

# Lines & Bits

April 2026



**DANA WEST YACHT CLUB**

*The Best Little Yacht Club on the West Coast*

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# Dana West Yacht Club 2025

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# ANCHORS A-WHERE?!

This monthly contest challenges you to find this particular anchor, no others will do, hidden within the pages of the Lines&Bits newsletter.



When you find it, send an email with the page number and location description to editor@dwyc.org. Reply by the 15th of the month to be entered in a monthly random drawing to win a complimentary cocktail at the Club, courtesy of the Commodore!

Last month's drawing winner: *Deirdre Hurd!* Please see the Commodore for your free drink.

## SAVE THE DATE!

Race	4/4/26	Ensenada Tune Up Race
Port	4/5/26	Easter Brunch
BNG	4/7/26	Meeting - Randy Johnson
Islanders	4/11/26	Spring Luncheon
Jrs	4/11/26	High Point Series RA Tera Regatta
BC	4/14/26	Meeting "The Correspondent" Plus author of "Sanctuary"
Race	4/18/26	Ensenada Send Off
Port	4/18/26	Dancing, Blind Squid
Race	4/24-26/26	Newport to Ensenada
Fleet	4/24-26/26	Cruise, Avalon
Race	4/25-26/26	Ensenada Hospitality Suite
Race	4/29/26	Sea Tales "The McPhersons" 15 Year Cruise
Port	5/2/2026	Kentucky Derby Party

*Dates are tentative, see articles and eBlasts for event details/updates!*

The By-Laws require that new applicants for membership be posted on the Bulletin Board for twenty one (21) days. Any regular member may place an objection against an applicant by submitting the objection in writing to the Board of Directors prior to the next Board meeting.

*Dana West Yacht Club is a 501(c)(7), not for profit, mutual benefit corporation. In compliance with California State Liquor Laws, Club members must be able to present their current membership card when asked by the Officer of the Day, a Board member or the bartenders. All guests must be signed in at the front door and wear a visitor name tag visibly at all times in the Clubhouse. Visiting reciprocal Yacht Club members must present Club membership verification and will need to wear either a visitor name tag or their Club name tag. Please help us stay in compliance and be gracious when asked for your membership card.*



Lines&Bits  
April Issue | Published March 27, 2026  
Cover Photo by: Bob Kelly



# COMMODORE'S REPORT

By **LEIGH ANN PACK**


March brought great fun and wonderful spirit to Dana West Yacht Club, a successful Festival of Whales, Dinghy Poker Run and St. Patrick's Day Celebration. Kudos to our Fleet Captain



Jim McNamara and all those who made the Dinghy Poker Run so successful. With the generosity and enthusiasm of our members, we raised over \$2500.00 toward our Marine Memorial Plaque for Dana Point. This meaningful project will stand as a lasting tribute for years to come.

A special nod goes to our own little leprechaun, Helen Hawkins, whose magic touch shines all year long. Her spirit, energy and dedication make our Club such a beautiful environment Go raibh maith agat Helen!

Now with spring right around the corner, April promises some of the best of what Yacht Club life has to offer: longer days, beautiful weather and more time to enjoy being out on the water with friends. It's a wonderful season for yachting, gathering and appreciating all that makes Dana West Yacht Club so special.

Cheers to a fun-filled April and Smooth sailing ahead. Life is Good. 



# VICE COMMODORE'S REPORT

By **KEVIN RIGGS**

It has been a busy and productive period at the Club, and I'm pleased to share a few updates with the membership.

First, our Food and Beverage team has introduced several minor updates to the menu, including a selection of new appetizers and shareable plates. These additions are designed to give members more options for casual dining and socializing at the Club. Early feedback has been very positive, and we encourage everyone to stop by, try the new offerings and let us know what you think. Oh, and Hydee is jumping up and down telling me I have to let everyone know we added cottage cheese as a side item on the menu.


We also recently held the first informational meeting for the 2027 Commodore's Cruise, and it was a great success with strong member interest and enthusiasm. The cruise will take place October 7-14, 2027, exploring Greece and the Greek Isles aboard the beautiful Windstar sailing yacht *Wind Surf*, the largest sailing yacht in the world. The itinerary promises an unforgettable experience with stunning destinations, exceptional service and the camaraderie that makes our Club cruises so special. After our first meeting we have close to 60 people signed up to Party with the Commodore in Greece.


If you were unable to attend the first meeting but are interested in learning more about the cruise, additional information will be shared in the coming months. We encourage members to keep an eye out for future updates and opportunities to participate. You can also reach out to me to get additional information.

This month we are at capacity and did not admit any new members. We have one new member application to post. This is an associate member application and is the son of current members Lance and Isabela Valle. Applicant to post is:

Simon Valle

As a reminder, the names of all new applicants are posted on display on the bulletin board to the right of the fireplace. Thank you to everyone who continues to support the Club and make Dana West such a special place.

Do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. Please email me at [vicecommodore@dwyec.org](mailto:vicecommodore@dwyec.org) or call me at 949-547-6167. The entire Board of Directors and Flags are always willing to listen to suggestions and concerns. Thank you! 



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Surfing Association  
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# REAR COMMODORE'S REPORT

By **DONNA GROVES**

First, I would like to thank everyone that has purchased DWYC merchandise in the last few months. We have had some great new items come in and they are going out the door quickly. I have already reordered the items we sold out of and hope to have more in next week. Keep an eye out for pictures of the new items that will now be added to the weekly E-Blast. This will help you decide if it's something you just can't live without. We have pillows, dish towels and ladies' baseball hats with magnetic closure coming to the store next week. Super cute and a great way to display the ponytail out the back. Men's flex hats in gray, black and navy blue are in the store and a fan favorite.

Summer is fast approaching so if you need a new DWYC Bugee whether for your boat or dinghy, come on by and pick one up at the Ship's Store. It's always nice to fly a fresh new burgee on your next Cruise.

Look forward to seeing you all at the Club. 

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# FLEET LOG

By **JIM McNAMARA**

Ahoy DWYC!

Thank you to all who participated in the St. Patrick's Day Poker Run. We had an outstanding turnout—much more than expected (we sold 83 hands!)—and raised over \$2500 for the “Returning Home” Memorial plaque: <https://danapoint5thmarines.com/returning-home/>

A great big nautical THANK YOU to our host boats: *LadyTug*, *Firewater*, *Freedom* and *Moist Obsession*, each of whom provided an excellent selection of food and drink. Shout out to Reylyn, *LadyTug*, for winning best appetizer and Tom and Maureen, *Freedom*, for being awarded the best drink. The best hand was drawn by Barry Clark, *Blackwing*, who drew a Royal Flush! The Worst Hand was drawn by Greg Wilson; Bob and Cheryl Kelly were awarded “Best Dressed Irish-Persons!”

We could not have done it without a great team of help and support. Thank you, Helen and Maggie for stuffing the envelopes, and to Ed Sicard for being our “Poker Official Judge,” ranking each hand for the prizes.

Unfortunately, our scheduled USCG Auxiliary Vessel Safety Check Day was postponed, but for those of you who signed up, keep watch in your email. You will be contacted by an Auxiliary member to arrange a time to complete your inspection. This is a valuable and important service, and I am grateful to Steve Fiorillo and all our Auxiliary members for their service.

We cruised to BCYC at the end of March; report and photos to follow in the May Lines&Bits.

I am incredibly grateful to everyone at the Club for your support and enthusiasm. We are looking into special events in addition to our scheduled cruises which will be announced in the weekly E-Blasts and on the Fleet bulletin board. Keep watch!

Fair Winds and Following Seas! 

## TURNING 65? RETIRING? NEED MEDICARE?

Some milestones of growing older happen when people are in their 60's. In the U.S., full retirement age is between 66 and 67, depending on what year you were born. At that age, you qualify for full Social Security retirement benefits, though you may choose to start drawing on Social Security earlier or later than that.

You may also retire from full-time work, which means you can be losing your health insurance so it's time to enroll into Medicare. It is important to educate yourself on Medicare. You owe it to yourself to consult with an experienced “INSURANCE BROKER” that specializes in Medicare Insurance before making final decisions on your future Health Insurance needs.

**Enrollment in Medicare** has precise deadlines. You will need to enroll correctly in order to avoid paying a penalty. Medicare doesn't cover everything. Original Medicare **A** (Hospital) and **B** (Doctors and Outpatient Services) covers 80% of your medical bills. You could incur financial liability for the other 20%! Most folks enroll in Supplemental plans to help pay for the costs and benefits that are not covered.

**Common Questions:** When can I enroll without a penalty? Do I have to enroll if I am still working? Do I have to enroll if I'm on a retirement plan? Does Medicare have deductibles and copays? How do I decide on a plan? Can I still see my favorite Doctors? How much will my Prescriptions Cost? Does Medicare cover me if I travel or move out of Town?

Understanding how Medicare works and when to enroll can be a complicated process with many important and time sensitive decisions to make throughout the year. We're here to help people with Medicare Insurance to be sure their Medicare Plan is best tailored to their specific needs and circumstances.

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Dana West Yacht Club  
Cruise Schedule/Fleet Activities  
Updated 03-15-2026

4/24-4/26	Avalon
5/16	Opening Day
5/22-5/25	Cruise to Shoreline YC
6/12-6/14	Cruise to Oceanside YC
7/10	Danalina
7/31-8/02	Long Beach YC
8/28-8/30	Isthmus Cruise
10/2-10/4	Avalon Cruise

\*Additional "fill in" and "pop-up" cruises to be announced via weekly E-Blast; all activities subject to weather "cooperation."

*Islanders Spring Luncheon*

Saturday April 11  
11:30 AM

**\$35**

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# SAILING FOR LIFE

By **CHERYL KELLY**

Mark your calendars for the 29th annual “Sailing for Life” Charity Regatta to benefit American Cancer Society on June 5-7!

This fun event includes a weekend of Races, Silent and Live Auctions for great items, dancing to live music and an opportunity drawing. The fundraising continues on June 10 with the Gala Wine Tasting Dinner and a Poker Run “Landlubber Style” on July 18.

Because it was so much fun last year, the “Cruise the Coast” event for the power boaters and non-racing sailboats will return. Discussion on the details is still underway, so watch this space, the E-Blast for future information!

We are bringing the Silent Auction back in-house. Auction items will be on display at the Club during the weekend of the event. We need items for the auctions, so do you have a vacation home you can donate to the cause? How about artwork, bottles of wine or spirits, gift cards, harbor cruises, sporting event tickets or services? Does your company offer a matching funds program or corporate sponsorships?

We are also doing something different with the Poker Run. You will no longer need a dinghy to participate. The event will be held on July 18 on the patio at the Club, hence the name Landlubber Poker Run. More details will be forthcoming.

Volunteers are always needed to help staff the events so if you are interested, contact Helen Hawkins at 949-212-9115 or Pam Northcott at 949-466-5732 if you would like to volunteer or have auction items to contribute.


It wouldn't be a Regatta without the racers, so if you are racing, it's not too early to sign up and begin your fundraising! Look for the registration on the website soon. The race begins on Friday, June 5 in Newport

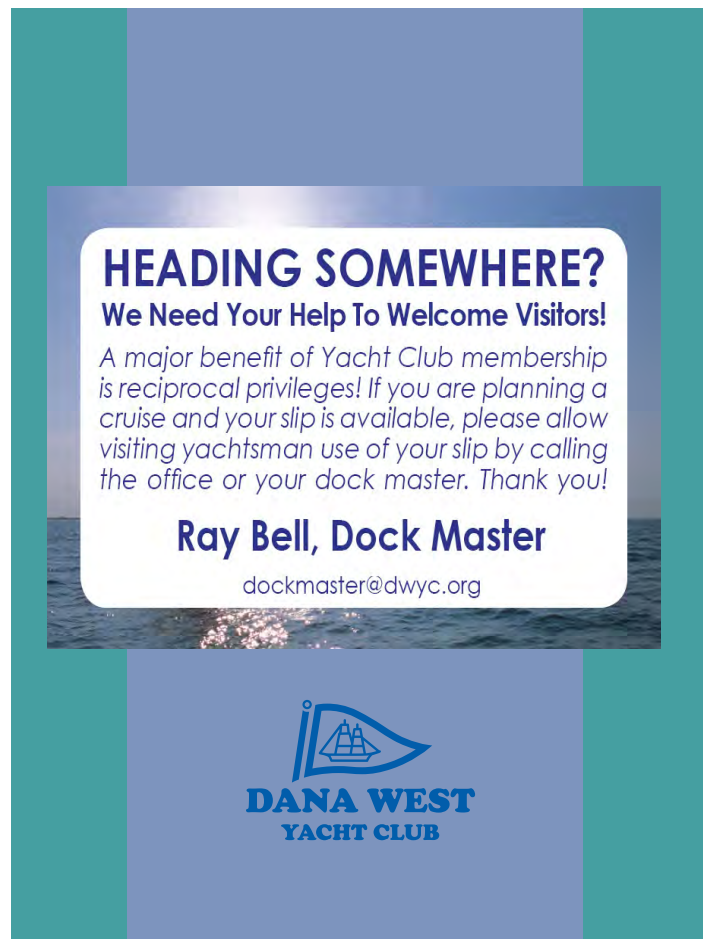
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Beach and concludes in Dana Point. Racing continues locally on Saturday and Sunday.

And because we want to treat our racers to something special, we would like items to put in swag bags. Anything helpful to racers such as sun screen, lip protection or hat leashes are welcome.

Regatta-themed clothing will be available at a future date, as will tickets for the Chose Your Own Adventure drawing.

Finally, the Gala Surf and Turf Wine Tasting Dinner Soiree on June 10 from 5-9 p.m. will feature fine wines and a gourmet dinner. Wine may be ordered prior to or during the event. For tickets and information, contact Helen Hawkins or Pam Northcott at the numbers above. 



## HEADING SOMEWHERE?

**We Need Your Help To Welcome Visitors!**

*A major benefit of Yacht Club membership is reciprocal privileges! If you are planning a cruise and your slip is available, please allow visiting yachtsman use of your slip by calling the office or your dock master. Thank you!*

**Ray Bell, Dock Master**

dockmaster@dwyc.org



# PORT REPORT


By **JAN CASTEEL**

The Festival of the Whales Parade was so much fun. A huge shout-out to Nina McNeely for arranging and coordinating the DWYC float for the parade.

We had a wonderful time dancing to the Shamrockers at our St. Patrick's Day Party. Everyone seemed to enjoy their music. Michael Petterson and Leann Rodowicz won prizes for the best costumes. I want to thank Helen Hawkins, Cindy Holms and Gloria Markussen for helping to decorate. Also, a huge shout-out to Penne Reid, whose expertise with flower arrangements is really appreciated.

Also, I want to thank Molly Dearing, Isabele Valle and Robin Mather for taking charge of the decorating for the MTV 80s Party.

In 2026, we will have a lot of fun with two bands playing each month and many themed parties. Anyone

interested in helping me plan future parties or is willing to help decorate, please email me at [port@dwyc.org](mailto:port@dwyc.org) or call or text me at 714-287-1042. 

Here are our upcoming April and May Events:

### April

April 5th - Easter Brunch

April 18th - Dancing to Blind Squirrel

### May

May 2nd - Kentucky Derby Party.

Come bet on your favorite horses!

May 4th - Cinco De Mayo Party

May 10th - Mother's Day Brunch

May 23rd - Dancing to Sticks and Stones



**Easter BRUNCH**  
SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2026  
10 am - 1 pm

<b>MENU:</b>	<b>COST:</b>
STEAK AND EGGS	ADULTS: \$35.00
BAGELS AND LOX	CHILDREN: \$17.50
BELGIAN WAFFLES	
FRUIT	<b>RESERVATIONS</b>
HASH BROWNS	<b>REQUIRED BY</b>
MUFFINS	<b>3/30/26</b>

CONTACT JAN CASTEEL AT 714-287-1042 OR [PORT@DWYC.ORG](mailto:port@dwyc.org) FOR RESERVATIONS



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- Dana West Yacht Club
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- Parents welcome at the club
- Registration fee \$30



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# RACE

By **SUE GRIESBACH**

## Newport to Ensenada Update

The annual Newport to Ensenada race starts Friday April 24 at noon! As of this writing we have three Dana West boats entered in the race: Jerry Wetzler *Freestyle* running his 50th time in the race, Phil Bellafaire, *Running Water II* and Sue Griesbach/Bob Langan *Tomol*. The DWYC hospitality suite of days gone by has been resurrected, so come down and join the party! Club headquarters will be at the Hotel Villa Fontana Inn. Please see Helen for information on travel and room reservations.




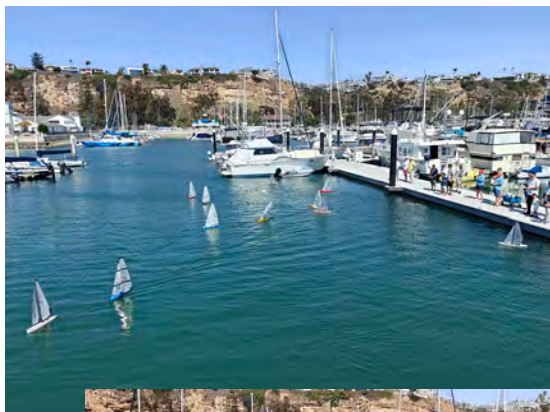
## Radio-Controlled Sailboats


We had a presentation and hands-on demo day of radio-controlled sailboats on a blustery Sunday in March. The keynote speaker was Len Bose, Class Secretary for the DragonFlite 95 fleet at the national level. Len is based in Newport Beach and has a long history of sailboat racing ranging from TP52's to Harbor 20's to radio-controlled

boats. As Len pointed out, when the president of North Sails tells you that radio-controlled sailboat racing has made him a better sailor, people take notice. Len focused his talk on one of the most popular model of boats raced in the US called the DragonFlite 95. There are about 3500 registered sail numbers (for people who race) for this boat in the US, and over 80,000 of them worldwide. There are lots of local races as well as regional, national and worlds competitions for the DF95. He discussed the basics of the DF95 organization, how to buy a boat, where the local clubs are based and he gave the audience lots of links to websites where they could get more information. Several top local DF95 racers and members of local clubs were on hand to share their knowledge and let attendees have a try at sailing their boats. If you would like more information about radio-controlled sailboating just let me know!

## Safety First

We recently had a man overboard event during a very windy Thursday afternoon of Farkle racing. The swell was the biggest it has been in a long time, and winds were in the teens. A skipper was knocked unconscious by the boom and fell into very cold water without a PFD on. He survived largely due to the very quick actions of his crew, who had practiced man overboard drills. This is a public service announcement to always wear a PFD. If that doesn't work for you, then wear one when the sea state or wind is up, the water is cold, you're in a risky position on your boat or it's after sunset. The nicest PFD money can buy will do you no good if it's stowed away down below. 





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# JUNIOR'S CORNER

By **JULIE ERNEST**


Spring is here, and the Dana West Yacht Club Juniors Program is off to a fantastic start for the 2026 season. Our sailors have been back on the water for Winter and Spring Programs, sharpening their skills and preparing for an exciting year of racing, learning and having fun in the harbor.

A highlight this spring is the High Point Series RS Tera Regatta on April 11th, to be hosted right here at Dana West Yacht Club. This event brings together talented young sailors from across Southern California to compete in the fast-growing RS Tera class. Events like this help develop the next generation of sailors while showcasing the incredible sailing venue we have in Dana Point Harbor.

The Juniors program would like to extend a big thank you to the DWYC membership for supporting youth sailing and helping make events like this possible. Whether volunteering on the Race Committee, helping with logistics, or simply cheering on the sailors, the Club's support is what allows these regattas to happen. Hosting events like the High Point Series continues to strengthen DWYC's reputation as a welcoming and competitive sailing club for young sailors.

Looking ahead, we are excited for another great DWYC Junior's Summer Sailing Camp season (starting June 15th), and registration is now open. Our camps provide kids with the opportunity to learn sailing, build confidence on the water and make lifelong friends. Programs are available for a range of ages and experience levels, from beginners stepping into a boat for the first time to more advanced sailors looking to refine their racing skills.

If you have kids or grandkids who might enjoy learning to sail, we encourage you to check out the program and sign up early as sessions fill quickly.

Learn about the program and register for summer camp at: [dwcjrs.org](http://dwcjrs.org) We look forward to seeing many young sailors on the water this summer and thank the entire DWYC community for supporting the Juniors program. Fair winds! 




**KIDS SUMMER CAMP**

**REGISTRATION: \$ 470/WK**

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Beginning June 15th  
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Learn to sail with US Sailing certified instructors  
Beginners to Advanced, Kids 7-18  
Includes weekly soda pop races



# SILVER STARS

By **HYDEE RIGGS**



Silver Star Roger Salway was presented with the International Order of the Blue Gavel.

Each year, the Silver Stars — our former Commodores — come together with a shared purpose: supporting the next generation of our Club family. Through a variety of events held throughout the year, the Silver Stars raise funds for higher education scholarships benefiting the children and grandchildren of our members through the Patrick Walsh Scholarship Fund.

This program reflects the spirit of generosity and leadership that has long been a hallmark of our Club. Thanks to the dedication of the Silver Stars and the support of our members, the impact has been truly meaningful. Last year alone, more than \$23,000 in scholarships were awarded, and over the years, the fund has provided more than \$500,000 to help our members’ children and grandchildren pursue their academic dreams — a tremendous achievement for our Club community.

Last month we held two successful fundraising efforts:  
Bingo and See’s Candies sales.

Our Bingo event brought together more than 50 members and guests for an afternoon filled with fun, laughter and a little friendly competition. Prizes included DWYC gift cards, an RJ’s Cafe gift card, an Amazon gift card and cash prizes. Congratulations to our big winners: Greg Cox, Robin Dudnick, Helen Morton, Craig Rahn and Carl Strazzula!

Events like this are only possible because of the many members who generously volunteer their time and resources. A heartfelt thank you goes out to:

- Pam Northcott for serving our VIPs
- Molly Dearing and Tammy Randall for helping throughout the event

Helen Morton for helping process card payments  
A special thanks to Craig and Karen Rahn for assisting by playing cards for those who purchased tickets but could not attend. Additional thanks to all of the Silver Stars who worked hard selling tickets!

We also extend gratitude to Commodore Leigh Pack for providing Club gift cards and drink chips, RJ Breeden for donating an RJ Café gift card and Craig and Karen Rahn for donating an Amazon gift card. Finally, thank you to all of our Members who participated and supported the event.

In addition, our See’s Candies fundraiser was another sweet success. A special thank you goes to Ed Sicard for



**PURCHASE SEE’S CANDIES OR GIFT CARDS ONLINE FOR DELIVERY YEAR ROUND!**

Proceeds benefit the Silver Stars Scholarship Fund.

Click on QR code that will take you to the website. Thank you for your support!



## DWYC BUSINESS NETWORKING GROUP

Promote your business and form meaningful connections with other business owners in the area **the first Tuesday of every month!**

**Tuesday, April 7th 2026**

spearheading this effort and to the many volunteers who helped sell candy.

Please remember that See's Candies can be purchased online throughout the year, (see ad on previous page) and when you buy through our link, proceeds go directly to the Silver Stars to support scholarships for our Club's kids and grandkids. It's an easy and delicious way to give back. All you need to do is use the QR code and it will take you directly to our website.

And there's more to come! Keep an eye out for details about the annual Booze Basket Raffle, always a favorite, along with additional events planned throughout the year. On behalf of the Silver Stars, thank you to everyone who supports these efforts. Your participation helps make it possible for our Club family to continue investing in the future of our young people. 🚩



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Emails: [BNG@DWYC.ORG](mailto:BNG@DWYC.ORG) & [CBABCOCK@FIRSTAM.COM](mailto:CBABCOCK@FIRSTAM.COM)

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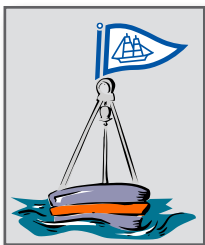
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# MEMBERS CRUISING

By **JULIE D'URSO**

Updates on cruising Member boats currently at large out in the great big world!



The latest from *SV Game Changer* Excerpts from their Predict Wind Log by Angie Wilson. We started island hopping. From Martinique was a steady 15 knot breeze to Dominica. A highlight of the passage was a visit from dolphins, something we haven't seen in a while—always a good sign offshore.

Dominica to Guadeloupe: Main and jib up first, then conditions settled perfectly to roll out the Code 55 and stretch our legs a bit. Always satisfying when a quiet start turns into a proper sail.

Picked up our first visitors in Guadeloupe and wasted no time getting back under sail. Main up and Code 55 pulling nicely as we headed south toward Les Saintes. The breeze was solid and steady moving us well and remind everyone this is real sailing. A proper introduction to life aboard *Game Changer*. We made great time and slipped into Baie de Marigot just before sunset, dropping the hook in that golden evening light. I am so excited to share these islands, these anchorages and this adventure with dear friends.

We had a fantastic sail over to the Jacques Cousteau National Park area of Guadeloupe, averaging around 9 knots with bursts into the 10s. We are excited to snorkel the Cousteau Reserve at Pigeon Island. Clear water, vibrant marine life, and one of the Caribbean's most iconic underwater parks.

Departed Deshaies and were quickly reminded that the Caribbean can flex when it wants to. Steady 25–30 knot winds with periods of heavy rain and 10-foot seas right on

our beam made for a very sporty — and very wet — ride north. Waves were crashing over the entire boat at times, no shortage of adrenaline on this leg. When the breeze dipped into the low 20s, we rolled out the double reefed jib, then furled it back in as the wind built again. It was a constant in-and-out dance with the headsail as conditions shifted. At one point we clocked a gust at 36 knots — enough to get your full attention. Breaking seas were slamming into us and repeatedly swamping the cockpit — the kind of passage where you brace hard and stay focused. As a normal human, I'll admit it was uncomfortable and relentless for me... meanwhile Jeff was fully in his element and having a blast. Captain vs. crew perspective at its finest. By the time we dropped anchor in English Harbour, *Game Changer* looked like she'd been rolled in salt — coated bow to stern like the rim of a margarita glass. A salty arrival, anchor down, and a crew more than ready for sundowners and a calm night's sleep.

Antigua to Nevis was our first true downwind passage since the Atlantic crossing, and it felt great to let *Game Changer* run. With the wind behind us we made quick work of the miles. Speeds held around 8.5 knots with bursts up to 12. The ride kept us on our toes at times, even caught a quick whale breach.

Another 46-mile passage with the wind on our beam and squalls passing through along the way. We did several sail changes as the wind built and eased with the weather around us. *Game Changer* kept up a great pace, averaging a little over 8 knots. We arrived in Saint Barthélemy and dropped anchor in crystal clear water, immediately spotting turtles swimming all around the boat.

A short sail/motor sail today in light winds and mild seas as we made our way north to Sint Maarten. On our approach we passed the port of Philipsburg, where four massive cruise ships were docked. Hard to appreciate just how enormous they are until you pass right by them. We'll anchor in Simpson Bay for a quick stop to pick up some boat parts before continuing our journey north.



With a 3:45 AM start, we took a left turn west for a 14-hour passage, enjoying downwind sailing at its finest. *Game Changer* briefly hit our all-time fastest sailing speed of 16.1 knots. Jeff also added another catch to the log — the biggest barracuda yet — which was quickly released to swim another day. We wrapped up the long day anchored for the night in a beautiful bay off Norman Island in the BVIs.

Departed this morning and pointed the bow west for Puerto Rico. After 42 miles under sail, we dropped anchor off Culebra — our first time back in a U.S. territory in almost a year. A moment worth celebrating with a well-earned passion fruit mojito. It was an enjoyable downwind run most of the day.

Contact info: For the latest from *SV Game Changer 27* ~ Check out their blog at [svgamechanger.wordpress.com](http://svgamechanger.wordpress.com) or follow them on Instagram: [@sv\\_game\\_changer\\_27](https://www.instagram.com/sv_game_changer_27)

The latest from *MissTeak II* Excerpts from their Blog by Chip Prather. Chip reports that after many cruises south, he has a new “tool”. “Oh, how things have changed! Our son and daughter-in-law gave me a ChatGPT PRO subscription for my birthday. Since today’s 95+ mile passage puts us perpendicular to the prevailing sea conditions I decided to see what this AI tool might have to say. After entering our boat polars and a dozen PredictWind data points, along with our travel goals (no ass-kicking seasick invoking “roll” or “slamming”) into ChatGPT, I had a 45-minute conversation with the thing. Wholly Smokes!

Short version, following these recommendations we left for Santa Maria a day early and 4 hours before I was originally intending. The result - conditions were so soft KT and Di slept until mid-morning on pond like conditions. This 10-hour passage was so comfortable that KT fired up the washer to do our laundry! I will be using this tool again without a doubt. Thank you Charlie and Nathalia! Nice to be anchor down in BSM in the daylight!”

Not only was it the political unrest in Puerto Vallarta that made it uncertain where they would go from Cabo, but the weather was a problem.

“In fact, I worked pretty hard to find a different weather forecast and to rationalize leaving in less-than-ideal conditions. Senor ChatGPT PRO in “thinking mode” would have none of that (referred to the idea as “ego judgement...”)! AI with an attitude!

“With the violence reported, we paused our plan to continue to Banderas Bay. We let things settle for a few days, talked with friends and decided to continue. We are so happy we did so. I was once told by a local that 97% of the economy

here is dependent upon tourism, so it was very nice to see a giant NCL cruise ship at the downtown dock. But as we walked around Marina Vallarta it was a Ghost town. In years past the area was buzzing! Most cruise passengers stayed aboard or only visited the nearby fancy high end mall. Brief side trip here: I have been trying to obtain 2 catalytic carbon block filters to pull out any chlorine we load from purified marina water. Amazon wanted 2 weeks and \$190. While heading to the bus, the Admiral spotted a “tienda de suministros de agua”. I pulled up a picture of the Big Blue 4”X20” filters, the nice lady said “Si”! \$60US and off we went. So, our first observation post violence is that all is good, the locals are out in full force, everything is open, streets are filled but tourism has yet to rebound.

In years past there’s been a very cool street fair type event around the Marina. Many food choices and, of course all sorts of clothing and jewelry are available. There was even an orchestra with kids playing excellent jazz on various instruments. Sort of expecting a disappointing experience (fewer vendors and visitors) but WHOLLY SMOKES was I wrong. Hundreds of vendors and folks strolling and buying! Great time and certainly encouraging that, while it may take some time, things are improving for the people who depend on a thriving tourism economy! It was good to see smiles on the faces of the vendors.

Follow the travels of Chip and Katie Prather at: <https://www.sailblogs.com/member/misstestak2>. 

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# ISLANDERS' UPDATE

By **GLORIA MARKUSSEN**


Calendar change: Blackjack will be held on Saturday, June 20 at 1:00 PM.

Joyous sounds were heard emanating from DWYC on Wednesday March 11th as 40 women gathered for a Girls' Night Out featuring Bunco. We enjoyed an Italian meal and the company of great women as we played this fun game. We'll do it again in September!



Polish your boots, dust off your cowboy hat and mosey on down to DWYC for the Islanders Spring Luncheon. We would love to see your cowgirl clothes as we prepare for the 2026 Commodore's Ball. Lynnea Cheatum-Oakes will be there to give us tips on creating your own personal

Western style and to offer some accessories for that finishing touch.

To register, use the QR code on the flyer found on page 5, drop cash or check in the Islanders box (please include the names of all attendees/guests) or reach out to Gloria Markussen at 720-934-8231 

## Lines & Bits

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The National Women's Sailing Association and the Southern California Yachting Association present the 2026 Women's Sailing Conference in collaboration with historic Long Beach Yacht Club.

It is modeled after the ideals followed by Gail Hine, who brought sailing conventions for women to the area for more than 30 years.






# SEAMEN UPDATE

By **MATT DEARING**

There comes a moment in every man's life at the Dana West Yacht Club when he unknowingly crosses an invisible line. One day he's simply a member enjoying the harbor breeze and a cold drink. The next day—whether he realizes it or not, he has become something more.

He has become... a Seaman.

Now before anyone gets too excited about the title, it must be understood that every male member of the Club is automatically a Seamen. There's no ceremony. No paperwork. No awkward oath administered by a man holding a glass of tequila. The moment you join the Club, congratulations—you're in the ranks.

However, there is a catch.

Most Seamen remain nameless.

You see, a true Seamen name is not something that can be requested, purchased or worse... self-assigned. A Seamen name is something bestowed only upon those who have demonstrated exceptional dedication to the sacred traditions of the brotherhood. It usually happens after years of questionable decisions, heroic levels of camaraderie and at least one story that becomes far funnier every time it's retold.

These names are rarely dignified and almost never flattering. But within the ranks of the DWYC Seamen, they are worn like medals.

~Earning a Name~

The path from Nameless Seaman to Named Seaman is mysterious and unpredictable.

It might come from an unforgettable performance at a club event.

It might come from a legendary mishap that no one will ever let you forget.

Or it might come from a moment so perfectly ridiculous that the brotherhood collectively agrees that history must record it.

Whatever the origin, once a Seamen name is granted, it sticks for life.

And somewhere in the shadows of the bar, the other nameless Seamen quietly wonder if their moment will someday come.


Calm Seas Ahead... For Now,

As the Seamen continue to uphold their long and questionable traditions, whispers have begun circulating around the Club. Nothing official, of course. Just rumors carried on the breeze between the dock and the bar.

Something may be on the horizon.

Details remain... hazy.

But if history has taught us anything, it's that when the Seamen start getting mysterious, it usually means something interesting is about to happen. The Seamen are known to move quietly... right up until the whiskey is poured and the cigars are lit.

And for those still sailing under the banner of Nameless Seamen... it might just be the kind of night where a proper Seamen name is finally earned. 





# HEALTH & HAPPINESS

By **CINDY SALWAY**

April brings many special dates for us to celebrate. Some of the lesser-known days are “Find a Rainbow Day”, “Oatmeal Cookie Day” and “National Fun Day”. I think we all know that there are many more days to have fun than once a year. All you have to do is walk into DWYC for a fun time with friends. Easter is early this year. I wish you a Happy Easter surrounded by the love of family and friends.

Sue Griesbach recently did a whale tour to Loreto, Mexico on the Sea of Cortez. Sue also spent time at the San Ignacio Lagoon on the Pacific side where she experienced whales up close and personal. There was so much more to see in the lagoon...dozens of whales, coastal bottlenose dolphins, sea turtles, ospreys, magnificent frigatebirds and blue-footed

boobies. The town of Loreto was a “wow” experience for Sue. Loreto is a historic and picturesque town with several historical buildings. The Mission of Our Lady of Loreto was built in 1697 and is located at the start of the El Camino Real which extends all the way to Sonoma, California. Coincidentally, Clare Kenney and Walt Folsom had done a similar journey just the week before Sue’s trip.

I’d love to hear about your adventures, family news or anything you’d like to share with members in this article. Please don’t hesitate to stop me at the club or email me at [happiness@dwyc.org](mailto:happiness@dwyc.org).

*If you’d like to share any special events with members in this column (travel adventures, family celebrations, weddings, new grandbabies). Email your high resolution photos too! Email me at [happiness@dwyc.org](mailto:happiness@dwyc.org) or text me at 949-632-0807. 📩*




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# ODYSSEY BOOK CLUB

By **JAN CASTEEL**

I want to thank everyone who attended our meeting on March 10, 2026. We had an interesting discussion about the book "Sanctuary" with the author, Ember Markussen.


We will be reading "The Correspondent" by Virginia Evans for our Tuesday, April 14, 2026, book club meeting.

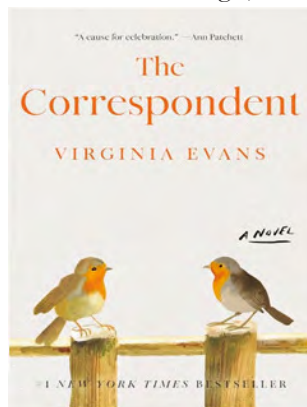
For those of you who like to read ahead or get on the library waiting list, we will be reading the following books in the next two months:

May 12, 2026 "Still Life" by Sara Winman

June 9, 2026 "Theo of Golden" by Allen Levi

All of our book club meetings start at 6:00, and all DWYC members are welcome to join us! Some of our members also enjoy bringing and sharing an appetizer or dessert at our meetings, and a huge thank-you to Helen Hawkins for tending the bar.

Filled with knowledge that only comes from a life fully lived, "The Correspondent" is a gem of a novel about the power of finding solace in literature and connection with people we might never meet in person. It is about the hubris of youth and the wisdom of old age, and the mistakes and acts of kindness that occur during a lifetime. Sybil Van Antwerp has, throughout her life, used letters to make sense of the world and her place in it. Most mornings, around half past ten, Sybil sits down to write letters to her brother, to her best friend, to the president of the university who will not allow her to audit a class she desperately wants to take, to Joan Didion and Larry McMurtry to tell them what she thinks of their latest books, and to one person to whom she writes often yet never sends the letter. Sybil expects her world to go on as it always has. As a mother, grandmother, wife, divorcee and distinguished lawyer, she has lived a very full life. But when letters from someone in her past force her to examine one of the most painful periods of her life, she realizes that the letter she has been writing over the years needs to be read and that she cannot move forward until she finds it in her heart to offer forgiveness. 



# BUSINESS NETWORK GROUP

By **CANDY BABCOCK**

Tuesday, March 3rd was another educational, informative and well attended meeting.

Our attendance was good and we enjoyed an hour of networking and introductions followed by our Guest Speaker, Aaron Rosen, Broker, ARC((23 Insurance. (aaron@arc23insurance.com, 949/484-7500).

Aaron is very passionate and knowledgeable about the insurance industry. He educated us on insurance updates, the state of the market, CA Fair Plan stability, industry transition to preventative vs replace and repair, the very important topic of home hardening, the soon to be in effect Zone 0 and water shut off valves.

There were many good questions making it a very productive and interactive presentation.

As a firm believer in networking for our businesses, I am seriously proud to be a part of this group of amazing people who show up every month to network, learn and share their expertise and promote and refer one another.

Next month our meeting will be on Tuesday, April 7th and our Guest Speaker will be Randy Johnson, Lock-Tech. Randy is a locksmith, crime prevention specialist and safe cracker with over 35 years of experience and always has valuable information to share. See ad on page 12.

We hope that everyone takes the time to attend our amazing Business Networking Meetings to network, promote your business and meet a group of amazing people!

Remember, put Tuesday April 7th on your calendar now and bring a friend. 





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