



San Diego Association of Yacht Clubs (SDAYC)

October 16, 2025 – 6:30PM at SGYC

1. Call to Order and Opening

Commodore Jerelyn Biehl called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Rear Commodore

Dorothy Ortmeier. A toast was offered by Senior Staff Commodore Bill Edwards.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the September 2025 meeting was made by Director Joe Virgilio and seconded by Marty Bohl. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed in remembrance of Shaun Mcardle, who passed away recently.

4. Introductions

Staff Commodore Bill Edwards (Navy Yacht Club San Diego, 2022) was recognized. Host Commodore Damon Forney (Silver Gate Yacht Club) welcomed attendees and introduced members of the SGYC Bridge and Board. The evening's guest speaker, Mr. Hiro Iwamoto, was then introduced.

5. Guest Speaker – Mr. Hiro Iwamoto

Mr. Iwamoto, a blind sailor and motivational speaker, shared his remarkable story of perseverance, having twice sailed across the Pacific Ocean, including after surviving a collision with a whale. His message emphasized overcoming adversity, finding purpose in challenges, and inspiring others to never give up.

Following the presentation, Mr. Iwamoto answered questions from members about his navigation technology and preparation for solo sailing as a blind sailor. He explained that modern tools such as voice-guided GPS, compass systems, and Starlink connectivity enable him to safely navigate and communicate at sea. Members expressed admiration for his courage and perseverance, and Silver Gate Yacht Club reaffirmed its support for his upcoming 2027 solo Pacific crossing.

Commodore Biehl confirmed that she would obtain Mr. Iwamoto's Website info so everyone could follow and/or contribute to his campaign.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/hiro-iwamoto-223881364/>

6. 2026 Dinner Meeting Host Club Selection

Commodore Biehl facilitated the drawing for the 2026 dinner meeting hosts. The following schedule was selected:



- January – 2025 Commodore's Club (SDYC)
- February – Coronado Cays Yacht Club (CCYC)
- March – Mission Bay Yacht Club (MBYC)
- April – Navy Yacht Club San Diego (NYCSD)
- May – Oceanside Yacht Club (OYC)
- June – San Diego Yacht Club (SDYC)
- July – Coronado Cays Yacht Club (CCYC)
- September – Silver Gate Yacht Club (SGYC)
- October – Coronado Cays Yacht Club (CCYC)
- November – Southwestern Yacht Club (SWYC)

August and December remain dark months.

7. Racing Calendar Report

Vice Commodore Mark Mallaby provided an update on the 2026 Racing Calendar. He requested clubs to review and update their events in the shared Google spreadsheet and submit any changes to ensure timely publication in the SDAYC Calendar. He also asked for confirmation of Opening Day dates to avoid conflicts.

8. Roster Updates

Clubs were reminded to return updated officer information forms to Commodore Jerelyn Biehl following their installation of 2026 Bridge and Board members. Forms were provided at each table.

9. Awards Committee Reports

- a. Yachtsman of the Year – Vice Commodore Mark Mallaby reported that four candidates were nominated. He requested two Commodores to assist with the selection process, with the recipient to be announced at the November meeting.
 - b. Yachtswoman of the Year – Director Bob Howdyshell reported one nomination this year and encouraged clubs to submit additional candidates in future years.
 - c. Alonzo de Jessop Memorial Award – Rear Commodore Sandra Sherman reported four nominations and noted that all were outstanding candidates.
 - d. John M. Rumsey, M.D. Award – Commodore Jerelyn Biehl shared that two highly deserving nominees were considered, and a recipient has been selected by the Board.
 - e. Paul J. Hartley Memorial Award – Three nominations were received, and the committee will meet at the end of the month to select the recipient.
 - f. Peter M. Curtin Sportsmanship Award – No nominations were received this year.
- Commodore Biehl encouraged clubs to consider potential candidates in future years.

Awards will be presented at the SDAYC Awards Dinner on January 8, 2026, at San Diego Yacht Club, where the 2026 Bridge and Board will also be installed.



10. Roll Call of Clubs and Reports

Individual club reports are recorded in the full meeting transcript. Highlights included updates from Coronado Cays, Silver Gate, and San Diego Yacht Clubs on upcoming events and regattas.

11. New Business

- a. Newport to Ensenada Race (NOSA) – Rich Chambers, on behalf of Joanne Sedgwick, announced that the Notice of Race for the Newport to Ensenada and Newport to San Diego races will be posted on November 1. Early registration in November or December will retain 2025 rates, with an increase effective January 1, 2026.
- b. Veterans and Military Boat Parade – Staff Commodore Bill Edwards provided an update and encouraged participation in the upcoming parade honoring veterans and active-duty service members.
- c. Recording of Meetings – Rear Commodore Sandra Sherman announced that SDAYC meetings are now being recorded and transcribed using AI to ensure accurate minutes. Attendees were assured the process is for documentation purposes only.

12. Next Meeting

The next SDAYC Dinner Meeting will be held on November 20, 2025, hosted by Mission Bay Yacht Club. The evening will feature the Port Captains Panel. Uniform: Grays.

13. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Sherman, Rear Commodore (with assistance of Smartnoter.ai & ChatGPT)

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