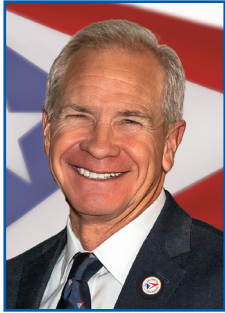


the Foghorn

Newsletter of the San Luis Yacht Club



View From the Bridge

by Pat Mullen,
Commodore

A hoy everyone.

We are well into the summer boating, sailing and vacationing! Lots going on with the club and our members as you'll see from the articles in this issue.

Have you thought of joining our club's board? This time of year, our nominating committee begins work on putting together nominations for next year's board of directors. Senior Staff Commodore **Bob Hurd** heads up this effort. Think about joining us on the board, it is a great way to get to know your club and our members better, and it's a fun leadership role to help steer and manage the operations of the club. Let Bob know if it's something you might want to consider or learn more about. You can also reach out to me if you have questions about it. I enjoy it, it's fun and I feel like it's made me really know this club well and be a part of it.

The second half of August, Laura and I set sail with ASA's American Sailing Vacations on our second sailing trip with them—this time around the smaller ports and less visited islands of Greece. We have enjoyed sailing with them before and may try to organize a group trip for the club in the next year or so. I am hoping we can get their lead person to come speak at a future Wet Wednesday. I'll fill you in after our return.

As I mentioned, this issue has a lot of great information and articles, but one is more serious and while sad, is also inspiring and brings a flood of great memories. The tribute to **Jim Blecha** by his family will fill you with memories of Jim and his larger-than-life impact. Be sure to read it, and I know you will feel like I did with a warm remembrance of someone who has had a lasting positive impact on our community, and

on everyone he encountered. I have fond memories of many conversations where he shared his well-grounded wisdom, humor and insight.

Sometimes it was just a look. I miss him, but his memory makes me smile every time I think of him. Keep his family in your thoughts; spouse **Sally Krenn**, and their daughters **Kristin Blecha Robinson**, and **Erika Blecha**.

See you at the best little yacht club on the coast,

—Pat 



Vice Views

by Kristin Rasmussen,
Vice Commodore

A hoy.

The Four C's of Volunteering: Commitment, Contribution, Communication & Connection

As we cross the halfway point of 2026, I want to thank our members for the outstanding job you've done as volunteers. Together, we have demonstrated the Four C's of volunteering—Commitment, Contribution, Communication, and Connection—helping make our yacht club the welcoming and vibrant community we all enjoy.

As many of you know, the San Luis Yacht Club was built by volunteers. I doubt our founding members could have imagined that their dedication would sustain the club for nearly nine decades. Yet here we are, preparing to celebrate our 90th anniversary next year—a remarkable milestone that reflects generations of members who gave their time, talents, and passion.

Throughout those 90 years, our club has contributed far beyond recreational boating in San Luis Bay. During World War II, our clubhouse was leased to the U.S. Navy until 1944 and then to the U.S. Coast Guard through the end of 1945 in support of the war effort. Club members

August 2026 Volume 81 Number 8

View From the Bridge	1	From the Secretary	5
Vice Views	1	From the Treasurer	6
Jr. Staff Commodore Report	2	From the Director	6
Sr. Staff Commodore Report	4	Event Calendars	9
Power Report	4	Sunset Report	10
Port Report	5	Bar Hosts/OD Schedule	11

also played an important role in advocating for the construction of the breakwater and supporting the creation of the Port San Luis Harbor District, helping shape the harbor we enjoy today.

As we look ahead to celebrating our 90th anniversary, I hope the spirit of those early volunteers continues to inspire each of us. Their

commitment laid the foundation for the club we cherish today, and it is through our own volunteer efforts that we will ensure the San Luis Yacht Club remains one of the most special yacht clubs on the California coast for generations to come.

Thank you for all you do. Keep up the great work!

—Kristin 



Jr. Staff Commodore Report

by Bret Clark,
Jr. Staff Commodore



Ahoy Members. **New Member Spotlight**

Hello everyone, here is the second installment of our New Member Spotlight. Please be sure to check back each month over the next five months to learn a little bit more about all of them.

Nautically,
Bret Clark 

Elizabeth Burkhead and Roger Emmons

Tell us a little about yourselves.

Elizabeth was born and raised in the East Coast of Pennsylvania. So consequently, she lived near the Delaware river and had her boats at the Jersey shore. Elizabeth migrated to Northern California when she was 43 (only a few years ago!)

An avid kayaker, Elizabeth pulled several exhausted swimmers onto her kayak during the Escape from Alcatraz races. And after moving to Pismo, Elizabeth came in as the first place woman over 50 at the Pier to Pier Am Surf charity event. She's a force!

So Elizabeth had a great love of water and then met Roger, who shared that seafaring passion X10!

Today, Elizabeth is still actively selling real estate and giving back as the current sponsorship Chair for Cops N Kids.

Roger and Elizabeth have been together almost 20 years now. Roger was born in Burbank and raised in Southern California.

Roger shared that his first boat at age 20, was a 14' with fins like a Cadillac where he became an avid water skier buying a house in Parker just to ski! Roger then moved to Ventura and the infamous G dock. His boat was a Morgan out island 41', in his slip for 13 years-making him the longest liveaboard (at that time). Roger loves when he catches Richard Spindler writing in Latitude 38, retelling a crazy memory from time they both spent on G dock.

Roger loved the sea and wanted to know everything about boating in those days. His goal was to sail and live in Mexico but love interceded! Roger still acquired his 100 ton masters license back in 2009 as just part of this passion. And of course living on the central coast (with Elizabeth) doesn't get much better!

What is your favorite part of the yacht club?

Meeting all the fellow new and longtime members has been wonderful. Now that we are also members too—it's great to get to make friends with like minded ocean lovers!



Continued on page 3

Elizabeth Burkhead and Roger Emmons

Elizabeth and Roger love how down to earth the members are and having attended as guests for over 15 years, it's great to now contribute and be active within the membership.

What have you learned about the club that you didn't know before becoming a member?

We both are blown away by the dedication and pride that exists among the membership and how friendly everyone has been to us. We never realized it was a completely volunteer club and IT WORKS! It works. We are so happy to carry on that legacy.

What activities are you looking forward to doing?

Meeting more people and being out on the water and contributing to the club. Now seeing how much the members do has inspired us—we are genuinely thrilled to give back and be top notch active members!

Douglas Twisselmann and Gretchen Flicker

Tell us about yourselves

We're Doug and Gretchen, and we've been coming to Avila Beach together for 20 years, with a home here for the last 10. Doug's family roots in SLO County go back to his great-great grandparents in the late 1800s. We love being on the water—Gretchen grew up boating and water skiing on Minnesota lakes, and Doug learned to sail on river dinghies in grad school. These days we spend time paddleboarding and kayaking in Avila (with our dog Magnus), and we're both PADI-certified scuba divers.



What has been your favorite SLYC experience so far?

Honestly, some of our favorite memories are the simplest ones. Friday evenings socializing at the club as guests of our sponsors—and now as members—really showed us the warmth of the SLYC community.

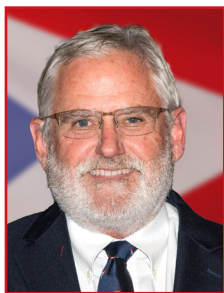
What have you learned about the club that you didn't know before becoming a member?

We've come to appreciate just how much SLYC runs on the dedication of its volunteers. Seeing our sponsors' commitment firsthand gave us a sense of the work that happens behind the scenes to keep the club running and welcoming. Now that we are experiencing it firsthand, we have a greater appreciation of what it takes to keep SLYC thriving and the fact SLYC has been doing just that for nearly 90 years!

What activities are you looking forward to doing?

We are both enrolled in the Cuesta/SLYC sailing course, starting in just a couple of weeks. We're looking forward to getting back on the water and shaking off some rusty sailing skills. From there, hopefully to crewing opportunities, club activities, and getting more involved as volunteers ourselves.





Sr. Staff Commodore Report

by Bob Hurd,
Sr. Staff Commodore

It is the rest of the ballot that we are talking about and what all the smoking will be about—figuratively of course.

So I would ask you if you can look into yourself and recognize your calling to the Club and volunteer to be an officer next year, you can help us avoid the highly secretive, centuries-old traditions of the filling a ballot for Club elections, including the locked-door ritual, hidden scandals, conspiracies, and political factions within the Club and the sequestered voting, Latin oaths, and ballot-burning to create white or black smoke.

Of course, if you don't heed your calling you may well receive a call from one of my diplomats from the College of Commodores—and let me tell you one of them is tough.

Bless you all.

Your Eminence, Senior Staff Commodore and Dean of the College of Commodores (and a Universal Life Church Minister—I kid you not).

See you at the Club,
—Bob ⚓

A hoy Members.
Hopefully you will see white smoke coming out of the chimney of the Yacht Club in the next month.

As Senior Staff Commodore I am the Dean of the College of Commodores and we will be holding a conclave.

Ok, we are not looking to find a new leader for the Club—thankfully **Kristin Rasmussen** has already been sanctified as our new leader.



Power Report

by David Butcher,
Power Captain

A hoy!
We are half way through the racing season. **Rod Valine** and **Mike Ginn** crewed "Chase" boat for the July 12th race and had a great day on the water. Seasoned "Chase" boat crew **Bill Dyer** will join Rod to crew the fourth Avila Cup Ocean Race on August 2nd. **Neil Darby**, this years Boat Master, and **Jim Fuller** are scheduled to skipper and crew the fifth race on September 13th. We look forward to more sunny skies and fair winds that deliver exciting races!

Fair winds and following seas!
—David ⚓





Port Report

by Ray Mattison,
Port Captain

Hi folks.

Cal Poly is relocating the proposed wave energy test generator to the east side of the pier not off the end of the pier.

We learned at the June 23, 2026, PSL meeting that Dolphin Labs will not place the floating wave generator, the *xNode* (described below) and floating support buoys off the end of the Cal Poly pier as previously planned. They are now going to relocate the devices to the East side of the pier. The main device will be placed less than 300' from the East side of the pier away from our racing committee.

SLYC members gently raised concerns about the original location and it seems to have paid off. The East side is a better location –sailors would not expect to find them in the waterway where originally planned. Also, they would be more sheltered and protected off the side of the pier. Please thank any of the Commissioners you may encounter for this location change.

Dolphin Labs lead is Michael Kelly, PhD. (dolphinlabs.tech). He and the PSL staff provided me with charts and drawings which I will share with the Board at the next meeting or convenient time.

The main device is an *xNode* floater that generates energy from the waves.

It is usually attached to a gravity anchor on the sea bottom. It looks like a big curling stone. In the water it is 3m wide and 2m high. Underwater cables connect it to the pier. There will be 2 or 3 buoys securing the cable to the pier. Dr. Kelly and team hopes to begin installation in January 2027.

The Cal Poly group of students involved with this are excited about the possibility that it could expand their wave energy research.

See you all next month!

—Ray ⚓



From the Secretary

by Kyle Soucy,
Secretary

Ahoy Members.

We have returned from our travels—a little worn and weathered, but great time had all around. I overheard a bartender say that the World Cup brought in 447,283 people (OK, he said 500,000 but I fact checked that) into Foxboro but the Tall Ships brought 4 million people to the city! More than 60 ships from

over 20 countries participated in the historic Parade of Sail. We were fortunate to stay in the city through Tuesday which allowed MUCH shorter lines to tour the boats which was free to do! We took a fireworks sail on the 90 foot Schooner Thomas E Lannon—a boat from Gloucester, MA. As the fireworks entered their finale, larger (and newer) boats starting blasting their horns and since I was seated appropriately close, I yelled “Captain! Permission to ring the bell?!” It was granted, of course, and everyone cheered. As we left the boat for the evening, the Captain spoke of tipping the crew and right at a silent moment I yelled (again) “The wind and sea may tip a ship, but only YOU can tip the crew!” People loved it—it was my old saying on my tip cup in high school when I worked at an ice cream stand! It’s been about 8 or 9 years between Tall Ships visits for the past 2 occurrences—I highly encourage making this an SLYC trip event next time!

—Kyle ⚓





From the Treasurer

by Lily Curtis,
Treasurer



Greetings from the Treasurer!

July was a busy month. Jason and I went on a vacation where several family members joined us for a cruise and land tour starting in Vancouver, Canada and ending in Anchorage, Alaska. It was a trip to celebrate the Forth of July as well as my and Jason's eighteenth anniversary. We all had a great time enjoying the family trip. We kayaked in Sitka, AK and in Juneau, AK went out on a research vessel where we saw Orca and Humpback Whales. The crew lowered a device into the water where we got to hear the chatter and songs of the whales which was a great surprise and delight.

Before leaving for the trip I opened our third Certificate of Deposit (CD) for the club. We will now have a CD maturing every couple months. This will help make some money for the club as well as give us the ability to plan and pull money back out of the CDs if needed in the future. I look forward to continuing to help the club grow and be successful financially.

—Lily



From the Director

by Marcia Scott,
Director 3 and Social Chair

Ahoy.

Cheeseburgers in Paradise took place on July 4th with a sold-out club house and group of members who knew how to have fun! We all need to thank **Mika Richardson**, **Terry Whitney** and **Cindy Luxton**, who took over decorating and social duties for the event while I was traveling in Europe, **Laurie Rainwater-Quinn** for taking on the role of head-chef and cooking up an amazing menu, and the volunteer crew who worked hard to make the day enjoyable and run smoothly.

I have some exciting personal notes to share this month reflecting on my Europe trip and our boat christening...

Europe with my daughter and granddaughters was amazing! We flew into Dublin where we

stayed 2 days to recover from the flight before heading to Prague, Austria and Amsterdam. We saw ancient castles, visited Sound of Music film sites, listened to, sang, and watched the Sound of Music soundtrack, went on boat rides, took a train ride up in the Austrian Alps, ate frankfurters, Schnitzel, fish, fries, pasta and pastries, drank wine, and visited some amazing zoos and playgrounds.

Closer to home, a dear group of sailing friends gathered to christen our (Grant Elwood's) 45-foot Catalina sailboat before her maiden voyage under her now name, "Encore". Friends included **Lily and Jason Curtis**, **Mika and Frank Richardson**, and **Cindy Luxton**. Maritime traditions were honored—a green sprig given to the sea to assure safe returns, rum poured for Neptune, champagne cracked open on the bow, and a celebratory toast to all the future holds. The Gods and Neptune must have approved because Encore's maiden voyage was blessed with perfect sailing conditions

and an unforgettable 30-40 dolphin pod escort. We also had a cushion blow overboard and ran a COB drill (Cushion Overboard). The drill was deemed unsuccessful due to waves, wind and time...but then... the cushion reappeared and was successfully retrieved. Well done crew!

AND there are still volunteer opportunities available for the



SLYC club house proudly adorned with bunting for the special holiday.

following social events! Please consider signing up on the SLYC website under Volunteer Signups 2026. Sunday Brunches still need cooks on August 16 and October 18. The Halloween Dinner & Dance needs an assistant cook and crew support on Saturday, October 24, 6:00–8:30 p.m.

Remember, whether you come for the sailing, the sunsets, or the friendships, SLYC is a great place to be. If you have questions or would like to get involved with our social events—whether planning, cooking, decorating, or simply lending a hand—I'd love to hear from you.

Until next time,
—Marcia 🌨



Austrian Alps



Christening ceremony for "Encore"



From Tom Swem

by Tom Swem,
Past Commodore (2014)

major Lahaina fire in August of 2023, many of her friends lost everything.

Since the fire, she and I have visited a few times to volunteer where needed and spend time with friends.

Given the complete loss that the Lahaina Yacht Club had I wanted to get them a new San Luis Yacht Club Burgee to post in the new clubhouse. As you can see, they had a wonderful and vibrant clubhouse that was enjoyed by Lahaina Yacht Club members and all those who had Reciprocal Privileges (which the San Luis Yacht Club still has, as published on their website, www.LYC.us). The Lahaina Yacht Club posted in their July newsletter an article showing the Lahaina Yacht Club Staff Commodore Jeff Kaiser exchanging burgees with myself. So far they have received over 60 burgees from Reciprocal Yacht Clubs.

Hope to Sea~U soon,
—Tom Swem 🌨

Ahoy SLYC Members.
This past June, Mercedes and I had the opportunity to spend the month in Maui, on the Lahaina side. As many of you know, Mercedes lived in Lahaina in the 80s and 90s and owned a house at that time in the "Fire Zone". Through that period, she developed many friendships on the West Side and due to the





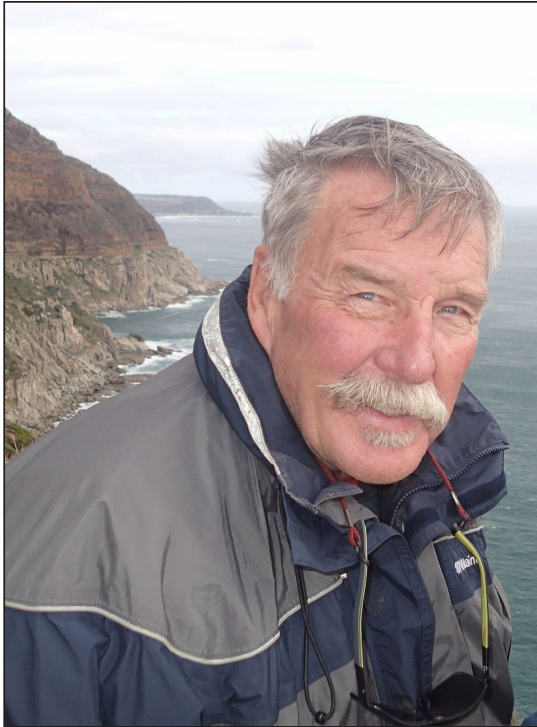
Events Calendar AUGUST 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 No Reservations Allowed	27	28	29	30	31 No Reservations 6pm - Friday Social Hour 7pm - Potluck 	1
2 No Reservations Allowed Ocean Race #4	3	4	5	6 6pm - Board Meeting in Clubhouse 	7 No Reservations 6pm - Friday Social Hour	8
9 No Reservations Allowed	10	11	12 5pm - RESERVED - Murray	13	14 No Reservations 6pm - Friday Social Hour	15
16 No Reservations Allowed 10am - Brunch 	17	18 Wet Wednesday 	19	20 2pm - Friends of Avila Pier	21 Santa Cruz Island Trip No Reservations 6pm - Friday Social Hour   	22 Santa Cruz Island Trip   
23 Santa Cruz Island Trip No Reservations Allowed   	24	25	26	27	28 No Reservations 6pm - Friday Social Hour 7pm - Potluck 	29
30 No Reservations Allowed	31	1	2	3 6pm - Board Meeting in Clubhouse 	4 No Reservations 6pm - Friday Social Hour	5

Events Calendar SEPTEMBER 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 No Reservation Allowed	31	1	2	3 6pm - Board Meeting in Clubhouse 	4 No Reservations 6pm - Friday Social Hour	5
6 No Reservations Allowed	7 LABOR DAY 	8	9	10 2pm - Friends of Avila Pier	11 No Reservations 6pm - Friday Social Hour	12
13 No Reservations Allowed Ocean Race #5   	14	15 Wet Wednesday 	16	17 Newport Isl Boat Show   	18 Newport Isl Boat Show No Reservations 6pm - Friday Social Hour   	19 Newport Isl Boat Show RESERVED 2pm - Karl Blum Fundraiser   
20 Newport Isl Boat Show No Reservations Allowed   	21	22	23	24	25 No Reservations 6pm - Friday Social Hour 7pm - Potluck 	26
27 No Reservations Allowed	28	29	30	1 6pm - Board Meeting in Clubhouse	2 No Reservations 6pm - Friday Social Hour	3 RESERVED 2pm - FOAP

We sadly announce the passing of Jim Blecha, SLYC member of 46 years. His wife, Sally, and their daughters, Kristin and Erika, wrote the following beautiful tribute:



Jim Blecha, SLYC member since 1980, passed away in the early morning hours of July 2, 2026 surrounded by his wife and two daughters at the age of 80. The epic stories and memories of this legend, however, will live on.

Jim, a marine biologist by career and lifestyle, was an avid sailor most of his life. He frequently sailed with his family and friends around Port San Luis in his Crealock 37, 'Intention.' He made countless boat trips along the Pacific coast of Baja California and out to the Channel Islands. He and Sally joined the SLO Yacht Club in 1980, and he served as Rear Commodore soon after. He made the Club his home. The parties were exceptional, and so were all the members that became part of his family.

He devoted 40 long years to serving the Port San Luis Harbor Commission and was a liaison between the Port and the Club. He loved the Port and did anything he could to preserve the health and biodiversity of the ocean, honor the locals by maintaining commercial and recreational services, safeguard the unique character, and keep the history remembered and not forgotten.

Jim is survived by Sally Krenn, his wife of 40 years, his two daughters and their husbands, Erika Blecha and Bryon Schroder, and Kristin and Bret Robinson, and his grandson Zeke Robinson.

A celebration of his life will be held on the 'Beach Front Lawn' at the Avila Beach Golf Resort on September 20th, 2026 from 2:00 - 5:00 PM. Casual Hawaiian attire is suggested. In lieu of flowers, please donate in Jim's name to an environmental non-profit of your choice.

Credits to Sally Krenn and Kristin and Erika Blecha.



—Respectively submitted by Kathleen O'Neill

Bar Host/OD Schedule

August 2026

7 Friday Social

—J.J. Francoise, OD

Bar Hosts: Mark Machala

Darin Spiegel

Food Help/Clean-up: Paul Schiro

Dan Harper

14 Friday Social

—Kristin Rasmussen, OD

Bar Hosts: David Murray

Jeffery Stewart

Food Host/Clean-up: **OPEN (1)**

Nancy Stewart

16 Sunday Brunch

—Marcia Scott OD

Bar Hosts: Grant Elwood

Lily and Jason Curtis

Chief Cook: **OPEN (1)**

Assist. Cook: Dan Harper

Crew: Steve Plassard



19 Wet Wednesday

—Kyle Soucy OD

Bar Hosts: J Johnson

Mark Corella

Chief Cook: Lynne Schlenker

Assist. Cook: Peggy Golden

Kitchen Crew/Clean-up: **OPEN (1)**



21 Friday Social

—TBD, OD

Bar Hosts: Melanie Topp

Karl and Carolyn Blum

Kitchen Help/Clean-up: Mark Hawes

OPEN (1)

28 Friday Social/Potluck

—TBD, OD

Bar Hosts: Tom Capen

OPEN (1)

Kitchen Help/Clean-up: Mark Hawes

OPEN (3)



September 2026

4 Friday Social

—Bret Clark, OD

Bar Hosts: Gary Joralemon

OPEN (1)

Food Help/Clean-up: Eoin Duffy

Dan Harper

11 Friday Social

—TBD, OD

Bar Hosts: Karen Hiatt

Amber Tierney

Food Host/Clean-up: Mary Bucher

OPEN (1)

16 Wet Wednesday

—J.J. Francoise OD

Bar Hosts: **OPEN (2)**

Chief Cook: **OPEN (1)**

Cook Crew: **OPEN (1)**



18 Friday Social

—TBD, OD

Bar Hosts: Cindy and Jason Vormbaum

OPEN (1)

Food Host/Clean-up: Dan Harper

OPEN (1)

21 Friday Social

—Marcia Scott, OD

Bar Hosts: Tom and Janine McNeill

Kevin Daily

Food Host/Clean-up: David and Sharon Williams

25 Friday Social/Potluck

—David Butcher, OD

Bar Hosts: Shawn Harper

Dan Harper

Kitchen Crew/Clean-up: Tom and Ruth Donnelly

Dennis Law





San Luis Yacht Club

Officers, Staff, and Committees 2026



Officers

Commodore Pat Mullen	805-305-3364 commodore@slyc.org
Vice Commodore Kristin Rasmussen (Volunteer: TimeToSignUp)	805-471-7127 vicecommodore@slyc.org
Rear Commodore Carter McGowen (Facility)	805-550-6072 rearcommodore@slyc.org
Secretary Kyle Soucy	978-621-2716 secretary@slyc.org
Treasurer Lily Curtis	219-299-9087 treasurer@slyc.org
Port Captain Ray Mattison (Liaison to the Port)	805-544-1945 portcaptain@slyc.org
Sail Fleet JJ Francoise (Racing)	909-561-6746 fleetcaptain@slyc.org
Power Fleet Captain David Bucher (Chase Boat)	805-215-9995 powercaptain@slyc.org
Cruising Captain Mike Davis	805-878-6817 cruisingcaptain@slyc.org

Directors

1 - Eddie O'Brien	831-620-5472 Director-1@slyc.org
2 - Patrick Corrigan	(509) 998-6290 Director-2@slyc.org
3 - Marcia Scott	805-440-3662 Director-3@slyc.org

Staff Commodores

Bob Hurd	805-550-9071 SStaffCommodore@slyc.org
Bret Clark	805-704-2608 JStaffCommodore@slyc.org

Staff

Bar Manager John Hrdlicka	707-287-7680 johnhrdlicka@hotmail.com
Boatmaster Darby Neil	541-508-9078 Darbyneil3@gmail.com
Burgees Bob Rollins	805-712-7729 brollins@charter.net
Editor (Foghorn) Donna Ellison	805-440-9369 foghorn@slyc.org
Historian Pete Kelley	805-595-2526 pedrokelly@gmail.com
Galley Manager Mika Richardson	805-471-7768 mika.richardson2021@gmail.com
Purser Denise Reynolds	805-748-3064 Dmreynolds987@gmail.com
Quartermaster Jana Barter (Ship's Store)	805-550-5013 slomocean123@gmail.com
Sunshine Committee Kathleen O'Neill	805-550-5010 koneill555@gmail.com
Webmaster (Scuttlebutt) Michael Dobrzensky	805-801-4988 webmaster@slyc.org

Committees

Finance—Kristin Rasmussen	See "Vice Commodore"
House—Carter McGowen	See "Rear Commodore"
Membership—Bret Clark	See "Staff Commodores"
Steering—Bob Hurd	See "Staff Commodores"
Nominating—Bob Hurd	See "Staff Commodores"
Social Director—Marcia Scott	805-440-3662 social@slyc.org

San Luis  *Yacht Club*

San Luis Yacht Club
Avila Beach, California
“At the foot of the Avila Pier”



Foghorn Editorial Services
P.O. Box 247
Avila Beach, CA 93424