



Cruising Club of America - San Francisco Station April 8th, 2009 Meeting Minutes St. Francis Yacht Club

Members Present:

Ahari, Allen, Baylis, Bekins, Bernheim, Clendenin, Cooper, Cornelius, Dignan, Eaton, Enersen, Finley, Forsythe, Fullagar, Hanelt, Harris, Harter, Hedin, Stan Honey, Sally Honey, Hunt, Hurst, Klaus, Knecht, LeRoy, Lindlow, Munro, Parkman, Roe, Rolien, John Sanford, Walter Sanford, Swain, Van Blaricom.

Call to Order and Introduction of Guests:

R/C Steve Hunt called the meeting to order and began by thanking Terry Klaus for arranging the luncheon.

R/C Steve Hunt then gave a special welcome to Commodore Ross Sherbrooke. He noted that this was the first time a CCA Commodore had visited our station, except for a Spring Meeting, in anyone's memory. Evidently the PNW station believed that the last time a Commodore visited their station for a meeting was in 1964. Steve said he felt honored and most appreciative of the effort made by the Commodore and his wife Kathleen to come to the West Coast from Dedham, MA and his own Boston station. The members showed their appreciation with a round of applause. Steve also pointed out that at his table there were, in addition to the Commodore, 8 past and present Rear Commodores, a unique gathering. Several members' wives hosted a luncheon for Kathleen Sherbrooke in the St Francis main dining room.

Steve noted that the new Member's Roster is available on the website at www.cca.fullagar.net. If any members would like a hard copy, would they please let him or the secretary know.

Steve said that he would be attending the Spring Meeting in Portland, Maine, accompanied his wife Marilyn.

Steve read an e-mail from Tad Lhamon of the PNW Station inviting members to join their Spring Cruise in central Puget Sound May 13 to 17. About 6 berths are available on member's boats, or vessels can be chartered locally. Details of this event are available on the PNW website, accessible through www.cruisingclub.org

Secretary/Treasurer's Report: David Fullagar reported that the club's balance stood at \$3923. David thanked those that had paid their dues, but noted that \$200 was still owed by six members (mostly out of state).

The “parallel website” at www.cca.fullagar.net is in the process of being integrated into the National server, thanks to the efforts of Dorsey Beard and Joe Ruggeri. Once this happens, the San Francisco site will be accessible via the National site, as in the past.

Membership Report: Bob Van Blaricom said that two applications, for Nick Orem and Alan Olson, have been completed and are ready to go. He is currently working on five additional candidates whose names have been suggested by members.

Entertainment/Events: The visit to the Hawkes Ocean Technologies on May 6th is being finalized. There will be a sandwich and soft drinks lunch at the Richmond Yacht Club prior to the visit. A meeting notice with more details will be sent out shortly.

Cruise Report:

On behalf of Bill Edinger who was unable to attend, Mark Lindlow reminded members that the Petaluma River Cruise is set for May 16 – 17th. He noted that the moorage charge in the basin is \$21, and there is a 70ft height restriction. There will be cocktails aboard Defiance on Saturday evening: bring your favorite hors d’oeuvres to share. Saturday night dinner will be informal; attendees can form their own groups and go to a restaurant of their choosing. Suggested restaurants and other information about the cruise can be found [here](#).

Drive-in attendees are welcome.

Environment of the Sea: No report.

Gam/Historian/Newsletter: John Sanford drew our attention to the fact that the January 2009 Cruising Club News had *four* articles (a record number!) contributed by SF Station members.

Cruising We Do: Jerry Eaton said his last passage on *Blue Heron* was from Trinidad to Tortola, with plans to sail to Bermuda and then on to Maine for the summer.

Commodore Ross Sherbrooke then addressed the group, followed by a lively question & answer session.

Ross said that although the Commodore represents “mission control,” the individual stations are where the real action takes place.

He said consideration is being given to reducing the Club Board Meetings from 3 to 2 per year, with meetings encompassing a weekend to allow more time for socializing and fun. Using varied locations outside New York for one of the meetings is also being considered. This would require a change of the By-Laws and could not be accomplished before the end of 2009.



Commodore Ross Sherbrooke

Photo by John Sanford

He also addressed possible ways to eliminate the NY state taxes, amounting to \$12k to \$15k/yr, currently paid by the club. One way would be to incorporate the club, which is a 501(c)(7) entity, outside NY State. This has been looked at in the past and is complex, but worth trying again. The other way is to rename the organization something like “Mystic Knights of the Sea” – this would apparently eliminate the need to pay NY taxes!

The Commodore said the club expected to break-even this year, with 65% to 70% of the after-tax dues going to print publications, 14% returned to the stations, 5% to insurance and 7% to the secretary for mailings, etc.

During the Q&A session, Bob Van Blaricom asked whether a meeting around September or October (better weather than November) could serve as the annual meeting. Ross responded that it is difficult to have an annual meeting several months before the end of the fiscal year. John Sanford asked if the club were to be incorporated outside NY State, then the fiscal year could be changed at that time. The present fiscal year ends in October and the Commodore replied that it is hard to change a fiscal year to one that does not coincide with a calendar year.

The Commodore said another idea being considered is to have a third meeting in Newport every other year to coincide with the Bermuda race.

Bob Allen asked why the club was incorporated in NY State in the first place. The Commodore explained that when the club was first incorporated, there were no taxes in NY State so it wasn't an issue.

Jerry Knecht asked about the member's average age and whether it was trending up or down. The Commodore replied that it was static at about 69 – 70.

Summing up, the Commodore thanked members for their welcome, and reiterated that the local stations are where the action is. He encouraged everyone to make use of the websites, both ours and those of the other stations. He expressed the belief that today we are witnessing the biggest communications revolution since Gutenberg invented the press, and that it is a very exciting time.

R/C Steve Hunt thanked Commodore Sherbrooke again for taking the time to visit our station.

Other Business Jim Cornelius said that Chet Noyes is suffering from poor health, but would welcome visits and/or hearing from members when he returns from Oregon in a couple of weeks. Jim said the best time to contact him is around 10.30am or 4.30pm: check with his wife Lucie first. Jim also said Joe Alderson's wife is not well, and would appreciate a call or visit.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

David Fullagar
Secretary/Treasurer