

# KEVO'S BOATING TIPS & MORE

BY  
KEVIN  
O'LEARY



## Opening Day on the Bay

It was a typical spring morning with low clouds hovering over San Francisco Bay with the (maybe) prospect of blue skies to come later in the day. The Admiral and I arrived at the Encinal Yacht Club in Alameda at about 9 a.m. on Sunday, April 29. We were invited to join the Commodore of the Pacific Inter-Club Yacht Association (PICYA) Duane Collins at his table for lunch on the committee boat for the Opening Day on the Bay festivities. After promising my wife not to drag my knuckles on the floor on the way to the buffet, like the last social event we attended, we accepted the offer. (Personally, I still think the commodore lost a bet with someone!) A sumptuous breakfast was in full swing at the club when we arrived. You could feel the excitement in the air. This is a very important event to the PICYA and Northern California yacht clubs.

The committee boat was the *Commodore Chardonnay* with a capacity of more than 170 people. Onboard were the judges for the boat parade: Mr. Ray Tsuneyoshi, Director of the California Department of Boating and Waterways; Ms. Beth Newburger-Schwartz, of Boat Owners Association of America (BoatUS); Mr. Jerry Desmond Jr., of the Recreational Boaters of California (RBOC); and many other longtime mariners and dignitaries associated with PICYA and member clubs throughout Northern California. Ray Tsuneyoshi also served as Grand Marshall for the event.

The theme for this year's boat parade was "Pages of Time." The idea was to replicate an event or theme involving history. I thought this was

kind of cool because it gave everyone in the parade great latitude to design his or her theme. Anything from dinosaurs to space shuttles were acceptable. This year's event was the 91st consecutive Opening Day on the Bay produced by PICYA.

## Parade Groups and Categories

The parade consisted of four distinct groups of boats:

**GROUP 1:** Fireboats and vessels representing the Classic Yacht Association, the Masters Mariners Benevolent Association, the Bay Area Rowers Association and the Historic Work Boat Association. (I must have missed the rowboats.)

**GROUP 2:** Undecorated pleasure boats wishing to parade and receive participation credit for the PICYA Club of the Year competition.

**GROUP 3:** 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.

**GROUP 4:** This is the decorated boat parade. (The Main Event!)

There were five categories for entrants:

1. Powerboats Decorated to Theme, by a club
2. Sailboats Decorated to Theme, by a club
3. Power/Sailboats Decorated to Theme, by a club's Juniors
4. Boats Decorated with Flags, Pennants and Streamers as a Fleet, by a club
5. Best of Parade Overall Decorated Sailboat or Powerboat

## Let the Judging Begin

We reached our destination just off Crissy Field in the Marina district of San Francisco to the whirl of a Coast Guard helicopter and numerous fire/law enforcement vessels (USCG, USCGA and USPS) assigned to keep everyone involved (and those just passing by) safe in this very busy nautical traffic area.

The judges were sequestered from the rest of the guests on the bow during the parade to keep them focused on rating the decorations and performances of the boats as they went by the committee boat, as well as to



First place Powerboats Decorated to Theme: *Enchantment*, owned by Marilyn and Otis Brock of the Ebony Boat Club; Theme: Soul Train. Photo courtesy of Johnnie Owen



First place Sailboats Decorated to Theme: *Full Moon*, owned by Glen Krawiec of the Island Yacht Club; Theme: Full Moon. Photo courtesy of Johnnie Owen



First place Any Boat Decorated to Theme: *Keteau*, Debbie Dyslin, 15, Michelle Dyslin, 13, and Sara Dyslin, 10. San Jose Sailing Club. Photo courtesy of Johnnie Owen

keep guests from lobbying them on behalf of club member boats in the parade. Still, somehow they managed to come back inside after the parade with wads of cash hanging out of their pockets. HA! (Just kidding!)

More than 100 vessels participated in the parade of boats this year.

After the participants “performed” in front of the judges, it was time to motor over to Pier 39 to wow the crowd of tourists with a trademark San Francisco tradition. I can’t imagine what some of those folks thought was going on, but I’m sure they were very entertained.

After the parade we returned to the Encinal Yacht Club for a brief celebration. Then we joined Commodore Duane and Lizette at the Sausalito Cruising Club. After that we went to the San Rafael Yacht Club. At each stop I interacted with participants in this event. Along the way I realized that part of the benefit to participating in this

event is the journey. One of the most rewarding things about getting involved with a “decorated Boat Parade” is getting the opportunity to work with other people, iron out conflicts, determine and stick to deadlines and celebrate your participation in this event.

It was getting dark when we started heading home to feed the doggies. On the way I thought about my “tip” for this column. What I learned from this event is the value of learning how to work with others to achieve a common goal. This is one of the great things about belonging to a yacht club (or any club, for that matter). It brings people together and through the journey of participating in events such as these, forges friendships that last lifetimes.

**As always, feedback is appreciated. I can be reached at 925/890-8428 or kevo@yachtsmanmagazine.com**

**Be safe & happy boating! 🚤**



**First place Fleet Decorated with Flags and Streamers: *Bacara*, owned by Ed Kuykendall of the St. Francis Yacht Club (representing entire SFYC fleet). Photo courtesy of Johnnie Owen**



**PICYA Commodore Duane Collins (center), his lovely wife, Lizette (left) and founder/CEO of BoatUS, Richard Schwartz (right). Photo courtesy of Johnnie Owen**



**First place Best in Show: *Highlander*, owned by Mike Levin of the San Rafael Yacht Club; Theme: Alcatraz The Rock. Photo courtesy of Johnnie Owen**