



Pacific Inter-Club Yacht Association

OPENING DAY ON THE BAY

Sunday April 26 @ 1200 hours

San Francisco waterfront

“Myths and Legends on the Bay”

SKIPPER’S INSTRUCTIONS

Updated 2/04/2026

Dear Skippers and Participants:

This information is provided to help you understand how the parade will be conducted.

All boaters are welcome to participate. Participants need not be a member of a Yacht Club. Participation is free of charge. The parade route starts at noon on April 26 just north of Anita Rock off the shore of Crissy Field in the Presidio, follows along the city front to the first Fort Mason building east of the Marina Green. Boats can choose to fly flags and streamers, not decorate, or have other types of décors. Some boats will be decorated with this year’s theme "Myths and Legends" in mind. The parade will be a fun display of boats decorated to depict various interpretations of the theme which celebrates folklore, mythology, and storytelling. The theme is open to many interpretations and skippers are encouraged to be creative.

Some boats will fly flags and streamers or just join in the parade not decorated. All are welcome.

For members of yacht clubs: Club of The Year – **COTY** – the rules were revised a few years ago to encourage clubs to jointly put boats into the decorated boat parade. We want to give Non-Bay Area clubs a chance to participate without having to take one of their boats a great distance. These revised COTY rules reward a Non-Bay Area club & a Bay Area club who join together to decorate a boat by giving **both** clubs COTY points. If two Non-Bay Area clubs join to enter a decorated boat, **both** clubs will get COTY points.

There are six trophies that will be awarded: The **BoatUS Ward Cleveland Memorial; The Captain Morgan; The Pier 39; Royal Cruise Line; Marine World Foundation and the Claude Benham Memorial**. There will also be prize bags for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each group. Trophies and prize bags will be presented at the June Delegates meeting. (See your Yachting Yearbook for details on the trophies – we follow the deeds of trust.)

Thank you to all participants for your efforts to make our 108th Annual Opening Day on San Francisco Bay a friendly competition and a fun day for all.

1. All boats should register at the PICYA website, www.picya.org by April 22. (to be included in the program). But registration is open until 10 am the day of the parade. They must display their assigned parade order number to participate in the parade and to be eligible for Opening Day awards, prizes and Club of the Year (COTY) points. Please display your PICYA/BoatUS burgee if you have one. **Questions** – contact parade registrant Linda Blue at 510-851-4387 or linda.a.blue@gmail.com.

2. Follow verbal instructions given by personnel aboard Coast Guard vessels, Coast Guard Auxiliary vessels, Police boats, Picket Boats, Lead Boats or any vessel flying the official orange PICYA Opening Day Banner.
3. Date & Time: Sunday April 26 the parade is to start at approx. 1200 hours. NOTE: Boats parade by category and by number within a category; thus, not everyone starts at noon.
4. At 1130 hours entrants are to rendezvous in the staging area just north of Anita Rock off the shore of Crissy Field in the Presidio. Assemble behind your lead boat in your category (i.e. 100 class, etc.) numerical order if possible. While waiting, circle in a counter-clockwise direction in your class group. Your Lead Boat will let you know by radio, phone or visual signal when it is time to enter and proceed through the parade corridor. You should be following your Lead Boat, in numerical order if possible, through the parade corridor; keeping any picket boats (or anchored vessels flying the official Opening Day Banner) to your Port. The Committee Boat (**Luxe Cruise Boat – Cabernet Sauvignon**) and the San Francisco City Front should be kept to Starboard. The Committee Boat will be located between San Francisco's Marina Gas House Cove entrance and the first Fort Mason building east of the Marina Green.
5. At **1200 hours**: The San Francisco Fire Boat **Phoenix and or St. Francis** will begin the parade with special interest boats such as Oakland FD, Alameda FD, USACE John AB Dillard, Albatross, and MV Potomac following. Lead Boat 000 will follow leading the Classic Yachts. All boats are to proceed in single file, maintaining a distance of at least 2-3 boat lengths between boats, at an approximate speed of 4 knots.
6. The parade route is along the City Front, past the PICYA Committee Boat, **Luxe Cruise Boat – Cabernet Sauvignon**, continuing to Pier 39 where the

parade officially ends. Participants will be monitored by a spotter at Pier 39, for completing the course; thus confirming they are eligible for awards and COTY points.

7. **NOTE:** There will not be a Coast Guard Auxiliary boat assigned as Lead Boat in each group. The Coast Guard will assign them to perimeter control. We will be asking that one boat from each category assume the lead boat position for their group. The categories are:

- 000 Classic and historic yachts
- 100 Powerboats decorated to theme
- 200 Sailboats decorated to theme
- 300 Power or sail decorated by Juniors
- 400 - 500 Flags & Streamers by club
- 700 Decorated not to theme
- 800 Non decorated boats

Please Remember: Commercial Vessels have the right-of-way!!

8. **Radio communication will be on channel 68 and alternatively on 69, 71.
(IF SOMEONE LEAVES A MIC OPEN WE WILL USE ALTERNATES)**

Exercise **CAUTION** in the vicinity of the San Francisco Harbor entrance, Gas House Cove, Aquatic Park and the Pier 39 area. The Coast Guard asks that you use extreme caution while lining up for the parade. Leave enough room while looking for your lead boat; which will be the lowest numbered boat in your category. At Pier 39 make a safe wide turn as the area gets congested.

Do not cross through the parade route.

Display your assigned Parade order number in three places, using a 2 ft. X 2 ft. Sign with a white background and large black numbers for each of these placements. **Place your number on both sides of the bow - port &**

starboard and also on the stern. The boat name must remain visible. The onboard spotters are looking to identify you to our parade announcer. We want to correctly identify you in our video and announce the information you provided on the registration form. It is easy to use poster board from the dollar store or order a banner online at staples.

Caution is suggested as boat control may be an issue when the current is above 4 knots, over the bottom.

Disqualification: Remember **NO BALLOONS** are allowed in decorations and use of balloons may cause disqualification. Also: not passing Pier 39 or not following other instructions may result in disqualification for prizes and COTY points.

We will attempt to call the trophy and prize winners within a week after the event. The official results will be posted at www.picya.org. If you have won a trophy/prize please contact Secretary, Marilyn Sperling, mcsperling@comcast.net, to reserve a place in the Awards Ceremony.

Thank You for your participation.

Good Luck and Have Fun!

Linda Blue

Staff Commodore

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510-851-4387