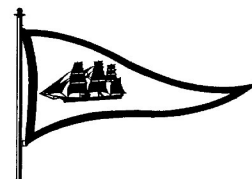


# Three Sheets in the Wind



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE LITTLE SHIPS FLEET YACHT CLUB  
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## Commodore's Report



Hello everyone, I just returned from sailing on the Hudson River in NJ / NY. I joined a close friend of mine on his boat "Fandango", for a beautiful day of sailing in the shadow of NYC and the Statue of Liberty. Sunny day with the temp in the 80's and a good 18 Knot breeze. Photos were taken from a professional photography, a pal of the boat owner; who does media photography for events in the NJ / NYC area. Pete, the boat owner, learned to sail with me many, many years ago. As kids, we raced each other in Moths, 470's, Flying Scotts, P-Cats and Sunfish. Pete's new boat is a 53 foot sloop, that he recently sailed to Bermuda to watch America's Cup Races.



As the leaves turn color during the Fall, this is a good time to announce that LSFYC will be holding elections for new (or returning) Board and Flag Officers. Just like any good baseball team, the "Bull Pen" of talented individuals is critical to winning. Over the past 4-5 years, our "Bull Pen" has dwindled down to only a handful of dedicated members. We very much do need people to fill in Flag Officer Roles for 2018 and beyond. The sad truth is that without new people filling in.....LSFYC will not be able to operate as a full fledge yacht club. We may have no choice but to steer a new course, "restrictive operations" ; whereby some of the LSFYC events maybe be canceled. Please let me know (via the LSFYC website) if you want to be a part of the LSFYC Flag Officers for 2018.

At the Sept 15<sup>th</sup> Membership Dinner Meeting, Mr. Steve Avery gave an account of sailing the *TransPac* this year. He talked about the boat, formation of his crew, preparation prior to making the race, many sources of experienced racers who helped his team, daily life on the boat, some serious pitfalls that occurred to other competitors in this race and others in the past, once in Hawaii – parties and his reception supporters, gave good advice to anyone thinking about doing the next race or other long blue water races that go one for more than two weeks.

The LSFYC Election Meeting is scheduled for **November 17th** at **Mimi's Café** in Long Beach. Don't miss this important meeting.



## Fleet Captain Report

By Geoff Vanden Heuvel



### NYCLB All Hands Race...

Saturday September 23 was the **All Hands on Deck** Race sponsored by the *Navy Yacht Club of Long Beach*. It was a beautiful day with moderate temperatures, sunshine and a nice, steady breeze. 13 boats (see photos below) came out to race in this the last race of the Long Beach Harbor Series. *Shadowfax*, a J109 edged out fellow J109 boat *Raptor* to win the **A** fleet race by 15 seconds on an 11.4 mile race. *Syndicate*, skippered by our very own **David Haas** took 1<sup>st</sup> in the **B** fleet. *Skalywag* took the **Non-Spin** trophy home.

This was the concluding race of the 2017 *Long Beach Harbor Series*. As you may recall, the Harbor Series is six Saturday races, spaced out at a rate of one per month from April to September. The three sponsoring clubs, *Little Ships Fleet Yacht Club*, *Navy Yacht Club of Long Beach* and *Shoreline Yacht Club* each host two races.

The series is scored by a low point system with the two worst scores being thrown out. This year presented some challenges in actually scoring the series. The July race for the A and B fleets included a mark that could not be accessed because of an outrigger competition occurring near the Belmont Pier where mark 34 is located. So it was decided that the July race would not be scored in the Harbor Series. In addition, no B fleet boats showed up for the August race, so essentially that was not scored either in the B fleet.

Taking all that into consideration, Harbor Series overall 1<sup>st</sup> place in the A fleet was awarded to Bob Hubbard skipper of *Dos Amigos Dos*. The B fleet 1<sup>st</sup> place trophy was awarded to our very own **David Haas** skipper of *Syndicate*. The Non-spin winner was easier to calculate and Steve Anderson of the Catalina 30 *Skalywag* took the 1<sup>st</sup> place trophy.

Navy YC put on their usual great after-race party with drinks and tacos and good cheer. In terms of fun and camaraderie among the participants, it was a good year. If you have any ideas on how the series might be improved in the future please let me know (via the LSFYC website).

There are a couple of additional opportunities in October to get out and race. Navy Yacht Club has their *Navy Day Regatta* on October 14. This will be two races, a short sprint race to start followed by a more traditional race. For more information <http://www.nyclb.com/racing/NAVY%20DAY%20REGATTA%202017.pdf>

October 28 is also the date of the *Long Beach Charity Regatta*. This too should be a lot of fun. Contact *Alamitos Bay Yacht Club* for more information.

There is still a lot of good sailing weather ahead. We will see you out on the water!



***Three Sheets in the Wind***





## Member News

*By Moti Cohen-Doron*

### LSFYC Fun Cruise...

We had our LSFYC Fun Cruise & Picnic Day on August 26, 2017. Starting at Navy Yacht Club, on board **Debra Terrell's** Cat 27 and my 18' Boston Whaler, members and guests (pictured below were: Comm **Rob Sonz**, SC **Nate Tucker**, SC **Pax Starksen**, **Dick Martin**) enjoyed a stress free and relaxing cruise around Alamitos Bay with snacks and refreshments. We ended up at Navy YC for a great picnic with lots of food (prepared by Debra and my wife **Jill**) and lots of fun too! Looking forward to seeing you all join us next year!



Members cruise the bay



After cruise snacks at the NYC clubhouse



## News & Views

By S/C Frank Franco



### Frank and Lara in Italy...

We usually vacation in Europe during Spring and Fall and this year was no different.

The destination this September was a return trip to Italy...the countryside of Umbria and then a revisit to the amazing Venice.

After blasting off from LAX, connecting in Amsterdam (thru EU customs) then on to Florence where we picked up the rental car and spent the night. The next day's task was the 2 hour drive to the timeshare exchange outside of the hill top town of Assisi. Armed with my trusty GPS (a mandatory item while driving in Europe), we meandered our way through the well marked 2 lane highways and winding picturesque country roads. The weather was perfect with some cloudiness.

Just about all cars on the road are subcompact...diesel fueled of course. However, this does not mean that they are slow moving. It was not unusual for me while driving in the fast lane at 60+ mph to be flashed from behind by a speeder wanting to pass, then surprised, after pulling over to the slow lane, to see a little Fiat 500 rocketing by at 75+ mph. However, the roads (at certain locations) are strictly controlled via electronic speed monitoring stations that will record license plates resulting in any subsequent fines. Fortunately, the GPS sensed these locations and emitted a warning sound.

The countryside of Tuscany and Umbria is home of many 12th century hill top towns (the wine soaked villages of Italy's heartland) including Siena, Volterra, San Gimignano, Montecino, Montepulciano, Cortona, Orvieto, Assisi and many more. With a Rick Steves guidebook in hand it was our aim to visit as many as possible during our 6 day stay in the area.

Arriving at the timeshare apartment about 1:00 left us time to scout out the area for possible restaurants and markets. There was a restaurant up

the road that contained a bar and mini-mart for supplies and necessities. The food turned out to be superb and this was also to be a popular spot for the local residents as well.

With the week's itinerary planned and all of the desired towns to visited loaded into the GPS, the next morning with full stomachs and happy hearts we drove off down the road to the first town on the list...Gubbio where ruins of a Roman amphitheatre and further excavation of Roman habitation is ongoing. The typical layout of these hill top towns include the ancient walls surrounding the city, Roman era ruins, several art filled and ornate churches and at least one spectacular basilica (duomo), many busy piazzas (plazas), open air markets, narrow streets, charming/colorful cottages and homes of the current residents...and of course many tourists with the requisite souvenir stands and restaurants to feed them.

The daily drives were most enjoyable as the pastoral scenery was spectacular...vineyards and olive groves, red tiled roofed farmhouses and lush vegetation basking under the Umbrian sun. If not heaven on earth, then pretty darn close.

We spent the next days exploring the remainder of the hilltop towns on our list...each the same yet different in character with different winding ascending roads to get to them.

We had spent much time in each of the towns to visit/admire the Catholic churches and duomos, not so much for religious purposes, but for the beauty of the art within, the vastly detailed complexity of the architecture and decoration, and the history. It was mind boggling to realize that each of these 12/13th century structures were centers of worship (in each of the towns!) while America was still in the stone age!

Much is said about Italian food...keeping in mind that in Italy, Italian food is just *food*. In our daily travels, we ate when we could munching on prosciutto and cheese sandwiches or the old standby...pizza. But in the (con't next page)

### Frank and Lara in Italy (cont)

we ate in restaurants dining on pasta with a variety of seafood, salads, beer and wine. Delicious stuff! We would also have happy hour in the apartment with drink and snacks purchased from the market.

Language was not a problem as many Italians spoke English and we attempted to speak some Italian as a courtesy. Each day was proceeded with a hearty *buongiorno* and ended with a *grazie* as thanks for the help.

Of the many hilltop towns visited, there were a few that were special ...Bevagna with all of the elements of a hilltop town except the hill! The most visited is Assisi, famous for its hometown boy, **St Francis**, who made very good. About the year 1200, this simple friar countered the decadence of the Church government and society in general with a powerful message of non-materialism, peace and a "slow down and smell the roses" lifestyle. His message and teachings resulted in a huge monastic order (the Franciscans) which was ultimately embraced by the Church. Much of Christian art created after his death depicts the impact of St Francis. His tomb is in the massive Basilica di San Francisco at the end of Assisi.

The day finally arrived when it was time to move on from Umbria. After heading back to Florence to drop off the car, we hopped into a taxi to the Florence train station for the 1:00 pm 2 hour rail ride to Venice. Train travel in Europe is extensive and easy to engage in. Just about any city can be reached by train. The trains are frequent, fast and comfortable to ride in.

The train station in Venice is at the western end of the islands. With bags in hand we hailed a taxi boat to take us to the hotel. The sleek taxi boats rapidly zip through the canals hauling tourists back and forth from their lodgings to the train station or airport. Once out of the canals and into the open water, it's open up the throttles to quickly drop off passengers and get to the next fare. This is can be a thrilling introduction for visitors new to Venice.

Being a collection of small islands connected by hundreds of bridges, there are no cars. Travel is only by boat...or walking. However, there are

taxi boats, gondolas and the *vaporettos*...water busses. These boats run daily throughout the canals and lagoon on a regular schedule hauling passengers from one stop to another. A great way to see one end of Venice to another just by getting on and off or just staying on as the boats run their circuits.

Although this being our second visit to Venice, we were able to spend more time to see much, much more of the sights...The Rialto Bridge, San Marco piazza and the duomo, many churches and basilicas, the Arsenale, Murano/Burano/San Michelle islands, cruise by the Lido, the Venician Naval museum, the Peggy Guggenheim museum, drinks at the Venice Yacht Club and much more.

Venice in the evening is charming and we walked thru the paths and bridges feeling the quiet and flavor of the local. Also at that time the tourists had departed for the day. Venice is only a few hours away from neighboring countries so day trippers take the opportunity to visit. Boat loads of local tourists as well as the giant cruise ships unload hordes of visitors resulting in much congestion and long lines.

The 2 weeks seemed to fly by quickly and it was back to the water taxi to the airport then back to the US of A. This piece is just a short version of the trip There is much more to recount about he visit but no more room here.

Italy is a wonderful place, beauty is everywhere you look.



Lara at the Venice Yacht Club

**Frank & Lara in Italy photos**



**One of many hilltop towns**



**2 lane hiways throughout**



**Magnificent basilicas**



**Vineyards and olive groves**



**Taxi boats pick up fares**



**Many types of boats on The Grand Canal**



**Gondolas navigate the canals & bridges**



**Pizza Pizza!**

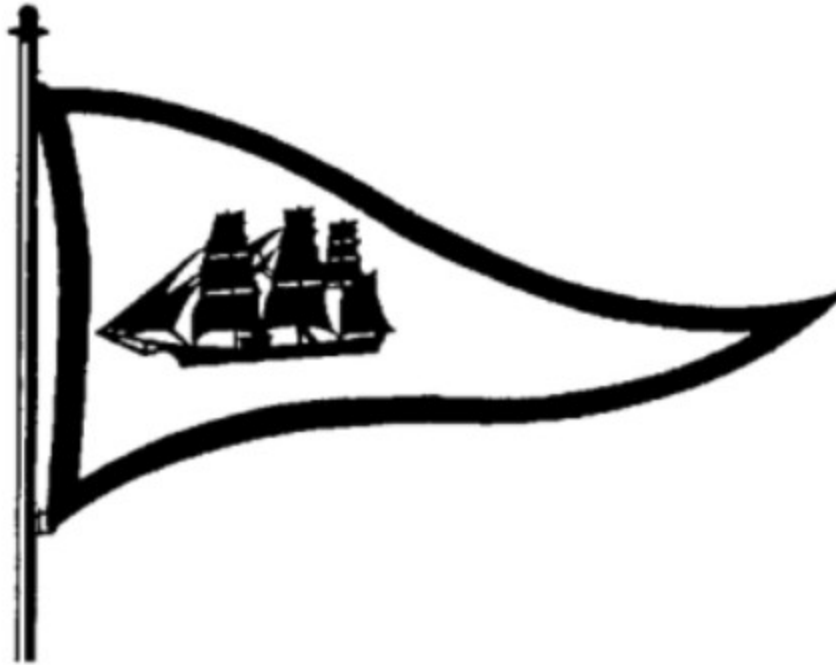


The Grand Canal in Venice

# October 2017



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 HALLOWEEN				
		More events at <a href="http://www.lsfyc.org">www.lsfyc.org</a> , click [Events/Photos]				



## **2017 LSFYC Bridge**

### **OPERATIONS STAFF**

*Commodore: Rob Sonz*

*Vice Commodore: Todd Smith*

*Fleet Captain: Geoffrey Vanden Heuvel*

*Port Captain : Larry Finley*

*Treasurer: Dick Martin*

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

*Junior Staff Comm: Pax Starksen*

*Director/Staff Comm: Tom Cornelius*

*Director: David Haas*

*Director: Robert West*

*Director: Moti Cohen Doron*

*Director: Debra Terrell*

### **OTHER CONTACTS**

*Membership Chairman: David Haas*

*Newsletter: S/C Frank Franco*

*Webmaster: S/C Ben Smith*