



Peralta Helmsman
16 Cobblestone Lane
Belmont, CA 94002-2310

Commander's Comments

Season's Greetings to you and your family

I hope this holiday season is bringing you health, happiness and much family time together making wonderful memories. We had our annual Holiday Party on December 12th and joined by a few San Leandro Yacht Club members and a great time was had by all. It was a pot luck with great food, company, music, magic, dancing (?!?!), and singing. It was a Hawaiian themed and many Hawaiian shirts and dresses were seen. A big thank you to Dick Folger for heading up the entertainment, Roman Spinale for a great magic show, Melba Hale for her accordion solos, Pat Folger for her keyboard music, Dwight Picaithley for his guitar numbers, the "Four Snowballs" singers and dancers.



Our squadron participated in the annual Coastal Clean up Day in September at the San Leandro Marina represented by Norm and Judy Pennington, Alan Smith, Rick and Vicki Erickson and John and Doreen Fellows. Judy cooked up a BBQ for the workers when they were finished at the San Leandro Yacht Club. Unfortunately, due to current restrictions on the crab season, our annual Crab Feed will be changed to the Chili Cook Off. Hopefully we can resurrect it next year when the crabs will be plumper, bigger and tastier. The Chili Cook Off is always a lot of fun with the current Commander challenging past Commanders for bragging rights to the tastiest chili.

Our Vessel Safety Check examiners, Rick E. and Norm have been busy assessing recreational boats for safety.

Our Squadron will be assisting in the District 25 booth at the Progressive Boat Show in S.F. on 1/15-18. Norm had a big part in getting the Virtual Boating Simulator that will be set up in the booth. If you haven't seen it, it looks interesting and fun to try. Come on out for a chance to experience it.

We are looking for some ideas for land and water activities. If you have any ideas, please contact a board member so we can plan it. Rosters have been mailed to members, so if you haven't received one, contact one of the board members and we will get it to you.

Hope to see all of you soon and Happy Holidays,

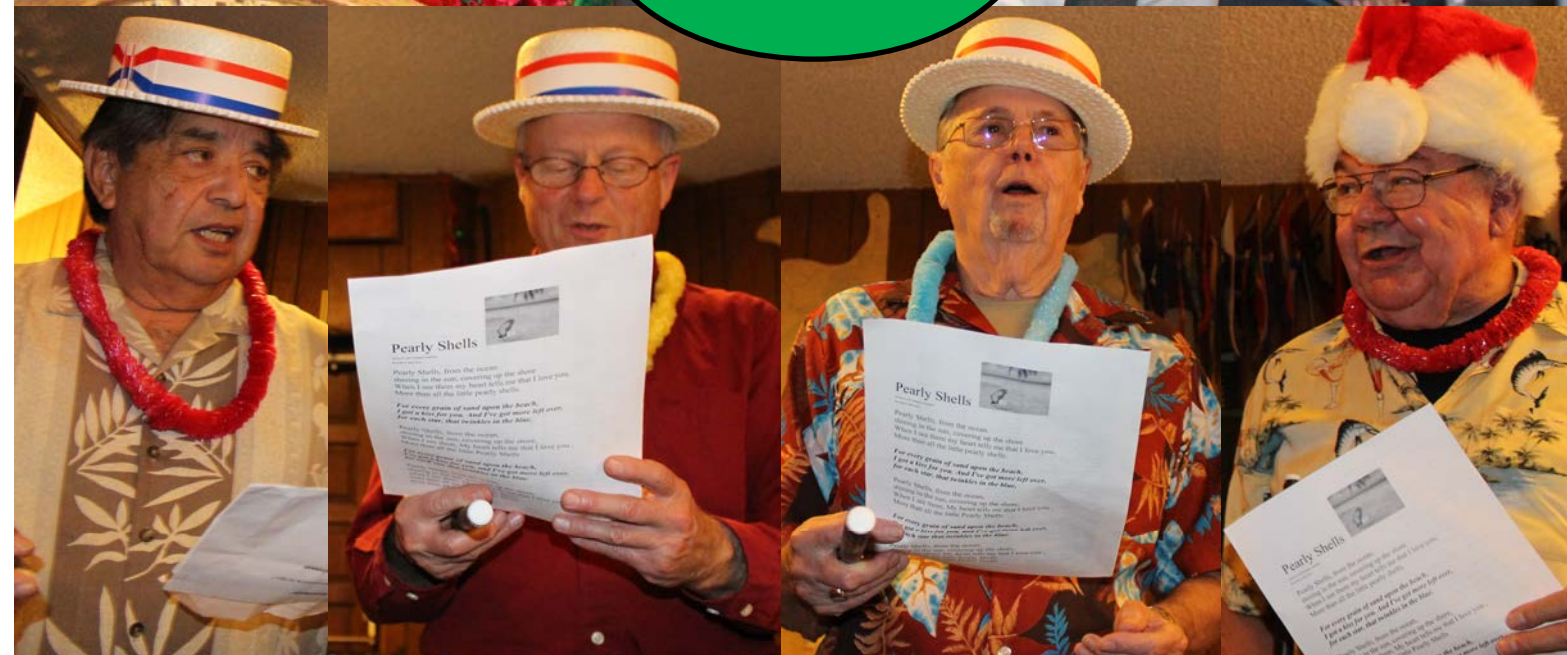
Commander Barbara Waldstreicher, A/P

Peralta Helmsman

**January
2016
Volume 57
No. 1**



**Peralta's
Christmas
Holiday in Hawaii
Show of Shows**



Proud recipient of multiple USPS National Distinction in Journalism Awards
Quarterly publication of the Peralta Sail and Power Squadron, San Leandro, California



Executive Officer's Report

P/C RICARDO MARES, P

Outreach to the Community

We are known in the communities as a Go-To Fountain of Information on safe boating education. In the last month, in the process of moving to a new location and in speaking to people I come across when people see my USPS Logo on a shirt, jacket or a hat, they question it. They become excited to know there are classes being scheduled in a number of locations. This new year we have a great opportunity to start this outreach at the upcoming Progressive Boat Show in San Francisco.

Peralta is scheduled on two dates: Friday, January 15 and Monday, January 18, 2016. Come out, volunteer for two to three hours, be part of a team that informs the public of the importance of education and upcoming State compliances. Plus, you get to see the boat show for free. Contact Norm Pennington or myself so we can schedule your time.

Many of you belong to other boating organizations. This is your opportunity to reach out on behalf of USPS and the important role it plays in water safety. You can post bulletins in newsletters that go out from your club, or speak to the commander or commodore of that organization to possibly schedule a safe boating class for its membership. This is your opportunity to lend a hand for your Peralta Squadron and get the word out.

In January, in place of the annual Crab Feed, Peralta is planning a Past Commanders' Chili Cook-Off because, as everyone knows, the Crab Season is closed in California and Oregon.

The Change of Watch for outgoing and incoming Peralta officers is being held on Saturday, February 27. Come out and support your Bridge.

These two events I've mentioned provide a good time for you to meet other members of Peralta and have a fun evening. If you have some ideas and would like to make suggestions to the Bridge for upcoming events, or scheduling classes, we want to hear from you.

We just had a Christmas/Holiday Party that was outstanding and filled with top entertainment. We did not know that in our small organization we had such a group of talented Peralta men and women. We have performers with skills in the art of song, the lilt of dance, instrumental musicians and the great magical wizardry of one of our newest members.

I want to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season. I look forward to hearing from everyone in the New Year.

Past Commander Ricardo Mares

PERALTA SAIL & POWER SQUADRON

Nominating Committee Report

27 February 2016

Pursuant to Article 6, Section 6.8 of the Peralta Bylaws, the Squadron Nominating Committee submits this report of squadron officers willing to accept the nomination for respective office and committees.

BRIDGE

Commander	Cdr. Barbara A. Waldstreicher, AP
Executive	Lt/C Ricardo L. Mares, P
Education	D/Lt/C Norman W. Pennington, SN
Asst. Education	D/Lt/C Rick C. Erickson, AP
Administrative	OPEN POSITION
Secretary	Lt/C Josette V. Mares, P
Treasurer	D/Lt/C Judith A. Pennington, P

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Cdr. Barbara A. Waldstreicher, AP
Lt/C Ricardo L. Mares, P
D/Lt/C Norman W. Pennington, SN
Lt/C Josette V. Mares, P
D/Lt/C Judith Pennington, P
P/C Richard L. Folger, AP
P/C Alan Smith, P
D/Lt/C Rick C. Erickson, AP

GENERAL COMMITTEES

Auditing
3 Year Term: P/Lt/C Fred Holmes, AP
2 Year Term: P/C Janis K. Chapman, AP
1 Year Term: Susan Ann Holmes, S

Nominating
3 Year Term: P/C Alan Smith, P
2 Year Term: P/C Melba J. K. Hale, P
1 Year Term: Lt/C Josette V. Mares, P

Rules
3 Year Term: P/C Alan Smith, P
2 Year Term: Lt/C Ricardo L. Mares, P
1 Year Term: D/Lt/C Norman W. Pennington, SN

Respectively submitted,
P/C Melba J. K. Hale, P, Patricia Ann Folger, S, and
Lt/C Josette V. Mares, P (Chair)



Peralta Sail and Power Squadron

COMMANDER'S SUPER BOWL CHILI COOK-OFF



WHERE: San Leandro Yacht Club - 20 Mulford Point Drive
San Leandro Marina San Leandro. Ca.

WHEN: Saturday, January 30, 2016

TIME: 1800 Hours (6:00 p.m.)

MENU: Taste and Judge the Prize Winning Chilis prepared by your Present and Past Commanders.
Plus Green Salad, French Bread and Dessert.

PRICE PER PERSON: \$5.00

RSVP by JANUARY 28 to:

Judy Pennington, 650-595-2169 or e-mail judypenn@sbcglobal.net

PAY AT THE DOOR

Come and Join the FUN



The Nautical History of the Peralta Name

BY D/LT/C NORM PENNINGTON, SN



The old Key Ferry Pier

I was recently having a discussion with fellow Peralta member Larry Gertz about the unusual club building that the Sportsmen Yacht Club has in Antioch. The Club house started its life in 1894 as a side wheel auto ferry named **the Sausalito** that was operated by the North Pacific Coast, North Shore, and North-Western Pacific Railroad. The Sausalito, a 236' wooden hull weighing 1766 tons was vacated in 1934 and started its next life as a rod and gun clubhouse near the Antioch Bridge.

While researching the Sausalito, I found several entries for another ferryboat named **the Peralta**. Unlike the Sausalito, the Peralta was built in 1927 by the Moore Dry Dock Company in Oakland and was 256' steel hull with screw drive. The Peralta was operated by the Key System running between the Key System Terminal near the present location of the Bay Bridge Toll Plaza and San Francisco. The Peralta and her sistership, the Yerba Buena were the flagship carriers of the Key System. They



were modeled after the San Leandro and Hayward that were built in 1923. Unfortunately the Peralta turned out to be the "jinx" of the Key System first by getting "stuck" in the ways during the launch, then having suffered several accidents that included five deaths when 30-passengers were washed overboard in 1928 when her bow dipped into the chilly waters off of Goat Island (now called Yerba Buena Island).

In 1933 the Peralta while tied up at the Key System Terminal in Oakland was nearly destroyed by fire. The remains of the Peralta were towed to the Moore Dry Dock in Alameda, her birthplace for survey. The Key System and the insurance company totaled the boat out, however the insurers were able to sell the hull to Puget Sound Navigation Co., Seattle, Washington, who rebuilt her with new diesel engines as the streamlined ferry Kalakala. **The Kalakala** continued to distinguish herself by ramming ferry piers until retirement and conversion into a cannery in 1967.

The story does not end here as there is another Peralta



Rebuilt Kalakala



named the **S. S. Peralta** that was an oil tanker built by the San Francisco Shipbuilding Company and launched in February of 1921. In 1924, the Peralta was purchased and converted into a sardine cannery in Alaska. 24 years later, the ship was moored off Antioch, CA. Finally, in 1958, the Peralta was purchased by Pacifica Papers to be used as part of a giant floating breakwater on the Powell River to protect its log storage pond. She floats aside several of concrete ships built during World War II. The Peralta is still afloat as part of a breakwater for a pulp and paper mill in Powell River in British Columbia, Canada. She is the last ship of the World War I fleet still afloat. At 420 feet, she is also the largest concrete ship afloat. The **S.S. Palo Alto**, sistership to the S.S. Peralta currently sits aground at Seacliff Beach and serves as an artificial reef for marine life.

Today, the Peralta name continues on with the **M/V Peralta**, a 115' high speed catamaran built in 2000 for the city of Alameda that operates between Alameda, San Francisco and Oakland as well as other destinations on the bay. The Peralta is capable of carrying 331 passengers at a speed of 28 knots. This vessel like its earlier namesake suffered an accident where 10-people suffered minor injuries when the Peralta backed into a wooden piling jutting out of the water. Perhaps we should have awarded the Broken Prop Award to the Captain for this mishap?



Although not named after Don Louis Peralta or the Peralta Land Grant, I found another Peralta; actually the Rafael Peralta (DDG-115) that is an Arleigh Burke-class destroyer commissioned in 2015. As an Arleigh Burke-class ship, Rafael Peralta's roles will include anti-aircraft, anti-submarine, and anti-surface warfare, as well as strike operations. Rafael Peralta will feature several improvements in terms of ballistic missile defense, an embarked air wing, and the inclusion of mine-detecting ability. The Peralta is 505' and has a range of 4,400 nautical miles at a speed of 20 knots, and capable of a speed greater than 30 knots.

As you can see the Peralta name has led an interesting nautical past and continues to this day.



Education Officer's Report

BY D/LT/C NORMAN W. PENNINGTON, SN

Over the past year I have been reporting on California Senate Bill 941 requiring that all operators obtain a Vessel Operator Card (VOC) starting in January 2018. To qualify for a VOC the applicant will need to complete and pass a safe boating course that is approved by the State of California. Fortunately, if you have taken a safe boating course all you need to do is show and possibly provide a copy of your certificate when you took the Squadron Boating Course, Boat Smart or the America's Boating Course.



As I have previously reported, there will be a phase-in period, meaning that not everyone will be required to obtain a VOC when the law is enacted in 2018. For example, those that are 20 years and younger will need a VOC in 2018, and those 25 and younger will need a VOC in 2019, and etc. However, children 12-15 years of age may operate a motor boat of more than 15 horsepower if supervised by an adult on board who is at least 18 years of age and possesses a Vessel Operator Card. I'll provide periodic updates as I learn more regarding the implementation of Senate Bill 941.

As the Boat Operator Certification Regional Director I am planning on setting up a school for Boat Operator Certification. I am looking at either August or September 2016 and offering the Inland Navigator, Coastal Navigator and Advanced Coastal Navigator levels. The school will consist of the preparatory seminar or planning session for each level. The session for Inland Navigator is about 7 to 8-hours. The session for Coastal Navigator is about 6-

hours, and the session for Advanced Coastal Navigator session is about 15 to 18-hours. For each on the water session we can accommodate four candidates. Candidates must successfully complete the skills portion of a lower level before advancing to a higher level. For example, a member desiring to complete the skills portion of Coastal Navigator must first complete the skills portion of Inland Navigator. Members will need to obtain a USPS Passport for each level they plan to become certified in. Cost is about \$50.

To successfully run a school we will need a few boats; one under 23 feet for Inland Navigator (IN), another under 30 feet (can be the same boat for IN) for Coastal Navigator, and another one or two boats under 40 feet for Advanced Coastal Navigator. I am thinking that Inland Navigator and Coastal Navigator can be up in Benicia with IN in the vicinity of Southampton Shoal and Coastal Navigator can be in Suisun Bay from Benicia to around Light 24. The journey for Advanced Coastal Navigator would be from Benicia to Angel Island and back and will consist of daylight and nighttime navigation. The skills training locations above are only an example and if needed we can establish areas in the Bay. Please let me know if you are interested in becoming certified in one or more levels in the Boat Operator Certification program.

Coming January 15-18 2016 is the San Francisco Boat Show at Pier 48 and McCovey Cove at AT&T Park. At this show we will have the Boating Skills Virtual Trainer (BSVT) where visitors to the booth will have an opportunity to test drive and hone their seamanship skills using the virtual trainer. In addition to enjoying the show and visiting the US Power Squadron Booth, we are also looking for volunteers to staff the booth as well as guide and assist visitors with the BSVT. Booth volunteers will be provided with entrance passes to the show. We are planning on having the Peralta Squadron serve in the booth on Friday from 12:00 to 8:00 pm and again on Monday from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm.

Meet the USPS Boating Skills Virtual Trainer at the January 15-18, 2016 Boat Show at Pier 48 and McCovey Cove



P/C Alan Smith finds new use for old boats: —boat planters



During my cross country travels I've noticed an interesting trend in boating. I guess some wives want to get involved with their husband's fishing. Some wives want to give their husband's fishing boat a woman's touch by decorating it. I'm not sure if this decorating trend is going to last very long. Then again the husbands will have more time to paint the house or any other honey-do's.

Responsible boat operators need to practice clean and green boating operations

In a boating message from Vivian Matuk, coordinator of the Environmental Boating Program for the California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways, California Coastal Commission, we are asked to check the 2015 Winter issue of the Changing Tide Newsletter at: www.dbw.parks.ca.gov/PDF/CleanGreen/ct-winter_2015.pdf

The Changing Tide newsletter is the publication of the California Clean Boating Network (CCBN) and it is presented by The Bay Foundation, State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW) and California Coastal Commission's Boating Clean and Green Program, and the Keep the Delta Clean Program. This publication is funded in part by DBW's Clean Vessel Act Education Program and the Federal Clean Vessel Act Grant Program.

The newsletter is dedicated to promoting clean boating practices in California by focusing on new trends in sustainability and environmental services for boaters. Each issue also showcases great boating destinations throughout California. This is a perfect publication to have at informational kiosks, marinas, harbor or yacht club offices, dock entrances, boat launch ramps, and fuel docks. You can also distribute this publication at boating events.

While you're at it, Vivian suggests you check previous issues at www.BoatingCleanAndGreen.com (look under Quick Hits for Changing Tide Newsletter)



Peralta Nominating Committee seeks an administrative officer

As Chairman of the Nominating Committee I want to thank everyone for accepting their new 2016 position. Some of you have accepted to take on another three-year term. Outstanding!

Your nominating committee is looking for a bright star who likes to plan outings and parties for a talented and fun group of people – Peralta Sail & Power Squadron. This Bridge position will give you an opportunity to learn how the squadron operates. Please consider taking on this vital position for the Squadron.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Lt/C Josette Mares, P, Chairman, Nominating Committee, Cell: 707-980-3306 or e-Mail: rjmases@comcast.net

Administrative Department Report

HOLIDAY PARTY

P/C Alan Smith said that when he left Peralta's Hawaii-themed Holiday Party on December 12 it was 11:30 p.m. Amazingly everyone was still there and having fun. Based on that we can conclude the event was a great success. Why not? That's what Peralta is all about. Come for the education, stay for the friends.

After a ham potluck dinner, the party got underway with a fantastic floor show. Dwight Pithcaithley generously supplied a complete sound system and high-tech keyboard. He also opened by performing songs he sang back in the 60s when the Beatles came and his band was part of the show.

Next up was Melba Hale-Gertz who accompanied her dance group on the accordion with *Pearly Shells*. Like a bluebird of paradise, she brought her instrument to life and suddenly we were all on the beach at Waikiki. A barefoot Larry Gertz, festooned with a grapefruit halves bra, was joined by Josette Mares whose undulating hips nearly shook the decorations off the Christmas Tree pinafore she was wearing. P/C Conway Pendleton captured hearts as he swayed and sang to the hula rhythms. Some said that his rapturously fluttering eyelids were visual aphrodisiacs.

Pat Folger then demurely offered her Holiday Medley of familiar Christmas tunes which she played on Dwight's high tech keyboard which gave a concert-hall sound to the music.

Pat accompanied the next group with *Honolulu White Christmas*, a Dick Folger rewrite of the old Bing Crosby version. Strutting onstage with straw hats and canes were the "Hawaiian Snowball Old Guy Dance Troup" featuring Ricardo Mares, Alan Smith, Larry Gertz and Dick Folger. Their cane plant, pirouette razzledazzle performance left the audience pounding their hands for more.

Roman Spinale then took the stage and mystified everyone with a professional performance. Roman is a professional now and donated his performance because he is a member of the Squadron. (Thanks again, Roman!) One of the memorable tricks was when P/C Alan Smith surrendered a \$20 bill from his wallet. Roman had Alan write his name on the bill. He put it on the table where everyone could keep an eye on it. Alan had been assured he would get his money back, still he kept his eye on it too. In a later trick, while searching his pockets for a missing wallet, Roman checked inside the fly of his pants. He withdrew a kiwi which ended up on the table in front of P/C Folger who was instructed to keep an eye on it. At

the end of the performance the audience reminded Roman about Alan's unreturned twenty dollar bill. Roman took the kiwi from Dick and cut it in half. In the center there was a soggy stub sticking out of the fruit. To everyone's amazement Alan pulled the stub out of the fruit and opened it up to discover that it was his original twenty, complete with his own signature on the face of the bill!

CALENDAR PLANNING MEETING

Peralta will be holding its annual calendar planning meeting at 1330 on Saturday, January 9th to discuss plans for the 2016-17 Squadron Year. Members are encouraged to attend to provide input for events for the forthcoming year.

CRAB FEED CHANGES TO CHILI FEED.

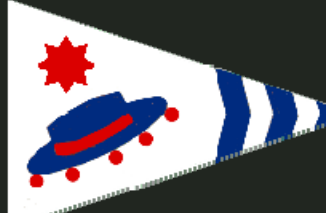
Traditionally after the New Year we have the Annual Crab Feed at the San Leandro Yacht Club. However, the California Department of Public Health has determined that there is an unsafe level of domoic acid, the neurotoxin that caused the unprecedented closure of the commercial crab season, which was supposed to open Nov. 15. It is possible that the level of domoic acid could drop to a safe level by the end of January; we have decided to cancel the annual crab feed and replace it with a Chili Cook-off instead. So, mark your calendar and plan on attending the Chili Cook-off on Saturday, January 30th at the San Leandro Yacht Club. Please refer to an event flyer found elsewhere in this issue.

ANNUAL CHANGE OF WATCH

On February 27th we will be holding our Annual Change of Watch at the San Leandro Yacht Club. Representing the District Commander will be our own D/Lt/C Rick Erickson, AP, who will officiate at the Change of Watch. Please refer to the Nominating Committee Report found in this issue.

Peralta Helmsman

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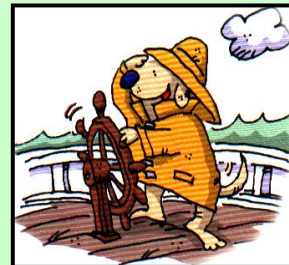


**P/C Dick Folger, AP,
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*Quarterly publication
of Peralta Sail and Power
Squadron*



What's ahead for Peralta Squadron?



2016 Calendar of Events

Saturday, 9 January, 1330 hours
Peralta Squadron Calendar Planning Meeting and Executive Committee Meeting. All members are welcome. San Leandro Yacht Club.. Contact Norm Pennington.

Friday to Monday, 15-18 January
Progressive San Francisco Boat Show. Held at McCovey Cove and Pier 48, in SF. Contact Alan Smith.

Saturday, January 30, 1800 hours
Peralta's Commander's Chili Cook-Off . San Leandro Yacht Club Come to taste and judge the Prize Winning Chilis prepared by your present and past commanders. Plus you get green salad, French bread and dessert. Price per person is \$5.00.

Tuesday, 2 February
USPS Founder's Day is observed. See our website.

Wednesday, 3 February
District 25 Council Meeting at Bridge Marina Yacht Club in Antioch. Contact Cdr. Barbara Waldstreicher, AP.

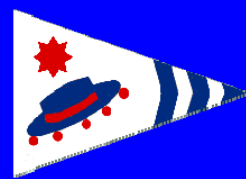
Monday, 8 February, 1930 hours
Peralta Squadron Executive Committee Meeting
San Leandro Yacht Club. Contact Cdr. BarbaraWaldstreicher, AP.

February 14-21
USPS Annual Meeting
Rosen Center, Orlando, Florida. Details on web site.

Monday, 15 February
Helmsman newsletter articles are due
Email to dickfolger@aol.com

Wednesday, 24 February, 1900 hours
America's Boating Class. Five Wednesdays through 23 March at the San Leandro Yacht Club. Register on the Peralta website.

Saturday 27 February
Peralta Change of Watch. San Leandro Yacht Club. Contact Cdr. Barbara Waldstreicher, AP.



Peralta Sail and Power Squadron

2015-16 Bridge

Commander
Cdr Barbara Waldstreicher, AP

Executive Officer
Lt/C Ricardo Mares, P

Educational Officer
D/Lt C Norm Pennington,SN

Administrative Officer
Open

Secretary
Lt/C Josette Mares, S

Treasurer
D/ Lt C Judy Pennington, P

General Committees

Auditing
Lt. Fred Holmes, AP
Lt/C Barbara Waldstreicher,AP
Open

Nominating
Lt/C Josette Mares, S
Patricia A. Folger, S
P/C Melba Hale Gertz

Rules
D/Lt/C Norm Pennington, SN
P/C Alan Smith
Open



Peralta's Hawaiian Holiday Christmas Party Show of Shows



Have mistletoe, will kiss...



SLYC's Dwight Pitcaithley and Roman Spinale team up for some magical music



The Music of Melba



The Incredible Magic of Master Magician Roman Spinale



Most photos by Richard Spinale, others by Alan Smith, and some by Dick Folger

