Three Sheets in the Wind

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE LITTLE SHIPS FLEET YACHT CLUB
(ESTABLISHED IN 1937)
233 N. MARINA DRIVE, LONG BEACH, CALIF 90803

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Commodore's Report

Lara Arambula

Ahoy Little Shippers...

As we head into December, I've been reflecting on what a meaningful and memorable year this has been for our club. It's truly been a pleasure spending time together—at events, gatherings, races, and all the moments in between. Our club grew significantly this year, thanks to our Membership Director, **Bob Bond**, and that energy made each event even more special. I'm grateful for both our longtime members and our newest additions, and I'm excited to see even more participation and involvement in the coming year.

Looking back, 2025 brought us a wonderful mix of sailing races, birthday potlucks, and countless social gatherings. It has been an honor to serve as your Commodore this year, and I'm sincerely thankful for the support, enthusiasm, and teamwork that carried us through.

As we prepare to welcome our new flag officers for 2026, I'm excited by the fresh ideas and enthusiasm they'll bring. Our incoming Commodore, **Dominic Arcelin**, is ready to lead us forward, and with **Ruth De Raddo** as VC and **Bob Bond** as RC, I know the club is in excellent hands. Please join me in supporting them as they step into their new roles and continue our tradition of community, hospitality, and fun.

Mark your calendars for one of our signature events of the year as we officially install our 2026 Flag Officers, at our annual **Officer Installation Dinner at The Boathouse on Sunday, January 18, 2026**, beginning at 4 PM. (see p. 9). Space is limited, and this is always a don't-miss event!

As we wrap up the year, it's also time to renew your membership dues for 2026. Annual parking permits will be provided upon renewal, and the shed lock combination will be updated in the new year—your new code will be given once your renewal is completed. The Holiday Brunch is the perfect time to take care of everything in person. We happily accept cash, check, or Zelle.

To close out 2025, we have a couple of festive events coming up:

Holiday Brunch & White Elephant Gift Exchange — Sunday, December 7 at Acapulco, 9:30–12:30
A relaxed and cheerful way to celebrate the season together. We're nearly sold out! If you haven't RSVP'd or paid and would like to attend, please contact me. If you want to participate in the gift exchange, cost limit is $20 for a gift.

Naples Holiday Light Boat Parade — Saturday, December 20 at 6:00 PM
Bring your families, snacks, chairs, and blankets, and enjoy the best view in town as beautifully decorated boats glide through the canals. We'll gather in the parking lot, and the Shed will be open. This event is always a highlight—don't miss it!

As the year comes to a close, I want to thank each of you again for making it such a special one. I look forward to another season filled with camaraderie, activities, racing, and memorable gatherings. Wishing you all a warm and joyous Holiday season,

Lara Arambula
Commodore, LSFYC

Vice Commodore's Report

Dominic Arcelin

Hello Little Shippers!

As the year draws to a close it is a wonderful time for reflection. Goals achieved, goals missed, good times, hard times, fun, work, the big beautiful mash up of life. End of the year holidays give us an opportunity to share our experiences with family and friends and hear what they've been through as well. It's what really makes them special, not just the turkey and ham and endless stream of appetizers.

Reflecting on our year down at The Shed I can't help but feel proud. Proud of all of the hard work done by our members out on the water racing. Proud of all of the fun times had during potlucks and bbq's. Proud to be a member of our little club. Proud of the growth we've experienced this year. I can't wait for our Holiday Brunch on December 7th, (there are still tickets available!), and I hope to hear how all of you are feeling about this year at LSFYC.

Looking ahead, it isn't lost on me that I will have some big shoes to fill as I move up the flag to Commodore. It's something I don't take lightly, and I feel fortunate to have **Lara Arambula** around for advice, as well as the rest of our board of directors.

I wish all of you a happy holiday and hope to see you around before the end of the year. As always, please reach out with comments, concerns, ideas, or just to chat. I hope to hear from you soon.

Once again, I encourage you to submit any stories, tales or travel adventures to publish in upcoming issues of this newsletter for member enjoyment. S/C **Frank Franco** has told me he will continue to publish his stories until one of you sends him something to replace his! So get your creative writing juices flowing!

Looking forward to seeing you all at the Holiday Brunch Dec 7 and/or the Naples Boat Parade Dec. 20..

Dominic Arcelin
Vice Commodore LSFYC

Rear Commodore's Report

Ruth De Raddo

Hi LSFYC Shippers…

Friendsgiving Potluck was a great success! Despite the weatherman's forecast of heavy rain, we had a wonderful turnout and only felt a few sprinkles.
The food was fantastic, the holiday music set the mood, and the games were a hit — Beer Pong, Thanksgiving Toss Pong, and the Turkey Velcro Ball Toss. We handed out lots of prizes, and I donated socks, more socks, and T-shirts.
Bob and Alyssa… you really missed out on the fun and games!

A special thank-you to Dom for the professional exterior lighting — it looked amazing. Dom also had a great idea: to collect burgees from other yacht clubs and start a display at the shed. Our first burgee is already up (see photos p. 6 & 7)!
Members attending:
Dom/Chris and Dom& friend, Bob/Alyssa, Chris/Ginger and our youngest member Eli, Lesley Anderson and Daughter Stevie, Ruth/Michael,
New members: Dallas Downing/Hannah,
Potential New Members: Vickey Dewey, Lori Bennett, Lori Matsumoto/Gene Loflin.,
Drop ins from NYC: Enjoy our walk ins from our neighboring YC. Manny & Tony
Hard to believe Thanksgiving has come and gone. Michael and I started our holiday with some early morning tennis — a great workout before diving into the Thanksgiving meal.
We're now on the home stretch of wrapping up LSFYC events for the year.
Reminder: We currently have several open positions within the club:

- Port Captain – Vacant
- Secretary – Vacant
- Director – Vacant
- Director – Vacant

If you're interested or know someone who may be, please reach out to us, we'd love to fill these roles with engaged and enthusiastic members.

Grab your friends, family, and most festive pajamas for the Belmont Shore Christmas Parade on December 6! The parade organizers are aiming to set a world record for most people wearing pajamas at an event — so let's help make history.

On December 7th, we'll be gathering for the LSFYC Holiday Brunch at Acapulco Restaurant.
Hope everyone is signed up and ready for our annual White Elephant gift exchange (if you wish to participate!). I've included the rules on p. 11 to refresh everyone on how many times a gift can be stolen.

"Friendship is not one big thing: it's a lot of little things"

Ruth De Raddo
Rear Commodore LSFYC

Membership Report

Bob Bond

We hope everyone had an enjoyable and peaceful Thanksgiving with family and friends. As we come to the close of 2025, it's a great time to once again *to welcome and give thanks to all our great new LSFYC members and their sponsors*:

2025 New Members	Sponsors
Lesley Anderson	Ruth De Raddo
Rick Bennett & Antonia Lavendar	Dave & Gabby Bierman
Thomas & Janice Bennett	Rick Bennett
Dave & Gabby Bierman	Bob & Alyssa Bond
Brigitte Bigham & Tom Saddler	Bob & Alyssa Bond
Jim & Erika Bond	Bob & Alyssa Bond
Robert & Laura Calnon	Bob Bond
Tom & Maria Celiz	Dave & Gabby Bierman
Dallas & Hannah Downing	Dave & Gabby Bierman
Erica & Timothy Hickey	Brigitte Bigham
Larry & Kathy Himmel	Bob Bond
Harry & Donna Wallace	Bob & Alyssa Bond
Barrett & Kimberly Westover	Bob & Alyssa Bond
Jennifer Young	Ruth De Raddo
Thomas & Debra Zelenski	Ketty Citterio

All our new members, spouses, significant others, and their sponsors have helped LSFYC grow and continue to add new energy and enthusiasm to our club…and we're extremely grateful to each of you.

As we get ready for the holidays and new year, we wish you all a joyous and fun holiday season. We have some great LSFYC activities coming up, so please join us for the fun when possible:

December 7 – LSFYC Holiday Brunch at Acapulco's in Long Beach from 9:30am-noon

December 20 – Naples Boat Parade at LSFYC Shed at 6:30 pm

January 18, 2026 – New LSFYC Officer Installation Dinner at The Boathouse from 4-8pm

Please think about any friends and/or family members that you can invite to join the club, and send them this link to our LSFYC Membership page on our LSFYC website.

Friendsgiving Potluck photos *(hosted by R/C Ruth De Raddo)*

More Friendsgiving Potluck photos

In Memoriam,,,Steve Cole

We are saddened at the announcement of the sudden passing of **Steve Cole.** Steve, although not a recent member of Little Ships Fleet YC, was a longstanding (and outstanding) member in the past and represented the club in the Alamitos Bay racing community. He also was a proponent of the racing program in the club.

Owner and skipperr of the his J30 ***Love & War***, Steve put many, many miles under the hull competing in local races, the Newport-Ensenada Race, and anything else that was available to participate in.

He was a long time resident of Seal Beach and owner of the family owned Cole Lighting. When not on the water, Steve enjoyed the building and restoration of model trains along with bike rides along the beach. After retirement, he and wife Melinda, traveled overseas. He was an U.S. Army veteran.

Some years ago in 2004, during the time of Little Ships Fleet's darkest period without any upcoming Flag Officers on the horizon, Steve, after some encouragement, volunteered to be the *Fleet Captain*, not wishing to be called Commodore. This action was the impetus to generate a resurgence of the club and allow many others to step forward to fill the empty staff positions. This time was also the moment that **Dick Martin** raised his hand to volunteer as Treasurer. This combined effort also opened the way for future Commodores **Nate Tucker** and **Roy Queen** to enter the scene. All thanks to Steve!

This memorial is only a snapshot of the life of Steve as related to the club. There will be other occasions for his remembrance, accomplishments and accolades at a later time to be announced.

Steve and Melinda

Steve as Fleet Captain LSFYC 2004

Love & War on the race course

Frank & Lara's Christmas getaway... **(way back in 2018)**

We decided to get away for the holiday and booked a tour (by bus and train) thru the great north of Canada. Starting from Calgary to Banff to Lake Louise to Jasper we traveled the last leg aboard the VIA overnight train to Vancouver. Cold and much snow, but with the various Fairmont hotel's lavish and festive Christmas decorations to enjoy, we experienced and enjoyed a true Christmas holiday.

The highlight of the trip was the opportunity to experience the thrill of dog sledding through the forest. Based outside of Banff, *Howling Dogs* tour group had picked us up and bused us to a remote location in the mountains where we encountered dozens and dozens of...howling dogs. We were then able to hook up the dogs to the sled trace line and get settled in.

Now these doggies were barking and howling and jumping because they wanted to go go go! Most of the dogs were retired race dogs and young trainees, but all with the one desire to do one thing...pull and run! With the release of the sled brake and shout of *"Let's go!"*, it felt like we were shot out of a cannon. There is no control (or steering) of the dogs other than shouts of encouragement. They are accustomed to running a set trail through the woods and will do so until the sled is braked. At the end of the outbound run, we braked the sled and a waiting staff member had to physically turn the dogs in another direction leading us back to a rest area. After some hot cocoa and snackies for the dogs, we blasted off back to the start point. There we unhooked the dogs, petted, fed and watered them. The dogs were changed out and rotated to allow rest periods between tours. This was great fun and we headed back to hotel with smiling faces.

To experience this dog sled ride with us, click on: Dog Sled Ride

Little Ships Fleet Yacht Club

Invites you to attend the

2026 Officer Installation Dinner

and General Membership Meeting

Sunday, January 18

Boathouse on the Bay

190 N. Marina Dr., Long Beach, 90803

4:00 pm for cocktails

Dinner & Ceremony to follow

RSVP Lara Arambula tkt2fly@yahoo.com

Cost: $35 pp member/spouse, $40 pp guest

Pay via Zelle: lsfyclb@gmail.com

MENU:

SALAD:

Traditional Caesar Salad-
Reggiano Parmesan & Crostini

Entre: Please select your choice and number of entres and inform Lara of same.

Angel Hair Pasta with Chicken
Tomato Checca, Sweet Garlic, Basil & Grilled Chicken Breast

Roasted Cod Provencal
Garlic Mashed Potatoes & Caramelized Brussels Sprouts

Mediterranean Pasta
Wild Mushrooms, Artichoke Hearts, Spinach, Tomato Checca, Pine Nuts & Garlic Olive Oil

Grilled Flat Iron Steak
Topped with Mushroom Demi Glaze, Garlic Mashed Potatoes & Caramelized Brussels Sprouts

DESSERT:

Brownies & Assorted Cookies - 45 pcs

DECEMBER, 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*	*6*
7 LSFYC HOLIDAY BRUNCH	*8*	*9*	*10 prop tax due*	*11*	*12*	*13*
14 ***Chanukah***	*15*	*16*	*17*	*18*	*19*	***20 Naples boat parade***
21	*22*	*23*	*24*	*25 CHRISTMAS DAY*	*26*	*27*
28	*29*	*30*	*31* ***NEW YEARS EVE***			

White Elephant Gift Exchange Rules

1. Bring a Wrapped Gift (not to exceed $20)
2. Draw Numbers
 Each participant draws a number.
3. Player Turn

On your turn, you choose one of the following:
Option A — Pick a New Gift from the table
 Select any unopened gift from the pile and open it for everyone to see.
Option B — Steal a Gift
 You may steal a gift that has already been opened from another player.

4. Stealing Rules
 A gift can be stolen only once per turn.
 A gift usually has a maximum steal limit (commonly 2 times). After that, it becomes “frozen” and can’t be stolen again.
 If your gift is stolen, you can:
o Steal another gift (not the one just taken from you), or
o Pick a new unopened gift.

5. End of Game
 After the last person takes their turn, and decides to keep his/her gift and not take from another Player the game ends and everyone keeps the gift….regardless if they like it or not!

2025 LSFYC Bridge

OPERATIONS STAFF

Commodore: Lara Arambula
Vice Commodore: Dominic Arcelin
Rear Commodore: Ruth De Raddo
Treasurer: Robert Hughes
Fleet Captain: Chris Layne
Port Captain : Vacant
Secretary: Vacant

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jr. S/C: Chris Layne
Director: S/C Moti Cohen-Doron
Director: S/C Rob Sonz
Director: S/C Frank Franco
Director: Bob Bond
Director: Elena Yuasa

OTHER CONTACTS

***Newsletter: S/C Frank* Franco**
Webmaster: S/C Ben Smith
Membership: Bob Bond