

# the Foghorn

Newsletter of the San Luis Yacht Club



## View From the Bridge

by Bret Clark,  
Commodore

A hoy everyone!  
As I write this article, we are preparing for our General Membership Meeting. It is hard to believe that we are almost through another year. I will be working with the incoming Commodore to ensure a smooth transition from the 2025 board to the 2026 one. This includes passing information from people who held a 2025 position to those who will be taking on new duties in 2026 and training the new board members about club operations and their responsibilities.

### New Membership Drive:

As I transition from Commodore to Jr. Staff Commodore, I will be in charge of the New Membership Drive. In order to be considered for membership, all potential new memberships must have two different Flag or Honorary Membership Sponsors. If you know of someone who is interested in joining the club, please accompany them to some of our events. This is a great way for the potential new members to get to know the club and for our members to get to know them. I will be providing additional detailed information in next month's Foghorn.

### A Time of Thanks:

November always has been a month of reflection for me; a time where I try to identify all of the things that I am thankful for. At the Club, I am thankful for the 2025 Board of Directors. This group of people have worked

hard to support new activities and to restore old ones. I will be recognizing the hard work that the Staff and some of our Special Volunteers do to make this club run at the Staff and Volunteer Appreciation Dinner in November. The 2025 Staff are: **John Hrdlicka** (Barmaster), **Greg Jackson** (Boat Master), **Bob Rollins** (Burgees), **Donna Ellison** (Foghorn), **Pete Kelley** (Historian), **Denise Reynolds** (Purser), **Jana Barter** (Quartermaster), **Marcia Scott** (Social), **Kathleen O'Neill** (Sunshine), and **Michael Dobrzensky** (Webmaster). We will be recognizing the following Super Volunteers as well: **Gary Cox**, **Steve Dahl**, **Dennis Dempsey**, **Sylvia Dodd**, **Don Hannula**, **Mary Matakovich**, **Darby Neill**, **Brenda Noakes**, **Ali Stephenson**, **Barry Stewart**, **Rod Valine**, **Tim Waag**, and **Terry Whitney**.

On a personal note, I am extremely thankful for the support that my family provides. **Michelle Clark** and **Brittany Clark** would have accompanied me to more events, but Brittany has been especially busy with dance and being in high school; there are many reasons to be thankful...

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about the club and the course that we are on, please be sure to drop me a line. I will do my best to be transparent, informative, and open to opinions as we continue to chart through new waters.

Take care of one another,  
—Bret 



## November 2025 Volume 80 Number 11

|                                      |   |                                     |     |
|--------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|-----|
| View From the Bridge . . . . .       | 1 | Cruising News . . . . .             | 4   |
| Vice Views . . . . .                 | 2 | Fleet News . . . . .                | 4   |
| Sr. Staff Report Report . . . . .    | 2 | Bar Hosts and OD Schedule . . . . . | 6   |
| Jr. Staff Commodore Report . . . . . | 3 | Events Calendar . . . . .           | 7-8 |
| Port Report . . . . .                | 3 |                                     |     |



## Vice Views

by Pat Mullen,  
Vice Commodore

to include; ASA 103 introduction, racing fundamentals, navigation and knot tying, member boating trip summaries, etc. Do you have an idea for a good program? I'd like to find some more good topics for future Wet Wednesdays.

Cheers,  
—Pat



This is the opening image of a video played at the Racing Awards Summary, with the link to the video below.

<https://www.slyc.org/Photos/Z72%204474-Edit%202025%20Races%20soc25.mp4>

**G**reetings fellow Club Members.  
With November we are fast approaching the end of the year. We still have a few volunteer service opportunities for this month and next so please look at TTSU and help us fill those last spots. We had a great Wet Wednesday on October 15, with an interesting program by Cruising Captain **J.J. Francoisse** and Webmaster **Michael Dobrzensky** on our ocean racing season and Avila Cup awards. It was great weather, whales spouting, terrific food by **Karen Negri** and her mom **Lu**. Next year we are hoping to increase the programs at Wet Wednesdays



## Sr. Staff Commodore Report

by Ken San Filippo,  
Sr. Staff Commodore

A special shout out to **Lily Curtis** and **Marcia Scott** for organizing the event menu, decorations and music. By the way, it was also Marcia Scott's Birthday.

Along with the great music played by the Heavy Cats, the menu consisted of ghostly salad, monster bones ribs, spooky potatoes, bread of the dead and cemetery cake.

Other club members working to make the event a success were **Jason Curtis** and **Mark Machala** who were the bar hosts, **Darby Neil**, **Jim** and **Lydia Fuller** were the food prep/clean up team.

Best,  
—Ken



**A**hoy Members.

### SLYC Halloween Party

From the picture below, it looks like folks were wearing their favorite costumes and enjoying the event!





## Jr. Staff Commodore Report

by Bob Hurd,  
Jr. Staff Commodore

A hoy Members. I read an article today, “Three Reasons Why People Don’t Volunteer, And What Can Be Done About It,” from the Stanford Center on Longevity. It is what came up on a Google search I did after Commodore **Bret Clark** emailed that there are only two articles for the Foghorn and would I please try to put something together.

According to the article, only 1 in 4 volunteer. The most common reason for not volunteering is not having enough time. The article said, “retirees (who presumably have enough time) do not volunteer at higher rates,” and that “people ages 35 to 44 (those most likely to have young children at home and be employed) actually volunteer at slightly higher rates.” I guess because I am

still working, I volunteer at a higher rate. Look out though once I am retired.

The article suggests one solution, “volunteering inertia”, which is the habit we create by volunteering or not volunteering.” According to the article, “Research shows people who volunteer before retirement are more likely to volunteer in retirement.” If you get into a habit of volunteering, you will volunteer more frequently.

We already make volunteering more accessible, one of the solutions suggested in the article, with TimeToSignUp. But you have seen the requests for Help Needed! in the Scuttlebutt, usually for bar hosts and kitchen help. We have a problem with people who are not volunteering.

The article proposed, “there is a relationship between volunteering and improved physical health and cognitive function?” It goes on to say, “Research also shows that volunteers report elevated mood and less depression, and that volunteers report increased social interactions and social support, better relationship quality, and decreased loneliness.”

Volunteering is good for us so do more for your Club and you’ll feel better.

Thank you and see you at the Club.

—Bob



## Port Report

by Carter McGowen,  
Port Captain

Hi folks. Here is a brief rundown of what went down at the Harbor District in September: there was a presentation from the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments about their new sales tax initiative, which they plan to put on the ballot. With the decline in gas tax revenue due to higher MPG and increased EV adoption, SLOCOG is looking to bridge some gaps in their funding. These types of funds could potentially, but unlikely, be used for pier related projects. More likely, though, these funds would be used for things like the new Avila roundabout or increased public transit to the beach. Visit [www.localroadsfirst.com](http://www.localroadsfirst.com) if you would like to give your thoughts to SLOCOG.

The new Harbor Director, Will Friedman, also talked about increasing the daily rate of parking. They would like to see it as high as \$18 a day but do not currently have a plan for how the increases will roll out. Of particular interest to SLYC membership, they also discussed an annual parking pass, to which I commented SLYC membership would be interested in. That being said, the commission does not have a clear path laid out for this, but made their intention clear as they feel they are falling behind other beaches locally and regionally.

As a reminder, we have been hearing from the membership about our cinnamon based neighbors—if you would like your opinion to hopefully move the needle, we are asking you to attend the Port Meetings as a constituent of the Commissioners and make your voices heard during the public comment portion of the meeting. The Harbor Commissioners meet on the 4th Tuesday of every month in the multipurpose room next to Fat Cat’s Cafe at the harbor. It is located on the second story, above the bathrooms. They usually provide some mixed nuts and granola bars if that entices anyone to attend.

I hope to see you out there!

—Carter



## Cruising News

by Kristin Rasmussen,  
Cruising Captain

A hoy SLYC Members.

### Cruising into the New Year

What a year it's been on the water! Our 2025 cruising season set sail with an unforgettable adventure in the British Virgin

Islands and wrapped up with a picture-perfect weekend at Santa Cruz Island.

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, November 15th, and cruise to the club for a lively recap of our 2025 events and a sneak preview of what's on deck for 2026.

Cruising with fellow members brings us closer together, sharpens our boating skills, and fills our logbooks with unforgettable stories. Some of the best moments come afterward—when we gather back at the club to share the scenery, the food, the drink, the laughter, and the memories that only San Luis Yacht Club adventures can provide.

Let's celebrate the journeys we've shared and chart the course for another great year ahead!

Fair winds and following seas.

—Kristin



## Fleet News

by J.J. Francoise,  
Sail Fleet Captain

Hello fellow sailors and SLYC members!

### 2025 Avila Cup Awards Celebration

On October 15, some forty captains, crew members, and guests turned out for an evening dinner celebration and recap of the 2025 Avila Cup, which represents the culmination of six sets of races, with participants representing our own San Luis Yacht Club as well as other sailing organizations. This annual tradition brings together the sailing community to recognize excellence, camaraderie, and the spirit of competitive sailing.

The event began with a hearty chili and baked potato bar, complete with homemade corn muffins and brownies—the perfect fuel for sailors swapping tales from the season. **Karen Negri** and her mom **Lu** ruled the kitchen. **Rob Pigeon** kept things running smoothly with prep and cleanup, while bartenders **Joe** and **Barb Boud**, along with **George Risher**, made sure no glass went empty. **Mike Davis**, our AV wizard, saved the day by wrangling the big screen projector into submission, and **Mike Dobrzensky** created some real magic with a 25-minute presentation highlighting the season's best moments. All this unfolded under the benevolent eye of **Pat Mullens**, our Officer of the Day for the evening!

After sixteen spirited races from May through October, **Roger Briggs** and his crew aboard "Second Wind" claimed the 2025 Avila Cup championship in the Monohull Division with a net

score of 18 points. Briggs demonstrated remarkable consistency throughout the season, earning multiple first-place finishes and maintaining his lead despite a competitive field. **Rundstrom's** "Fat Cat" secured second place with 34 points, showing strong performance particularly in the mid-season races. **Kevin Williams** aboard "Fear Knot" rounded out the podium in third place with 38 points, dominating the early season before sitting out the summer months. **Kate McNerney's** "Blondie" finished fourth

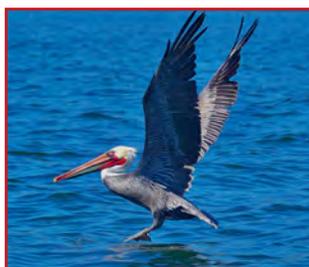
with a solid 47 points, while **Phil Borgardt's** "Renaissance" and **Maxime Jeanneau's** "bw3" completed the fleet in fifth and sixth positions respectively. Of course, none of this would have been possible without the dedication of some fifty volunteers who helped throughout the season—from race committee members timing starts and finishes, to the "Chase" crew who made every event run smoothly. Their efforts made the 2025 Avila Cup a reality.

### A Nod to Where It All Began

The season's results are impressive, but they're part of a racing tradition that stretches back decades. The early beginnings of SLYC racing regattas date back to the late 1940s, when local sail races were held with Suns, Snipes, and flatties gliding across the water. Almost three-quarters of a century ago, we counted just eighty active members. The bylaws at the time were

delightfully straightforward: members of the club must be active in boating. This simple rule became an incentive for residents from Paso Robles to Santa Maria to build, purchase, or otherwise acquire a sailboat or powerboat and join the club. Back then, small boat sailors were eager to sail anywhere they could find water and wind. Santa Margarita and Lopez lakes became the scenes of hot contests between sailors who were probably more competitive than they'd admit over post-race drinks.

By the 1960s, tradition had taken root. A regatta was held at Lake Margarita every Mother's Day, giving smaller boats their



moment in the sun. Lasers could be launched right from the beach and were fairly inexpensive—a sailor’s dream. After races, the real party could finally be held at the club itself. Members no longer had to bring their own booze and could now purchase very inexpensive liquor at the club’s bar, thanks to **Daphne Wheeler**, who secured a liquor license from the state. Daphne would buy jug wine and sell it for a dollar a glass. The bar made money. Everyone was happy. Especially Daphne, the treasurer, a position she filled for twelve years.

The 1980s brought a wonderfully casual approach to racing. Races would be organized after Sunday brunch, with skippers choosing crew volunteers over eggs and coffee while also cobbling together a race committee. The main purpose was fun rather than pure competition, which is probably why Commodore **Darrel**

**Rundstrom** felt compelled to draft an informal set of rules to be observed by the racing crews. These days we call them the Sailing Instructions, but back then they had a certain pirate-code charm. Here are a few snippets: The Captain is always right. Arguing is not allowed during racing. Beers may be consumed after a race in proportion to your finishing position. When accepting trophies, speeches don’t have to be true.

Forty years later, these rules seem to still be applying—which tells you everything you need to know about the character of racing at SLYC. From those early days on Santa Margarita Lake to **Roger Briggs’** championship season in 2025, the thread that connects it all is clear: at SLYC, we race hard, we race fair, and we never forget to enjoy ourselves along the way.

Fair winds and following seas!  
—J.J. 🚢



“Second Wind”



“Fear Knot”



“Blondie”

# Bar Host/OD Schedule

## November 2025

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### 7 Friday Social (General Membership Meeting)

—Kristin Blecha, OD  
Bar Hosts: Judy Bellis  
Gary Joralemon  
Crew/Clean-up: Matthew Roberts  
Mary Witkowski



### 14 Friday Social

—Carter McGowen, OD  
Bar Hosts: Berenice Parsons  
Doug Parish  
Food Host/Clean-up: Thomas Tucker  
Robin Kisinger  
Darin Spiegel

### 15 Saturday - Staff & Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

—Pat Mullen, OD  
Bar Hosts: Mike Larabee  
David Murray  
Chief Cook: **OPEN (1)**  
Assist. Cook: **OPEN (1)**  
Crew: John Sorgenfrei  
Tammy Casiano  
Paul and Eileen Sverchek



### 19 Wednesday-Wet Wednesday

— Micael Ginn, OD  
Bar Hosts: Barrie Cleveland  
J and Kathy Johnson  
Chief Cook: Georgina Pease  
Kitchen Crew/Clean-up: Carol Nylander



### 21 Friday Social

—Tom Swem, OD  
Bar Hosts: Steve Johnson  
Matthew Roberts  
Food Host/Clean-up: Brady Moore  
Ellen and Michael Sheffer



## December 2025

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### 5 Friday Social/Tree Decorating

—Matthew Farmer, OD  
Bar Hosts: Sylvia Dodd  
Ali Stephenson  
Food Help/Clean-up: Betty and Mark Gillespie  
Sally Krenn



### 12 Friday Social

—TBD, OD  
Bar Hosts: Freeman Tidaback  
Mary Witkowski  
Food Host/Clean-up: Cynthia and Andy Anthony  
Wendy Lucas

### 19 Friday Social

—TBD, OD  
Bar Hosts: Gareth Kelly  
Ellen and Michael Sheffer  
Food Host/Clean-up: Ellen and Michael Sheffer  
Jim Fuller

## January 2026

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### 1 Thursday - Polar Bear Plunge

—TBD, OD  
Bar Hosts (Morning 10-1pm): John Sorgenfrei  
Reid Hester  
Bar Hosts (Afternoon 1-4pm): **OPEN (2)**  
Chief Cook: **OPEN (1)**  
Assist. Cook/Clean-up: **OPEN (1)**



# Events Calendar NOVEMBER

| Sun   | Mon | Tue   | Wed  | Thu   | Fri   | Sat  |
|---|-----|---|--|---|---|--|
| 26<br>No Reservations Allowed   | 27  | 28  | 29   | 30  | 31<br>Halloween<br>No Reservations<br>6pm - Social Hour<br>7pm - Potluck<br> | 1  |
| 2<br>Daylight Saving Time<br>No Reservations Allowed<br> | 3   | 4<br>Election Day<br>  | 5  | 6<br>6pm - SLYC Board Meeting<br>   | 7<br>No Reservations<br>5:30-8:30pm - General Membership Meeting<br>         | 8<br>3pm - RESERVED 3-10pm<br>Testa                |
| 9<br>No Reservations Allowed  | 10  | 11<br>Veterans Day<br> | 12   | 13  | 14<br>No Reservations<br>6pm - Social Hour  | 15<br>9am - Tentative Reservation<br>Dyer Memorial |
| 16<br>No Reservations Allowed   | 17  | 18  | 19<br>Wet Wednesday -<br>Avila Cup Awards<br> | 20<br>2pm - Friends of Avila Pier   | 21<br>No Reservations<br>6pm - Social Hour  | 22<br>12-5pm - Tentative Reservation<br>Richardson |
| 23<br>No Reservations Allowed   | 24  | 25  | 26   | 27<br>Thanksgiving Day<br>        | 28<br>Bar Closed<br>Black Friday<br>No Reservations<br>                    | 29   |
| 30<br>No Reservations Allowed   | 1   | 2   | 3  | 4<br>6pm - SLYC Board Meeting<br> | 5<br>Decorating Contest/Tree Decorating<br>Potluck<br>No Reservations<br>  | 6  |

# Events Calendar DECEMBER

| Sun                           | Mon | Tue  | Wed   | Thu   | Fri  | Sat                                   |
|-------------------------------|-----|--|---|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| 30<br>No Reservations Allowed | 1   | 2  | 3   | 4<br>6pm - SLYC Board Meeting<br>   | 5<br>Decorating Contest/<br>Tree Decorating/ Potluck<br>No Reservations<br> | 6<br>RESERVED<br>12-8pm - Negri       |
| 7<br>No Reservations Allowed  | 8   | 9  | 10  | 11  | 12<br>No Reservations<br>6pm - Social Hour   | 13                                    |
| 14<br>No Reservations Allowed | 15  | 16   | 17  | 18<br>2pm - Friends of Avila Pier   | 19<br>No Reservations<br>6pm - Social Hour   | 20<br>RESERVED<br>12-7pm - Matakovich |
| 21<br>No Reservations Allowed | 22  | 23<br>Christmas Eve<br> | 24<br>Christmas Day<br> | 25<br>No Reservations<br>6pm - Social Hour<br>7pm - Potluck<br>  | 26   | 27                                    |
| 28<br>No Reservations Allowed | 29  | 30   | 31<br>New Year's Eve<br> | 1<br>Happy New Year<br>New Year's Day<br>10am-2pm - Polar Bear Refreshments<br>12pm - Polar Bear Plunge<br> | 2<br>No Reservations   | 3                                     |



# San Luis Yacht Club

## Officers, Staff, and Committees 2025



### Officers

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|   |  |
|---|--|
| Commodore<br>Bret Clark                                   | 805-704-2608<br><a href="mailto:commodore@slyc.org">commodore@slyc.org</a>             |
| Vice Commodore<br>Pat Mullen<br>(Volunteer: TimeToSignUp) | 805-305-3364<br><a href="mailto:vicecommodore@slyc.org">vicecommodore@slyc.org</a>     |
| Rear Commodore<br>Tom Swem (Facility)                     | 805-544-4422<br><a href="mailto:rearcommodore@slyc.org">rearcommodore@slyc.org</a>     |
| Secretary<br>Kristin Blecha                               | 805-459-5115<br><a href="mailto:secretary@slyc.org">secretary@slyc.org</a>             |
| Treasurer<br>Lily Curtis                                  | 219-299-9087<br><a href="mailto:treasurer@slyc.org">treasurer@slyc.org</a>             |
| Port Captain<br>Carter McGowen (Liaison to the Port)      | 805-550-6072<br><a href="mailto:portcaptain@slyc.org">portcaptain@slyc.org</a>         |
| Sail Fleet<br>JJ Francoise (Racing)                       | 909-561-6746<br><a href="mailto:fleetcaptain@slyc.org">fleetcaptain@slyc.org</a>       |
| Power Fleet Captain<br>Michael Ginn (Chase Boat)          | 805-788-8850<br><a href="mailto:powercaptain@slyc.org">powercaptain@slyc.org</a>       |
| Cruising Captain<br>Kristin Rasmussen                     | 805-471-7127<br><a href="mailto:cruisingcaptain@slyc.org">cruisingcaptain@slyc.org</a> |

### Directors

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|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| 1 - Eddie O'Brian    | 831-620-5742<br><a href="mailto:Director-1@slyc.org">Director-1@slyc.org</a> |
| 2 - Matthew Farmer   | 805-440-4399<br><a href="mailto:Director-2@slyc.org">Director-2@slyc.org</a> |
| 3 - Freeman Tidaback | 805-888-1621<br><a href="mailto:Director-3@slyc.org">Director-3@slyc.org</a> |

### Staff Commodores

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|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Ken San Filippo | 805-704-8625<br><a href="mailto:SStaffCommodore@slyc.org">SStaffCommodore@slyc.org</a> |
| Bob Hurd        | 805-550-9071<br><a href="mailto:IStaffCommodore@slyc.org">IStaffCommodore@slyc.org</a> |

### Staff

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|---|--|
| Bar Manager<br>John Hrdlicka                  | 707-287-7680<br><a href="mailto:johnhrdlicka@hotmail.com">johnhrdlicka@hotmail.com</a> |
| Boatmaster<br>Greg Jackson                    | 916-217-8166<br><a href="mailto:jack2bg@charter.net">jack2bg@charter.net</a>           |
| Burgees<br>Bob Rollins                        | 805-712-7729<br><a href="mailto:brollins@charter.net">brollins@charter.net</a>         |
| Editor (Foghorn)<br>Donna Ellison             | 805-440-9369<br><a href="mailto:foghorn@slyc.org">foghorn@slyc.org</a>                 |
| Historian<br>Pete Kelley                      | 805-595-2526<br><a href="mailto:pedrokelly@gmail.com">pedrokelly@gmail.com</a>         |
| Purser<br>Denise Reynolds                     | 805-748-3064<br><a href="mailto:Dmreynolds987@gmail.com">Dmreynolds987@gmail.com</a>   |
| Quartermaster<br>Jana Barter (Ship's Store)   | 805-550-5013<br><a href="mailto:slomocean123@gmail.com">slomocean123@gmail.com</a>     |
| Sunshine Committee<br>Kathleen O'Neill        | 805-550-5010<br><a href="mailto:koneill555@gmail.com">koneill555@gmail.com</a>         |
| Webmaster (Scuttlebutt)<br>Michael Dobrzensky | 805-801-4988<br><a href="mailto:webmaster@slyc.org">webmaster@slyc.org</a>             |

### Committees

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|   |  |
|---|--|
| Finance—Pat Mullen                      | See "Vice Commodore"   |
| House—Tom Swem                          | See "Rear Commodore"   |
| Membership—Bob Hurd                     | See "Staff Commodores"   |
| Steering—Ken San Filippo                | See "Staff Commodores"   |
| Nominating—Ken San Filippo              | See "Staff Commodores"   |
| Social Directors<br>Chair—Terry Whitney | 805-406-9196<br><a href="mailto:twhitney@ati7.com">twhitney@ati7.com</a>   |
| Co-Chair—Brenda Noakes                  | 805-748-4001<br><a href="mailto:skihut21@yahoo.com">skihut21@yahoo.com</a> |