



WIND WORDS

Newsletter of the Convair Sailing Club

February • 2026

Ensign Free Concert On The Bay Series!




The *Ensign Social Club*, in coordination with the *Rady Shell* announces its 2026 **Free Concert On The Bay Sailing Adventure!**

The first concert in 2026 will be the incomparable *James Taylor* on April 11th at 7:30. Details about the sailing adventure, departure time and boat configuration are still being arranged. Rumors are already cir-

culating about possible “back stage passes”^{*} (which in our case would probably be “back bay passes”).

The Club is currently accepting suggestions on which concerts to include in its 2026 series! **A listing of upcoming concerts will be included in next month’s edition.**

Convair Sailing Club members are encouraged to attend. We will sail to the concert and anchor just south of the Shell’s stage and enjoy the show. We will include sign-up information in the next issue. 

^{*}LEGAL NOTICE: Rady Shell Management flatly denies any rumors about “back stage” or “back bay passes”. When asked, a spokesperson said, “Listen, he’s not going to get into a rowboat for you. Stop asking!”

SCYA Midwinters



The SCYA Midwinters are Feb 14th and 15th this year. We hope you can join us! Please help spread the word.

Here’s the event page:

<https://www.regattanetwork.com/event/30773>

The SCYA midwinters is a regatta in its 96th year that takes place at around 25 yacht clubs from Morro Bay down to Ensenada. Mission Bay Yacht Club will host 11 one design fleets welcoming any members of those fleets to come participate. Regatta fees go to support

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New Ensign Captains



The Ensign community was surprised by the resignation of long time Boat Captain Frank Long (E-722). He will be replaced by Co-Captains Jim Walker and Sam Willett.

And on that subject, let’s welcome Richard Bistany, newly minted Co-Captain joining Bob Keefe on the E-453.



This larger sailboat blundered into the afternoon Victory race on February 7th.

New Memberships

Renewal Day this year was a big success. A bunch of members showed up at the new location (which was the old location, La Jolla Village Square, where we held Board meetings and training classes until Covid).



Bill Burch



Sangeeta Jain



Rajiv Garg



Todd Cardiff

Crossing the finish line first was Bill Burch with a completed application at 9:14 AM on January 7th according to Timex^{*}, the official timekeepers of Convair’s Application Process.

We also acknowledge new club members Sangeeta Jain, Rajiv Garg, Todd Cardiff and his son Griffin. Welcome to Convair!

Registration continued by mail during the balance of January. After Renewal Day

Renewal, Continued on Page 4, Column 3.

^{*}WindWords was unable to actually get a sponsorship from Timex, but we didn’t try that hard. We had to look to see if they were still around. Turns out they make a cool looking sail racing watch!



Frank Long



Sam Willett



Jim Walker



Richard Bistany

Co-Captaincy is a relatively new approach for the Ensign fleet starting with the E-Two in 2024 when Jeff Nelson

Co-Captains, Continued on Page 2, Column 3.

Thanks To Everyone Who Signed Up This Year!

Volunteer Slots

Changes are in the works for maintenance and other volunteer tasks.

Work Parties aren't for everyone. There has been a call for things that can be done **while you are already there**, right before or after a sail or race. "We looked at what needs doing and came up with a list of jobs that fit this criteria". Some only need to be done once or twice a year. Some can be done from home.

Here are three examples:

Refuel Ensigns

Time: 1 hour per month.

Check fuel levels. Refill if needed.

Status: 3 positions, 2 Taken 1 Available

Seal Frayed Running Rigging

Time: 30 min. per month

Use electric sealer, cut and seal frayed halyard ends as needed.


Status: 3 positions, 1 Taken 2 Available

Survey Engines for Start & Run

Time: 10 min. per month

On race day, ask each Ensign crew about engine performance. Email a report.

Status: 1 position Available

Jobs are being added to the list each week. Next month we will list them in *WindWords*. 

January Victory Race Standings.


Skipper	Place	Points
Sandy Leon	1	3
John K / Joe R	2	6
Terry Edlund	3	6
Ryan Drobek	4	7
Bruce / Robert	5	9
Bob Lewis	6	9
Joe Curran	7	9
Craig Unger	8	11
Rajeev Jain	9	13
Tabor's Pirates	10	13
Gregory Herbster	11	16



You'd Think They Could Have Prevent This

We recently discovered that gasoline is turning the interior of our gas lines into a gelatinous goo. That simply cannot be good for the engines.

In addition to the goo, several of the gas lines are too short and some of them have been patched several times. Replacement of the gas lines is taking place boat by boat this month.

There is good news on the engine front. An engine built for propane was converted to gas, and the club is looking at assembling a motor from a salvaged engine and a prop. 

Boat	Skipper	SAT 21 Mar	SAT 18 Apr	SAT 16 May	SAT 20 June	SAT 18 July	SAT 15 Aug	Ocean 19 Sep	Throw Out Adjust	Total
1122	Hector / Robert									0.0
323	Paul / Tom									0.0
722	Jim / Sam									0.0
2	Tracy / Jeff									0.0
192	Terry									0.0
453	Bob / Richard									0.0

Co-Captains, Continued from Page 1, Column 2.

signed on with long time sailing teammate and Boat Captain Tracy Williams.

Tom Bedford partnered with Paul Feldon on the E-323 and Robert Skillings joined Hector Smith. Currently, the only Ensign that does not share the captain slot is the E-192.



Jeff Nelson

There are a lot of advantages to sharing the responsibilities of maintaining a boat, none the least of which is the ongoing commitment to maintenance.



Tom Bedford

"I don't even want to think about doing this by myself", said Co-Captain Nelson. "We started restoring the E-Two in January of last year. We still have things we want to do. If either of us was alone on this, it would have taken forever."



Robert Skillings

Looking at the Co-Captains, there is a common theme. With the exception of the E-722, the Captain partnerships grew out of racing teams. Robert Skillings, Tom Bedford, Jeff Nelson and Richard Bistany all crewed on their boats for a while before becoming Captains.



The Ensign Fleet looks forward to an exciting year in racing. The 2025 schedule was released in January. All six Ensign teams have signed on for participation. 

Docking The Ensign Under Sail

Ensign skippers are learning to navigate the fairways between the docks. It's a new skill that most of them are adapting to quickly. When we say **"quickly"** we mean that they are approaching the slip **slowly**.

Approaching under sail is *something you should try when you don't need to*. Some friends and I did just that the other day. We started the engine, put it in neutral and pretended it was not there. **This changed everything!**

Docking under power gives you options you won't have under sail:

You can misread the dock numbers and just try again. Same with the slip. If the wind shifts, the engine doesn't care. If you're going too fast or too slow you can adjust the engine and you're good to go. And if you forgot the color of the flag for your boat, the engine will enable you to go shopping for the right slip.

Docking under sail begins before you even enter the channel.

Tips: Put your paddle within easy reach. Confirm your flag color with crew mates. Assign jobs before your approach.

Lowering the main has to take the position of your docking lane (300 vs. 600) into account. We passed the 300s before we knew it. Sailing with a jib into the wind is possible but difficult. We ended up raising the main to sail back up the channel to the 300s.

In the fairway you get one big advantage: **right-of-way** (unless someone else is under sail). Now is when knowing that flag color comes in handy. You will have to time your approach and speed to make the slip on your first try.

One proven approach is to **"Go Slow & Wide"** (see diagram to the right). This will give you a bigger

margin of error as well as a direct approach to the slip. This is where control of the jib is essential. Our wind was from the



west. We controlled speed like we would with a Victory, but that final turn requires forward momentum. This required communication

with the skipper as well as an understanding of the right speed. We placed our third crew member on the fore-deck, breast line in hand.

The final seconds of docking are either critical or non-eventful. We practiced docking under sail three times, trading positions each time. We never needed the paddle, but I plan to have it there from now on, engine or not. I can think of two things it would be needed for, *not counting paddling*.

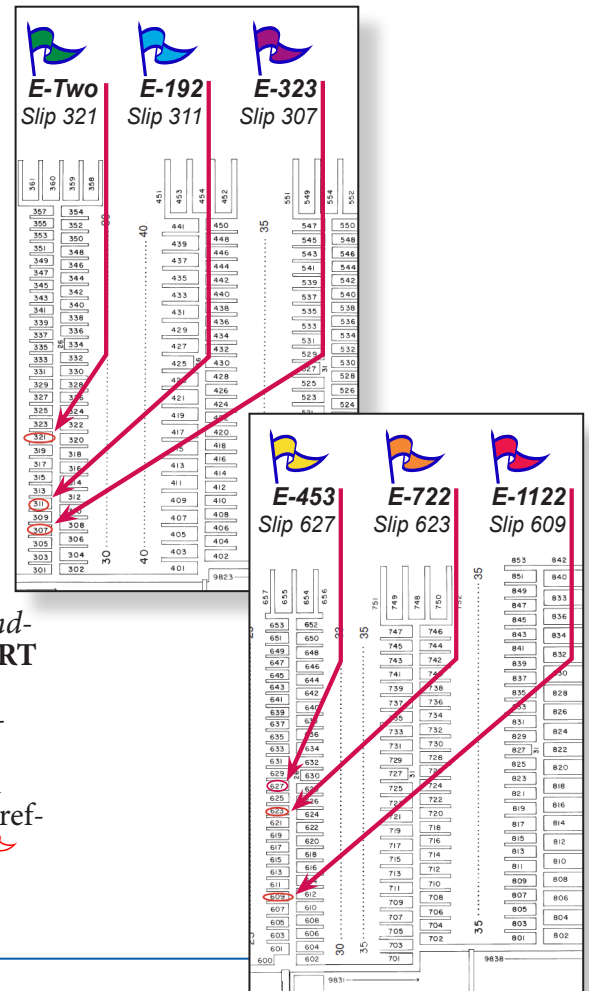
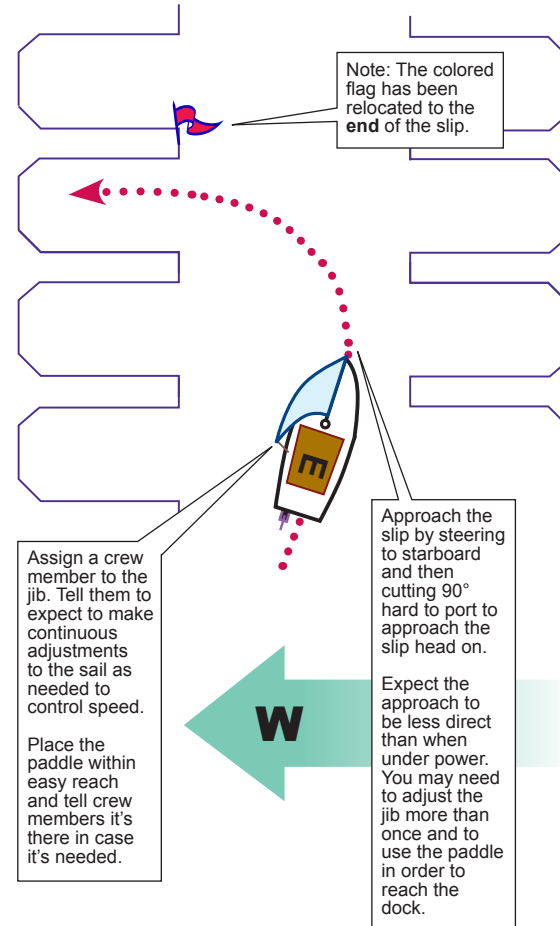
Was all this practice worth it. You bet! The next time we sailed the engine worked perfectly when we left, and failed to start when we returned!

So give it a try. Keep your motor running even if you are in neutral. Assign jobs as if you had no motor. And, like the Boy-scouts, *be prepared!*

Know where you will land. Wind-
Words recently sent you a **SMART Phone friendly PDF** with boat locations and the dock box contents. We attached a copy of the Phone Friendly PDF along with this newsletter. It has these flag references on the first two pages. **B**



Make note your Ensign color coded flag before you leave the slip.




Helpful Info.

Convair's Email:
ConvairSailingClub@gmail.com

Convair Web Site:
ConvairSailingClub.com

Club Address:
Convair Sailing Club
P.O. Box 22981
San Diego, CA 92192-2981

Coast Guard Safety:
www.uscgboating.org

If you have a story you'd like to see in *WindWords* text "CSC Story" to 760-533-8706 and we'll reach out to you for details. Normally all we need is a sentence and a photo if you have one. 

Convair Sailing Club Board of Directors

All Convair Members are welcome to attend the Board meetings. They are held on Zoom the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM. Contact Bob Lewis for a Zoom link. BobRTJLewis@hushmail.com


Commodore.....Tracy Williams
Vice Commodore.....Paul Feldon
Rear Commodore.....Jeff Nelson
Junior Staff Commodore.....Sandy Leon
Secretary.....Bob Lewis
Treasurer.....Omar Del Rio
Director.....Bruce Plutchak
Director.....Rajeev Jain
Director.....Tom Bedford
Fleet Captain.....Tom Bedford
Port Captain.....Mark Sutton
Chief of Racing.....Sandy Leon
Chief of Instruction.....Paused
Chief of Communications.....Jeff Nelson
Registrar.....Rajeev Jain
Membership Chairman.....Tom Bedford
Chief of Checkout - Ensign.....Paul Feldon
Chief of Checkout - Victory...Jim Walker

Sailing Scuttlebutt

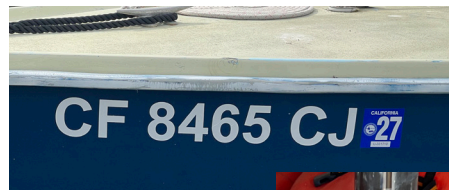


The "bitter end" conjures up thoughts of death and despair but it has a prosaic meaning for sailors.

The "bitter end" refers to the very end of a rope or chain that is secured to the ship, the part of an anchor line that is tied to a post called a bitt. It signifies the point at which no more rope can be let out, often in deep water where the anchor cannot be set.

A common mistake is to not knot the bitter end of a halyard which could result in it riding to the top of the mast, or worse, running loose entirely and landing in a pile on the deck. Two solutions to losing a bitter end up the mast can be found in back issues of *WindWords*. **Neither solution is fun.** 

2027 DMV Stickers




2026 - 2027 DMV stickers and Registrations arrived in January. **If you haven't collected yours, contact the Rear Commodore**



Midwinters, Continued from Page 1, Column 1.

the Southern California Yachting Association which is an organization that coordinates and brings together all of the yacht clubs of Southern California to promote sailing.

Joe Rollinson is working with them to make this regatta happen. Let him know if there's anything he can do to help with your planning. They will likely have a few boats available to charter if you don't want to sail up from San Diego. 



Joe Rollinson

Renewal, Continued from Page 1, Column 3.




Renewal day at the old location, La Jolla Village Square's Community Room.

we continued to receive applications. Among them were returning members Cristin Smith and Yehor Shytikov. Welcome back!

Also, a welcome to new member Viktor Gordiienko whose application arrived just in time. *Welcome aboard!*

We have some notable no-shows who have said they plan to submit their applications shortly.

The current roster has 64 members but we expect that number to increase by several names. If we continue to add new members at the rate we did in January we will be in great shape. 

Lost & Found



This **alo** hoodie was found at Registration Day at La Jolla Village Square. *WindWords* chose not to stash it in the dock box after we were told it's a "hot name brand". Call 760-533-8706. **Bring original store receipt or other proof of purchase. You must be registered to claim it. Void where prohibited by law.**