



the Foghorn

Newsletter of the San Luis Yacht Club



View From the Bridge

by Pat Mullen,
Commodore

A hoy everyone!
I hope you are all kicking off the new year in the best possible way! I am so looking forward to being your commodore this year. In the 10+ years I've been in the club, I've truly come to appreciate just how special it is. We are fortunate to have this club and share it with each other and our friends. If you think of how many people would love to be a member of this club, you'll realize just how lucky we all are to be members. This past year I read "A Short History of The San Luis Yacht Club" by **Gerard Parsons**. I thought I knew the history of the club, but this opened my eyes to our interesting history, and the perseverance and tenacity of the early members. I was fortunate to get to know the author, Gerard, back in the early 1980s working with him on the transfer of the Port San Luis Lighthouse from the Coast Guard to the Port. In addition to being a driving force for the SLYC, Gerard was a great guy, and one of the founding commissioners of the PSL Harbor District when it was created in 1953. Early plans included a southern breakwater and docks and 400 boat slips. Sadly, that part was never able to be built. Gerard was a sailor and boat owner and lifelong champion for our club and the Port. I think most all of us share some of his spirit in that regard. If you haven't already read this, consider adding it to your 2026 reading list. Check the Ship's Store for a copy or for more club history, look on the web page under archives, Club Historian **Pete Kelley** has lots of info there.

Your 2026 board of directors includes some returning members and some new additions. The board includes; Vice Commodore **Kristin Rasmussen**, Rear Commodore **Carter McGowen**, Treasurer **Lily Curtis**, Secretary **Kyle Soucy**, Sail Fleet Captain **J.J. Francoisse**, Power Captain **David Butcher**, Cruising Captain **Mike Davis**, Jr. Staff Commodore **Bret**

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Clark, Sr. Staff Commodore **Bob Hurd**, Director 1 **Eddie O'Brien**, Director 2 **Matthew Farmer**, and Director 3 **Marcia Scott**. I'm thrilled to have such a competent and enthusiastic team to collaborate with and together, we will work hard to bring a memorable and terrific year for all our SLYC members.

Cheers to 2026! May it be filled with all the warmth, fun and fellowship that I feel whenever our Yacht Club door opens and I see you all inside! It's the best.

Nautically,
—Pat



Vice Views

by Kristin Rasmussen,
Vice Commodore

A hoy Friends,
Cheers to 2026!

Thank you to all of you—our San Luis Yacht Club members—who helped make 2025 such a wonderful year for our SLYC family. The time, energy, and camaraderie you share are what make this club so special. Now, let's build on that spirit and make 2026 even better.

Many of you may already know me, but I'd like to formally introduce myself as your 2026 Vice Commodore. I joined SLYC in 2015 and have been proud to serve our club over the past ten years as Sail Fleet Captain, Secretary, Director, and, most recently, Cruising Captain. I'm honored to continue that service in this new role.

One of my primary responsibilities as Vice Commodore is to support you in supporting the club. This includes coordinating and monitoring member volunteerism throughout the year—primarily through the club's website using the Time to Sign Up (TTSU) program. To remain a member in good standing, each membership (whether an individual or a married

couple) is asked to complete one service commitment from the different opportunities by June 30.

The beginning of the year is the perfect time to explore the available options. The earlier you sign up, the more choices you'll have—and the easier it is to find opportunities that fit your schedule and interests.

There are many ways to get involved and support the club. In addition to Friday Night Socials and Wet Wednesday bar and food hosting, opportunities include race support for our ocean races, chase boat support, clean-up day, and other valuable behind-the-scenes roles

that keep SLYC running smoothly.

We are at our best when we work together, supporting one another and the club we all care so deeply about. I'm here to help make that process as smooth and enjoyable as possible. If you have any questions about service commitments—or anything else—please don't hesitate to reach out to me at vicecommodore@slyc.org.

Here's to a fantastic year ahead and another great chapter for San Luis Yacht Club.

Happy Holidays,
—Kristin 



Jr. Staff Commodore Report

by Bret Clark,
Jr. Staff Commodore

Hello everyone. One of the more important duties that I have this year as your Junior Staff Commodore is to chair the New Membership Process. Here is some important information regarding the process for 2026:

The current membership application procedure for 2026 is as follows:

1. Applicants must have 2 sponsors.
2. Sponsors (Honorary or Flag members) must be Members in Good Standing, members for 3 or more years and one of the two sponsors must have known the applicant a minimum of one year. Sponsors must be able to attest to the applicant's volunteerism, boating experience, and participation if applicable in Club activities as a guest.
3. Sponsors must assist with new member mentoring and the required 6 board approved onboarding (OB) events.
4. Members can sponsor only one applicant per year.
5. All applicants must attend one of the orientations sessions with at least one of their two required Sponsors. If the applicants are married, both spouses must attend an orientation session. Application forms will be distributed electronically at the end of two orientation sessions—January 15, 2026 and January 21, 2026. Applicants and sponsors need to attend only one of the two meetings. There will be no alternative dates for orientation meetings.
6. Only membership applications from applicants who attended an orientation session and received an electronic copy will be accepted.
7. Membership applications must be submitted electronically as one PDF and include both the Sponsor applications and be received no later than 8 PM, February 13, 2026 by the Junior Staff Commodore jstaffcommodore@slyc.org. An email will be sent to applicants confirming receipt of the application.

Important Dates:

Mandatory Orientation sessions
-January 15, 2026 and January 21, 2026

Deadline for submitting applications
-8 PM Friday, February 13, 2026

Notification of invitation to interview
-Thursday, February 19, 2026

Interviews

-Saturday February 28, 2026

New members approved by the Board of Directors

-Thursday, March 5, 2026

New Member Orientation and Brunch

-Saturday, March 28, 2026

Frequently Asked Questions:

What happens after I submit my application? The membership committee will perform an initial review of each application to verify:

- The application packet submitted on time
- Applicant orientation meeting attendance confirmed
- Application is accompanied by two sponsorship forms signed by current flag or honorary members who meet the criteria for sponsors
- Applications not meeting any of the above requirements will not be considered and the applicant and the sponsors will be notified
- The membership committee will determine applicants who will be invited for an interview. Applicants selected for an interview will be contacted on Thursday February 19, 2026 by with an interview time on Saturday, February 28, 2026. Interviews are in person at the Club
- Thursday March 5, 2026, Membership Chair forwards applicants selected for membership to the Board for approval.
- All applicants notified of the status of their application by Saturday, March 7

How many openings will there be in 2026? The short answer is we do not know. Members must pay their dues by December 31 to avoid a late fee, and they have until January 31 to pay or be removed from the Club. Membership is capped at 200 members.

Why is the process so short? The goal is to select new members in time so that they can be introduced at the Club's annual Opening Day Ceremony in April.

Do I need a sponsor? Yes. Each applicant must be sponsored by two (2) SLYC Flag or Honorary members in "Good Standing."

Where can I get a Membership Application form and Membership Sponsorship forms? Membership application forms and Sponsorship

forms will be available only to those applicants (and at least one sponsor) who attend one of four orientation meetings. Application forms will be not accepted from applicants who have not attended one of the scheduled Orientation Meetings.

If I still have questions, who can I contact for more information? You can email or call the Junior Staff Commodore/Membership Chair, Bret Clark at jstaffcommodore@slyc.org or 805-704-2608.

Thank you and see you at the Club.

—Bret 



Sr. Staff Commodore Report

by Bob Hurd,
Sr. Staff Commodore

A hoy Members. By the time you read this, the new year will already be moving at a pace that seems too fast. The Polar Bear Plunge, a couple of Friday Socials, and a Board meeting will have come and gone. And this, my last year on the Board will be over before I know it.

I had some idea what exactly the Senior Staff Commodore does, but I was curious, so I looked it up in the Officer's Handbook.

- Attend, participate, and vote at Board Meetings.
- Serve on Board committees and functions as appointed by the Commodore.
- Serve as chair of the nominating committee.
- Perform Officer of the Day (OD) duties as assigned—must have ABC RBS Certificate.
- Other assigned duties from the Commodore.

The Constitution defines the nominating committee.

The Board of Directors shall appoint a nominating committee at their August meeting. The Committee shall be composed of three past Commodores who are not members of the current Board and two members of the current Board, preferably past Commodores. The Commodore shall call a meeting of this committee before the September meeting, at which time they shall present a ballot for the Board's approval. Their recommendations shall be for the following offices: Commodore, Vice Commodore, Rear Commodore, Secretary, Treasurer, Sailing Fleet Captain, Power Fleet Captain, Cruising Captain, Port Captain, and three Directors. The nominating committee shall submit three or more names to appear on the ballot for election as directors; the three persons receiving the greatest number of votes shall serve as directors.

August will be here before I know it so I will be looking at our membership and putting together a list of good candidates for officers next year and reaching out to talk to them now. I am confident we can put forward a ballot to the Board filled with good people.

Thank you and see you at the Club.

—Bob 



Fleet News

by J.J. Francoise,
Sail Fleet Captain

A hoy Sailors. **Join Our Race Committee: Be Part of the Tradition of the Avila Bay Cup!**

Every year, the San Luis Yacht Club hosts six exciting ocean races in the varied conditions of San Luis Bay, with sailboats ranging from nimble 24-footers to larger 40-foot vessels competing for glory. Behind every successful race is a dedicated team of volunteers who make it all possible—and we'd love to have you join us!

Why volunteer? As a race committee volunteer, you'll get a front-row seat to thrilling sailboat racing while learning about the sport from the inside out. You'll be part of a friendly team, enjoy time at the end of the Cal Poly pier as well as on the water, and gain the satisfaction of knowing you're essential to keeping our racing tradition alive. No sailing experience is necessary—just enthusiasm and a willingness to help! Plus, serving on the race committee counts toward your club membership volunteer requirement of two events per year.

We have a variety of positions to fill! Timers are crucial to recording accurate race results. You'll use stopwatches or timing software to record when boats cross the starting and finishing lines. This position is perfect if you enjoy precision and paying attention to detail. We'll train you on our timing procedures—it's easier than you might think! The flag crew communicates with racers using signal flags to indicate race sequences, course changes, and important information. You'll work closely with the Race Committee lead to raise and lower

flags at the right moments. This is a great role for learning racing rules and signals while staying active on deck. Our safety boat, AKA “Chase”, patrols the racecourse to assist any vessels in distress and ensure all competitors are safe throughout the race. If you have boating experience and want to be ready for action, this position puts you right in the middle of things while serving a vital role. “Chase” also positions and monitors the turning marks that define our racecourse. You’ll help ensure marks stay in position and might assist with mark adjustments between races. This role offers a unique vantage point to watch boats navigate the course. General crew members on “Chase” and Cal Poly pier assist with various tasks including boat handling, communications with competitors, observation, and supporting other positions as needed. These are excellent all-around positions for newcomers. Prefer to stay on land? We also need volunteers to help with hospitality, providing and delivering lunch to our “Chase” and RC crews. These roles are just as important to our smooth operation.

Race days typically run from 0930 through early afternoon, on the first Sunday of May through October, with the exception of July and September (2nd Sunday). And don’t miss the post-race debriefs at the clubhouse or at Mersea’s on the Hartford pier! We’ll provide training for your specific role, and experienced volunteers will be there to guide you. You’ll need to dress appropriately for the weather (layers are key in Avila Beach!) and bring sun protection. We’ll provide water, lunch, and good company.

Whether you can commit to all six regattas or just want to help out occasionally, we’d love to hear from you. Contact me, J.J. Francoise, Sail Fleet Captain, at 909-561-6746 to learn more and sign up for a race day. TTSU is our automated calendar scheduling system accessible through our member page on the SLYC website. You can easily sign up today. Choose the month and position now.

Come be part of the action that makes San Luis Yacht Club racing happen—we promise you’ll have a great time on the water and on land!

—J.J. ⚓



From the Director

by Marsha Scott,
Director 3

A hoy, fellow yacht club members!
A little about me...

Water has always been a powerful force in my life. I grew up in Wisconsin along the Mississippi River—on ski boats, pontoons, and even snowmobiles (on ice!), with a little land football and Wisconsin-style beverage enjoyment on the side.

Eventually, I traded Midwest winters for coastal living and have called San Luis Obispo home for over half of my life. I’m retired

and love to travel, sail, hike, and spend time with family and friends—especially my two- and five-year-old granddaughters and my seven-year-old rescue dog.

I’ve been working on building a stronger sailing résumé and have traveled to the Virgin Islands three times, with a fourth trip planned this January to celebrate my niece’s 50th birthday—Caribbean style, with sun on our faces and salt in our hair. Closer to home, you’ll find me sailing around Santa Barbara on a Catalina sailboat or, at a much slower pace, on a turquoise stand-up paddleboard in the harbor.

I have been a member of the yacht club since 2016. I became the club’s Social Chair last January, and this January I am honored to be joining the Board of Directors. In both roles, I’m here to help keep our club shipshape, lively, full of fair winds, following seas, and plenty of fun.

I look forward to connecting with each of you and hearing your stories.

Anchors aweigh!
—Marsha ⚓

Sunshine Committee

Remember to notify Kathleen O’Neill, Chairperson of the Sunshine Committee, of any illnesses, injuries, or surgeries of Club Members who may need some get well wishes and support from other Club Members. Please also notify her of the passing of any Club Member or their family members so that she may compose a tribute for them and send them a condolence card on behalf of the Club. As she and the Club always respect the privacy of Club Members, she will post a notice in the Foghorn about such illnesses, injuries, etc. only with the member’s permission. Please contact Kathleen at 805-550-5010 or email her at koneill555@gmail.com.



— Kathleen O’Neill
Sunshine Committee

SLYC Christmas 2025



Collage by Michael Dobrzensky

SLYC Christmas 2025



Collage by Michael Dobrzensky



Photo by Michael Dobrzensky

Reminder-Bar Hosting

Attention to all club members who wish to complete their club services as a Bar Host.



All bar hosts and/or anyone who checks ID's, serves alcohol, serves as a cashier, manages, or trains those who are responsible for alcohol-related duties, must complete a California State Responsible Beverage Service Training (RBS) course.

Your training course must include the successful completion of an Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) administered RBS exam. The certification requirements for AB 1221 must be renewed every 3 years.

You will find an RBS Training course from one of the Department-approved training providers online and must pass the Department's alcohol server certification exam with a 70% or better.

The California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) offers an online Responsible Beverage Service Portal! This portal provides access to all the tools you will need to ensure compliance with the mandatory RBS training requirements for Alcohol Servers, Licensees, and Training Providers.

www.rbstp@abc.ca.gov

Bar Host/OD Schedule

January 2026

1 Thursday - Polar Bear Plunge

—Kristin Rasmussen, OD

Bar Hosts (Morning 10 -1pm): John Sorgenfrei
Reid Hester

Bar Hosts (Afternoon 1-4pm): Sylvia Dodd
Ali Stephenson

Chief Cook: Pat Cusack

Assist. Cook/Clean-up: John and Mary Janowicz

2 Friday Social/Tree Undecorating

—Pat Mullen and Marcia Scott, OD

Bar Hosts: Patrick Corrigan
George Risher

Food Host/Clean-up: Judith Bellis
Mary Witkowski



9 Friday Social

—TBD, OD

Bar Hosts: Kyle Martin
Patrick Corrigan

Food Host/Clean-up: Mika Richardson
Lauri Rainwater-Quinn

16 Friday Social

—Carter McGowen, OD

Bar Hosts: Patrick McGowen
Dave Tennant

Food Help/Clean-up: David Erbstoesser
Margo Fraser

23 Friday Social

—Matthew Farmer, OD

Bar Hosts: Bruno Giuffrida
Bingo Farmer

Food Host/Clean-up: David Erbstoesser
Steve Williams

24 Saturday New Board/Old Board Dinner

—Mike Davis, OD

Bar Hosts: Cindy Luxton

Chief Cook: OPEN (1)

Assist. Cook: OPEN (1)

Cook Crew/Clean-up: Ray Mattison
OPEN (1)



30 Friday Social/Potluck

—TBD, OD

Bar Hosts: Thom Dimmitt
Gary Ross

Food Host/Clean-up: John Sorgenfrei
Melenie Ristow



February 2026

6 Friday Social

—Carter McGowen, OD

Bar Hosts: Kyle Martin

Patrick McGowen

Food Help/Clean-up: Don and Kathy Hannula
Hal and Kelly Hannula

13 Friday Social

—Matthew Farmer, OD

Bar Hosts: Bruno Giuffrida
Bingo Farmer

Food Host/Clean-up: Steve Williams
Edward Henry

14 Saturday Valentine's Dinner/Dance

—TBD, OD

Bar Hosts: OPEN (2)

Chief Cook: Michael Taylor

Assist. Cook: OPEN (1)

Crew: Terry Whitney
Brenda Noakes

Clean Up: Sally Krenn
OPEN (2)



20 Friday Social

—Carter McGowen, OD

Bar Hosts: Karl and Carolyn Blum

Frank and Mika Richardson

Food Host/Clean-up: Melissa and Jeff Watkins
Margo Fraser

27 Friday Social/Potluck

—Mike Davis, OD

Bar Hosts: Tom and Janine McNeill

Food Host/Clean-up: Melenie Ristow
Mary Butcher



Events Calendar JANUARY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 No Reservations Allowed	29	30	31 New Year's Eve 	1 New Year's Day  10am - 2pm Polar Bear Refreshments 12pm - Polar Bear Plunge 	2 No Reservations	3
4 No Reservations Allowed	5	6	7	8 6pm - SLYC Board 	9 No Reservations	10
11 No Reservations Allowed	12	13	14	15 2pm - Friends of Avila Pier 6pm - New Member Application Meeting	16 No Reservations	17
18 No Reservations Allowed	19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day 	20	21 6pm - New Member Application Meeting	22	23 No Reservations	24 6pm - New Board/Old Board Dinner
25 No Reservations Allowed	26	27	28	29	30 No Reservations 6pm - Social Hour 7pm - Potluck 	31 10am - Tentative Reservation Pat Hood

Events Calendar FEBRUARY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 No Reservations Allowed	2	3	4	5 6pm - Board Meeting in Clubhouse 	6 No Reservations 6pm - Friday Social Hour	7
8 No Reservations Allowed	9	10	11	12	13 New Membership Applications Due No Reservations 6pm - Friday Social Hour	14 Valentine's Day 6pm - Valentines Dinner & Dance  
15 No Reservations Allowed	16 Presidents' Day 	17	18 6:30pm - New Membership Committee Meeting	19 2pm - Friends of Avila Pier	20 No Reservations 6pm - Friday Social Hour	21
22 No Reservations Allowed	23	24	25	26	27 No Reservations 6pm - Friday Social Hour 7pm - Potluck 	28 10am - 4pm New Member Interviews - Clubhouse is Closed