By the time this is published most of our yacht clubs would have already celebrated opening day. The City of Long Beach is fortunate to have a boating community that annually participates in this worldwide yachting tradition, marking the first day of the season.

In my short time, I’ve been privileged to be included in these ceremonies. As I was thinking about all the similarities and differences in the traditions at each club in Long Beach, I became curious about when yachting/sailing clubs were established.

Amateur detective work, i.e., Google, revealed that the nation’s oldest club, Detroit Boat Club was established in 1839. California’s oldest club, Santa Barbara Yacht Club was established in 1872. Long Beach Marina based clubs by this standard are young clubs, Alamitos Bay Yacht Club (1924), Long Beach Yacht Club (1929), Seal Beach Yacht Club (1961), Navy Yacht Club (1967) and Shoreline Yacht Club (1983).

I’d just like to say that the best part of these clubs, in my opinion, is the investment of time and money made by members for community service projects such as the various charity regattas, junior programs, and scholarships. It is a joy during the summer months, to watch youth learn to maneuver sabots outside my window.

As you celebrate the beginning of this boating season, take a moment to celebrate your contributions to these wonderful programs. On behalf of myself and Marine Bureau staff we applaud all of you for your efforts!

I’d like to thank all of you who took the time to “Share the Love” during the month of February, your cards, letters, emails, phone calls, and gestures of appreciation are greatly valued. We are working towards improving processes and reviewing policies towards the betterment of the marinas. Next month, I hope to share a list of completed and/or in process improvements to each of the marinas. As always, your feedback is important to us.

To commemorate opening season, I’d like to share a quote from John F. Kennedy – “All of us have in our veins the exact same percentage of salt in our blood that exists in the ocean, and, therefore, we have salt in our blood, in our sweat, in our tears. We are tied to the ocean. And when we go back to the sea whether it is to sail or to watch it we are going back from whence we came.”

Best Wishes,
Elvira
Manager, Marine Bureau
Department of Parks, Recreation & Marine
City of Long Beach

GRAND PRIX Reminder

Along with the noise and excitement of the Grand Prix also comes inconvenience. We apologize in advance and appreciate everyone’s cooperation. Please refer to your March Marina Reader or check the notices posted on the gangways for a complete list of street closures and ingress and egress details.

NO GUEST PASSES of any kind will be issued. Only Long Beach Shoreline Marina parking passes, with the “16” decal, will be honored during the event. If you have friends coming to visit, you need to make plans to bring them into the marina with you or they must walk down. Shoreline Village will be closed from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. to anyone without Grand Prix tickets.

Parking is difficult at best and very impacted during this event, so, the best suggestion is to plan ahead. Again, we appreciate everyone’s cooperation during this time. If you have any questions or concerns you may contact Kimarie Vestre at (562) 570-3236.
Upcoming EVENTS

BOATING SKILLS & SEAMANSHIP CLASS
March 31, 2016, For information:

CONGRESSIONAL CUP
April 5-10, 2016 For information: lbyc.org

FORMULA E-SERIES
Electric Car Races
April 1-2, 2016 For Information: fiaformulae.com

FORMULA D SERIES
Drift Racing
April 8-9, 2016 For information: formulad.com

LONG BEACH GRAND PRIX
April 15-17, 2016 For information: www.gplb.com

BOATING BASICS CLASS
April 30th, For information:
Mike Bozarth: BozUSCGA@gmail.com

BOA MEETING
May 10, 2016

LONG BEACH PRIDE FESTIVAL
May 21-22, 2016 For information: longbeachpride.com

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TIDE CHART
April - 2016

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APRIL 2016
Published monthly by the Marine Bureau of the City of Long Beach Department of Parks, Recreation & Marine
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205 Marina Drive, Long Beach CA 90803
www.longbeach.gov/park/marine
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IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS
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Non Emergency (562) 435-6711
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Alamitos Bay Office (562) 570-3215
Rainbow Harbor Office (562) 570-8636
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You may not have heard of them, but the Panthers at Sea are on a mission. The annual event will be held on May 7, 2016. This is an amazing opportunity and for many students it will be their first time seeing the sea and being on a boat, with an opportunity to sail.

The Panthers at Sea began in 1998 by science teacher David Braunstein with 45 students from Jordan High School. He wanted to share his passion for sailing with his students and the program has since expanded to nearly 100 students.

Along with a representative from the Long Beach School District, small groups of students are assigned to a private sailing yacht after safety training and requirements are met.

Volunteer skippers share their home waters with the students along with their experience and wisdom on sailing.

The program has been credited by the faculty of Jordan in “setting a new course” for many students. Student are not only exposed to the lifestyle and skills of training, but are introduced to numerous educational outlets through sailing and first hand applications.

Co-chair of the Panthers at Sea, James Townes, said that being in the water broadens students to the sea and gets them interested in science, technologies, engineering and math. Townes also intends on reaching the ultimate goal of expanding the Panther at Sea to Students at Sea, encompassing interested Long Beach Unified High School students who wish to set sail on a path in the water.

The adopt-a-student program is available for 20 dollars. Sponsoring a student will cover their lunch and a tee shirt on the day of the event. In addition, volunteers skippers and always welcome and very much appreciated.

To adopt a student, volunteer your services, or for more information on the Panthers at Sea program and the Jordan High School Summer Sailing Camp email or call James Townes at j.townes@veizon.net or (562) 951-5810.
CONGRESSIONAL CUP - 2016

Ted Turner, Ed Baird, and Dennis Conner. These world class sailors will tell you the Congressional Cup is pure match racing – a true test of sailing ability. They are three out of a long list of top sailors who have traveled to Long Beach to compete in what has been called the Grandfather of Modern Match Racing.

Pure match racing means boats are precisely uniform, which creates an opportunity to truly measure sailing strategy and skills. In this regatta there is no margin for error: It’s like a chess game on the water, and year after year the Congressional Cup delivers excitement.

In May, the Congressional Cup returns to Long Beach Yacht Club, and 2016 marks its 52nd year of hosting the premier match race in sailing. World-renowned skippers will travel from New Zealand, England, and beyond to come and battle it out on the waters off Long Beach. Come enjoy the boats, the teams, the history and the excitement form our free viewing area at the Veterans Memorial Belmont Pier.

CONGRESSIONAL CUP HISTORY:

Fifty years is a long time for an all-volunteer regatta of the caliber of Congressional Cup. Particularly impressive is that it has become a prestigious annual event regarded around the world as the “grandfather of modern match racing.”

The Long Beach Yacht Club’s 1,000 members look back with admiration and respect for those officers, directors, committee chairs and volunteers who made LBYC - and the Congressional Cup regatta - grow and prosper over the years. In 1963, the goal of the Club’s Congressional Cup founders was to create an annual, world-scale regatta that would run over a short course with intense action, be spectator-friendly and, most importantly, offer a competition that would be a true test of skill by using equal and identical boats.

The Deed of Gift which was established for the purpose of encouraging yacht racing in the United States with the desire to promote the highest standards of excellence in the design of ocean racing yachts, and in the recognition of the skill and high performance of those men who sail them was drafted by then-R/C William Dalessi, and the text was personally typed on the parchment by Congressman Craig Hosmer. The deed, signed by Congressman Hosmer, Senator Thomas Kuchel and then-Commodore Richard Brookins, was presented to the Club in 1964 by Congressman Hosmer. The first regatta was held in 1965.

Early Congressional Cup regattas were raced in privately owned Cal-40s. These were followed for a short period by Columbia-50s, Ericson-39s and Catalina-38s. In 1990 Catalina Yachts provided 11 identical Catalina-37s specifically designed for match racing.

Through the years, Congressional Cup has attracted an increasingly impressive following of internationally renowned skippers and crews. The first international competitors were from Canada in 1969. Since then, skippers and crews from around the world — including many America’s Cup participants — have sought an invitation to the regatta.

In 1974, LBYC’s match race concept was taken to Europe and introduced to British and European waters by the Royal Lymington Yacht Club. In 1983-84, the International Yacht Racing Union (now International Sailing Federation, ISAF) recognized Congressional Cup as a premier event. In 1985, the World Match Race Conference was created at LBYC with Staff Commodore Tom Shadden as founding president. Other match race cups based on the LBYC concept then followed with New York, New Zealand, Australia, France, England and Bermuda in the lead. A significant improvement was initiated in 1987-1988. Match racing was great, but protests simply were taking too long. There was need for instant-penalty decisions that could add to the challenge and excitement of the event. Led by Chief Umpire Tom Ehman and a group of club race officials, LBYC invited a blue-ribbon group of rules experts and sailors to the 1988 event; they served as the first umpire team at a major world-level match race. The plan was a success and umpiring is now standard at every match race in the world. National and international umpire certification ensures that sailors receive consistent calls at every event.

Because of the skill required of skippers and crews in racing identical yachts under the current match race concept, skippers are ranked by their history of races and wins. Only the highest ranked or most promising are invited to participate in Congressional Cup. Accordingly, the level of competition produces a roster of world-class skippers, crews and umpires that reads like a Who’s Who of Yachting. “Now in its Fifty-Second year, Congressional Cup is joining the World Match Race Tour as the opening event for 2016.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

Tuesday – April 5, 2016
Team Practice Day and Media Day - Belmont Veterans Memorial Pier

Wednesday – April 6, 2016
First day of racing begins at 12:00 - Belmont Veterans Memorial Pier
Press conference following racing

Thursday – April 7, 2016
Second day of racing begins at 12:00 - Belmont Veterans Memorial Pier
Press conference following racing

Friday – April 8, 2016
"BE A BETTER Boater"

"BOATING SKILLS AND SEAMANSHIP" CLASS
Thursday, March 31st, 2016 • 7:00PM-9:00PM

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is offering this comprehensive course for experienced and novice boaters providing the most up-to-date knowledge for handling boats under all conditions. Topics to be covered include: boating nomenclature, navigation rules, equipment for your boat, boating safety, engine maintenance and more.

The class is open to everyone and will be held at Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church, 11600 Los Alamitos Blvd., Los Alamitos, 90720. The cost of the class is $40 which includes a textbook. Reserve your seat now!

A certificate will be presented to students who pass a short test at the conclusion of the class. Many insurance companies give discounts to those who successfully finish the class.

To sign up for class, you may respond by email to: saltydoug77@gmail.com or visit: http://goo.gl/forms/PJIL16SnZe to register.

"BOATING BASICS" CLASS
Saturday, April 30th, 2016 • 8:30AM - 5:30PM

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is offering “About Boating Safely,” a one-day class on Saturday, April 30 at the VA Long Beach Healthcare System, in Long Beach.

The class, open to everyone, covers a variety of boating topics. Knowing how to confidently skipper your vessel will help to keep your friends and family safe and make your time on the water more pleasurable.

The class is free but the textbook costs $30. It takes place from 8:30a.m.-5:30p.m. at VA Long Beach Healthcare System, 5901 E. 7th Street, Building 165, Learning Center, Room C209A, Long Beach, 90822. Enter off 7th Street, building 165 is just to the right of the main tower.

Many insurance companies give discounts to those who successfully finish the class. A certification will be presented to students who pass the short test following the class.

For further information contact instructor Michael Bozarth at BozUSCGA@gmail.com or register on-line at http://goo.gl/forms/HBBok9MAaG

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ANNUAL LONG BEACH MARINA
BOAT OWNER’S ASSOCIATION
GENERAL MEETING

The Long Beach Marina Boat Owners Association will hold its General Membership Meeting at 6PM on Tuesday May 10, 2016 at the Long Beach Yacht Club, 6201 Appian Way, Long Beach.

Speaking at the event will be Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station Commanding Officer, Captain Tripp Hardy; Manager of Long Beach Marinas & Beaches, Elvira Hallinan; and a representative from the Long Beach Marine Patrol.

Advance reservations are required, and may be made by emailing Sharon Eshett at sharon.eshett@lbmboa.org or by calling (562) 431-6130 and leaving your name, telephone number, LBMBOA membership number (if known), and number of members and guests attending.

There is no cost to current members of the Long Beach Marina Boat Owners Association; non-members may join at the door by paying the $20 annual membership fee. Light snacks, coffee, tea, and water will be served; other beverages will be available at a no-host bar.

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