



CONNECTIONS

February, 2004

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PORT ROYAL YACHT CLUB Redondo Beach, CA

A Friendly, Casual, Fun-loving Group Devoted to Social and Boating Activities

Port Royal Yacht Club

555 N. Harbor Drive
Redondo Beach
CA 90277
310-372-3960

PRYC OFFICERS

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Dave Coleman

Vice Commodore
Russ Morgan

Rear Commodore
Sue Meyer

Secretary
Carolyn Coleman

Fleet Captain
Jack Laisure

Junior Staff Commodore
Zeke Wheeler

Quartermaster
Russ Peck

PRYC DIRECTORS

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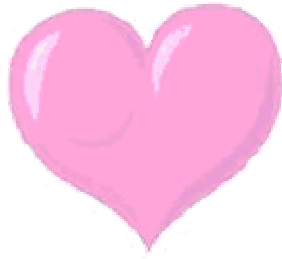
Chaplain
Carolyn Coleman

Newsletter Editors
Russ & Helen Morgan

Judge Advocate
Tree Curtis

Website Manager
Cathy Mueller

Port Captain
Mike Lesniak



The Valentine's Dinner began with champagne & caviar, pâté, cheese and specialty crackers. We had glazed pork roast, minted carrots with shallots, and red potatoes for dinner. Lou & Jill Toth brought the Mother Load chocolate cake for dessert; followed by dancing to romantic CDs.



We'll be celebrating St. Patrick's Day with the BEST Corned beef & Cabbage provided by Graham & Heidi Grice on March 13, 2004.



As winter nears its end, we are preparing for our **OPENING DAY CEREMONIES** celebrating the beginning of boating season at Port Royal Yacht Club.



April 3, 2004 is the scheduled date. This is a Yacht club tradition and should be attended by all members for a fun time. The ceremonies begin at 1 PM, followed by a champagne toast, the cake cutting, and Hors d'oeuvres.

—Dave Coleman, Commodore

Did you ever get a tune in your head and it keeps playing over and over, and no matter what you do, you can't get it to stop? I get that way about words sometimes. One word got stuck in my brain the other day and I couldn't dislodge it without the aid of some research.

The word is *Corinthianism*. Ever heard of it? You should, because, according to the Bylaws of The Port Royal Yacht Club Constitution, you as a member have pledged to "encourage, foster, support and promote the principles, spirit and objectives of Corinthianism in the yachting community,"

What in the world, you might be asking, (as did I,) have I got myself into? Is it some kind of plot to overthrow the government?

Off I go to the Webster's Third International Dictionary, where I find that Corinthianism is "1. Corinthian profligacy or elegance. (I don't know if my wife would go for that!) 2. amateur yachting."

Well, that wasn't much help. After much futzing around on the internet and elsewhere, I finally found a very nice definition, much to my chagrin, right in Article One of the Port Royal Yacht Club Bylaws:

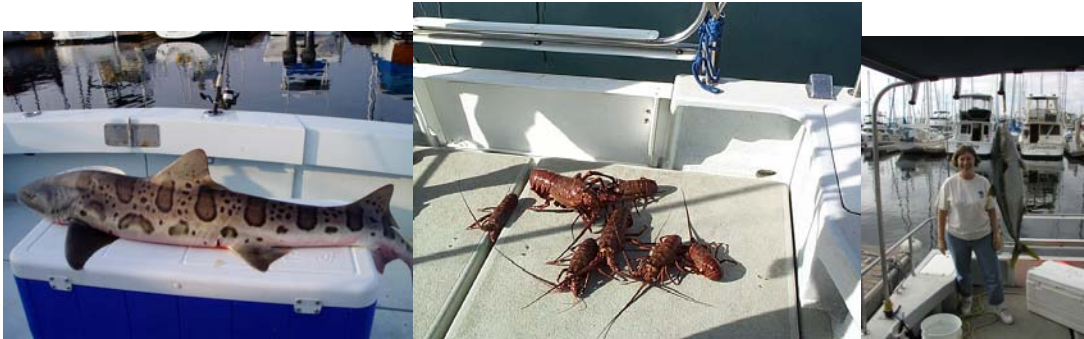
"Corinthianism in yachting is that attribute which represents participation for sport as distinct from gain, and which also involves the acquirement of nautical experience through the love of sport, rather than through necessity or the hope of gain."

So what does this mean? Perhaps, that "messing about with boats" could be a little more noble than we thought.

—Russ Morgan, Vice Commodore



SEAFOOD PIG OUT



Saturday the 28th, 6pm cocktails, 7 pm eat

We will have

Firehouse Fish Chowder (by Tom Lally)
Sea Diver's Lobster Bouillabaisse (by Cathy Mueller)
Fish Fry (by Halibut Larry)

Come one, come all. (RSVP to Larry or Don)

Donation: \$5 per head

YACHT CLUB NEWS

Notice to all club members. We want to encourage you to visit our reciprocal yacht clubs. Go exploring, see other yacht club facilities, pick up a newsletter, taste their food, their drink, and tell us all about it. We would like to feature one or two clubs in the newsletter per month. In San Diego, Russ and I have visited The San Diego Yacht Club, the Silver Gate Yacht club and the Kona Kai Yacht Club. The night we bought our new boat, the Dana Point West Yacht Club welcomed us for dinner. The California Yacht Club and the Cabrillo Yacht Club, are on our list of annual cruise events and they are great clubs to visit. While some of these clubs are beyond our means in terms of cost and facilities, it is always fun to visit new places. If nothing else, it makes you feel special to know that you too can hobnob with the best. Most clubs, even if not on our list, are very accommodating. We would like to publish a list of those places you have visited and those places you would encourage others to go. Remember, your membership here entitles you to privileges in many other places, take advantage of it.
Helen Morgan, editor

San Diego Yacht Club

Located on Shelter Island, The San Diego Yacht Club is a beautiful place to visit. They have a large clubhouse, and a friendly receptionist who will check you in. Because we were short on time, Russ and I didn't have time for a meal or a drink so we just wandered around. Inside the lounge area you will find impressive pictures of some very famous yachts who call the SDYC their home. Beautiful trophies are in glass cases and they are magnificent. After admiring the pictures, yacht models and trophies, we wandered outside and admired the view from their huge redwood deck.

As I am sure you know, Dennis Connor winner of at least two America Cup races, also calls this club his home. Spotting the legendary *Stars and Stripes*, side -tied down below, we went down for a closer look. Not only was it great to check out this venerable yacht so close, but there were many other incredible boats slipped nearby. I don't know about the rest of you but we love to look at other boats. We are easily impressed. In all, this was a great yacht club to visit. Check it out next time you visit San Diego.

Helen Morgan, editor

This article appeared in Sailnet.com on February 6, 2004. We reprint it here because it contains advice we all should be aware of when we invite "landlubbers" aboard.

—Russ Morgan, editor.

Inviting First Timers

We all have our regular crew: friends we can count on for a companionable sail, or perhaps experienced sailors that can make a difference on the racecourse. But if you need to make a deposit in your karma bank, a good way to do it is to turn on a newbie. Inviting someone out for their first sail can be rewarding on several levels. Introducing someone to sailing can be more like introducing them to their future spouse than taking them to a movie. Watching someone take the helm for the first time and realize that they are actually sailing the boat can be a very cool thing.

On the other hand, if things don't go quite so well, you could

turn someone against sailing for life. "But what could go wrong?" you ask. Actually, you probably didn't ask that. We all know that "What could go wrong?" ranks right up there with "Hey y'all, watch this!" as epitaph material. So, really, actually, sincerely, what could go wrong? What could make it a bad day for our guests?

SideBar

[Let's Go Sailing FAQ](#)



Not everyone is as familiar with life on the water, so try to answer any questions your guests have well before you leave the dock.

People don't like to be scared Roller-coaster-scared is OK for some, but not for others. Nevertheless, very few people enjoy being really truly scared. A fellow I know got caught out in one of our Florida thunderstorms in a small sailboat. On return to terra firma he said, "You know, that would have been fun, if I'd been sure I was going to live through it." To you, a line squall might be an exciting chance to use skills that normally don't get much of a workout. To your guest, it could very well be sheer terror. So, check the weather carefully before heading out. Don't be afraid to cancel an outing if the conditions don't look good. To some people, 15 degrees of heel is scary. So, if you are wondering whether to reef the main, do it. You can always shake it out later.



Rough weather and lumpy seas may seem exciting to you, but it can be sheer terror for your guests, so make sure to check the weather carefully before taking along any newbies.

People don't like being yelled at Well, I guess some do, but that's an article for another site. Anyway, do we really need to go into this? Yelling at your crew is usually a sure sign that you screwed up or weren't thinking far enough ahead. It causes fight-or-flight reactions in the crew and is more likely to cause them to freeze up than to leap into

action.

People don't always get along Almost anyone can be pleasant for a few hours, but put them on a cramped sailboat for a weekend, with fewer creature comforts than they are used to, and no privacy to speak of, and things can get tense. The moral is, try a few daysails before embarking on that Atlantic crossing you've been thinking about.

People don't like to feel dumb There's a fine line between being a teacher and being a smartass; between answering questions fully and being a bore. Moreover, that first day, they don't really need to know proper terminology for bows, sterns, sheets, halyards, farthingales, and keelhauling. Well, maybe keehauling. We do have to keep some discipline aboard.



Remember that the chemistry on board may be a little tricky at times. After a few days in a confined space personalities are likely to clash.

There is a subtler aspect to this. There are a lot of questions that just don't get asked. People don't like to look dumb. Also, we just don't take the time. We're so anxious to get out there that we don't take a few moments to show them how the head works. Even more fundamental, we don't give them any idea what to expect. To address this, I've made up a FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) that I send people well ahead of the actual trip. In addition to a map, it has a list of really basic things to help people arrive ready for a good day on the water. Nothing technical, no lists of terms to memorize, just some nice fundamental things anyone should know. Your list my be different from mine, but hopefully mine will give you something to think about.

Let's Go Sailing FAQ

What is this? Are these rules I have to follow?

Not at all. Just the answers to questions I often get asked. The most important part is the map to get you to the boat.

Is sailing safe?

Yes, especially when you're with me. I've sailed since I was five years old and bought my first boat in 1976. The worst injury I've had on board in all those years was a sunburn. It's a shame really. I've got lots and lots of emergency equipment that I've never gotten a chance to play with.

What should I wear?

Something comfortable and seasonal. A hat or cap, sunglasses.

What kind of shoes?

Boat shoes are best. They grip wet decks well and don't pick up pebbles that can scar the fiberglass, but don't buy them special.

Tennis shoes work almost as well. Avoid slippery soles. Avoid leather soles or any other soles that tend to leave scuff marks. It's tough to get them out of fiberglass. Bare feet are OK, but watch out for the deck hardware!

How long will we be gone?

For a typical daysail, four to six hours. Due to vagaries of wind and tide, it's hard to be precise.

What about sun tan lotion?

Absolutely. Between direct sun and reflections off the water, you get about twice the UV that you'd normally expect. Avoid the cocoa butter (brown) types. They stain the heck out of fiberglass.

What about mosquitoes?

Generally they're not a problem, unless we anchor out overnight. The boat has screens to keep the little buggers outside for sleeping.

What will I have to do?

As little or as much as you want. I can handle the boat safely and comfortably by myself, so feel free to be a deck potato, if you like. If you want to be more involved, be sure to say so. There's nothing much you can break, and I won't let you get in trouble. The objective is to have fun.



While some guests enjoy being actively involved in the boat's operations, others may choose to relax and admire the scenery.

Will the boat tip over?

Nope. Trust me on this one. Can't happen.

What should I bring?

A camera, if you like. A book, if nature bores you. A swimsuit would not be out of line, but good spots to stop and swim are rare. Any drinks or snacks you're partial to, but I'll have some available regardless. Any prescription drugs you might need, but bring the prescription. We'll discuss meals ahead of time.

What should I leave at home?

Illegal drugs. Seriously. I mean it. Normal constitutional rules

regarding search warrants, probable cause, etc., do not apply on boats. The Coast Guard, game wardens, and about five different kinds of cops can board and search us at any time. If they find illegal drugs, they will impound the boat and keep it as long as they want. Maybe forever. OK, I get it!

What else won't I need?

Radios, CD players, flashlights, first aid kits, water, glasses, plates, forks, lawn chairs, etc. In general, "less is more." If we're leaving for a few days, avoid bulky hard-sided luggage. Don't go overboard on clothes, we don't dress for dinner on board. They did on the Titanic and you know how that worked out.

Will I get seasick?

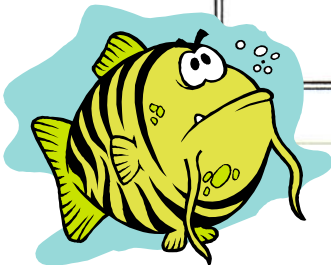
Only you can judge whether or not to take Dramamine or whatever. Note that motion sickness remedies need to be taken well before heading out on the water to be effective. In general, people seem to feel that Dramamine is most effective, but Bonine is also good with milder side-effects, or so I've heard.

Are you going to yell at me?

I've never found it necessary. I may ask you to do something. If so, feel free to ask why. Feel free to finish whatever you're doing first. There is one exception: If I say, "Do it now, please!" then do it now, please. Also, pay attention if I say something you're doing is unsafe. Safety issues are non-negotiable, but I can generally figure out a safe way for you to do whatever it is you want to do.

As the captain, can you perform marriages?

Yes, but marriages performed on this vessel are valid only for the duration of the cruise.



If you'd like to contribute an article, opinion, or letter to our newsletter, please send your submission to: russmorgan@worldnet.att.net