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The Newsletter of the *TREASURE ISLAND YACHT CLUB, Inc.* San Francisco, California Vol. 01/08

Commodore's Notes

by A.J. Desmond Thorsson



When Laura and I first walked up to the front door of this clubhouse, we had no idea what to expect. We didn't know any of the members, and we didn't really know much about yacht clubs. We just knew that we loved boating and being in the company of good friends. Now I'm honored that you've elected me commodore of the best club on the bay! Although we walked in a little nervous, we knew right away that this club is made up of our kind of people: we're fun, friendly, outgoing, and proudly a little bit "different," but always reliable to help each other out.

When I joined, the club was well on the way to recovery after relocating the clubhouse and was starting to rebuild the

membership. I could tell that the foundations of this club were not in the house it lived in but in the solid resolve and dedication of the members. The future looked great with the development of a new marina on the horizon, a new clubhouse, and lots of potential members from all the new slips that would be constructed. Although things haven't quite worked out as quickly as we'd hoped we've made some huge strides as a club.

Commodore Smith has continued the progress of a number of commodores before him and with Reg's determination and the generosity of the members we've finally taken the club out of debt for the first time in many years. This is a great milestone and shows what this club is capable of. Your hard work on all of the cruise-ins and clubhouse dinners are what made this possible, especially Don Mibach's hard work as port captain arranging these visits and all of the hosts who generously contributed their time, skills, labor, and enthusiasm. Without you we couldn't do any of this, and as an all-volunteer club I know that it can be hard work. I also know that the clubhouse is only convenient to a few of us, and I appreciate all of the travel and trouble that most of you go through just to visit.

We have a great relationship with our neighboring marina and even have a dedicated dinghy dock for our cruisers to use. During the first few years of my membership here, the club had no access to the water apart from the members who had slips. Now people can come visit us

whenever they like, and we have a way to host them from the water.

Our membership drive continues to deliver great new members. Our numbers are on the rise and the enthusiasm of these new members has been contagious. Some of these members are also berthers in the marina and very active boaters as well. I can tell that this momentum will continue to build in 2008, but to help it along I'd like to suggest that each member, especially those in the TI Marina, fly their club burgee at all times so that our fellow boaters can see how many of us there are. Hopefully they'll ask us about the club.

Since I joined, every commodore has taken us a big step further, and we're now in the best shape I've ever seen the club in. I take this as a challenge to continue the trend. At this point, I plan to start right away on a few areas that I feel are important.

First, I'd like to start improving the way that we communicate as a group with a focus on simplicity. As a member of this club you should have a single resource where you can find the latest information on what's happening at the club. My commitment to you is to offer a one-stop source that you can always count on for the latest information, up-to-date and easy to access. I'm assembling a "Communications Committee" of some very capable members to revise things like the website, email distribution, publications, a telephone hotline, and improved technology for the office and clubhouse. Although we'll be using some new tools to do this, our priority is to make them all easy to use and to always consider how to deliver the same reliable, current information for those who would rather keep things simple.

Second, I plan to continue to make a priority out of recruiting new members and retaining existing ones. The membership committee this year is a perfect blend of knowledge, wisdom, and enthusiasm. Shirley Ahlf, Lynette Breed, and Anne Knies have already been hard at work to

create recruiting materials and new member documentation packets to get all of the new folks settled in to our club family comfortably and quickly. My memories of approaching my first yacht club are still fresh in my mind and remember how important these first impressions are.

As we sail into 2008 we do so with a great deal of momentum which I know will carry us through a fun year with lots of cruising, parties and some great racing with some great new members. Any of you who made it out to the New Year's events already know that we're serious... about having a ton of fun with our best friends and the best club on the bay!

Thanks to everyone who put together the Change Of Watch and Crab Feed and made it such a wonderful success. From George and Ann Knies planning and executing the event to Lynette and Russ Breed's beautiful decorations. Too many other wonderful volunteers to name them all here, but I'd like to extend a special thanks to Past Commodore Jim Aberer and director Donald Mibach. These two gentlemen arrived very early at the clubhouse and spent the majority of the day getting the clubhouse and grounds back into shape after the storm had it's way with them. Not the least of which was work done outside in the rain. The dedication of these two deserves special attention and I invite you to join me in thanking them next time you see them

Annual Change of Watch Dinner
by Daniela Gibson

This year's annual Change of Watch and Award's dinner witnessed a full house, an abundance of fresh crab, and the successful change of Watch from 2007 Commodore Reg Smith to the new 2008 Commodore A.J. Desmond Thorsson.

Despite the oil spill, hosts George and Anne Knies succeeded in serving large quantities of wonderfully fresh and delicious crab. In fact, the crab was so good that even our four year old daughter Sophia could not resist trying the unusual food (of course, she found it fascinating, too, that all the grown ups were wearing bibs and using their fingers).



The club opened with a no host bar at 16hrs and by the time dinner was served (1800hrs), the club indeed enjoyed a full house. Apparently the dinner was sold out and some members even had to be turned away. As Director Mary Holden remarked, “maybe we soon need a bigger clubhouse.” This increasing success of the club was reflected in the long list of awards and the speeches. As new Commodore Thorsson remarked in his speech, “under the Commodoreship of Reg Smith, the club finally is in the black again.” What a wonderful achievement! Also, Commodore Smith secured a new lease with Treasure Island. These negotiations prompted special guest, Miriam Saez, Director of Treasure Island to remark, “Reg Smith will always be my first commodore.” Of course, the club could have not done so well without the amazing time and energy volunteered by its members. Their efforts were recognized during Commodore’s Smith’s award ceremony: The New Member of the Year award went to Sharron Harper. The Lifetime Achievement award went to Mareen and Ray Zahnd. The Gibsons won the Family of the Year Award, Dave Shuttlesworth won

the Non-Resident Member of the Year, the Treasure Island Heroes award went to James and Sandra Aberer, and the Wilbert G. Debrunner Person of the Year award to Don Mibach. Honored as the Race Committee Perpetual were George Knies and James and Sandra Aberer, and Reg Smith won the Jim Martin Cruiser award of the year.



Then it was time to pass the watch on to the 2007 Commodore A.J. Desmond Thorsson. Commodore Thorsson thanked Reg Smith for his great work and vowed to continue the efforts.



He is already hard at work to improve club communications, having formed a

Communication Committee. It seems another exciting year awaits TIYC for 2008!

*We Need Your Help! Sponsoring
New Members*

By Lynette Breed and Shirley Ahlf

Our goal is to have each member sponsor one new member in 2008. Think of it, if each member would sponsor a new member--a friend or boating neighbor, we would be bringing more people we like to have fun with us. TIYC has a great group. We work well and play well together...and just plain have a lot of fun together. So please, help spread the word and let others share our great times with us. A TIYC Brochure is in the final process for presentation to the Bridge and Board. The 2008 Membership applications are in Form slots in the "Members Corner" at the Clubhouse. What is the Members Corner, you ask? It is the left corner by the single door entrance. There you will find your Name Badges, the Form slots with membership applications, Member Info Update forms, copies of the Jibe, Brochure, the current TIYC current Member Questionnaire, the New Member Board with pictures and names of our new members, and Member Notice board with Prospective Member applications posted and member related information.

We are in the planning stages of developing New Member Orientation program. If you have any suggestions on what should be included, please email us.

Lharter444@aol.com

Ahlfie@sbcglobal.net.

So, with Superbowl Sunday coming up, why not take the opportunity to invite a prospective member to "Meet the TIYC Shipmates"?

WBOS comes to TIYC

by Lynette Breed and Shirley Ahlf

As a result of our recent Questionnaire responses, Women Boating on Sundays (WBOS) is a new activity coming to TIYC in 2008. Shirley Ahlf will chair the group with Lynette Breed assisting. The concept of the group is that one Sunday a month, our TIYC women will get together to learn boating and sailing techniques to better our skills or just to have fun boating together. Stay tuned for further details coming in February. Please give Shirley a call at 925-672-2514 if you are interested in joining the WBOS group.

*What an amazing start to the 2008
TIYC year!*

by Desmond Thorsson

The New Year's Eve party at the clubhouse was a blast! Lots of good friends, Jim and Kathy Harais brought the DJ system including the disco lights, and there was even a bit of dancing in the clubhouse! Ray Zahnd picked out some great champagne for the bar, and everyone had a great time.

Then we followed that up with the traditional "Around The Island Cruise" on a beautiful New Year's Day with a fleet of five boats and around two dozen people aboard total. The fleet looked terrific rounding our island, and everyone aboard was treated to a great day on the bay, and Laura counted four seals who greeted us on our way!

Vice Commodore's Notes

by Russell Breed

Thank you for your support of our cruising program this past year.

Lighted Boat Parade – Thirteen members participated in our December 1st blacktop cruise to Island Yacht Club for the Oakland Estuary Lighted Boat Parade. About half of our members viewed the parade from one of the IsYC member's boat. The rest watched the lights from the balcony of their clubhouse. Afterwards we gathered back at Island YC for a great pot luck dinner.

Members who participated included: Reg Smith, Laura & Desmond Thorsson, Sharron Harper, Alice & Atta Pilram, Karen & Jerry Huff, Philip Cannon, Shirley & Rich Ahlf and Lynette & Russ Breed.

New Year's Eve - The last cruise of 2007 was a cruise in to Clipper Cove for a New Year's Eve Party at the TIYC Clubhouse. Music was provided by our own Jim Harais and we danced in the club until the countdown. As the New Year arrived Desmond's cousin Sean demonstrated the art of opening champagne with a navy sword. We then watched the San Francisco ferry building fireworks from the best vantage point in the bay.

Draft 2008 Calendar – It is our plan to keep the club calendar on line. While the Communications Committee is working out the details an early draft has been posted on line

<http://www.iobgd14.org/TIYC/calendar.htm>

Part of that is our social schedule. The first events of the new year are:

Victorian Tea, January 26th at 2:00pm,
(Host: Desmond Thorsson)

Superbowl Party on February 3rd starting
around 2:00 pm, (Host: Russ Breed)

TI History Day, February 16

Past Commodore's Dinner, February 23 at
6:00 pm (Host: Fred Gibson)

Watch Duty - An important part of our new member campaign is making sure that the club is open on a consistent basis. Our members play an important role in meeting this goal by standing watch and greeting visitors. TIYC is open on Saturdays from March 1st through October 25th from 5 to 9 PM. So that no one is "stuck" at the club by themselves the Bridge is looking to have two people serve at the same time. We want to make this as convenient as possible. Please choose two dates that would be convenient for you to serve and send them to me by Super Bowl Sunday. After that

date people will be assigned in alphabetical order. If you can't work on the assigned date you will be responsible for arranging an exchange with another member. Not sure what this is all about? Come to the club on March 1st for an introduction to standing watch. There will also be a summary of watch duties included in the next Jibe.

Programs - Do you have ideas for programs that would be of general interest for club members or prospective members? Contact either the Commodore or Vice Commodore, Russell Breed at 650-574-2251.

Special thanks to the skippers, Past Commodores Jim and Sandy Aberer on *El Nido*, Staff Commodore Reginald and Debrenia Smith on *Native Sun*, Vice Commodore Russ and Lynette Breed on *Grand Turk V*, special guest Shawn Thorsson at the helm of *Heart Of Gold* with his crew of fellow adult Sea Scout leaders. Rear Commodore Atta Pilram and Director Alice Pilram joined Laura and myself aboard *Zoe Dell* for my new boat's first cruise.

Incidentally, during these events there were a number of potential new members who approached the open clubhouse. In total I'm told that eight people picked up applications! Judging by the ones that I met, they'll be a perfect fit for this club, and I hope that they'll come through. When you meet them you'll see what I mean.

These events have really set a nice tempo for the rest of the year and if we can keep up it's going to be another unforgettable year at the Treasure Island Yacht Club!

NEWS FROM THE REAR COMMODORE

by Atta Pilram

For some of you that I have not had the pleasure to meet in person, I am Atta Pilram, the newly elected Rear Commodore. My wife Alice and I have lived on Yerba Buena

Island for the last five years. We joined TIYC about two years ago and have been actively involved with various club activities. Previously, I have been mostly involved with aviation and various flying activities, but I enjoy sailing more each day. We don't own a boat (yet) but have found this is a great club and a fun group of people.

This year will be an exceptionally exciting year for us at Treasure Island Yacht Club with various cruising activities. Even though we will be cruising to other local yacht clubs, we plan to add new places to our usual destinations. The idea is to go and enjoy other local festivals and activities. Some of the ideas that have been suggested are our annual Delta cruise, Benicia Jazz Festival, Half Moon Bay Squid Festival, Sausalito Art & Wine, Tiburon-Angel Island, Napa/Sonoma wine Tour, Presidio Hawaiian Festival, Ladies Only Outings, Men's (and of course boys) Day Out, etc.. As you can imagine some of these destinations are blacktop cruises. But to put some of these and other ideas together we need other members to participate with the Cruising Committee. So, if you are interested, please call me at (415) 748-0374 or send me an email: AttaPilram@yahoo.com.

Our cruising calendar always starts on January 1st and this year was no exception. We started with a continental breakfast. After cruising around the Island we finished with a great brunch at the club house. We could not ask for a better weather. It was warm and a bit cloudy but not overcast. We had a great time. And to top it off we had one of the most magnificent sunsets.

This year we will have an active racing committee. In addition to sponsoring the Schreiber Cup, the Estuary Inter-Club Race and the Saint Patrick's Day Race, we will plan to participate in other races with local yacht clubs.

Historically, TIYC has been an avid supporter of youth sailing activities and this

year we will continue our tradition in sponsoring the CHISPA/Youth Regatta event.

As you can tell, there are a lot of activities that need your support. We are working diligently to finalize the cruising events and they will be updated soon in our unique interactive website. So, come aboard and let's have fun.

February 16th - Island History Day/ TIYC Alumni Dinner

by Desmond Thorsson

History Day in association with the Treasure Island Museum Association will be held at the clubhouse on February 16th starting at 11:00AM. That evening, starting around 5:00 PM will be at TIYC Alumni Dinner. Past members of the club are invited to join us for dinner and to share stories about the club and the base in prior days. If you know a member who has drifted away, please be sure to reach out and invite them to this new event that we hope to make a recurring one.

"Widow's Walk Tea"

By Desmond Thorsson

Come sit a spell, and chat with me...
We'll sail around in cups of tea

Join Tea Aficionado (and Petaluma harbor-madam) Binky Thorsson for a "Widow's Walk Tea" as the clubhouse provides the setting for a relaxed afternoon of sophisticated interaction and the enjoyment of good friends. No previous tea experience is necessary. Mrs Thorsson will lead and educate us through the party. The "Widow's Walk" custom is in the tradition of those who would wait for their sailors to return from sea. Guests are encouraged, but not required, to come dressed in tea attire or nautical dress. Binky would like guests to

please bring their own tea sets, particularly a cup and saucer but more elaborate services will also be welcome. All-inclusive admission to the tea party is \$15 and reservations can be made through Desmond Thorsson at 415-989-9100 or dthorsson@tiyc.org . Attendance is limited, so please make your reservation early. As always, please feel free to bring your guests who might also enjoy this unique program.

The **Watch** List and complete **TIYC calendar** will be published again in the next *Jibe*, both are still under review.

2008 Officers

Commodore..... Desmond Thorsson
Vice Commodore..... Russ Breed
Rear Commodore..... Atta Pilram
Staff Commodore....Reg Smith
Secretary... George Knies
Treasurer... Fred W. Gibson
Recording Secretary..... Sharron Harper
Port Captain..... Rich Ahlf
Assistant Port Captain..... John McBride
Membership Chairperson..... Shirley Ahlf
and Lynette Breed

As a reminder, you can receive the *Jibe* **electronically** if you choose so. Please e-mail Daniela@gibson-design.com

Submission deadline for the next *Jibe* is **March 1st**. Please e-mail Daniela@gibson-design.com