

KEVO'S BOATING TIPS & MORE

BY
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Ebony Boat Club Jazz & Wine Festival

The wind was blowing 15 to 25 knots when we arrived on *Her Way* at the Ebony Boat Club on Friday afternoon, June 2. We came a day early (we were glad we did) on account of the anticipated crowd expected to attend the Ebony Boat Club Jazz & Wine Festival.

Thirty-one Pacific Inter-Club Yacht Association (PICYA) member clubs were represented as well as many other boaters and jazz/wine aficionados. Although the guest dock was packed, no one was turned away. Docking management was superb. Mr. Elroy Booker, EBC Port Captain, and Mr. Otis Brock, Past Commodore, are to thank for the orderly (and safe) landing and departure of each vessel. They handled the incoming and outgoing vessels like seasoned air traffic controllers.

The Ebony Boat Club is located on Bruno's Island in Seven Mile Slough just off the San Joaquin River. By car you take Highway 12 to the Delta Loop. The club was established in 1987. This was their fifth annual Jazz & Wine Festival and by all indications it was a smashing success.

Music, Food, Wine and Art

The festival featured the Julius Courtney Big Band featuring vocalist Denise Perrier, wines from California's premier cellars and an array of vendors selling apparel and wares from artists and artisans.

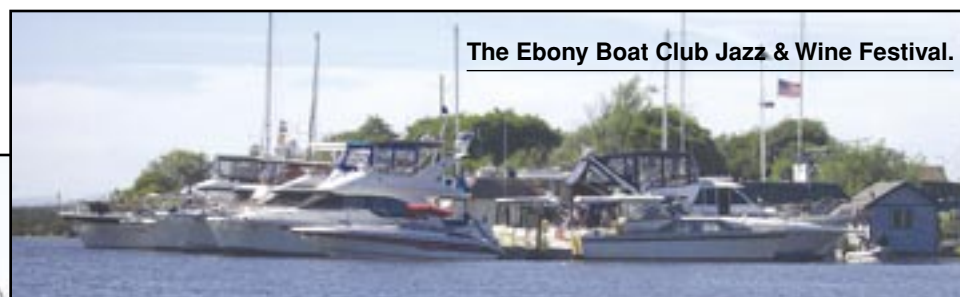
It was a beautiful day with light winds and plenty of sunshine and fresh air. The club presented an opulent (and long) table of appetizers for all.



Cocktail hour at EBC's guest dock.

The music started about 1:30 and you could see the effect it was having on the crowd. Everyone relaxed and enjoyed the ambiance. The wine was flowing and the band was hot. I commented to my wife that they sounded so tight it could have been sound tracks instead of live. This band has been practicing every Wednesday night at Ms. Courtney's house since 1964. I didn't count the number of musicians in the band, but there had to be 15 or so. They performed lots of saxophone and trumpet solos.

At about 5 p.m., things started to wind down in the picnic area and folks started making their way back to the guest dock to relax on their boats while the club was putting the final touches on a great dinner for all. The fare was



The Ebony Boat Club Jazz & Wine Festival.

The guest dock at EBC.





The dock party at EBC.

BBQ ribs, chicken and hot links with all the fixings. (And boy was it good!)

As the evening progressed we went from boat to boat, visiting with old friends and many new ones. Everyone had a grand time. Events like this have a way of bringing out the best in people. This one was no exception. All of



Marilyn Brock, Past Commodore of EBC.

the proceeds gained from this event will go towards the EBC disadvantaged youth program and their annual youth scholarship fund.

Sunday morning the club was cooking with bacon, sausage and eggs for all. Once again, they heaped the food on everyone's plates.

After recounting the previous day's events and saying our goodbyes, the vessels left one by one. We cruised back to our new home at Pittsburg Marina and put the boat to bed.

New Boating Experiences

On the way back I started wondering if there were any other events of this

sort accessible by boat, and low and behold there are. To find out about jazz festivals and other events accessible by boat, visit the following sites:

www.ebonyboatclub.com (916/777-4430)

www.vallejojazzfestival.com (707/642-3653)

www.sacjazz.com (916/372-5277)

If you are planning an upcoming event and want to get it publicized in the *Bay & Delta Yachtsman* magazine, e-mail your information to

downtherode@yachtsmanmagazine.com or fax it to 775/353-5111.

So what is this month's boating tip?

Try something new with your boating experience. Perhaps a jazz festival is just the ticket!

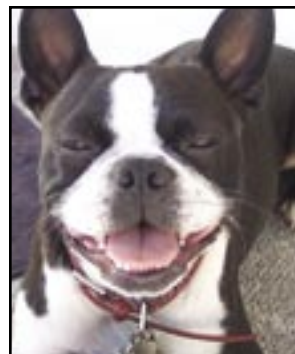
Be safe and happy boating. As always, feedback is appreciated. I can be reached at 925/890-8428 or kevo@yachtsmanmagazine.com ✉



Staff Commodore Vern Bendsen (PICYA), Director of the California Department of Boating & Waterways Ray Tsuneyoshi and Jane Brennan.



Vice Commodore (PICYA) Dwayne Collins and his wife Liz.



Apparently, *Her Way's* boat mascot, "Uncle Bob," likes jazz.



Susan (The Admiral) O'Leary and EBC Port Captain Elroy Booker.