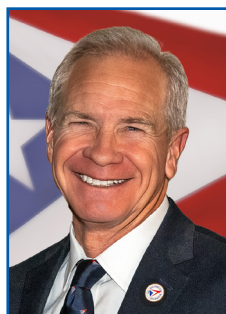


the Foghorn

Newsletter of the San Luis Yacht Club



View From the Bridge

by Pat Mullen,
Commodore

A hoy everyone. I've been enjoying these dog days of summer, and with them, all of the excellent cruising and social activities we've had. Now that its September we'll start transitioning to more fall type activities. But before it cools off, we still have some great activities including our next beach clean-up, two more Avila Cup ocean races, and our socials, potlucks and brunches. Two new September happenings in Avila that you'll want to be aware of are the extension of the Avila Farmer's Markets into mid-October, and the Cal Poly Rodeo Beach "Break-a-Wave" event on the beach, September 25-27th. Google that name for more information on this exciting rodeo type event that will raise funds for Cal Poly scholarships and the Avila Pier.

We are still looking for a few good volunteers for next year's board of directors. It's 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 Hurd** or me know if it's something you might want to consider. And speaking of volunteers, we still need some help for October and November events. Check TTSU and sign up to help a buddy out!

As I write this, Laura and I are packed and heading to Greece. We are sailing 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, through the Corinth Canal and the Gulf of Corinth. See you in a couple of weeks.

Cheers to the best little yacht club on the coast,
—Pat 



Vice Views

by Kristin Rasmussen,
Vice Commodore

A hoy. For years, the San Luis Yacht Club has coordinated an annual weekend trip to Santa Cruz Island—a chance for members to enjoy a couple of days and nights of sailing, exploring, relaxing, and sharing a little adventure.

For me, the trip also brings back a lot of memories. I've been going to Santa Cruz Island since I was about five years old, and I have always been fascinated by its beauty and remarkable history. When I was a child, and our family wanted to visit the island, my dad would contact Dr. Stanton, the island's owner at the time, to get permission for us to go ashore. A lot has changed since those days, but in many wonderful ways, the island itself really hasn't.

Santa Cruz is the largest of California's eight Channel Islands and was once home to the largest population of Chumash people in the islands. Early European explorers recorded several Chumash villages there. In 1602, during Sebastián Vizcaíno's expedition along the California coast, the island was referred to as Isla de Gente Barbuda—"Island of the Bearded People."

The name Santa Cruz, meaning "Holy Cross," comes from a story dating to the Spanish Portolá expedition. According to the account, members of the expedition accidentally left behind a staff topped with an iron cross. Thinking it was lost, they were surprised the following morning when Chumash islanders paddled out in a canoe to return it. In recognition of the gesture, the island became known as La Isla de Santa Cruz—the Island of the Holy Cross.

Another chapter in the island's colorful history came after Mexico gained independence from Spain in 1821. In an effort to increase the Mexican presence in California,

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a group of prisoners was sent to Santa Cruz Island, where they lived for a short time at the place we now know as Prisoners Harbor—a familiar anchorage to many SLYC sailors today.

After California became a state in 1850, Santa Cruz Island changed hands several times, and ranching eventually became its primary business. Sheep dominated the early ranching years, but that changed after Edwin Stanton purchased most of the island in 1937 and shifted the operation toward cattle.

His son, Dr. Carey Stanton—the same Dr. Stanton my dad contacted for permission to go ashore—continued the cattle ranching operation and devoted much of his life to the island. When he died unexpectedly in 1987, his ownership of the island passed to The Nature Conservancy, helping ensure that much of Santa Cruz

would remain protected for generations to come. Dr. Stanton is buried on the island he loved.

Perhaps that is part of what makes our annual SLYC trip so special. When we sail into Prisoners Harbor, go ashore for a hike, or sit aboard our boats watching the sun settle over the rugged hills, we are visiting a place with thousands of years of human history.

I've been fortunate to experience Santa Cruz Island from childhood through today, and it remains one of my favorite places. I hope our SLYC tradition of sailing there continues for many years to come—giving new generations of sailors the opportunity to discover its history, beauty, and unmistakable sense of adventure.

—Kristin 🚢



From the Director

by Eddie O'Brien,
Director 1

Ahoy Members.

Avila Beach Clean Up Day—Round Two!

Following the great success of our first Avila Beach Clean Up Day on July 11th, when 23 volunteers turned out to lend a hand, we're doing it again!

Please join us on Friday, September 4th, from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. for our second Beach Clean Up Day. We'll meet at the clubhouse at 8:00 a.m. to sign in and go over area assignments before heading out to give our beautiful beach a little TLC.

All volunteers will receive one (1) Volunteer Service Credit for participating. It's a great opportunity to earn a service credit, spend some time with fellow members, and do something worthwhile for the community we're fortunate to call home.

So, grab your hat, sunscreen, and a little club spirit, and come join us for a fun and productive morning!

See you on the beach!

—Eddie 🚢

San Luis 🚢 *Yacht Club*



Jr. Staff Commodore Report

by Bret Clark,
Jr. Staff Commodore

Ahoy Members. New Member Spotlight

Hello everyone, here is the third installment of our New Member Spotlight.

Nautically,
Bret Clark 

Tiz Tomalin Darren Howey

Tell us about yourselves.

Fourteen years ago, we moved from Santa Rosa where we had lived for 25 years. Darren, a proud Canadian, came to San Luis Obispo to open and manage the Fitness Center at the San Luis Obispo Country Club, while Tiz, originally from England, continued her career in dentistry, also volunteering with the Tolosa children's dental clinic for the some fundraising events. We love being out in the fresh air staying active. Tiz grew up on the south coast of England in a coastal community, where sailing and sailing clubs were a way of life. Becoming a member of the SLYC has brought back many wonderful memories.

What has been your favorite experience so far?

Our first opportunity to volunteer was the annual Clean-Up Day. With cheerful direction from a few familiar faces, we were quickly put to work, Darren outside helping remove the awnings, and Tiz tucked away in the office organizing and cleaning. Everyone pitched in with enthusiasm as we all prepared the clubhouse for Opening Day. On Opening Day the club sparkled and shone...

One of the highlights of our season was a wonderful day sailing in Santa Barbara with **Patrick Corrigan**. Our fellow crew members all had a fantastic time, taking turns at the helm, trimming the sails, and enjoying the camaraderie that makes a day on the water so memorable. After returning ashore, we joined the dock party graciously hosted by **Marty** and **Lettie Fuller** and **Darrel** and **Linda Rundstrom**. It was the perfect way to end a great day—sharing stories, laughter, and getting to know fellow members better.

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

After attending a committee meeting, we gained a real appreciation for everything that happens behind the scenes to keep the club thriving. Seeing the time, thought, and dedication of the Board of Directors, Staff, Committee members, and volunteers gave us an even greater respect for the effort required to make SLYC run so smoothly and successfully. It reinforced our desire to contribute wherever we can and be an active part of the club's continued success.

What activities are we looking forward to doing?

Looking ahead, we are excited to support the remaining race days, perhaps by joining a shore side cheering crew, and to experience a Wet Wednesday. On my next trip to the UK, I hope to exchange a SLYC burgee with the burgee from my hometown sailing club—and spread a little Central Coast sailing spirit across the Atlantic. Darren has thoroughly enjoyed his bartending duties, and I look forward to hosting again and volunteering wherever needed to help make club events enjoyable and successful. We are eager to continue giving back to the club that has made us feel so welcome.



Continued on page 4

Chad and Jenny Pfarr

Tell us about yourselves.

We are Chad and Jenny. We love all things ocean. Our favorite times are spent anywhere near the sea and especially when onboard our sailboat “Windswept.” We were both raised in AG and have grown up locals. We also raised our three sons on our family’s ranch out in Huasna and they’re all still local with our oldest currently planning his wedding for next July.

What has been your favorite SLYC experience so far?

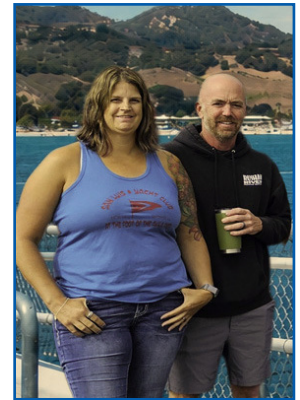
We’ve had many great experiences at the club so far. Bartending at a Friday night social, helping on the race committee and socializing with new and established friends!

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

We didn’t know quite how long the club has been around or that it was used by the Navy during WWII as an observation post!

What activities are you looking forward to doing?

We are looking forward to more bartending shifts, socializing and obviously sailing.



From the Director

by Marcia Scott,
Director 3 and Social Chair

10am–12:00pm and tickets will be available to purchase in September on the SLYC Members page under UPCOMING PREPAID EVENTS. Please ask me if you do not remember the password or how to get on the Members page.

On the sailing front, **Grant Elwood** and I are getting “Encore” ready for a three-day, two-night sail to Santa Cruz Island off of Santa Barbara with two other boats from the club, and I’m really looking forward to a few days of sailing, exploring, and enjoying time together on the water. More on our island adventure next month!

On a personal note, I recently traveled to Wisconsin to celebrate my sister and brother-in-law’s 50th wedding anniversary. The highlight was a beautiful St. Croix River cruise with family members and friends gathered to celebrate this special milestone. I also had the chance to reconnect with four of my best friends from high school and a college roommate, which made the trip even more special. It was a wonderful visit filled with family, longtime friendships, laughter, and lots of reminiscing!

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 🚢



A hoy. Our Sunday Brunch on August 16 was a sunny and wonderful success! A very special thank you to new member **Dan Harper**, who jumped in as Chief Cook and created an amazing brunch for everyone to enjoy. Many thanks as well to our terrific kitchen and bar crew—**Pat Cusack**, **Lily** and **Jason Curtis**, **Grant Elwood**, **Steve DeRose**, and **Mark Plassard**, and our social committee **Mika Richardson**, **Cindy Luxton**, and **Lily Curtis** (and me) for decorating, pitching in wherever needed, and helping everything run smoothly. It truly takes a great team to make these events happen, and I appreciate everyone who helped make the morning such a success.

Our next brunch is scheduled for Sunday, October 18 from



Fleet News

by J.J. Francoise,
Sail Fleet Captain

Ahoy Sailors.

Avila Cup Update: Four Down, Two to Go

Three boats toed the line for the season opener on May 3: “Fear Knot”, Roger Briggs’ “Second Wind”, and Phil Borgardt’s “Renaissance”. “Fear Knot” took all three races of the day cleanly. The real battle was for 2nd, with “Second Wind” and “Renaissance” trading places race to race—“Renaissance” edged Race 1, but “Second Wind” answered by taking 2nd in both Race 2 and Race 3 to secure the runner-up spot for the day.

The same three boats returned on June 7, but it was a tougher day for “Renaissance”, which posted DNFs in both Race 1 and Race 3, salvaging only a 3rd in Race 2. “Fear Knot” and “Second Wind”, meanwhile, made it look routine—1st and 2nd in all three races, no drama, no changes at the top.

July brought a shake-up: “Fat Cat” (Rundstrom, Catalina 38)

and “Feral” (Jim Haselman, Marie Holm 26) joined the fleet for the first time this season. “Fear Knot” kept its streak alive with another sweep, but the real story was “Fat Cat” coming out of nowhere to post two 2nd-place finishes in its debut—enough to leapfrog straight into 4th overall in the season standings. “Feral” had a quieter start, DNF’ing Race 1 before rallying to 3rd in Race 2. “Second Wind” had a slightly off day by its own standards, taking 3rd and 4th, while “Renaissance” didn’t start either race (DNC), a costly day given the tightening pack behind it.

August 2 only sharpened that storyline. “Fear Knot” swept all three races yet again, an undefeated run now stretching back to opening day. “Second Wind” had one of its steadier days of the season—2nd, 2nd, and 3rd—to stay comfortably in 2nd overall. “Fat Cat” continued its climb, improving race to race (4th, 3rd, 2nd) and pulling level on points with “Renaissance” for 3rd in the standings. “Renaissance”, though, didn’t start any of the three races, and that DNC day is exactly what let “Fat Cat” draw even after trailing by three race days’ worth of results. “Feral” had a mixed outing—3rd and 4th before a DNF closed out the day—but the young campaign is still finding its footing.

Here’s where the season standings sit through eleven races. “Fear Knot” leads with 11.0 points, undefeated with a 1st in every race sailed. “Second Wind” sits a comfortable 2nd with 27.0 points, having built a consistent podium presence all season. Fat Cat and Renaissance are now tied for 3rd at 49.0 points apiece, with Fat Cat holding the edge on tiebreak—“Fat Cat” arrived late in July but has climbed steadily since, while Renaissance’s strong early season has been undercut by three DNCs. “Feral” rounds out the fleet in 5th with 56.0 points, also a July debut, turning in steady, consistent results since.

With two race days left, Fear Knot’s streak is the story that isn’t going anywhere fast, but the battle for 2nd through 5th is as tight as it’s been all season. “Renaissance” and “Fat Cat” now sit dead even on points, and whether “Renaissance” can get back on the starting line—or “Fat Cat” can keep its momentum going—will likely decide who finishes 3rd for the year. With “Feral” still finding consistency and “Second Wind” quietly banking a strong overall season, the final two race days should settle a lot of open questions.

See you on the water,

—J.J.

Photos by Michael Dobrzensky



Why Race?

Why Race?

by Roger Briggs

If you attended either of my Wet Wednesday presentations on racing, you know I encourage racing as a means to become a better sailor and therefore a safer sailor. Here are a couple of famous sailors' thoughts on racing, including racing so-called cruising boats.

Bob Perry is one of the world's greatest and most prolific boat designers. He has designed over 140 boats, and many thousands of them are sailing and cruising around the entire globe. While he primarily designs cruising boats, he always seeks to employ great sailing characteristics—boats that perform well. Here's what he said just this month about racing.

"I get a kick out of people racing my cruising boats. I know I piss a few people off when I say this but I truly believe you'll never get the most out of your boat unless you race it. Doesn't have to be every weekend. Just once in a while will do. Even just a two-boat casual race to the next buoy would help you learn your boat. Getting the most out of your boat is good seamanship."

Lin and Larry Pardey sailed around the world numerous times. The Pardeys sailed over 200,000 miles together, circumnavigating the world both east-about and west-about, and have published numerous books on sailing. The boats they sailed during these circumnavigations were engine-free. Larry died in 2020 but Lin is still voyaging at age 82. Here are Lin's recent thoughts on "racing their home."

"Over the ensuing years, Larry and I pulled our anchor or untied our mooring lines to join regattas in 15 different countries. In each case, we met local people who quickly became friends. We also practice important aspects of sailing that contributed to our enjoyment of cruising: working as a more coordinated team, becoming more comfortable maneuvering in tight quarters as we pushed to near the lead at a starting line, being pushed slightly into my zone of discomfort, finding new tricks that helped us sail more efficiently, testing gear harder than we might otherwise have. It was all good preparation for crossing our next oceans.

As tough as some days felt out on a racecourse, what I relished most was the satisfied feeling of sailing back into a marina birth, stowing the sails and sorting out any mess down below while Larry found the nearest water faucet. Moments later, after he'd washed all the salt spray off the boat, we'd head up to join the gathering ashore, knowing we'd had a great day out on the water and we're now safely home and hosed."



Cruising News

by Mike Davis,
Cruising Captain

water, and smash burgers on the menu, the group has plenty to anticipate. Here's hoping for fair weather, calm seas, and a weekend full of good stories for the next issue of The Foghorn.

Newport, Rhode Island Adventure Ahead

In about four weeks, nine of us are planning to visit the 2026 Newport International Boat Show in Newport, Rhode Island. The show is scheduled for September 17–20, 2026, and is one of the Northeast's standout boating events, spread across more than 17 acres of interconnected waterfront sites in historic downtown Newport.

After the boat show, the trip will continue with a birthday celebration and a full New England itinerary: touring the Newport Mansions, enjoying a sunset cruise, visiting Martha's Vineyard, exploring Bristol, and taking in more of the Newport area. With boats, history, harbor views, island scenery, and good company on the agenda, this promises to be a memorable fall getaway.

Winery Cruise to Rasmussen Vineyards

SLYC members are invited to Rasmussen Vineyards and Winery on Saturday, October 10th, from Noon to 4:00 pm. Come and see how a small family winery works, tour through the vineyard and learn about the vines, taste a few of the handcrafted small-batch wines, or just sit and enjoy the outdoors. We are planning to barbecue something tasty, enjoy some snacks, and you are welcome to bring anything you like.

We would like to get an estimated head count for food, so please RSVP the Cruising Captain **Mike Davis** at cruisingcaptain@slc.org.

Fair winds and following seas,

—Mike 

A hoy Sailors, 16th Annual Zongo Cup Wrap-Up

The 16th Annual Zongo Cup, held on August 15, was a success, with 18 boats participating in this year's race from Morro Bay to Port San Luis. The event once again brought together sailors, crews, and supporters for a spirited run down the Central Coast. Trophy categories included Monohull PHRF, Multihull, Cruising Class, and Scalawag. For the complete racing results, visit zongocup.com.

Channel Islands Bound This Weekend

As of this writing, its 3am aboard "Amigos" and we are leaving for the Channel Islands sailing in the morning, and the crew is looking forward to another memorable adventure across the channel. The Channel Islands are known for their rugged coastline, marine environment, wildlife, and sense of remote island escape, making them a fitting destination for a late-summer boating getaway.

Three boats—"Amigos", "Encore" and "Sans-Souci", are expected to be part of the adventure, carrying a total of 13 people for the weekend. With good company, island scenery, time on the



Port Report

by Ray Mattison,
Port Captain

Hi folks.

The Proposed Blue Ocean Water Desalination Project

Preliminary plans are underway to support a future offshore floating desalination Unit, an OS-15, which will pump 100,000+ acre feet of water per day to Avila pier. The pure water is demineralized in three 23' high hexagonal tanklike structures on the wide end of the pier and then delivered to users. An acre foot is 325,000 gallons, the amount needed to cover an acre of land 1 foot deep.

The Blue Ocean Water Project was represented at the Harbor Commission Meeting by Bradley Hagemann, the general manager of Avila Beach CSD. The head of the project, Michael Kelly of

Dolphin Labs, had a last minute problem, so he drafted Mr. Hagemann to serve. He gave a detailed presentation of the overall features of the project; although, he was not briefed on some details of the changes to the pier. A similar but much larger system was installed by Dolphin Labs in San Diego. Our proposed device is almost complete in New Zealand. It appears as a buoy but 29' of the machine is underwater, 4' above water.

Of course there are many steps that must be taken to get beyond the Harbor Commission. They will have to disclose plans and details that will give us what we need to know. The system runs 24 hours a day and must be segregated from the public. Coincidentally PSL is currently deciding how to spend the money they do have to continue repairs.

There was nothing new on the proposed \$3M grant offered to the District to assess Avila as a support port for offshore wind farms. The Commissioners have gone to great lengths to hear from the public and interest groups. It is unclear when the issue will come up for a vote.

Staff continues to meet and work with Cal Poly on the 6th Annual Break-a-Wave Rodeo which takes place September 25-26, 2026, at its new home in Avila Beach. We have allowed them to meet at the club and will help PSL as needed.

See you all next month!

—Ray 

SLYC Member Travel Log

On a recent trip to Japan, Angela and I (Ken Brokaw) were on a cruise ship departing Tokyo Bay when off in the distance there appeared to be a large sailboat that was close to our departure path. As we got closer, I was able to take this picture. It turned out that the "sails" are a cleverly disguised air-vent for the underground highway tunnel called the Aqua-line that stretches for 14 miles under Tokyo Bay.

-SLYC Member Ken Brokaw



Events Calendar SEPTEMBER 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 No Reservations Allowed	31	1	2 RESERVED 3:30pm - Reynolds	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	16 Wet Wednesday 	17 Newport Isl Boat Show RESERVED 2pm - Karl Blum Fundraiser  	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 - Pottluck 	26 RESERVED 10am - Pfarr
27 No Reservations Allowed	28	29	30	1 6pm - Board Meeting in Clubhouse	2 No Reservations 6pm - Friday Social Hour	3 RESERVED 2pm - FOAP

Events Calendar OCTOBER 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 No Reservations Allowed	28	29	30	1 6pm - Board Meeting in Clubhouse 	2 No Reservations 6pm - Friday Social Hour	3 2pm - FOAP Reservation
4 No Reservations Allowed Ocean Race #6 and final race   	5	6	7 Absentee Ballot Requests Due	8 RESERVED 5pm - Whitney	9 No Reservations 6pm - Friday Social Hour	10 Winery Cruise to Rasmussen Vineyards RESERVED 10am - Whitney
11 No Reservations Allowed	12 Columbus Day	13	14	15 2pm - Friends of Avila Pier	16 No Reservations 6pm - Friday Social Hour	17 RESERVED 11am - Davis
18 No Reservations Allowed Davis Reservation 10am - Brunch 	19	20	21 Wet Wednesday 	22	23 Absentee Ballots Due No Reservations 6pm - Friday Social Hour	24 Halloween Dinner & Dance RESERVED 2pm - Mattison 
25 No Reservations Allowed	26	27	28	29	30 No Reservations 6pm - Friday Social Hour 7pm - Pottluck 	31 Halloween 

Bar Host/OD Schedule

September 2026

4 Friday Social

—Bret Clark, OD
Bar Hosts: Gary Joralemon
Cindy Luxton
Food Help/Clean-up: Eoin Duffy
Dan Harper

11 Friday Social

—J.J. Francoise, OD
Bar Hosts: Karen Hiatt
Amber Tierney
Food Host/Clean-up: Mary Bucher
OPEN (1)

16 Wet Wednesday

—TBD, OD
Bar Hosts: OPEN (1)
Chief Cook: OPEN (1)
Cook Crew: Freeman Tidaback



18 Friday Social

—Bob Hurd, OD
Bar Hosts: Cindy and Jason Vormbaum
OPEN (1)
Food Host/Clean-up: Dan Harper
OPEN (1)

25 Friday Social/Potluck

—David Butcher, OD
Bar Hosts: Shawn Harper
Dan Harper
Kitchen Crew/Clean-up: Tom and Ruth Donnelly
Dennis Law



October 2026

2 Friday Social

—Carter McGowen, OD
Bar Hosts: OPEN (2)
Food Host/Clean-up: Linda and Bill Thoma
Makenzie Blodgett

9 Friday Social

—Bret Clark, OD
Bar Hosts: OPEN (2)
Food Host/Clean-up: OPEN (2)

16 Friday Social

—David Butcher, OD
Bar Hosts: OPEN (2)
Food Host/Clean-up: OPEN (2)

18 Sunday Brunch

—Kyle Soucy, OD
Bar Hosts: Cindy Luxton
Darren Howey
Chief Cook: OPEN (1)
Assist. Cook: OPEN (1)
Cook Crew/Clean-up: Ken Brokaw
OPEN (2)



21 Wet Wednesday

—Mike Davis, OD
Bar Hosts: Judith Bellis
Mary Witkowski
Chief Cook: Scott and Karen Negri
Cook Crew/Clean-up: Eileen and Paul Sverchek



23 Friday Social

—Bret Clark, OD
Bar Hosts: OPEN (2)
Food Host/Clean-up: Neil Tardiff
OPEN (1)

30 Friday Social/Potluck

—Kristin Rasmussen, OD
Bar Hosts: OPEN (2)
Food Host/Clean-up: OPEN (2)





San Luis Yacht Club

Officers, Staff, and Committees 2026



Officers

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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”



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