# NAPA VALLEY YACHT CLUB

# NEWSLETTER

October 2025

#### COMMODORE'S REPORT

Kim Nicol, Commodore

What a summer it has been at the Napa Valley Yacht Club! From the first warm weekends to long, beautiful evenings on the river, our calendar has been full—and our docks even fuller. We started with a cruise-out to OxBow Marina on the Delta, then kept the momentum going with well-attended trips to Marin YC, St. Francis YC, and Benicia YC. It was terrific to see so many land cruisers join these events, keeping NVYC's spirit and camaraderie shining wherever we visit!

That same spirit was alive and well when we hosted our first NVYC cruise-in to our very own NVYC in years, something a lot of us have been looking forward to for some time now. The clubhouse buzzed, the dock looked sharp, and the welcome was unmistakably ours. The best part: it won't be the last! Another cruise-in is already in the works—watch your inbox and the club calendar for details.

July 4 brought flags, smiles, and a packed house for the parade and lunch. Hats off to Tim Parsons and Ellen Falcinelli, whose festive flair earned Best Decorated Boat, with Shari and Gary Fedler close behind in a well-deserved second. On the water, our two small-boat raft-ups proved so popular they've inspired a third—an easy, social way for our smaller vessels to have their own mini cruise-outs right here on the river.

We also came together for a well-attended Eight Bells ceremony honoring Fos and Susie



Pritchett. In maritime tradition, eight bells mark the end of a watch; for us, it was a quiet, heartfelt moment to celebrate their friendship and service to NVYC. Thank you to everyone who gathered to remember them and support the Pritchett family.

Safety had its moment too, thanks to Dinia and Erik Paananen and the USCG Auxiliary, who led a paddle craft safety course for kayakers, paddleboarders, and anyone piloting a non-motorized vessel. It was practical, approachable, and exactly the kind of education that makes us all better stewards of the water.

Behind the scenes, the momentum has been just as strong. Tom Atkinson has kept the clubhouse humming with rentals that bring new faces through our doors and important income to the club. On the docks, Greg Parker and his team of highly professional port captains continue to be the shining stars of our hospitality, greeting cruise-ins and visiting

yachts with professionalism, warmth, and a laser focus on safety. When it was time to play, Gloria Atkinson and Diane Brown organized another successful Poker Run—delivering exactly what we love most about our NVYC: a big turnout, friendly competition, and smiles all around—with Scott Brown taking top honors for the best hand—three of a kind.

The NVYC runs on volunteers. A heartfelt thanks to **Ned Trippe** for his tireless work as Galley Captain; to Brian Wilson and Mark Crissler for keeping spirits high as Bar Captains; to our bartenders and dinner hosts who turn club nights into memorable evenings; to Greg & MaryAnn Parker and our port captains for top-notch dockside hospitality and keeping everyone safe; to Judy Leichtnam and the Social Committee for the festive, welcoming look we enjoy when we walk in; to Bill Huie for keeping our newsletter on track; to Kathy Archer for stepping in as Officer of the Day; to Evelyn Silveri and Claire Harmon for managing membership; to Sally Craig and Steve Orman for PICYA representation; to Mark Nicol for staying on top of club facilities; to Debbie Dean for keeping our merchandise cool, relevant and yachty; to Sarah Montague for keeping the advertising revenue flowing; to Avi Strugo for serving as Fleet Captain and to all our cruise captains throughout the year; to our Board of Directors and Flag Officers for your steady, behind-thescenes leadership; and to Alan Montague and Dave Ryan for maintaining the website and all the technology that keeps us connected. Your time and talent keep NVYC vibrant, welcoming, and shipshape.

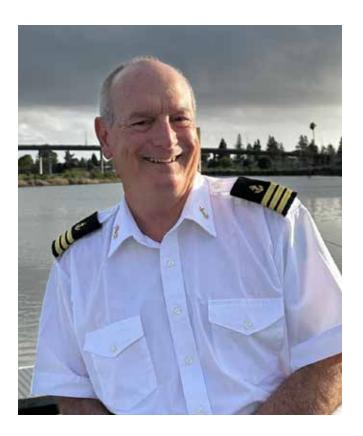
Your commitment keeps NVYC vibrant, welcoming, and running smoothly. If you love our club as much as so many of us do, please consider raising a hand. When Mark and I joined, I volunteered to bartend, leading to a Board seat and, ultimately, as your Commodore, a rewarding journey I would recommend to anyone.

I look forward to cruising into the last quarter of the year with you all!

Kim Nicol

# **VICE COMMODORE'S REPORT**

Steve Orman, Vice Commodore



It's been a busy Summer for the Napa Valley Yacht Club. We've continued our dedication to boating with multiple cruise outs and small boat raft ups. It has been exciting to see the great turnout for these events, and how much our Yachties enjoy them. Looking forward, we have the Martini fundraiser for the Boys and Girls Club on the 20th, while planning is underway for our Annual Change of Watch dinner dance is well underway. Save the date, December 6. On a personal note, I want to thank my fellow flags, Kim and Jason for their help and support.

Nautically yours,

Steve Orman

# **REAR COMMODORE'S REPORT**

Jason Harmon, Rear Commodore

Yachties! Fall is nearly here! Blink your eyes and suddenly nine months of fun is behind us, but we are not yet done!

#### **Cruise Outs**

We had a very busy cruise-out season! We had Marin, St. Francis, Benicia Yacht Clubs, a very successful small boat raft-up with 11 boats, and the Delta cruise-out. Smiles and good times were had by all. Special thanks to cruise captains, Sarah and Alan Montegue, Avi Strugo, Kurt Stahr, and Nick and Debra Courcoumelis for making the magic and the smiles happen!

The Alameda Cruise-out is November 7. As always, we invite those traveling not just by sea, but also by land, and even air, if you can make that happen! Details will be sent soon.

#### **Building and Grounds**

We have selected a painter to repaint our lovely club to make it look fresh and new. Before that though, we will be organizing a work party for minor updates to make the club safe and clean up some maintenance items. Be on the lookout as I will need volunteers!

#### Webmaster

Webmaster Alan Montague has been working on new tools for our website, scheduling, and other backend tools that keep our club humming. You will see some amazing changes on the website shortly that should make it easier and more fun to use.

Don't forget to check our existing website Calander regularly for event updates and registration info. https://nvyc.org/events/#!calendar

#### **Membership**

We have had a busy year with membership this year. Please welcome our new members when you see them and give them a warm Napa Valley Yacht Club welcome!

Our club continues to attract new members at an impressive rate!



In 2025, we have 11 new memberships. Including partners, this means there are 20 new faces at our club events! WOW!

Please welcome the following new members that have joined since June!

Gregg Lyman and Barbara Carbone

Christian Kjaer

Justin and Allison Gill

Grove Gelid and Elizabeth Ellsworth

A big THANK YOU to everyone who helps us keep this club going and the smiles happening!

Jason Harmon



# **CRUISE-OUTS!**

DateLocationCaptainsOct 10–12Fleet WeekThe RodmansNov 7-9Alameda Yacht ClubThe Henns



# CPR CLASS

Saturday, October 25, 9a-12n

Local nurse Christine Franzi will lead an instructional CPR class for NVYC members. (Not be a CPR certificate class.)

Register by email to Tom Hildreth at tomhildrethh@yahoo.com, 707-227-7500.

14-15 per class

Pending interest, we may set up a wait list or schedule another class.

Please make a voluntary donation of \$10 cash per person on the day to Nurse Franzi. (\$50 is the highest denomination bill she can change.)

## NVYC BIRTHPAYS

Say happy birthday when you see these folks!

Susan Hultgren	October 9		
Brian Bigelow	October 22		
Kristen Weber	October 24		
Sarah Montague	October 30		
Eric Henn	November 7		
Evelyn Silveri	November 7		
Mark Nicol	November 8		
Bill Moore	November 9		
Bob Fowles	November 12		
Deborah Caplan	November 14		
John Stephan	November 16		
Pam Gottlieb	November 19		
Judy Leichtam	November 23		
Barry Sheridan	November 24		
Brian Wilson	November 25		
Sonja Abel	December 5		
Ron Davis	December 5		
Ludmir Kyjovsky	December 6		
Richard Goodfellow	December 9		
Debbie Dean	December 14		
Karen Stevens	December 16		

# BAR REPORT

We had an eventful and fun summer at your favorite bar... and are really happy how many people are joining us on our cocktail nights! Be sure to check with the bartenders about nightly specials...might even be some warm ones as the weather cools off.

Please note: in the interest of streamlining service we have decided to eliminate the practice of storing credit cards on file. Please be prepared to enter your credit card each visit.

Be sure to check out the bar and wine menus on each table, there are some real wine bargains there and they change frequently.

Lastly, if any of you are interested in joining the fantastic NVYC bar team please let us know…it is a great way to get to know your fellow members and contribute to the success of your club.

Cheers, Brian & Mark

# NOTICE NOTICE

Our clubhouse is available for rent by anyone: members, member's associations, other individuals or associations or businesses. It's a good source of income for our club.

If someone is looking for a rental place for birthday parties, graduation parties, weddings, music events, dancing parties, holiday parties, dinners, etc., have them give me a call to check for date availability, fees and requirements. We are one of the most affordable rental places in town. They can bring in caterers, use our silverware, dinnerware, wine glasses, our kitchen and oven.

Tom Hildreth 707-224-3392 tomhildreth@yahoo.com

#### NOTICE NOTICE NOTICE

Proposed 2026 Leadership Slate:

## **Flag Officers**

Commodore: Steve Orman

Vice Commodore: Jason Harmon

Rear Commodore: Eric Henn

Secretary: Mary Donnelly

Treasurer: Jess Pedersen

### **Board of Directors - 2 years**

Director: Stan Blough
Director: Greq Parker

Director: Mark Schmitz

## **Board of Directors - 1 year**

Director: Shari Fedler

Director: Mike Cromwell

Director: Sarah Montague

#### **Staff Commodore**

Kim Nicol

The committee has worked diligently to identify and recommend members who will continue to uphold our traditions while guiding the club forward with energy and vision.

Commodore Nicol thanks the Nominating Committee, comprised of Alan Montague, Steve Orman, Evelyn Silveri, Donald Buresh and Mary Ann Parker, for their thoughtful work, and extends gratitude to the members who have agreed to serve in these important leadership roles. Our club is stronger because of their commitment.

In accordance with our bylaws, this slate will be presented to the membership for approval at the Quarterly Meeting on November 14, 2025.



Sally Craig, PICYA Delegate

We are doing very well accumulating 2025 COTY points. We are currently between four and five stars, thanks to Kim's diligent efforts. Steve Orman and I attended a meeting September 7 at Delta Marina Yacht Club.

### Upcoming events

October 5: delegates meeting at Pittsburg Yacht Club.

October 18: management conference at Marin Yacht Club, which I plan on attending.

Everything is going well, and I look forward to coming events.

Thanks,

# sally craig



Steve and Sally at the Delta Marina Yacht Club for the September PICYA Delegates Meeting

# **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**



Thank you for recruiting some wonderful new additions to your Club. Most of our new members are friends or neighbors of members. They attend a few activities and you make them welcome and they want to join us. Please welcome again, the following new members.

Darwin Davis	February 2025	Randy Wampler and Greg Carter June 2025	
Bill Chadwick and Joelle Gallagher	February 2025	Gregg Lyman and Barbara Carbone September 2025	
Craig Priest and		September 2025	
Robin Allen	March 2025	Christian Kjaer October 2025	
Graham and Julie Winch	May 2025	Grove Celid and Elizabeth Ellsworth October 2025	
Sue Pemberton	May 2025		
		Justin and Allison Gill	
Patricia Lawrence	May 2025	October 2025	
Michael and			

Vania Hines May 2025

I have really enjoyed being your membership chairperson for the last 35 years but it is time for me to retire. Claire Harmon has been in training this year and I will be her assistant if needed next year.

Evelyn Silveri

A HEARTFELT THANKS FROM ALL OF THE NVYC FOR ALL YOUR YEARS OF CLUB SERVICE, EVELYN! With this quarter's newsletter, we are really pleased to include members' reminiscences of amazing trips on the water!

# Sharon & Paul on the Canal de la Marneau-Rhine

In July, Sharon Gadberry and Paul Covec decided, along with daughter Gabriela and her husband Serge, to rent a canal barge and navigate it from town-to-town on a French canal in the Alsace-Lorraine. This is her story!

#### "Let's Rent a Boat!"

There comes a time in everyone's life, when they say, "Hey, let's rent a boat and navigate a narrow French canal ourselves. How hard can that be?"

That's how we – myself my partner Paul, my daughter Gabriela, and Gabriela's fearless husband Serge – found ourselves in Hesse, in the Alsace-Lorraine, boarding a three bedroom floating home with maps, Wi-Fi, ambition, excitement, and absolutely no idea what we were getting into.



Captain Paul . . . surrendering?!

## The Locks: Humbling Devices

The brochure said: "Experience the magic of the Canal de la Marne-au-Rhine." What it forgot to mention: "Experience it 26 times, inside concrete bathtubs that rise and fall like moody elevators." Not to mention that the only experienced sailor was Paul, our fearless captain.

Our first lock was a lesson in humility. The idea was simple: toss a line around a metal



bollard 12 feet up the canal wall, while the boat tosses crazily on the lock's crosscurrents. The execution? Picture two reasonably intelligent adults swinging ropes like cowboys who had clearly skipped lasso practice. At one point, Serge was manning the bow line and I the stern. Paul was steering and shouting directions (read: yelling). Gabriela was laughing while trying to Google "how not to hit a wall in a French lock." Paul was giving the rudder his all . . . only to find that the boat responded exactly eight seconds later.

Eight seconds may not seem long, but in the confined space of a lock, it feels like steering a whale on delay. "Turn left" we'd shout, and the boat would say, "Right, got it, in about a hundred yards." Which is great if you're not about to crash into a stone wall from 1874.

## The Gourmet Gliding Tour

Thankfully, each evening as we limped into a new village, bruised from another set of locks and rope acrobatics, Gabriela would dazzle us with her Wi-Fi prowess and magically locate a restaurant that Michelin inspectors had clearly missed.

In Lutzelbourg, after being swooped up the famous 146 foot St.Louis-Arzviller lock, we dined on exquisite dishes like choucroute, garni, tarte flambee, and profiteroles, in a garden strung with fairy lights. In Saverne, we sampled an array of famous Alsace-Lorraine wines. One night we docked next to a goat farm, and I'm fairly certain the goats were partly responsible for our sumptuous cheese plate.

It became our unspoken reward system — survive the day's locks, and Gabriela will find you a perfect creme brûlée.



## The Boat Turned, Eventually

A word about our noble vessel: she was spacious, cozy, and elegant – on the inside. On the outside, she was like a stubborn three-year-old who refuses to be rushed. Even after we belatedly discovered the indispensable THRUSTERS, turning her was more performance art than navigation. You'd spin the wheel, wait, adjust again, wait some

more, and hope for the best. It was a dance of delayed reactions and collisions. Out of the 22 bumpers artfully hung from bow to stern, our valiant team managed to destroy seven. Almost a record, the cashier informed us when we ponied up the replacement fee.



## Triumph at Saverne (And Return)

When we reached Saverne, we stood on the quay like explorers reaching the summit. We had faced 23 locks, nearly missed twice as many bollards, weathered two bridge-related arguments, and only one bottle of wine was lost to spillage (a tragedy we do not speak of). Then we turned around and did it all over again, downstream. Back to Hesse stronger, slightly better at tossing lines, and thoroughly addicted to the Alsatian waterways and towns.



# Greg & MaryAnn and the Allure of the Inside Passage

In the summer of 2014, Greg & MaryAnn had an amazing adventure aboard the Allure. MaryAnn's account originally ran in the Napa Register November 17, 2014.

It's always nice to phone a friend when you need an answer right away. My husband, Greg, and I were on our boat in Desolation Sound, British Columbia, when we discovered that our voltage meter wasn't reading correctly. We had some friends on board from the NVYC, Scott and Diane Brown. Greg and Scott mulled over possible causes and solutions before calling Ken Graham, another NVYC member, for advice. Three heads are always better than one, and the problem was quickly resolved.

Greg and I were on the tail end of the most amazing trip of our lives. We took our 36' Grand Banks Motor Yacht, the Allure, on a three-month journey from Anacortes, Washington, to Wrangell, Alaska and back. I had always wanted to go on an Alaskan cruise, but Greg is not a cruise ship kind of guy. He said the only way he would go to Alaska on a boat, was if he was the captain.



Captain Paul . . . surrendering?!

We had chartered boats in the San Juan and Canadian Gulf islands several time over the last 15 years, and it was after our last trip in 2012 that I said the magic words: it's time. Time to buy a boat and take that cruise up the inside passage to Alaska. Greg immediately got to work, found the perfect boat, and the planning started. On May 1st we packed the car and drove up to Anacortes, where we keep the Allure, and by May 7 we were on our way. We were a little nervous as we embarked on our journey. There was going to be "big water" and rapids, and fast-running currents and extreme tides, but between the 2 of us, we knew we could make our way safely up the coast.



We cruised through the San Juan Islands into Canada, before crossing the Strait of Georgia to Vancouver, BC, where we picked up Greg's sister, Cindy, and made our way up the Jervis Inlet to Chatterbox Falls. The scenery was spectacular! Chatterbox Falls were stunning and gave us our first taste of beautiful British Columbia. We dropped Cindy off at Campbell River on Vancouver Island. Greg and I were on our own through the Broughton Islands, where we encountered several rapids. The rapids in these islands are caused by the large volumes of water flowing through small passages between the islands. You need to pass through them at slack, those precious five to ten minutes when the current isn't moving, to avoid difficult maneuvering. The rapids put our skills to the test and thankfully we passed.

The next big challenge was crossing the Queen Charlotte Strait before entering the Inside Passage. It was a bit rough, and we had to find refuge in a harbor before making a safe passage, but we made it safely. Once we were in the Inside Passage, we could relax and truly enjoy the breathtaking beauty. At times we were the only boat in the harbors where we anchored. We loved the solitude and quiet of our surroundings and were constantly grateful that we were able to take such an awesome journey.

We made it to Ketchikan where our Napa friends Glenn and Diane Willson met us, and we spent tem days cruising. We travelled around the Behm Canal and enjoyed the beauty of the Misty Fiords National Monument before heading up to Wrangell, Alaska. The crabs were plentiful in Alaska! At every anchorage, we dropped our pots and in a few hours had huge Dungeness crabs for dinner. In Wrangell, we took a jet boat trip up the



Stikine River. We passed through the intricate delta at the mouth, through moose habitat, and eventually reached ice-blue glaciers. It was a wonderful side trip that we couldn't have made in the Allure.

Our trip back was less hurried and Greg and I definitely had our sea legs. Our confidence level was high, but we maintained the necessary respect for the water and weather. Greg was the pilot and I was the navigator, and every evening we would plan our journey for the next day on our navigation software. We had paper charts for every waterway we travelled, but the electronic charts are a big plus for detail and clarity. We had 2 separate electronic software programs and at 1 point they both went down! We had our paper charts as all good mariners do, and a portable plotter that a fellow boater loaned us. The boating community is generous and helpful, and we were met with kindness everywhere we went.



The Napa Valley Yacht Club has proven to be a huge source of knowledge and information for us, not to mention the new friends we've made.

If you are interested in our trip, please check out our blog allureoftheinsidepassage.wordpress.com



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For details and/or a free beer contact Alan Montague at 773-459-8942.



# Visit Us!

Come visit us at Napa Valley Marina and you will quickly find out why our peaceful scenic marina is the place to be.

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# 2025 Year To Date Activity Napa Yacht Club & River Park Estates

Property For Sale	Bd/Ba	SqFt	Asking Price	COE Wate	er Fr
19 S Newport Dr 2 Chesapeake Ct 9 Regatta Way 123 S Newport Dr 25 Peninsula Ct 90 S Newport Dr 25 Sea Breeze Ct 687 Cabot Way	4 / 2 1/2 3 / 2 1/2 4 / 2 1/2 3 / 2 3 / 2 4 / 2 1/2 3 / 2 3 / 2 3 / 2	2170 2077 2129 1855 1891 2339 1855 1905	\$1,300,000 \$1,199,000 \$1,300,000 \$1,250,000 \$1,350,000 \$1,795,000 \$1,425,000 \$1,395,000	temp off	WF WF WF
<u>In Escrow</u> 763 Kearney Way	3 / 2 1/1	2155	\$2,495,000		WF
Sold 43 Regatta Way 22 Sea Breeze Ct 40 Cove Ct 22 Sea Breeze Ct 67 S Newport Dr 773 La Salle Way 40 Cove Ct	4 / 2 1/2 4 / 2 1/2 5 / 2 1/2 4 / 2 1/2 3 / 2 3 / 2 1/2 5 / 3	2077 2077 2573 2077 1855 2702 2573	Sold Price \$1,062,000 \$1,349,000 \$2,596,500 \$1,349,000 \$1,310,000 \$2,490,000 \$2,596,500	2.6.25 3.28.25 3.17.25 3.28.25 6.16.25 3.28.25 3.17.25	WF WF WF

Call **Avi** with any questions about these or other properties at (707) 337-5614

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Directors – One Year
Brian Wilson
Jerry Kincannon
Diane Brown
Directors – Two Years
Shari Fedler
Mike Cromwell
Sarah Montague

#### **Staff Commodore**

Alan Montague

#### **Captains & Committee Chairs**

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Greg Parker
Robert Fowles
Tom Hildreth
Mark Nicol
Tim Parsons
Galley Captains
Ned Trippe
Mike Cromwell
Bar Captains
Brian Wilson
Mark Crisler

Social Committee Chair Judy Leichtnam

> OD Coordinator Kathy Archer

> > Merchandise Debbie Dean

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\*\* Volunteer Needed \*\*

Newsletter Editor Bill Huie

Advertising
Sarah Montague

Fleet Captain Avi Strugo

Buildings & Grounds
Mark Nicol
Nick Courcoumelis

Membership Evelyn Silveri (retiring) Claire Harmon

> Webmaster Alan Montague

PICYA Delegate & Public Relations Sally Craig

Club Rentals
Tom Atkinson

Sunshine Sharon Phillips



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Cheers, Billy Boyd Wind Toys, Inc (707)-542-7245 billy@windtoys.net www.windtoys.net







