

# Marin Rod & Gun Club

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## NOVEMBER 2008

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Todd Meyer

In this my last President's newsletter to you, it came to me the most insightful thing I could do is to provide an overview of what we've accomplished, where we are and what is in process at the end of my two years of presidency.

Before I begin, I would like to thank the three outgoing general board members for their service on the board: John Ahern, Jack Camiccia (2 years each) and Bill Irons (6 years). All three of these directors have outstanding attendance records and have actively provided quality input in all board dealings. The club is fortunate for their contributions.

### "State of the Club"

The key advancement in club organization over the past two years has been the active participation of the club committee structure. Club by-laws dictate this structure and realistically as a volunteer organization of our size, we have no good choice but to spread the work load to members with the needed skill sets who are willing to help get club work done. Most of the key committees regularly attend board meetings, resulting in greater overall club knowledge and awareness of how their responsibility affects others, in turn, creating direct interaction between committees. There is no substitute for this direct real time interaction and it has allowed us to accomplish more and have more members involved in a meaningful way. So what better way to structure this review than around some of our key committees.

### Membership

Tom Yasuda has done an outstanding job heading this committee. Never once has he ever had to be prodded to complete a task on time. We have exceeded over 100 new members each of his two years in this post and have gained our total membership figures.

**Events** We have maintained all traditional club events and added the popular Breakfast-by-the-Bay every third Sunday morning. Overall our events are profitable and provide a tremendous members service, with lots of new member participation.

**Pier** More improvements have been made on the pier in the past two years than all of the proceeding decade! To the dozen or so members who have helped make this statement possible we owe a debt of gratitude. That said, the pier requires a lot more residual repair work that cannot be neglected. When the topics of finance and revenue generation come up, I advise we keep the pier a starting point for a base line perspective on how much money the club really needs. Everyone wants to save the pier, so let's get real about creating the money to do it right.

**Desalination** The potential for a desalination plant remains and a "rebuilt Rod and Gun Club pier" as the stated preferred intake choice in MMWD filings. There are no promises that desalination will occur nor a rebuilt pier offer or agreement commence, however our relationship with MMWD is good and should be maintained for this topic that is so important to both organizations.

**Bingo** We do not have enough members interested in regularly volunteering to maintain

bingo operations. The organization we partnered with to take over bingo was not able to do so profitably. It is sad our long standing bingo tradition has, at least for now, come to an end. It is important to clarify a common misnomer that bingo was keeping the club financially afloat. In reality the club is limited to keeping a small amount of money from bingo each month. Thanks to all who volunteered so tirelessly for so many years that made bingo such a huge success and great fun for so many.

**Habitat Restoration** This year marked the fifth year of habitat restoration work and a 600% increase in the funding we receive to do this work to \$300,000. Led by Dr. Bud Abbott club volunteerism and community awareness of the clubs success in this arena also continue to steadily grow. It is fair to say that the club is now providing a more significant first hand contribution to our club charter of conservation than at any time in our long history of conservation.

**Public Relations** Pick up the Marin IJ and it's not surprising to see a front page cover story on the club or a mention in Nels Johnson's fish wrap on some activity on the pier. It also is no longer uncommon to see the club prominently mentioned in a regional TV news report. Jerry McEowen has brought his professional acumen and contacts to shine a positive light on what we do and who we are. Hat's off to Jerry for making PR a long needed reality for the club.

**Technology** The club web site and electronic newsletters seem like old hat, however both were fledgling topics when I first wrote this column. Leveraging technology to communicate is a given and it is obvious we are now well on our way to utilizing this power to our benefit. Thanks to all involved, especially Stephan Avanzian, for helping make this happen. Reminder, you can get your newsletter anytime, including back issues, at [www.marinrodandgunclub.com](http://www.marinrodandgunclub.com)

**Insurance** We're covered. Lillian Bracken has done an outstanding job of actively engaging in club activities across the board to help best assure we are handling insurance properly. Her active participation has allowed us to act on many matters with authority and focus on getting the job done instead of getting stuck wondering about the insurance requirements or ramifications. Lillian is an outstanding example of how direct committee involvement benefits all concerned.

**House and Grounds** Rich Nave, Jr. has done a great job of making sure we remain in a good state of repair, while adding some noteworthy additions including a complete power panel in the back lot. With completion of the Review Study currently underway we will be in a much better position to prioritize those maintenance tasks to tackle next.

**Bar** We raised prices a quarter this year and credited all event bar profit to the bar. This has improved bar profitability, however the bar percentages remain well below the norm for this function for a club like ours and as the bar represents a full 1/3 of our income this remains a matter to not be taken lightly.

**Boat Launch** The new cement pilings will last us for decades to come. Last January's major storm reminded us of the necessity to remove the floats before the winter season hits. Paul Tarzia and Bill Craig have done a great job constantly improving and maintaining this club asset.

**Historical** Be it new scrap books or an inexpensive club DVD, historical has made long overdue strides to document our past and provide information that is readily available for members to enjoy.

**Kitchen** The kitchen is in great shape and coordinates so seamlessly with both club events and rentals that it is a wonder how we ever functioned without Bill George at the reins. Enough said other than sincere thanks to Billy for his tireless contribution.

**Scholarship** As he has done now for so many years, Don Gregory has made sure our scholarship funds are awarded to worthy recipients who, in turn, return and present us the insights and conclusions of their research. This is an important aspect of the club we need to make sure remains funded, now that bingo will no longer be providing the base funds.

**Finance** Our Treasurer Catherine Coffee has done a great job of improving our financial tracking and then conveying our status to the membership in a straightforward meaningful way. We continue to have just over \$1 million in club assets, and operationally we lose \$30,000 or so a year from club operations, both of these have been the case for the past few years. Some years we end up with a positive cash flow thanks to one time bequeathment or something like the desalination pilot rental, but otherwise our operations are very consistent. We have restructured our accounting to provide a clear understanding of how we are performing in each of our five revenue centers namely; Membership, Events, Bar, Rentals and Habitat Restoration. Practically speaking we can only expect substantial growth from one of these five-Club Rentals.

Thus, we're going to need to be objective about what type of events can bring in the most money and at what cost in club downtime and oversight coordination and overhead. Most of the new revenue generating ideas brought forward to date have limited revenue potential and require a lot of management overhead – not a good combination. We need to think outside the box and see if there is a way to leverage our unique property and location assets. The idea of creating an outdoor summer concert series that could generate hundreds-of-thousands in profits annually to club coffers was dismissed earlier this year, without proper due diligence. As a financial opportunity for the club it is unparalleled in bottom line potential and should be immediately revisited with an open mind toward our long term well being.

In closing, I would like to thank you all for the opportunity to serve you these past two years. It has been a learning experience beyond my farthest expectation. Your encouragement, support and assistance will always be the things I recall when I think back on this time. I bid you a fond farewell.

*Enjoy the little things in life,  
for one day you will look back and  
realize they were the big things*

**INSTALLATION OF  
OFFICERS & DIRECTORS  
for 2009**

**DECEMBER 19**

**New and Returning Members:**

**President: Marty Petrini**

**Secretary: Lillian Bracken**

**Treasurer: Catherine Coffey**

**Past President: Todd Meyer**

**Directors:**

**Robert Abbott, Tad Alvord**

**Bill George, Roy Jackson**

**Laura Lentini, Rich Nave, Jr.**

**Dianne Rodrigues, Bruce Woodford**

**2009 Dues Notices are being  
mailed this month**

**Dues must be paid before**

**March 31, 2009**

**Dues are \$75**

**(\$37.50 for 65 or Over  
w/10 Years Membership)**

**Dependent card renewal-\$10**

**New/Replacement dependent  
card-\$25**

**(\$50 late fee if applicable)**

***If you joined from October to  
December 2008,***

***your 2009 dues are paid***

**DO NOT DESTROY YOUR  
CURRENT CARD**

**NO  
WWII MUSEUM  
VISIT  
this year**

**PIER REPORT**

**By Christopher Badouin**

Well my friends can you believe this weather we have been having in the past month? And, of course, with good weather comes good fishing. But then again is there any bad fishing? I know, I know, we all enjoy the thunderous tug from "that" fish. You know that fish, the one that will place your name on tips of tongues for years to come. I believe just fishing, the sun, the smell and other delights to the senses makes any day of fishing a good day. Getting on to our beloved pier, though few anglers have been fishing, the bite has been good. We have seen Stripers, Halibut, Perch and even a Sturgeon. Yup, you read it correctly, a Sturgy! The weather is still here so get out and enjoy fishing.

Now I would like to get my ever used soap box out.....After the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year I will be leading an event for brand spankin' new rods and reels for the MRGC pier. My hat off to Ed and others for making do with the old tattered rods for all these years. Stay tuned for more details next month.

**Other Areas**

Anglers have been catching halibut still. It is unusual for any halibut to be caught at all this late in the season. And the stripers have been hitting live bait in the bay and the Napa & Petaluma rivers.

**Membership Oath**

*"I do solemnly pledge that: I will obey, abide by and uphold the Constitution, By-Laws, rules and regulations of this Club; I will uphold the ethics of good sportsmanship and the fish and games laws of the State of California and of the United States of America; I will do all in my power to prevent dissension in this Club and among its members and I will propose for membership only those whom I know to be worthy."*

**Editor's Note:**

**Newsletter Deadline  
is the third FRIDAY of every month.**

**Gun Notes From Here & There**

**By Fielding Greaves**

**Concealed carry.** Gun Week reports that the new battleground for concealed carry is likely to be on college campuses. Students for Concealed Carry on Campuses (SCCC) now has over 300 chapters nationwide, with students of more than 500 colleges and universities on their membership rolls, a record of successful carry on 11 campuses, and not a single reported act of gun violence by any campus CCW license holder.

**Armed self-defense.** FBI reports armed self-defense justified killings by civilians numbered over 250 in 2007. Americans have realized that they are on the front lines in the war on crime...they are the first responders...said Second Amendment Foundations Alan Gottlieb.

Our society is returning to its self-reliant roots, he said, suggesting that Americans are fed up with neighborhood crime and realize that police are stretched thin.

**Gun sales increasing.** Following election of anti-gun President-elect Obama, firearms dealers report continued increased volume of gun sales to new buyers wanting to acquire a firearm before the expected onslaught of new restrictive gun laws after the Democrat administration takes office in January.

**Visits of Scholarship Recipients  
from UC Davis**

**Department of Wildlife, Fish  
and Conservation Biology  
at our General Meetings:**

December-W. Wesley Dowd  
Graduate Student

Topic: The Effects of Hypoxia on  
Coastal Shark Species

February-John Duran, Ph.D. Candidate  
Topic: A comparison of biotic productivity  
in Suisun Marsh as compared to  
Suisun Bay

***Work is for people who don't  
know how to fish!***

# DECEMBER 2008

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING-7 pm

Third Friday of the Month  
All Members & Guests Welcome

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING-7 pm

First Tuesday of the Month  
All Members Welcome

## Holiday Breakfast

### by the Bay

\$8.00-Adults

\$3.00-16 & under

**8 am to 12 noon**

*December 21*

**Holiday Chops,  
apple and/or cherry flavor**

*Fresh Fruit Pancakes*

**Bacon, Eggs, Potatoes, Toast**

*Orange Juice, Coffee*

Club bar open for refreshments

Louis Huerto-Rojo & Bill George, Co-chairs

**Next Breakfast - January 18**

*"Be careful of your thoughts;  
they may become words at any moment."  
-Ira Gassen-*

## TWO FOR ONE DINNER BOOKS

**\$20**

The SAVINGS CARD (aka MARIN/SONOMA EXPRESS) books will be available at the club on the following dates: Dec 6, 7, 20, 21, Jan. 3, 4, 2009. See Lenny behind the bar from 1 pm to 6 pm. Call first and make sure he is there and has books. The Club number is 456-8142, or you can leave him a message at home, 884-2989.

## NEW MEMBERS

Jim Clark, William Dewey  
Charles Lapinski, Davis Riedel  
Michael Schaefer, John Zeravich

## MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL DINNER

**TICKETS \$9.00**

**Dinner served at 6:30 p.m.**

Ron & Dianne Rodrigues, Co-Chairs

## Children's Christmas Party

**December 14**

**12:00 - 3:00**

**Fun, Gifts and Lunch  
for the children &  
grandchildren of members**

**VISIT BY SANTA**

Lillian Bracken, Chair (415) 531-0852

## GENERAL MEETING ATTENDANCE AWARDS

December - hams

## CRAB FEED **January 10, 2009**

**TICKETS - \$40**

**Happy Hour - 6:00**

**Dinner - 7:00**

## SUPERBOWL **February 1, 2009**

**Tickets - \$15**

**Hors d'oeuvres**

starting at 2:00 pm

**Dinner**

served at half-time

Ron & Dianne Rodrigues, Co-Chairs

Sept. 8-Dec. 15.....Monday Night Football  
Dec. 14.....Children's Christmas Party  
Dec. 21.....Breakfast  
Dec. 31.....New Year's Eve  
Jan. 1, 2009.....Annual Fish Derby  
Jan. 10, 2009.....Crab Feed  
Jan. 18, 2009.....Breakfast  
Feb. 1, 2009.....Super Bowl  
TBA 2009.....Men's Night Out

## NEW YEAR'S EVE

### Dinner/Dance

**TICKETS-\$45**

**December 31<sup>st</sup>**

**Chef: Steve McKeever**

*Hors d'oeuvres-6:30 pm*

*New York Strip Steak-7:30 pm*

**Dance to the music of the**

**Eddie & the Boppers**

**Volunteers Needed for Decorations, etc.**

Jack Cooper & John Lando, Co-Chairs

cooperhere@comcast.net

## 6<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S DAY FISH DERBY 2009

RUSS DAMOS told me that rain or shine, pier square or no pier square, we're having our annual FISH DERBY on Jan. 1, 2009 from 10 am to 2 pm. The usual \$3 entry fee applies, with the one with the most fish and biggest fish splitting the pot. The battle for the WILD BILL TROPHY will also rage on, with everyone gunning to snatch it back from THE SMELT KINGS team. If you have a team that you think is better than THE WILD BUNCH, THE FISHING FOOLS or THE SMELT KINGS, let Russ or Lenny know so they can enter your team name in the "Trophy Derby". It's also tradition to bring food and drink to share. Get there early though, the complimentary BLOODY MARYS run out fast. It's been reported that OLD ED of THE FISHING FOOLS has been seen scoping out the pier for the best strategic fishing spot. And the CAMICCIA brothers are doing early morning push ups in preparation for a grueling day. Word is also out that JIM BUD is buying up all the bait in Marin in hopes that only THE SMELT KINGS can catch any fish. Rumors are flying fast and many. It promises to be an exciting day so bring your cameras, your tackle, and your hangover; it's gonna be a happening

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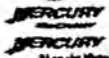
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