boats were loaded in West Sayville and the clams were dropped in designated areas on TNC underwater lands in the central Great South Bay (often a several mile trip across the bay). Testing will be done to see how well the clams are adapting to their new home. Although it's hard, dirty and smelly work, it's fun too and all believe that this is an important step to restore the bay.

If you're interested in following this project or getting involved in TNC efforts to restore the bay, check out <http://nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/newyork/volunteer/>.

Welcoming New Members

Della Bucher

It was a fun, well attended Welcoming Party held on April 3rd at my home. There were 78 members in attendance and the new sailors were given a taste of what a rendezvous is all about. I would like to thank Matt DeMarco for his fine bartending, also Jeff Mattera, Belle Baxter, & Adrienna Krug who did kitchen duty throughout the evening. My thanks also to Bryan McLoughlin for procuring and delivering all the beer, wine and soda all iced down and ready to serve. Again more thanks to the Board members who brought hors d'oeuvres and luscious desserts. When it came to final cleanup, there was very little leftover. It was a good evening spent getting to know our new sailors. Soon we'll see everyone out on the bay. I wish our new members sunny days, fair winds and safe sailing this season.



Above - Hostess Della Bucher, goodies and some new members.
Below - Members old and new of all ages get to know each other

Photos by Mike Duffy



The following new members were voted in at the last board meeting. Please welcome to the South Bay Cruising Club

Members - **Bruce and Julie Caldwell** who sail ***Patience***, a 23' Crocker, out of Bay Shore. They were sponsored by Della Bucher and Jack Morgan.

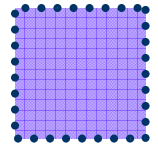
Harry Berman of Plainview who sails a Catalina 22 out of Copaque. He was sponsored by Steve Brice and Jim Reichel. 🏠

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
MAY						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 "Ferg Fest", Unqua Heading - <i>Stardust</i>
9	10	11 Cruise Meeting, West Islip Library 1900 - Cruise Captains	12	13	14	15 Rendezvous, Atlantique - <i>Counterpoint</i>
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 Rendezvous, Coast Guard Cove - <i>Vixen</i>
23	24 SBCC Board Meeting, LaGrange Inn, West Islip 1930	25	26 Bay Shore Twilite Spring 1 Race, 1930 - Woodrick	27 Babylon Twilite Spring 1 Race, 1930 - Penny	28	29 Rendezvous, Oak Island Lead - <i>Mistress</i>

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 Take boats to BYC	31 Memorial Day Creepstakes - 1100 - Eppig Commissioning - Hospitality Babylon Yacht Club, West Islip Food 1230, Ceremony 1400		2 Bay Shore Twilite Spring 2 Race, 1930 - Hyer	3 Babylon Twilite Spring 2 Race, 1930 - Carpenter	4	5 Rendezvous, Spring Family Weekend, Watch Hill - <i>Floriana</i>
6 Spring Family Race, TBA - Christiansen	7	8	9 Bay Shore Twilite Spring 3 Race, 1930 - Marinaccio	10 Babylon Twilite Spring 3 Race, 1930 - Marinaccio	11	12 West Cup Race, 1930 - Kennedy Rendezvous, Connetquot River - <i>First Light</i>
13	14	15	16 Bay Shore Twilite Summer 1 Race, 1930 - Drossos	17 Babylon Twilite Summer 1 Race, 1930 - Kennedy	18	19 "Sing or Swim" Rendezvous, Hemlock Cove - <i>Grace</i>
20	21	22	23 Bay Shore Twilite Summer 2 Race, 1930 -- Reichel	24 Babylon Twilite Summer 2 Race, 1930 - Captain	25 Babylon Cup Race, 1900 - Captain	26 Rendezvous, Babylon Yacht Club, <i>Silver Bullet</i>
27	28 SBCC Board Meeting, LaGrange Inn, West Islip 1930	29	30 Bay Shore Twilite Summer 3 Race, 1930 - Tesoro			June



From The Masthead
Belle Baxter, Corresponding Secretary
28 Shore Road
Babylon, New York 11702



The Rigging Locker

All items must be nautical
items for sale by

SBCC MEMBERS ONLY

Ads will run for 3 months and
will then be deleted unless
you request that it continue
to be run.

Send the written
advertisement by mail to:

Belle Baxter

28 Shore Road

Babylon, NY 11702

or email to:

belfry86@optonline.net

For Sale: 1985 Cape Dory 25D (diesel)- Boat and engine in superb shape. Recent roller furling; oversized running and standing rigging; Navico 2500 autopilot; D/M, K/M, compass; Three sails in good condition; two gel-cell batteries; Interprotect barrier coatings; more. \$18,900.

Contact: Jim and Donna Westpfahl 631-226-2376.

JamesW7644@aol.com ⁽⁵⁾

For Sale 22 ft. Catalina 1983 with pop top. 7.5 HP Evinrude outboard. Swing keel. New sails and roller furling 2001. New cockpit cushions 2000. Great condition! \$4,200.00.

Contact: Chris Carlberg 631-666-9064 ⁽⁵⁾

Wanted: One or two Individuals to crew on a competitive boat for the Bay Shore Wednesday night twilight series. Owner has decided to work less and sail more. No screaming and the beer and soda will be cold.

Also have two Lewmar #8 winches for sale. They worked great when removed from the boat. Make me an offer. ⁽⁵⁾

Contact: John Williams

Cell: 516-383-8691

Home: 631-422-4453

For Sale: A beautiful, fully equipped Hunter 27. This is the '77 Cherubini model with a sweet running Yanmar Diesel. It has working sails and a roller furled 150% genoa. Comes with a dodger, an anchor and rode, life jackets and an auto pilot. The boat is fully equipped and ready to sail to our next rendezvous for less than \$5000!

Call Jim Ferguson at 631.691.4055. ⁽⁶⁾