



NAVY YACHT CLUB SAN DIEGO

# The Spinnaker

EDITION 24-01    [www.nycsd.club](http://www.nycsd.club)    WINTER 2024

## NYCSD BRIDGE

### Commodore

Jeff McNicholl

[Commodore@nycsd.club](mailto:Commodore@nycsd.club)

### Vice Commodore

Mike Lewis

[Vicecommodore@nycsd.club](mailto:Vicecommodore@nycsd.club)

### Rear Commodore

Joe Torres

[Rearcommodore@nycsd.club](mailto:Rearcommodore@nycsd.club)

### Jr. Staff Commodore

Ty Keith



*The Commodore and Officers of*  
***Navy Yacht Club San Diego***

*Request the pleasure of your company at our*

## ***Opening Day Ceremony***

***Sunday, March 3, 2024***

***Fiddler's Cove Marina  
Naval Base Coronado  
Coronado, CA***

Registration/Hospitality    12:30 PM

Ceremony    1:00 PM

Reception    1:30 PM

***R.S.V.P. by February 25, 2024***

***rearcommodore@nycsd.club***

## NAVY YACHT CLUB SAN DIEGO'S OPENING DAY—RSVP REQUESTED

This year is NYCSD's Opening Day 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! Being part of the yachting community makes Navy Yacht Club San Diego (NYCSD) part of something larger. NYCSD is proud to be the member club of the San Diego Association of Yacht Clubs (SDAYC). NYCSD starts the local yachting season by hosting the first Opening Day each year. While NYCSD participates in multiple yachting and community activities annually, Opening Day at NYCSD is our club's flagship event and helps build camaraderie within our club membership and across other clubs. **Please RSVP and join us for a fun celebration! (Please note you will need to RSVP to get gate access.)** Opening Day will be held, rain or shine, on our beautiful outdoor patio and we look forward to seeing you there!

What is an Opening Day? Yachting and yacht clubs have a long history steeped in naval tradition. One tradition is for each yacht club to host an Opening Day, an event that officially signals the beginning of the yachting season. While in Southern California the weather typically allows for a year round yachting season, it is not the case in other places in the United States or around the world. In the United States, Opening Days generally start in March and continue through the end of May.

Each yacht club has its own set of traditions for Opening Day, but they usually include: flag decorated vessels, a color guard, the national anthem, the pledge of allegiance, a moment of silence for the departed, introductions of the Bridge and Board (club officers) and visiting dignitaries, an awards ceremony, delicious food, and socializing. Another common tradition is to fire a cannon signaling that the weather is clear enough to begin the yachting season. In the case of Navy Yacht Club, this means to announce if the bay is free of icebergs and floes to safely commence activities on the water.

Nautical attire is always appropriate at Opening Days. It may include clothing with navy, red, and white. Festive and stylish hats are encouraged. Club nametags are also appropriate and encouraged (be sure to wear them visibly and on your right side.) Uniforms are an option for any club member but are standard attire for the Bridge and Board members. The San Diego area club uniforms are a navy blazer, white shirt, and gray (winter) or white (summer) skirt or slacks. In San Diego the "grays" are worn between October 1<sup>st</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup>, with April 1<sup>st</sup> changing the uniform to "whites". Uniforms can vary from East Coast to West coast, with the East Coast uniforms having slacks called Nantucket Reds (don't call them pink or salmon unless you are ready for a lengthy debate with the wearer).

Being part of the yachting community and a yacht club makes us part of something larger. NYCSD Bridge and Board members are invited and expected to attend Opening Days hosted by other clubs, which is one of multiple ways that NYCSD is involved in the yachting community. This community not only includes local SDAYC clubs, but can also include clubs in the Southern California Yachting Association (SCYA).

## NYCSD BOARD

### Directors

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Aimee Smitherman  
aimee.smitherman@yahoo.com

## FUN FOUNDERS DAY BBQ 1300

Join us to celebrate our Club's founding fathers Joe Quicker and Al Tarantino on Saturday, January 27 on the patio! NYCSD will be providing the main dish and ask members bring a side dish or dessert to share. **Please RSVP** on the club website today at [www.nycsd.club](http://www.nycsd.club).



## Make-A-Wish® Amazing Race Event 2023 Success

NYCSD extends a huge thank you to all that joined us for this most wonderful day of fun challenges, fundraising, and good times! Our club contributed through volunteers, committee members, two bike teams, and individual donors. NYCSD also extends another enormous thank you to the Imperial Beach Fleet Reserve, who hosted us for our NYCSD bike team fundraiser. Mike and Bea Gurrera again led this event organizing a large group of volunteers. NYCSD raised over **\$17,000** in support of the 2023 Amazing Race Event through our two teams.

Here are some fun facts regarding the 2023 Amazing Race Event: The live auction raised over \$11K, the silent auction raised just under \$10K, the raffle ticket sales raised almost \$5K, but **the real fundraising comes from the participating teams. All bike and boat teams combined raised over \$55K.** Another **amazing** part of the day, which those in attendance may have heard, is that we had a surprise anonymous donation of \$10K made to the event. Combined, all these add up to more than **\$90,000** for Make-A-Wish® San Diego, which serves local children diagnosed with critical illnesses in San Diego and Imperial counties. There are currently over 300 local children in the process of receiving a wish and every dollar we raise helps make their wishes come true. Studies have shown that receiving a wish is helpful in their healing process. NYCSD is proud to be a part of this community event, and we look forward to supporting Make-A-Wish again in 2024!

# COMMODORE'S HALYARD

Commodore  
Jeff McNicholl



Commodore Jeff McNicholl and  
Secretary and Membership  
Chair Penni McNicholl.

I have the honor of being selected as this year's NYCSD Commodore. I have been an active member of this club since 2018. My wife Penni and I have enjoyed the camaraderie of the club so much we both got involved and volunteered to serve on the Bridge and Board. I am looking forward to a fun filled year and hope I can do as good a job as the Commodores that have gone before me.

I started my training in sailing and boating at Naval Training Center (NTC) when the Navy brought me here to San Diego for A and C School in 1988. I took a few classes in sailing and worked my way up to Skipper within the MWR qualification program.

My love for sailing grew and I continued with training, this time turning to Harbor Island Yacht Club renting large sailing yachts. Here again, I worked my way up within US Sailing Association from Basic Keel Boat, Coastal Cruising, Bare Boat certifications and I obtained a catamaran endorsement. I have also completed the Basic Keel Boat Instructor Certification course. Since retiring from the US Navy Submarine Service in 2010, I have had the opportunity to work for a company in which one of my responsibilities was to drive a 28 foot aluminum twin engine research and test vessel. During this time, I was able to earn my Captains License (6 Pack).

As much as I love sailing, I have only owned power boats. Starting with a 18 foot Formula ski boat, then a 28 foot Regal Cabin Cruiser (Pretty Penni) and now a 38 foot Silverton Convertible (Boatload of Fun). My wife and I truly enjoy the camaraderie of belonging to a club. In addition to NYCSD we are also active members and on the board of the San Diego 4 Wheelers.

We have fun upcoming activities: First we have our [Founder's Day BBQ on Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup>](#) on the patio. Next, we have our [60<sup>th</sup> Annual Opening Day on Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>](#), also on the patio. Please see the articles in this edition for more information. Looking forward to seeing you there!

# VICE COMMODORE'S HALYARD

Vice Commodore  
Mike Lewis



Hello, I'm the new Navy Yacht Club San Diego Vice Commodore Michael Lewis (Mike). I am a Coronado native and graduate of Coronado High, Class of 72. I served in the United States Air Force for 20-years. Please, all you Navy pukes, don't hold that against me!

After retiring from the Air Force, I owned *Appliance Repair of Coronado* for 11 years, and most recently sold *Coastal Pool & Spa* that I owned and operated for the past 21 years. My sweetheart, Lois Mandel, and I are engaged and both happily retired. Sailing is our hobby and our true passion. We own a Newport 33' sailboat named "Sarayu" and we love to race her every chance we get. We also own a 2014 Jeanneau 53' sailboat named "Aurora" that we love cruising and anchoring out with.

This year, as Vice Commodore, among other things I am responsible for Race Committee. As race committee chair, the upcoming plans for this year is to continue providing fun and challenging race courses. We have several upcoming events, including the Founder's Day BBQ, and Navy Yacht Club San Diego's Opening Day Ceremony. We are also looking forward to the [Wednesday Beer Can Race, Spring Series beginning April 17th](#).

I look forward to meeting you, or seeing you again at our next Club event!



# REAR COMMODORE'S HALYARD

Rear Commodore  
Joe Torres



Hello Navy Yacht Club! Here is a little about me, Joe Torres, your new Rear Commodore: I was born and raised in the Bronx. Three days after graduating from high school, I enlisted in the United States Navy, where I attended A School in Dam Neck VA, and qualified as an Operations Specialist.

During my Navy career, I had the pleasure of serving on or with the USS San Diego (AFS-6), Atlantic Fleet Weapons Training Facility (Puerto Rico), USS John Hancock (DD-981), US Transportation Command (Illinois), USS Duluth (LPD-6) and FASOTRAGRUPAC SERE Instructor. I retired in 2001 after 20 years of service.

In 2001, I was hired by the Oceanside Police Department and attended the 50<sup>th</sup> Regional Police Academy. As an officer, I worked a variety of assignments, including street patrol, SWAT Crises Negotiator, Psychiatric Emergency Response Team, Traffic Services Unit, Neighborhood Policing Team, Police Trainer and Bi-lingual translator.

In 2011, I was selected as a Detective and worked with the Family Protection Unit, specializing in physical crimes against children. In 2020, I returned to Patrol Division, where I was appointed Acting Sergeant of Patrol Team 3. I retired in 2021, after twenty years of service in the community.

My wife Aida and I stay busy with camping, off roading and boating. We have been members of NYCSD for two years and are having a ball! I was just appointed as Rear Commodore and Aida was appointed as a club Director. We just can't wait to see what the New Year holds for NYCSD!

# NYCSD Racing

## NYCSD Upcoming Racing/Spring Series 2024

NAME	DATE	Day of the Week	Series
Quicker/ Tarantino Invitational	6 April	Saturday	1-3/3
Wed Night Regatta	17 April	Wednesday	1/18
Wed Night Regatta	24 April	Wednesday	2/18
Wed Night Regatta	1 May	Wednesday	3/18
Wed Night Regatta	8 May	Wednesday	4/18
Wed Night Regatta	15 May	Wednesday	5/18
Wed Night Regatta	22 May	Wednesday	6/18
Wed Night Regatta	29 May	Wednesday	7/18



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Looking for a fun way to volunteer in NYCSD and spend time on the water? Join the Race Committee! You can volunteer for any number of races and NO experience is required. Please contact our Vice Commodore, Mike Lewis and get involved! Mike can be reached at [vicecommodore@nycsd.club](mailto:vicecommodore@nycsd.club).

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## Reciprocal Privileges

One of the benefits of NYCS D membership is reciprocity with other participating yacht clubs. Each year, the Commodores of various other yacht clubs extend reciprocal privileges to NYCS D, offering the use of their club facilities for that specific year, usually via a formal written invitation. Likewise, the Commodore of NYCS D formally extends reciprocal privileges to other clubs. Each club establishes its own policies with respect to what the visiting privileges include, and some clubs do not offer reciprocals. Some clubs follow the “in-kind” policy, meaning that a club will only extend reciprocals that the guest club also offers to the host club (i.e., bar and restaurant, swimming pool, guest dock, etc.). In the case of NYCS D, our offered reciprocals include the invitation to attend NYCS D club events, sponsored reservation of the club patio, and the temporary use of the MWR guest dock, all based on availability and advance request.

A club is no different from a person’s home with respect to guests. There is nothing automatic about reciprocal privileges, and reciprocity should be considered a privilege, not a right. When you consider that many yacht clubs have fine premises, restaurants, bars, launching and boat storage facilities (and membership dues that reflect all of these benefits), it is clear that reciprocal privileges are to be treasured, nurtured, and cultivated. If abused, these privileges may be modified or formally rescinded by the host club, and privileges may be lost to an individual member, or to all of NYCS D. The NYCS D bridge and board reviews all complaints related to abuse of reciprocals, and when warranted, can suspend or revoke membership.

To maintain goodwill between NYCS D and other reciprocating clubs, it is important to follow these guidelines:

1. Remember that reciprocal privileges are not an entitlement. Do not overuse reciprocal privileges, as this reflects poorly on the guest club. Overuse will rightfully lead the host club to expect that you should become a member of their club and pay the appropriate dues.
2. Call ahead to verify that the host club offers reciprocal privileges and to verify that space is available (at the guest dock or restaurant, etc.) to ensure your visit will not conflict with other club functions.
3. When making arrangements ask about the host club and marina rules such as, proper attire, allowing pets, electrical service, etc. Many clubs have a “no cell phone” rule inside their facility. Please observe these rules as you are a guest.
4. Always have a current membership card from your club. Some clubs have barriers or security guards to prevent unauthorized access, so simply explain that you are visiting under their club’s reciprocal agreement. If access to a club is denied for any reason, please do not argue. Notify NYCS D board members of the problem to see if they can arrange a more favorable welcome next time.
5. Always sign the guest register.
6. Wear your club nametag if you have one. (You can purchase them online from the NYCS D ship store.)



## Reciprocal Privileges, continued...

7. Patronize the facilities of the host club. They may have brought in extra staff just for your visit.
8. There is no process in place for NYCSD members to make restaurant and bar charges on a club account and be billed on a monthly basis. You are expected to settle any charges in full at the time of your visit to a reciprocal club.
9. When approaching the host club via water, fly your NYCSD burgee to identify your club affiliation. This will help identify you if you made guest dock arrangements.
10. Under no circumstances board or make fast to any vessel without permission. Do not move lines or use any equipment left on the dock.
11. Always follow good environmental practice consistent with concerns for proper waste disposal and discharges from your vessel. Leave a clean wake.
12. Be gracious, courteous, and aware of the perception you give to the host club members. You are an envoy for NYCSD and our entire club will be judged by your actions.

If visiting a yacht club in another state, first call the club and ask what is needed for your visit. Usually a letter of introduction from your Commodore on yacht club stationary will help to allow you access to their club for a one-time visit.

It is also important to note that reciprocity extends only to actual members of NYCSD and does not extend to non-member family and friends. This means when visiting another yacht club as a NYCSD member **you** are the guest and should not bring additional non-member "guests". (This is a privilege reserved for members of the host club who pay dues.) However, if you check with the host yacht club ahead of time and request to bring a non-NYCSD member guest(s) with you, they usually try to accommodate as availability and space allows.

Most clubs want you to enjoy your visit at their facility. Visiting other clubs is a fun opportunity to enjoy different venues and make new friendships with fellow boating enthusiasts. Traditional yachting protocol, courtesy, and a thank you goes a long way in fostering good relations between clubs.

### *Treasurers Report*

Operating Funds

\$ **41,924.47**

(2 & 3 Year Prepaid Memberships \$7,660.46)

Capital Funds

\$ **10,277.46**

Total Funds

\$ **59,862.39**

**NYCSD Big Boat Raft-Ups**  
**Submitted by Curt Snyder, Your Big Boat Raft-Up Coordinator**

Big Boat Raft-ups are back!!! This is another great opportunity to use your boat and enjoy the camaraderie of other NYCSD members. If you don't have a boat, stop by on your paddle board, kayak, inflatable or whatever you may have. Or call me and we can pick you up from the beach. The more the merrier.

We have four raft-ups scheduled:

June 21-23 in Glorietta Bay

July 26-28 in La Playa

August 9-11 in La Playa

September 27-29 Coronado Cays basin (no reservation required)

You will need a reservation with the Port of San Diego so make your reservations at this link: <http://reservations.portofsandiego.org/boating> It is easy, even I did it. If this is your first time you will need to establish a login. If you have a login just make your reservations. I recommend that you make your reservation early as there are limited reservations available. If you are just even considering making the raft-up, make the reservation, you can always cancel later.

At the raft-up itself, we usually get the center boat anchored about 1200 or before on the Friday, then boats can come alongside. We normally break up around noon on Sunday. It really is a good time, enjoy sunny San Diego, the bay and good friends or make new friends.

If you have any questions and if you plan to attend, please contact me at [cesnyder@hotmail.com](mailto:cesnyder@hotmail.com) or 619-892-2084.

Curt Snyder  
Port Captain

## Learn to Convert!

Back in the day (actually the year 2016) — which may seem like ancient history now — cruising in Mexico was a bargain. If I remember correctly, then it was about ten pesos to the dollar. Now as I write this story, the rate is about 20 pesos to the dollar, BUT prices have risen significantly to more than offset the stronger purchasing power of the dollar.

This is not necessarily true across the board. I suspect that my assumption may be true in the cities and the tourist areas. However, when one cruises to the small coastal communities in more remote locations, the prices are more likely to be “cruiser-friendly.” Thus, sailing in Mexico may still be less demanding on your cruising budget. However, one must learn to convert (pesos ↔ dollars) to really appreciate the extent of your “good deal” when looking at fixed prices (e.g., *Super Commercial* [Mexican supermarket chain]) or negotiating with street vendors.

Wandering around La Cruz (the north shore of Banderas Bay), I encountered a sign in front of a locally-owned hair salon. Standing there and contemplating the prices, I was pleasantly surprised by the advertised costs for men’s and women’s hair cuts (“cortes de pelo”). Using the “then” exchange rate of ten pesos to the dollar, a man’s haircut was only \$3.50 (USD) and a woman’s haircut was \$6.00 (USD). What a deal compared to the cost for the same service stateside!

It pays to become familiar with the exchange rate and quickly make mental calculations — am I negotiating a good deal or not? This knowledge and skill enhances your experience when “shopping on the streets.” Interacting with the many street-side vendors is a fun part of cruising in Mexico.

Submitted by: Neal Doten s/v *No Moss*



# Membership Application / Renewal

*Navy Yacht Club San Diego*

Fiddler's Cove Marina  
 PO Box 182111  
 Coronado, CA 92178



New / Renewal Single Year

\_\_\_ Family \$50    \_\_\_ Single \$40

2 year and 3 year memberships are available. x2 or x3 single year price. Please indicate on check if you choose this option

**Member:**

\_\_\_\_\_

Name: Last	First	MI	rank/grade
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\_\_\_\_\_

Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_

City	State	Zip Code
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\_\_\_\_\_

Email	Phone Number
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Dependent: \_\_\_\_\_ Must have valid I.D. Card

\_\_\_\_\_

Spouse

Total Amount Paid \_\_\_\_\_

**YES!** Enclosed is my  
 CAPITAL FUND Donation  
 Of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

To join us, or renew by mail, attach your check for the correct membership category, and include a self-addressed stamped envelope for your new cards and mail to NYCSA. New members will be contacted to provide proof of eligibility. **DO NOT** send copies of your I.D. card. (I.D. Cards may not be copied) All members will receive the quarterly newsletter, *The Spinnaker*, via email.

**Renew online at [nycsd.club](http://nycsd.club) (easiest method)**

You will need to be a WEBSITE member, (this is separate from being a member of NYCSA) to complete payment. Please complete the "SIGN UP" form when it pops up and the system will automatically approve your request so you can proceed through the application process.

___ USA	___ ACTIVE
___ USAF	___ RETIRED
___ USN	___ RESERVE
___ USMC	
___ DEPENDENT	
___ USCG	___ DOD
___ VA H623A form	