



# FAIRWIND YACHT CLUB

marina del rey ■ channel islands

October 2010

Editor: Ken Hoover

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Commodore's Log

## New Commodore Praises Club's Volunteer Spirit

By Marv Brown  
*Commodore*

Hello, Fairwind Members,

It is my pleasure to be writing my first article to you as your new commodore. I would first like to thank the previous board for all of its hard work on behalf of the club. There is no question our club is in terrific shape thanks to its efforts this past year.

During the last few months, there have been several members who have asked why I would want to take on the commodore's job, and I would like to share my reasons.

Seven years ago, I joined FYC with almost no sailing experience. I couldn't even sail the Capri 14. Yet last month, with the skills and experience I acquired through the club, I skippered the 32-foot Beneteau on a three-day cruise to Catalina and back. The fact I am not only a large-boat skipper, but an instructor at that level, is a testament to the many volunteers who gave of their time and expertise to help me attain my goals. **Continued on Page 3**

### Installation Luncheon Oct. 24

Fairwind's annual installation luncheon will be Sunday, Oct. 24, at 11 a.m. at the Santa Monica Windjammers Yacht Club, [13589 Mindanao Way](#), Marina del Rey.

Dress is casual because we're going sailing afterward.

**Please note that the location has been changed.**

You can secure your reservations by filling the form on page 12 and mailing it with a check of \$25 per person to the address indicated.

As always, there's a mystery gift only for those attending.

#### Election Results

*The club elects a new board and adopts some new rules.*

*Page 4.*

#### Sailing With The Blind

*Fairwinders participate in annual day sail.*

*Page 5.*

#### Channel Islands Update

*Important activities at Channel Islands Harbor.*

*Page 8.*

# Life In The Krill Zone: More Blue Whales off Redondo



Nancy Vernon Marino captured this picture of a blue whale diving deep off Redondo Beach.

**By Nancy Vernon Marino**

In a rare appearance in local waters, upwards of 200 blue whales have chosen to visit Southern California. One of the prime viewing areas is just a few miles away from Marina del Rey, in and around the Redondo Canyon off the Palos Verdes peninsula.

According to one radio report, this is the first time in 80 years for this phenomenon. There is no telling when they will choose to move on, or when they might return.

Blue whales are the largest creatures ever to have inhabited the earth, growing to lengths of 100 feet or more, and weighing upwards of 100 tons. Their average lifespan is 80-90 years. Their tongues can weigh as much as an elephant, and their hearts are the size of a car.

The Northern Hemisphere population is currently only about 3,000-4,000, so please take great care when you sail among them, and be mindful of both their safety and their sensitivity.

They will surface near your boat if they choose. But if you encroach too eagerly upon their space, they will more than likely have sounded or dived deep before you get your close-up. Please be patient, and make good use of the zoom on your camera.

And please do your part to ensure that these opportunities will remain possible for future generations. (Visit the links below for additional information)

My own encounters with several blue whales on Sunday, Sept. 12, ranks among the top ten wonders of my life, and I owe it to a Fairwind twist of fate.

I was first mate for skipper Rosalie Bostick on our Catalina 38 Happy Ours as we set out with great anticipation for our role in the fabulous annual Eye Can Sail program for the blind (See article on Eye Can Sail program, page 5.)

To our dismay, mechanical difficulties delayed our getting underway. By the time the problem was solved, all our blind and sighted sailing buddies had been placed on other boats and departed without us. We were a boat and crew without a mission.

Rosalie quickly devised Plan B, an impromptu whale-watching expedition. We were joined by Steve Smith and his friend, Paul Schutz, who were heading out on FYC's 27' trimaran, Sea Wing. We headed south toward PV, but as soon as we passed the 2ES buoy, we kept a sharp lookout for spouts and monitored radio channel 71 for reports of sightings.

We didn't have long to wait. By the time we reached a point 3-4 miles off the Manhattan Beach pier, someone reported a sighting off Point Vicente. We didn't have that far to go. Fittingly, we were just about in line with the colossal whale mural at King Harbor when we sighted the first of many blue whales in an afternoon filled with wonderment.

It was exciting and rigorous sailing to achieve successful, yet respectful viewing opportunities, while at the same time sharing the water with others seeking a similar communion with the whales, including power boats of all sorts, and even some intrepid paddle-boarders. Our rewards far surpassed the effort.

Throughout the afternoon, we were treated to some of the more common thrills, such as large pods of dolphins cavorting and feeding, as well as new, mysterious ones.

We noticed curious clusters of miniature fins "sprouting" out of the water, waving to us as we swooshed past. We eventually discovered that the fins were attached to round, flat fish about the size of dinner plates, bobbing just below the surface, which Rosalie later identified as newly pupped Mola Mola babies (sunfish). Occasionally, we would spot one flipping out in the distance, but we were never close enough to see what predator was provoking such panic. All in a day's adventure on the bay.



A Sunfish off of Channel Islands

For me, this day was life at its very best, both for what I was able to experience and for that which I missed. Thank you to all of the Fairwind members who make our vast array of sailing opportunities possible, and to those who have taught and continue to teach me how to sail, and enrich my life in so many beautiful ways.

## Commodore's Log

**Continued from Page 1** I want to acknowledge the officers, instructors and all the volunteers who have made this club as strong as it is now.

It is obvious to everyone, I'm sure, that our volunteers are the backbone of our club. Your participation is one of the most crucial aspects to maintaining the high quality club that FYC has always been.

So I am volunteering to help FYC now and in the future, and I am calling on all members who have not yet volunteered to step up and assist our club now.

Just a note about the luncheon on Oct. 24. We were originally scheduled to have it at Organic Panificio in Marina del Rey. However, they have gone out of business.

We were fortunate that the Santa Monica Windjammers Yacht Club in Burton Chase Park in Marina del Rey was able to accommodate us.

Please check out the flyer on page 12 giving all the details on the luncheon. Remember to get your reservation in early so you can share in this kick-off to FYC's 2010-2011 year.

This is a chance to say thank you to the old board and to welcome the new one. As is our tradition, we will also go sailing after the luncheon.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a good year and may we always have fair wind.

# Club Elects New Officers and Adopts Some New Rules

By **Richard Windebank**  
*Vice Commodore*

Effective Oct. 1, there were a number of changes to the Board. Marv Brown became the new commodore, and Ken Murray moved to junior staff commodore. Mike Strossman became our new secretary, Dick Gross our new fleet captain, and I moved from secretary to vice commodore (membership chair). Mike Delaney was re-elected treasurer and Mark Zierten was re-elected rear commodore.

Special thanks go to Gilbert Tseng and Carole Walsh, who retired from the board after making superb contributions to the club. Also to Marc Levine, except that Marv has persuaded him to take on the role of safety officer for the coming year.

A couple of rule changes: Smoking is now prohibited on all Fairwind boats, and limitations have been placed on staying overnight in boat slips (no more than two nights in any calendar month, etc.) Also, after much discussion at the membership meeting, the club decided to eliminate the membership category of "associate member" – too many legal issues surrounding the definition of who could qualify.

You can read the draft minutes of both meetings on the Yahoo Communications Website at [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FYC\\_Communications/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FYC_Communications/)

We will soon be looking for additional volunteers to help with some of the Club's activities. We will need:

- \*Help updating material on our website, including uploading documents
- \*Someone with Capabilities in Microsoft's PowerPoint program.
- \*Help with Data entry on Microsoft Access
- \*Expertise in outboard motor maintenance

Please let me know if you think you can help in any of these areas. I can be contacted at [Richard@windebank.com](mailto:Richard@windebank.com) or 310-454-2323.

## Harvest Moon



After a dreary summer, Marina del Rey was treated to an Indian summer and a spectacular moon rise.

# Fairwinders Participate In Annual Day Sail For The Blind

By Carole Walsh

Year three for the Eye Can Sail program was a great day on the water for our friends who are blind from the California Council of the Blind (CCB).

The Santa Monica Windjammers Yacht Club treated more than 100 enthusiastic guests, including 25 guests who are blind or partially sighted to a wonderful day of sailing and great food donated by the Women of SMWYC members and by generous businesses in the community: Overland Café, Fresh Brothers, Noah's Bagels, Trader Joe's, among them.

Without their generosity, an event like this could not take place.

Our day began with Noah's bagels and coffee at SMWYC club house, then a short walk over to the guest docks at Burton Chase Park, where our skippers brought their boats for our guests and sighted buddies to board and depart for a day of sailing.

On the water, our blind friends had turns at the helm. Around 3:00 p.m. our guests returned to SMWYC where they were treated to a scrumptious reception, fantastic raffle with amazing prizes all donated by our local businesses.

A special thanks to Brothers Entertainment

Merchandising, CK Nails, Cheese and Olive, Handy J Car Wash, Panificio, Sprouts, West Marine,

Eye Can Sail was founded by Women's Sailing Association (WSA) member Kelly Weiss, who has been blind since birth, and myself.

This year's event brought together the Women of Santa Monica Windjammers and the newly formed group Women of Fairwind Yacht Club along with 65 helpers and 14 sailing vessels, their captains and crew. We all say, "We can't wait for next year."



Fairwinder Patricia Rose enjoys an outing aboard Imagine with blind sailors.

# Racing America Cup Boats In San Diego

*“We were hitting 11 knots without breaking a sweat.”*

By Jenson Crawford

“One minute thirty,” calls the timekeeper.

I’m steering on a port beam reach toward the middle of the start line. I look to starboard and see our competitor 10 boat lengths away and partly obscured by our jib. A few minutes earlier, I had been on the helm as we crossed the finish line two boat lengths ahead of her.

This was far from the usual Wednesday night or weekend regatta. I was driving Abracadabra, an 80-foot International America’s Cup Class (IACC) yacht. The boat I beat across the start of this match race – and across the finish line in the previous race – was Dennis Conner’s Stars & Stripes USA 34.

The Women’s Sailing Association of Santa Monica Bay (<http://www.wsasmb.org/>) organized the Sept. 11 trip to Dennis Conner’s America’s Cup Experience in San Diego and graciously invited members of other clubs, including Fairwind, to participate.

“Fifteen seconds!” the timekeepers call comes more insistently.

“Give me some second gear on the jib.” I feel Abracadabra speed up as I hear the winches trimming in the jib and main.

Our competitor realizes she’s over early and heads down to get back on the proper side of the line.

“Ready About! ... Tacking!” I ease the boat to port, a wide gentle turn. We cross the line as the jib crosses before the mast and I hear the jib winch trimming just as the main is being eased from center.

As I cross under the boom to take the windward wheel, I see Stars & Stripes trailing us by two boat lengths. Not bad!

The Dennis Conner America’s Cup

Experience (<http://www.stars-strips.com>) offers a unique chance to race on an America’s Cup Yacht. The fleet includes the IACC yachts Stars & Stripes and Abracadabra as well as AMERICA.

Stars & Stripes USA-34 won the right to defend the Americas Cup in 1995 by winning the Citizen Cup. Abracadabra, a competitor in the 2000 America’s Cup, was designed and built for Hawaii’s Aloha Racing team



Jenson Crawford and Andrew Soderberg grind aboard Abracadabra.



Fairwinder Carole Walsh drives Stars & Stripes.

and has a one-of-a-kind hull painted by marine-life artist Robert Wyland.

AMERICA is a replica of the 139-foot yacht that became the namesake of the America's Cup after winning the historic, Royal Yacht Squadron's "100 Guinea Cup" race around the Isle of Wight off the English coast.

The difference in size between America's Cup yachts and even the biggest boats in the Fairwind fleet is vast. Stars & Stripes is twice as long, is twice as tall, has five times more ballast and is two and a half times as heavy as Fairwind's Catalina 400, Angelsea.

The America's Cup yachts have none of the creature comforts that we're accustomed to on our cruising yachts. Without ballast in either boat, Stars & Stripes would weigh 2,500 pounds less than Angelsea.

The knowledgeable and friendly crew provided a hands-on experience. Anyone who wanted had a chance to drive or trim the sails, even if they have never been on a boat.

The Fairwind women, Carole Walsh, Katherine Conway, Nancy Marino and Sharlen Campbell, joined the WSA sailors and filled the crew slots for Stars & Stripes, while the Fairwind men, Andrew Soderberg, Reginald Dewitte, Sasha Tsapin and I, crewed on Abracadabra with some visiting sailors from Cleveland, Ohio.

While hoisting the main, I felt just how big

Abracadabra was. Even with four of us grinding on the pedestal winches, it was a lot of work getting the main up. Four fresh crew members were on the winches for hoisting the jib.

We also learned when to change from one wheel to the other so that the helmsman (or helmswoman) was always steering from the windward side. We were hitting 11 knots without breaking a sweat.

We tacked a few times for practice and then headed for the start line for three match races with Stars & Stripes. In race one, Stars & Stripes beat Abracadabra. Abracadabra came back in the second race, beating Stars & Stripes.

I attribute the second race victory to Fairwind on two counts: one, Abracadabra had Fairwind helmsmen (Andrew Soderberg and me) in this race; two, this was the only race where the Fairwind women were not actively participating as crew on Stars & Stripes.

With the series tied, Stars & Stripes put the Fairwind women back to work and bested Abracadabra in the final race, winning the series two to one.

After the third race, it was time to head back. How could two and a half hours have gone by so quickly?

After getting the boats put away, several of us walked down the wharf to Anthony's Fish Grotto for a bite to eat. We swapped stories and, of course, talked about our next sailing adventure.

# Stuff Going On At Channel Islands Harbor

By Mike Delaney

## CIH Workday Moved to Open House Morning

With the change in emphasis of the Open House from membership drive to training, the CIH workday has been moved to the morning of the Open House. The Workday and Open House will typically be the third Sunday of the month. The workday will be from 9AM – noon and the Open House will be 1PM – 4PM. Contact Mike Delaney if you are interested in training at [delaneyofto@msn.com](mailto:delaneyofto@msn.com)

## Boat Selection Committee Formed

A small boat selection committee (BSC) has been formed to look into possible replacements for Turning Point which has been out of service due to iron keel rust issues. Tim Chan will head the committee with Jim Marr, Mike Strossman, and Mike Delaney assisting.

## Limit on Capri 14 Ocean Sailing

The Board approved a rule to limit the ocean sailing of Capri 14's based on distance and conditions. The rule is:

A Capri 14 may not be sailed in the ocean more than 1 nm from the harbor entrance. A Capri 14 may not be taken out of the harbor in more than 10 knots of wind or more than 3 ft seas.

## Fairwind Welcomes New Members

Morgan Putnam  
Larry Listing  
Bruker Crusier

All are CIH members



## SMWYC Talks Turkey

World traveler/writer Wendy Windebank will be giving a presentation on sailing and touring Turkey Oct. 27 at Santa Monica Windjammers 13589 Mindanao Way, Marina del Rey, CA 90292.

International Turkish dinner night event. The price will be between \$12.00 and \$15.00. [reservations@smwyc.org](mailto:reservations@smwyc.org). Cocktails 6:30, dinner 7:30, Wendy 8:00. This is a not to be missed night! Please email Carole Walsh at [americawest2@ca.rr.com](mailto:americawest2@ca.rr.com) with any questions. We are planning a flotilla for June 2011.

# Channel Islands Work Day Draws Heroic Efforts; Continued Emphasis Getting Sailors Checked Out

By Michael Delaney

We have had a strong turn out at the recent Channel Islands Harbor workdays and Open Houses. The September workday was on Saturday, Sept. 11. We had teams working at the 22's (Desert Wind, CompanionShip, and Sweet Deal) and the 27's/30 (Freedom Too, Zephyr, and Mk III). The September workday heroes are:

## At the 22's

Dave Nichols  
Joel Krajewski  
Tim Barber  
Brian Fagan  
Corey Chase  
Fred Dougherty  
Bib Biava  
Kelly Johnson  
Jim Milstead  
John Staples  
Alan MacGovern  
Ferne Ross  
Colin Pullin  
Daniel Stebbins  
Michael Delaney

## At the 27's/30

Vicki Redlin  
Oliver Sudhe  
Catherine McKee (Sudhe)  
Jesse Lumsden  
Carl Enson  
Mark Watkins  
Mark Walters  
Bob Chatenever  
Randy Jarvis

We had equally good attendance for the August workday but I have misplaced my list of workday heroes.

**Note: The October workday (training day) will move to the morning of the Open House, Sunday, Oct. 17.**

As we have mentioned in the newsletters, the CIH Open House has shifted focus from membership drive to training of new members. We had a very successful Open House on Sunday, September 19 from a training perspective; fifteen members were trained/checked out during the Open House. The following skippers were the September Open House heroes:

Mk III: Scott Kelly skipper  
Zephyr: Marv Brown skipper/instructor  
Freedom Too: Tim Chan skipper/instructor  
Desert Wind: Mike Strossman skipper/instructor  
Sweet Deal: Bob Chatenever skipper/trainer  
CompanionShip: Mike Delaney skipper/instructor

The August Open House had a good turnout of perspective members even though we had stopped advertising. In addition to training we took out the guests for a day sail. We trained ten members during the Open House.

The following skippers were the September Open House heroes:

Freedom Too: Michael Adams skipper/trainer

Zephyr: Michael Delaney skipper/instructor

Desert Wind: Carl Enson skipper/trainer

CompanionShip: Tim Chan skipper/instructor

In early August we also had a training weekend where we trained twelve new members using two Capri 22's on Saturday and Sunday. The training day heroes were:

Saturday

Sweet Deal: Mike Strossman skipper/instructor

CompanionShip: Mike Delaney skipper/instructor

Sunday

Sweet Deal: Joe Sullivan skipper/trainer

CompanionShip: Tim Chan skipper/instructor

## Marina del Rey Workday Heros For August

Mark Arbing

David Bell

Susan Bonner – boat chief

Marv Brown – Boat Chief

Bruce Byall

Geoff Duckworth

Diane Engler

Peter Griswald

Ken Hoover – Boat Chief

Diane Hubner

Preben Klug –

Elizabeth Kunkie with John and Leih

Marc Levine –Jr. Staff Commodore

Gregory Little

Willy Maynetto

Pam Murphy

Ken Murray – Commodore

Chuck Orlin – Asst. Boat Chief Happy Ours

Jotham Schwartz

Stephen Smith

Bill Tan

George Westerdahl – Boat Chief Island Side

Mark Zeirten – Rear Commodore

Richard Windebank - Secretary

--Carole Walsh

# Quarterly Boat Use Statistics

The following tables summarize boat use for the quarter beginning July 1 and ending Sept. 30.

The data was compiled by counting reservations on the Fairwind web site.

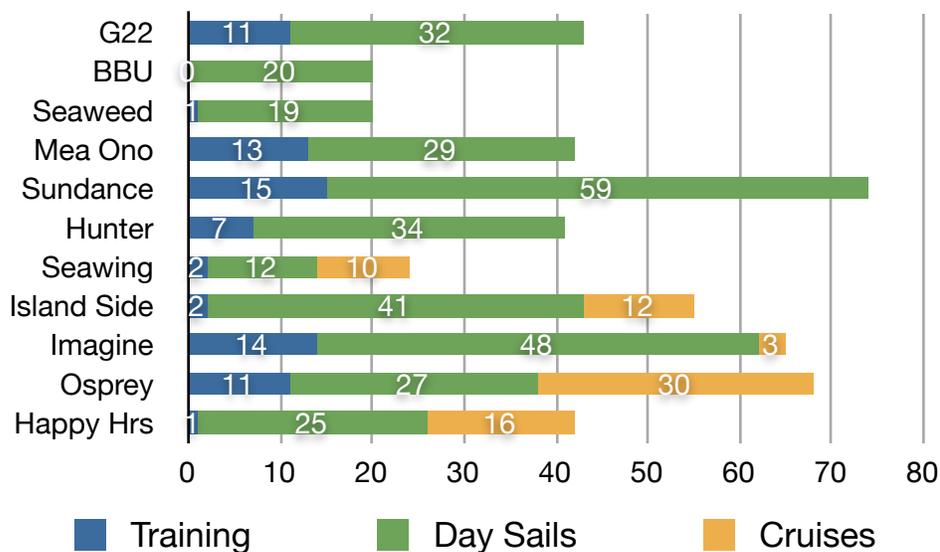
A few observations: Not all Capri 22s are created equal. In Marina del Rey, Sundance was used twice as much as her sister, Mea Ono. In Channel Islands Harbor, Desert Wind was day sailed more than twice as much as CompanionShip, although CompanionShip was a popular training boat.

Osprey in MDR and AngelSea in CIH were heavily used for cruising. The 40-foot AngelSea was reserved for cruising 43 days, bolstered by nearly back-to-back cruises of 12, seven and six days.

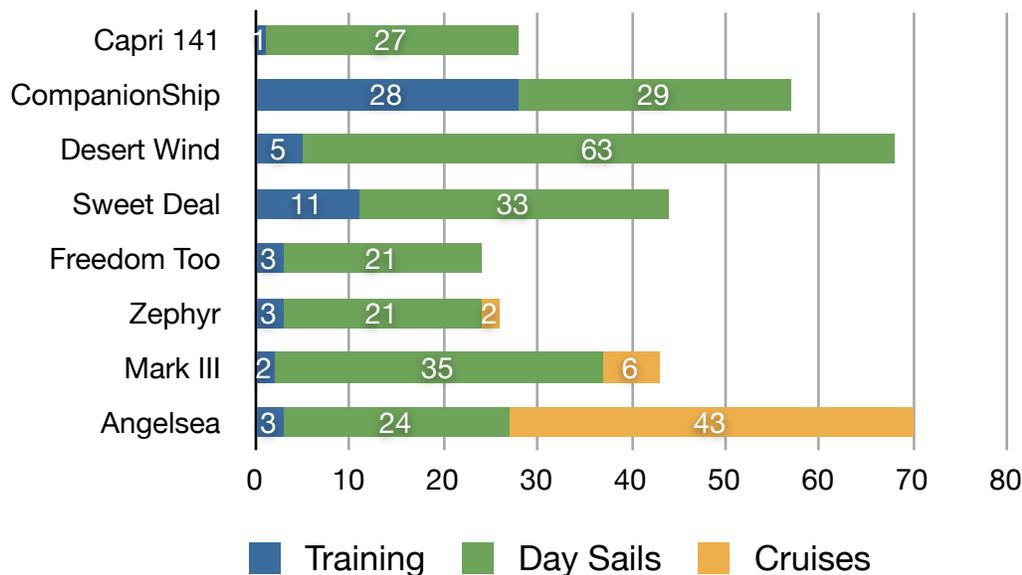
MDR's once-popular Solings, Blue-By-U and Seaweed, are now the least used boats in the fleet. During the quarter, there was but a single training session in either boat.

--Ken Hoover

## MDR



## CIH





**FAIRWIND YACHT CLUB  
ANNUAL INSTALLATION LUNCHEON  
AT  
SANTA MONICA WINDJAMMERS YACHT CLUB  
13589 MINDANAO WAY  
Marina del Rey, CA 90292  
(310) 823-2252**

**DATE: OCTOBER 24, 2010**

**TIME: 11:00 A.M.**

**DRESS: BOATING CASUAL (WE'RE GOING SAILING AFTER)**

\*\*\*\*\*Tear off and include with your check\*\*\*\*\*

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

Print clearly

**Number of reservations** \_\_\_\_\_

**Check for \$25 per person made out to FYC**

**Mail to FYC Post Office Box 12684, MdR, CA 90295. Checks must arrive before October 10<sup>th</sup>. Please allow 5 business days for postal service to deliver.**

**MAKE RESERVATIONS EARLY TO GET THE "MYSTERY" GIFT \*ONLY FOR THOSE ATTENDING\***

# Membership Guide: Where To Go For What

Updates to Membership Roster - Vice Commodore, Richard Windebank

Change e-mail Address for Newsletter + other Communication –Mike Strossman

Pay Dues – Accountant, Paul Antico

Change skipper levels - Fleet Captain, Dick Gross

Change Membership Status - Vice Commodore, Richard Windebank

Submit Articles for Newsletter – Editor, Ken Hoover

Help with training and checkout - Fleet Captain, Dick Gross

Report an Accident - Safety Officer, Marc Levine + Rear Commodore, Mark Zierten

Gear broken on boat - Specific Boat Chief (from Fairwind Website) plus Mark Zierten

Minutes of Board Meetings - [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FYC\\_Communications/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FYC_Communications/)

FYC Treasurers Reports - [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FYC\\_Communications/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FYC_Communications/)

E-mail announcements to the Membership – Secretary, Mike Strossman

FYC Officers - [www.fairwind.org](http://www.fairwind.org)

Coast Guard - Channel 16 or 310-732-2043

VHF Calling Channels – 9 and 12.

## October Club Calendar

					<b>01</b>	<b>02</b> •MDR Workday
<b>03</b> (Week 40)	<b>04</b>	<b>05</b> •Work Day MdR	<b>06</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>08</b>	<b>09</b> •Workday CIH
<b>10</b> (Week 41)	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> •Columbus Day (traditional) •Work Day MdR	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> (Week 42) •CIH Open House	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> •Work Day MdR	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> (Week 43) •11am» FYC Annual Installation Brunch	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> •Work Day MdR	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> (Week 44) •Halloween						