



The Capstan – December 2007

December 31, 2007

From the office of the Commodore

Hello to all Polaris members! As promised, here is all the news fit to print for the month of December.

The Capstan is Polaris's monthly newsletter giving the membership a snapshot of what is happening and what upcoming events are scheduled. Much of the information presented here will also be announced via the Yahoo Groups mailings but several members have indicated a desire to see an integrated monthly letter that summarizes the various activities. If you need additional information please contact a Board member. As always, paper copies will be available at the meetings.

Comments from the Commodore:

- *Fun Stuff:* Jack Prior and I took Polaris members out to see the parade of lights (I think 12 to 16 guests participated in the adventure). Jack's new boat looked really good out there and his anchoring skills were apparent – as was his crew's ability to retrieve a wayward bumper with 6 feet of freeboard! All were invited to my new condo afterwards for refreshments and some dancing. I have no idea how many were there as additional folks in the neighborhood heard of the gathering and came on over. All were welcome.
- *Important Stuff:* The Board of Directors' elections are coming up soon. I encourage all members to consider serving on the Board. The Club needs the energy and attention of those who have a desire to see the Club succeed and prosper. We need Board Members that can remain focused on strategic issues and not become embroiled in short-term divisive distractions. I have had the pleasure of being Commodore of two such Boards and I sincerely hope that this will continue. It can only be so however if good members elect to give of their time and energy. Please consider serving the Club this year.
- *Interesting Stuff:* I am considering adopting a new crewing policy for sailing on the Windstorm (my Columbia 50 sail boat). Over the past 20 years or so, I have consistently taken all comers off the sail table whenever I was able. I have never experienced any problems with any crew so chosen. However, I fully support Kirk's sailing school and the long-term benefits that sailing education can and

will provide the Club. To this end, I will be phasing in a new policy for crew that wish to join me in sailing the Windstorm. I will be asking the Vice Commodore of Sail to give priority consideration to crew assignments to those Club Members that have attended (and been graduated from) the Sail School. I will ask Kirk to provide school attendees/graduates with a certification which will, in turn, be used at the sail table for a priority assignment. I will still be taking out folks that have not attended sailing school but the chances become better with the certificate.

Jack Prior – Vice Commodore of Sail Report

- *BVI Trip:* Jack will be leading a sail out of Tortola in the British Virgin Islands. He has rented a 43' Deck Salon Jeanneau from January 8th to January 17th. Jack and his crew of Rita Rohling, Jeanne Oberchain and Jack's brother, Bob Prior, from Columbus, Ohio are hoping that more skippers will want to join the BVI sail. We have members who want to go, but they need a skipper to take them. So, please contact me if you would like to go on this neat trip as crew or as a skipper. The best deal was through Conch Charters out of Tortola. They were running a special and we were able to get 9 days sailing for the cost of 7 days. It would be super to have several Polaris boats sailing and socializing together in the beautiful waters of the Virgin Islands
- *Whale Watching:* The Club will be conducting whale watching sails out of San Diego in January and February with the first date set at January 26. In addition Jack will be sailing out of his new marina just north of Ensenada Mexico. Please contact Jack for details on both trips.
- *New boats in the Club:*
 - New member, Marcie Armstrong, has already taken Polaris members out for sails in her lovely big 46' Beneteau. This neat boat has three cabins and two heads. Thanks Marcie for stepping up to the Sail Table and taking our members out. Without our boat owners taking crew out sailing off the Sail Table, then we just become another social club. So, again Marcie, many thanks. Our members appreciate this!
 - Vice Commodore of Sailing, Jack Prior, just bought a 45' Lancer sail boat! Like Marcie's boat, the Lancer has three cabins and two heads. Including the double wide pull out berths in the salon, she could sleep 10 if needed.

Nancy Rohal – Vice Commodore of Social Report

- We had a great Christmas party on December 8th at the Silver Gate Yacht Club. Lots of well dressed folks, lots of dancing, great decorations and a surprise wreath hunt combined with an extensive raffle all contributed to a good evening with friends. The Board of Directors has sent thank you notes to the generous organizations that contributed the gifts. (Commodore's comment – Thanks Nancy for a great job)
- Tomorrow, we have a New Year's Day party at the home of Bob Butcher, a friend of club member Mindy Brock who lives in Coronado (110 Carob Way)

- Friday, January 18 we will have a Dine and Dance (AKA Grubb and Wiggle) at the Galley (Chula Vista Marina – north end) starting at 6:00. We need reservations to get a rough idea of the attendance. Lots of music but since it is an outdoor event, we will get heaters and look for rain. If it rains, we will cancel the event. If in doubt, check your e-mail as we will make an announcement Friday afternoon if it is threatening.
- February 3 Super Bowl Party is being planned. Save the date because the Charges will be there!! Check with Nancy doe more details
- February 9 tour of Scripps Institute of Oceanography. Hosted by Kirk Gardner, this is a “don’t miss” event. (aside from the Commodore – I had this tour and it was most interesting)
- Thursday, February 14th will be a dinning out event at a Greek restaurant including Greek dancing. More information to follow shortly.

And that’s all there is for now

See all of you on the water

Roger Fitzwilson, Commodore (770) 335 0382