

Club Cruceros De La Paz

These "Cruisers" Know How To Have Fun

By P.K. Wallace

Although Jay Remos on the "Ay Chihuahua" was informed La Paz already had a yacht club, he had thought for many years that a less formal "cruisers" club would be beneficial to those people choosing the boating life in Mexico.

In 1987, the number of boats checked into La Paz was 1,375, so Jay decided the time was right for the formulation of a legitimate cruisers club. First, a meeting place was a necessity. Jay approached Mario Coppola about using the Los Arcos Hotel for club functions. Sr. Coppola was little reluctant, and expressed the wish to know more about the kind of people who would be using his establishment. A Christmas party was staged at the hotel. Attendance was 530 Cruisers! The management was dumbfounded and delighted. After the gala occasion, the only thing awry was two misplaced ashtrays. Jay was given an open invitation on behalf of La Paz Cruisers.

When the idea of a cruisers club was introduced to the fleet, it was immediately and unanimously accepted. A slate of officers was elected, and a charter adopted.

Commodore, Jay Remos, "Ay Chihuahua".
Rear Commodore, Jim Murillo, "Windsong".
Vice Commodore, Lou Cruz, "Peregrina".
Treasurer, Diane Hill, "Caper".
Secretary, Path McGrath, "Solubria".

Finer points of the Charter and By-Laws are:

- To provide information and assistance to cruisers and community, especially in emergencies.

- Promote safety and exchange of knowledge and experiences.

- Establish and maintain good relations with local officials and community leaders.

- Be involved in charitable programs.

- Promote goodwill and reciprocal privileges among international yachting organizations.

- Serve as a center for social activities.

All of the above are being translated into Spanish.

Also adopted was an official club logo for shirts, letterheads, burgees, etc. Although several suggestions were submitted, the winner was drawn by Laurie Blackely on "Cruzan". Laurie incorporated

the familiar pelican with the glorious sunsets of La Paz for her winning entry.

Dues were set at \$5.00 per year, with the calendar year running from the third Tuesday after Easter to the next. Because of the nature of cruisers to change ports, a postal box was established for renewals. Memberships can be renewed by mailing a \$5.00 cashiers check or money order and a SASE to: "Club Cruceros de La Paz", P.O. Box 112, Codigo Postal 23000, La Paz, B.C. Sur, Mexico.

New members are also accepted by mail. The only information needed is the persons name, address, boat name, five dollars for dues and a SASE. A lifetime number is assigned and a membership card is sent by return mail.

Even though the club is still in the infant stage, membership already totals 250 plus members with a projected membership by the end of the year of 500-800 members. There is also anticipated growth to 400-500 new members each year.

For the \$5.00 yearly fee, members receive the use of a million dollar clubhouse, (Hotel Los Arcos), discounts at many



Diane Hill from "Caper" displays the clubs logo as she prepares for a week at Isla Partida.

establishments of lodging, food, drink, clothing, and for those cruisers going ashore, good discounts on furniture, air conditioning and satellite television systems. As of this writing, other businesses are coming forward to offer special services.

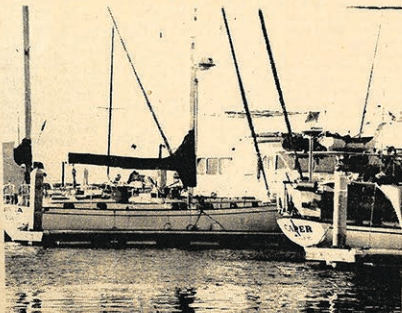
Of equal importance is the camaraderie and social activities. Short business meetings are coupled with a social gathering every third Tuesday of the month. Fall activities include a Halloween costume party, a Canadian Invitational for all Canadian cruisers in November, and a repeat performance of the highly successful Christmas Party. During early spring, planned activities include the annual Carnival Parade, dinghy race, and balloon toss for the children of La Paz.

Last year, 5,000 balloons containing candy and money were sent aloft. Of course, Race Week activities are the big events of the cruising year. Group sails are planned whenever and wherever the spirit should move the cruising crowd. Permission has been obtained for all boats participating to

check out as a group, thereby eliminating the hassle of individual bureaucratic maneuvers.

The aforementioned is only one aspect of local, state, and federal officials eagerness to be of service to club members. In response to the gracious attitude of their hosts, the club has responded in kind by issuing honorary membership cards to the Heads of government agencies. Directors of Communication, Transportation, Immigration, Tourism, City Council and Port Management have volunteered in return to be guest speakers and answer all questions put to them at club functions.

Sr. Talamas, City Director of Tourism, has been appointed official liaison between the Mexican Government and the Cruisers Club. He has requested that any club member having any problems in Mexico to bring the matter to his immediate attention. Although, serious situations do arise while cruising the Sea of Cortez, the bottom line of the Club Cruceros de La Paz is the same as those in other parts of call and that is to have FUN!!



Yachts, both sail and motor powered, lie easy while moored. La Paz marinas are in protected water and only a rare storm kicks up any waves.