

Rag Times

March 2005

Number 3

2005 FLEET 8 OFFICERS AND BOARD

Fleet Captain	Nate Tucker barnat@prodigy.net	714 545-0205
Vice Captain	Bill Van Wagoner William.vanwagoner@water.lawdp.com	562 598-9712
Secretary & Treasure	Richard Heppner Richard.Heppner@verizon.net	909 624-7949
Racing & Membership	Scott Fraser bbb46@charter.net	562 431-7949
Cruising Program	Arnold Van Sprew sailarnold@aol.com	714 897-2753
Member at Large	Bill Gerhardt WTGerhardt@aol.com	562 498-9071
Newsletter & Webmaster	Danny Coon m.d.coon@sbcglobal.net	310 510-2704

WORKING CALENDAR FOR FLEET 8 2005

<u>Month/Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>
Jan 16	Chowder Barge	Nate
Feb	Tequila Jacks	Arnold
March	Meeting @ SLBYC	Scotty
April	(TBD)	
May 20-21	Avalon Cruise	Danny & Maria
June	Spring Cruise to Isthmus w/LSF	Nate
July	(TBD)	
Aug	(TBD)	
September	(TBD)	
Oct	(TBD)	
Nov	Meeting (elections)	Nate
Dec	Holiday Party	Scotty

THIS IS THE CAPTAIN SPEAKING

I'll keep this one short and sweet. (I know – you're saying "Thank God for small favors") Well, the timing is a little awkward since I'm writing this on Feb 20, our rendezvous at T.J.'s is Feb 26, and you'll probably be reading this sometime after that – so I'll take a stab at the pluperfect future subjunctive case tense – we all were to have had a great time at T.J.'s, and did! Some were to have sailed (if it quit raining) and some were to have driven and a good time was to have been had by all! (Now you hum the theme from Twilight Zone) NOTE: I did talk to the Marina Office, and they told me there is a limited number of slips/side ties in the Fishbowl, as well as some space just outside of Parker's Lighthouse.

Next up for Fleet 8 will be an informal meeting at Seal Beach YC in March, exact date will be announced at T.J.'s and in the next issue of Rag Times.

April is yet TBD. If nothing else pops up, I'd like to suggest and sail/land cruise to the nautical museum located on the old paddle wheeler in Newport Bay. They currently are featuring a display of ship models, among other things, and should be an interesting outing. I was crewing on a race in Newport Bay last week and took note of two tall ships tied up alongside the museum. Always fun to look at old sailing ships. Lunch could be on the premises or elsewhere.

I know we're all looking forward to our May cruise to Avalon. This will again be hosted by Danny and Maria Coon. Danny and Maria will hopefully be present and accounted for at T.J.'s, so this would be a good time to ask any questions you may have about the cruise.

Don't forget – we're always looking for a few good men (actually we'll take anybody – ha, ha, -- or as Groucho put it, "Personally I wouldn't join an organization that would have a guy like me for a member!")

Smooth sailing everybody, and hope to see you at T.J.'s and beyond.

Capt Nate

Ladies News

The Ladies Lunch-in was held on February 19. In spite of threatening rain, six ladies attended the "Ladies Luncheon" and, a good time was had by all. Fortunately, not a drop of rain fell during that time -- those of you who were not able to make it were missed. Our thanks to Barbara for reinstating this fun event.

While enjoying Mimi's delicious cuisine, we caught up on what has been going on in our lives -- many interesting updates (and a tiny bit of male bashing). We were saddened to hear that Ingrid's mother passed on -- our heart felt condolences go out to her.

We all enjoy these luncheons so much that we decided to schedule another one May 14 -- where, and time, will be determined at a later date. Hopefully, those who were absent will be able to attend. Mark your calendar ladies and, be there if you can!

.... Doris

FROM THE EDITOR

Know Rule 9

Rule 9 of the International - Inland Navigation rules basically state that small craft - sailing, power, and fishing vessels - crossing the channel may not impede the passage of a vessel that can only navigate within the confines of the channel. This rule is in effect even during sailboat races. According to the LA/LB Marine Safety Office, rule 9 is in effect and is being enforced in the LA/LB Harbor.

While violations are not widely publicized in the Los Angeles area they have become major issues in San Diego harbor and the San Francisco Bay. When entering Los Angeles/Long Beach Harbor remember that those cargo and cruise ships are big and slow. They are restricted to moving only within the main channel and cannot get out of your way. Furthermore, even with radar they may not see you.

The Coast Guard Marine Safety Office do investigate claims of rule nine violations and discipline is maintained in a computer base.

Failure to comply with rule 9 is dangerous and can result in a fine of up to \$5,500.

Whenever I sail in or around the LA/LB area I maintain a watch on channel 14. This is the local VTS and a recreational boater can get vital information on where the ships are. During times of limited visibility I will track the ships on a chart. Also when crossing the channel get in and out of the separation zones as soon as possible. Although the ships maybe miles away, it does not take long to catch up at 30+ knots.

Continued on page 3

from the editor from page 2

Of course as you read this Maria and I will be on a Cruise ship heading to the Mexican Riviera. Stay safe and warm.

Danny & Maria (Mi Maria #3270)

The March Cruise / Meeting will be held at the Seal Beach Yacht Club. The date is yet to be announced. Check the website and your e-mail for a flyer

Membership Renewal

For those who have not done so, it is that time of year to renew your Fleet 8 membership. Complete the renewal form attached with this newsletter and send it to Richard Heppner.

If you know of any Catalina 30 owners invite them to a cruise or meeting, let them know what we are about.

Start the new year with a new Fleet 8 burgee, contact Richard Heppner for more information.

Save This Date

The Avalon Invasion will be held the weekend before Memorial Day. May 20, 21 and 22. Like last year Saturday's dinner will be at the Casino Dock Café. A miniature golf tournament is planned for Saturday afternoon. And yes Nate, you can bring your own putter. I am still working on something for those who arrive on Friday evening. I will need to know in advance who will attend the invasion including vessel name and number in the party. Like last year I will try and make arrangements with the Harbor Department on mooring assignments. Watch the website and RagTimes for further information