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## Singlehanded - Singular Results



#### Humdinger\*

Well, you heard it here second. As covered in last month's Racing Sheet, Larry Olsen's Greene 35 trimaran, *Humdinger*, won this year's challenging Singlehanded Farallones race – first on elapsed time and also on corrected time.

*Humdinger* is fully "Powered by Pineapples," with a full-battened carbon main, a carbon jib and new Screecher. Larry came to Pineapple Sails for the sailmaker that he could count on to design and build the best sails for his unique boat.

*Lilith,* Tim Knowles' Wyliecat 39, came in first in class and third overall in the 58-mile race. *Lilith* is also "Powered by Pineapples."

So, if you need a humdinger of a mainsail, we build those. ...if you need a humdinger of a jib, we do those, too. ...and if you need a humdinger of a spinnaker, give us a call.

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Cover: An AC 45 goes down the ol' coal mine without a pick.

Photo by Guilain Grenier/Oracle Racing

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Latitude 38 welcomes editorial contributions in the form of stories, anecdotes, photographs – anything but poems, please; we gotta draw the line somewhere. Articles with the best chance at publication must 1) pertain to a West Coast or universal sailing audience, 2) be accompanied by a variety of pertinent, in-focus digital images (preferable) or color or black and white prints with identification of all boats, situations and people therein; and 3) be legible. These days, we prefer to receive both text and photos electronically, but if you send by mail, anything you want back must be accompanied by a SASE will not be returned. We also advise that you not send original photographs or negatives unless we specifically request them; copies will work just fine. Notification time varies with our workload, but generally runs four to six weeks. Please don't contact us before then by phone or mail. Send all submissions to editorial@latitude38.com, or mail to Latitude 38 editorial department, 15 Locust Ave., Mill Valley, CA 94941. For more specific information, request writers' guidelines from the above address or see www.latitude38.com/writers.html.



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Moody 54, 2001 \$665.000

#### SVII

SAI	L	
54'	Moody	2001
50'	Hollman	1989
47'	Vagabond	1983
46'	Beneteau 461	2001
45'	Beneteau 45f5	1991
44'	Norseman 447	1984
42'	Beneteau 423	2005
42'	Cascade	1971
41'	Tartan 4100	1996
40'	Sea Wolf ketch	1968
39'	Beneteau 393	2006
39'	Beneteau 393	2003
37'	Tartan	1982



Beneteau 393, 2003 \$132.000

\$665,000

169,950

189,000

165,000

139,000

225,000

199.500

219.000

39,900

68,000

165,000

132 000

65.000

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Island Packet 320. 1998 \$110,000



137,500

129,000

105,000

93,900

99.500

53,900

62.500 159.000

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49,000

44 900

37,500

49 000

33,900

2005

1984

2000

1998

1998

1989

1988

1999

1978

1983

1986

1982

1984

Island Packet 350, 1999 \$159.000

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Beneteau 461, 2001 Reduced \$170.000

Beneteau 373, 2005

\$137.500

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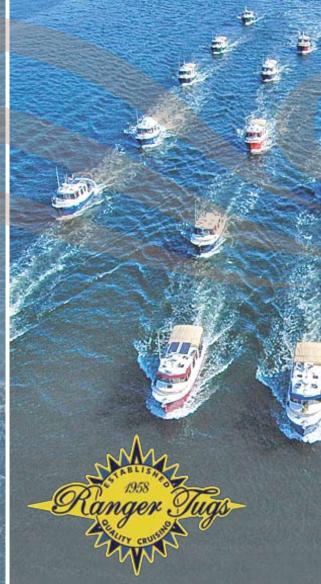
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Catalina 34, 199880,000	)
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Hunter 306, 2002	)

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## CALENDAR

#### Non-Race

**July 1-Oct. 31** — 'Mapping the Pacific Coast: Coronado to Lewis & Clark' world-class exhibition at San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park. Info, *www.nps.gov/safr.* 

**July 3-31** — Free sailing at Pier 40 every Sunday courtesy of BAADS. Info, (415) 281-0212 or *www.baads.org*.

**July 4** — Celebrate Independence Day at Barron Hilton's Fireworks Extravaganza at Mandeville Tip in the Delta.

**July 4** — Aeolian YC Open House & BBQ. No suit and tie required! Info, *www.aeolianyc.com*.

**July 6-27** — Wednesday Yachting Luncheon Series at St. Francis YC, 12-2 p.m. Enjoy lunch and a dynamic speaker every Wednesday for less than \$20. All YCs' members welcome. More info under the 'Events' tab at *www.stfyc.com*.

**July 7**, **9**, **14**, **21**, **23**, **28**, **30** — Sail aboard San Francisco Maritime National Historic Park's scow schooner *Alma*. Learn the Bay's history on this 3-hour voyage, leaving Hyde St. Pier at 1 p.m. \$40 adults, \$20 kids 6-15. Info, *www.nps.gov/safr.* 

July 8-10 — 29th Annual Catalina Yachts Rendezvous at Two Harbors, Catalina Island. Info, *www.catalinayachts.com*.

July 9 — Classic Car & Yacht Show at Marin YC, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Info, *www.marinyachtclub.com.* 

**July 9-10** — America's Boating Course by Carquinez Sail & Power Squadron at Vallejo YC, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. \$40. Info, *www.carquinez.org/public\_courses.html* or (707) 55-BOATS.

**July 10** — Pacific Cup Race Offshore Academy #1, the first in a series of seminars leading up to next summer's race, at Berkeley YC, 12-5 p.m. Learn about the race and much more. Open to all. \$20 (\$18 for PCYC members). Info, *www. pacificcup.org/seminars.* 

**July 10 & 24** — Cal Sailing Club's free introductory sail at Berkeley Marina, 1-4 p.m. Info, *www.cal-sailing.org.* 

July 14 — Howl at the full moon on a Thursday night.

**July 14** — Single sailors of all skill levels are invited to the Single Sailors Association monthly meeting at Ballena Bay YC, 7:30 p.m. Info, *www.singlesailors.org* or (510) 233-1064.

**July 14** — Sea of Cortez Cruising talk with the Emmons Family at San Jose SC, 7 p.m. Free. Info, *scott@svjaneo.com*.

**July 15-17** — Annual Catalina Owners Rendezvous at Tradewinds Sailing School in Richmond's Marina Bay Yacht Harbor. Info, *http://raft.c380.org.* 

**July 16** — San Leandro YC Nautical Flea Market, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Breakfast, BBQ & live music! Info, *sanleandroyc.org.* 

**July 16** — Splash Into Summer Open House at Lake Merritt Boating Center in Oakland, 1-3 p.m. Free rentals. Info, (510) 238-2196.

**July 16** — Glen Cove Marina Jazz, Arts & Wine Festival, noon to dusk. Info, *www.glencovemarina.net.* 

July 16 — Taste of the Delta at Windmill Cove Marina in Stockton, 1-4 p.m. Info, *www.tasteofthedelta.com*.

**July 16** — 11th Annual Women's Sailing Clinic at Lake Tahoe, for beginning to advanced sailors. \$50 members, \$60 non-members. LTWYC, *www.tahoewindjammers.com*.

**July 16-17** — America's Boating Course by Carquinez Power Squadron at Vallejo YC, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. \$50, includes lunch. Info, *www.carquinez.org* or (707) 55-BOATS.

**July 21** — Sail Trim seminar, part of Sausalito YC's Third Thursday Seminar Series, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Free and open to the public. Info, *www.sausalitoyachtclub.org/calendar/ whats-happening.* 

**July 30, 1844** — The New York YC, our country's first yacht club, was established on the schooner *Gimrack*.

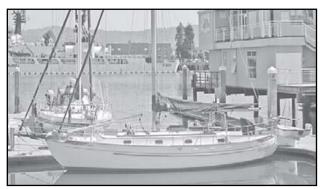
**July 30-31** — Benicia Fine Art, Wine & Jazz Festival. Info, *www.beniciamainstreet.org.* 





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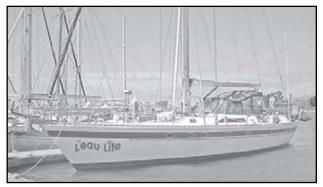
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## **CALENDAR**

July 30-Aug. 5 — Latitude 38's Delta Doo Dah 3D, a laidback rally to the balmy Delta waters. Follow the event at www. deltadoodah.com.

July 31 — 'How to Get Your Captain's License' by C Quest Marine at San Jose West Marine, 3 p.m. Info, (408) 246-1147.

Aug. 5-7 — Beneteau Owners Rendezvous at Catalina's Two Harbors. Info, www.scyachts.com.

Aug. 6 — Flea Market & Maritime Day Celebration at Galilee Harbor in Sausalito, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Info, (415) 332-8554 or www.galileeharbor.org.

Aug. 6 — Summer Water Festival at San Rafael YC, 1-5 p.m. Sailing demos, BBQ & live music! Info, (415) 484-5302.

Aug. 6 — Petaluma Music Festival. Info, www.petaluma musicfestival.org.

Aug. 12 — A Taste of Richmond gala party at Richmond YC, 6-8:30 p.m. Taste from the best of Richmond's restaurants, and support local charities. \$50. Info, www.richriv.com.

#### Racing

July 2 — 63rd Annual Boreas Race, Half Moon Bay to Moss Landing. Elkhorn YC and HMBYC, www.elkhornyc.com.

July 4 — Brothers & Sisters Regatta, a low-key lap around the two island groups followed by a BBQ and shoreside fun for the whole family. TYC, www.tyc.org.

July 4 — Independence Cup. SFYC, www.sfyc.org.

July 4-8 — 46th L.A. to Honolulu Race, better known as the TransPac, starts. Info, www.transpacrace.com.

July 6 - SSS LongPac, a qualifier for next summer's Singlehanded TransPac. For more info, contact AJ Goldman at (650) 867-2145 or agoldman@scus.org.

July 9 — YRA-OYRA Jr. Waterhouse. RYC, www.richmond yc.org.

July 9 — Silver Eagle Long Distance In-The-Bay Race, with a shorter course for boats rating 150 or above. IYC, racing@ iyc.org or www.iyc.org.

July 9 — Jack & Jill Race. SSC, www.stocktonsc.org.

July 9 — Trans-Tahoe Race, generally featuring either too much wind or too little but always lots of fun. Tahoe YC, www.tahoeyc.com.

July 9 — Hart Nunes for Mercs. SFYC, www.sfyc.org.

July 9-10 — Finn Masters NAs. EYC, www.encinal.org.

July 9-10 - Longboard SF Classic/UN Challenge. StFYC, www.stfuc.com.

July 9-10 — High Sierra Regatta for Centerboard Classes. Info, www.fresnoyachtclub.org.

July 12-16 — U.S. Windsurfing Nationals. BYC, www. berkeleyyc.org.

July 16 – 27th Annual Plastic Classic Regatta & Concours d'Elegance, for fiberglass boats designed at least 25 years ago. BVBC, www.bvbc.org or (415) 495-9500.

July 16 — Singlehanded Race. SSC, www.stocktonsc.org. July 16 — Twin Island #2. SYC, www.sausalitoyachtclub.org.

July 16 — H.O. Lind #5 & 6. TYC, www.tyc.org.

July 16 - Angel Isl./Red Rock Race. VYC, www.vyc.org. July 16 — 3rd Annual Westpoint Marina Regatta hosted

by Sequoia YC. Info, www.sequoiayc.org or (650) 430-5567. July 16-17 — BAYS #3/Summer Splash (which also acts as the Area G Bemis 420 qualifier). EYC, www.bayareayouthsailing.com.

July 16-17 — Finn NorCal. SFYC, *www.sfyc.org.* July 16-17 — PICYA Lipton Cup, the annual interclub all-star game. GGYC, www.picya.org.

July 16-17 — High Sierra Keelboat Divisions for Keelboat Classes on Huntington Lake. Info, www.fresnoyachtclub.org.



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## CALENDAR

**July 17** — Summer Series #2 on Fremont's Lake Elizabeth. Info, *www.fremontsailingclub.org.* 

July 18-24 — Golden Gate Cup. GGYC, www.ggyc.org. July 19-24 — Junior Windsurfing Worlds. StFYC, www. stfyc.com.

**July 23** — Twin Island Race #2, a race around Alcatraz & Angel Island. SYC, *www.sausalitoyachtclub.org/racing* 

July 23 — Summer #4. SeqYC, www.sequoiayc.org.

July 23 — North Bay Challenge #4. VYC, www.vyc.org.

**July 23** — West Wight Potters Roundup on Monterey Bay. MPYC, *www.mpyc.org.* 

July 23-24 — YRA 2nd-Half Opener. EYC, www.yra.org. July 23-24 — SF Perpetual Challenge. SFYC, www.sfyc.org. July 26-Aug. 2 — Laser 4.7 Worlds. StFYC, www.sflyc.com. July 29-30 — King Harbor Race, from Santa Barbara to Redondo Beach. SBYC/KHYC, www.khyc.org.

**July 29-31** — Santana 22 Nationals hosted by Monterey Peninsula YC. Info, *www.santana22.com.* 

**July 29-31** — McNish Classic, for classics designed before 1952, held in the Channel Islands. PCYC, *www.pcyc.org.* 

July 30 — Singlehanded #3. SeqYC, www.sequoiayc.org. July 30 — Tri-Island Race. RYC, www.richmondyc.org.

July 30 — PICYA's CHISPA/Youth Regatta. SeqYC, www.

picya.org.
 July 30 — Small Boat Summer #1. EYC, www.encinal.org.
 July 30-31 — 505 Regatta. SFYC, www.sfyc.org.

**July 30-31** — Moseley Regatta. TYC, *www.tyc.org.* 

**July 31** — Women's Day Race on Lake Tahoe. LTWYC, *www.windjammers.com.* 

**July 31**—Summer Series #3 on Fremont's Lake Elizabeth. Info, www.fremontsailingclub.org.

Aug. 6 – YRA Summer 1. RYC, www.yra.org.

**Aug. 6** — Singlehanded Sailing Society's Half Moon Bay Race. Info, *www.sfbaysss.org.* 

Aug. 6-7 — BAYS Summer Series #4 for Optis, Lasers, C420s & CFJs. SFYC, www.bayarea-youthsailing.com.

**Aug. 6-7** — El Toro Worlds at Pinecrest. Info, *www.el* toroyra.org.

**Aug. 6-7** — Monterey Bay PHRF Championship. Elkhorn YC, *www.elkhornyc.com*.

Aug. 6-14 — Laser Master Worlds. StFYC, *www.stfyc.com.* Aug. 7 – Gracie & George Regatta, a co-ed doublehanded featuring 'Gracie' on the helm. EYC, *www.eyc.org.* 

Aug. 12-14 — Coronado 15 NAs. HMBYC, www.hmbyc.org.
Aug. 12-14 — El Toro Nationals. SCYC, www.eltoroyra.org.
Aug. 13 — Moonlight Marathon, a nighttime trip from South
Bay to Angel Island and back. SeqYC, www.sequoiayc.org.



"with a conscience."

Aug. 13 — YRA Summer 2. YRA, www.yra.org. Aug. 13 — North

Aug. 13—North Bay Challenge #5. VYC, www.vyc. org.

**Aug. 13-14** — J/120-IRC Regatta. SBYC, *www.south beachyc.org.* 

Aug. 13-14 — Richmond Riviera Regatta, a race se-

ries "with a conscience." Proceeds benefit local charities. Info, www.richriv.com.

Aug. 13-14 — Summer Keel. SFYC, *www.sfyc.org.* Aug. 27 — Great San Francisco Schooner Race, for schoo-



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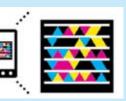
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## CALENDAR

ners in Gaff and Marconi divisions. SFYC, www.sfyc.org.

#### Summer Beer Can Regattas

**BALLENA BAY YC** — Friday Night Grillers: 7/1, 7/15, 7/29, 8/12, 8/26, 9/9. Matt Schuessler, (925) 785-2740 or *race@bbyc.org.* 

**BAY VIEW BOAT CLUB** — Monday Night Madness Spring: 7/25, 8/15, 8/22, 9/5, 9/19, 9/26 (make-up). Arjan Bok, (415) 310-8592 or *bayviewracing@sbcglobal.net.* 

**BENICIA YC** — Thursday nights through 7/28. Info, *www.* beniciayachtclub.com.

**BERKELEY YC** — Friday nights through 9/23. Paul Kamen, (510) 540-7968 or *pk@well.com*.

**CAL SAILING CLUB** — Year-round Sunday morning dinghy races, intraclub only, typically in Laser Bahias and JY15s. Email Gary and Alistair at *racing\_chair@cal-sailing.org*.

**CORINTHIAN YC** — Friday nights through 9/2. Info, (415) 497-5411 or *racing@cyc.org.* 

**COYOTE POINT YC** — Wednesday nights through 10/26. George Suppes, (650) 921-4712 or *regatta@cpyc.com*.

**ENCINAL YC** — Friday Night Spring Twilight Series: 7/22, 8/5, 8/19, 9/9, 9/23. Chris Hanson, (510) 301-2081 or *rearcommodore@encinal.org.* 

**FOLSOM LAKE YC** — Wednesday nights: 7/6, 7/20, 7/27, 8/3, 8/10, 8/17, 8/24, 8/31, 9/7, 9/21. Info, *www.flyc.org.* 

**GOLDEN GATE YC** — Friday nights: 7/1, 7/15, 7/29, 8/12, 8/26. Leslie Iacopi, (415) 931-3980 or *lesliesailor2003@* yahoo.com.

**ISLAND YC**—Friday Night Spring Twilight: 7/15, 7/29, 8/12, 8/26, 9/16. John New, (510) 521-2980 or *iycracing@yahoo.com*.

**LAKE TAHOE WINDJAMMERS YC** — Wednesday nights through 10/12. Steve Katzman, (530) 577-7715.

**LAKE WASHINGTON SC** — Thursday nights through August. Dan Clark, *www.lwsailing.org.* 

**LAKE YOSEMITE SA** — Thursday nights through 8/25. Tom Cooke, *tcookeatty1@yahoo.com*.

**MONTEREY PENINSULA YC** — Sunset Series, Wednesday nights through September. Ray Ward, (831) 659-2401 or *www. mpyc.org.* 

**OAKLAND YC** — Wednesday Night Sweet 16 Series: 7/13-8/31. John, (510) 366-1476 or j\_tuma@comcast.net.

**RICHMOND YC** — Wednesday nights: 7/6, 7/13, 7/20, 7/27, 8/3, 8/10, 8/17, 8/24, 8/31, 9/7, 9/21, 9/28. Eric Arens, (510) 841-6022 or *ericarens@comcast.net*.

**ST. FRANCIS YC** — Wednesday Night Series: 8/3, 8/10, 8/17, 8/24, 8/31. Thursday Night Kiting Series: 7/14, 7/28, 8/4, 8/18, 9/1, 9/15. Friday Night Windsurfing Series: 7/1, 7/29, 8/5, 8/19, 9/2, 9/16, 9/30. Info, *racemgr@stfyc.com*.

**SANTA CRUZ YC** — Wet Wednesdays through 11/2. Greg Haws, (831) 425-0690 or *greg@scyc.org*.

SANTA ROSA SC — Monday Night Twilight Series: 7/11, 7/18, 7/25, 8/1, 8/8. Info, stevsars@sonic.net.

**SAUSALITO YC** — Tuesday Night Summer Sunset Series: 7/26, 8/9, 8/23, 9/6, 9/20. Dave Borton, (415) 302-7084 or *race@sausalito yachtclub.org.* 

**SEQUOIA YC** — Wednesday nights through 10/12. Steve Holmstrom, (650) 610-9501 or *www.sequoiayc.org.* 

SHORELINE LAKE AQUATIC CENTER — Capri 14.2 racing every Thursday night during Daylight Saving Time. Info, (650) 965-7474. Laser racing (BYOB) every Wednesday night, May-October. Roger Herbst, *rogerlaser@yahoo.com* or (408) 249-5053.

**SOUTH BEACH YC** — Friday Night Series: 7/15, 7/22, 7/29, 8/5, 8/19, 8/26. Tad Sheldon, (408) 546-1240 or *www*.

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## CALENDAR

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**STOCKTON SC** — Wednesday nights through 8/24. Patrick Felten, (209) 518-6371 or *regatta11@stocktonsc.org.* 

**TAHOE YC** — Wednesday Night Beer Can Series through 8/31. Dan Hauserman, (530) 581-4700 or *dan@ilovetahoe. com.* Monday Night Laser Series: 5/30-8/29. Rick Raduziner, (530) 583-6070 or *raduziner@sbcglobal.net.* 

TAHOE WINDJAMMERS YC — Wednesday nights through 9/21. Jerry, (530) 318-5210 or *jerry.starkey@att.net*.

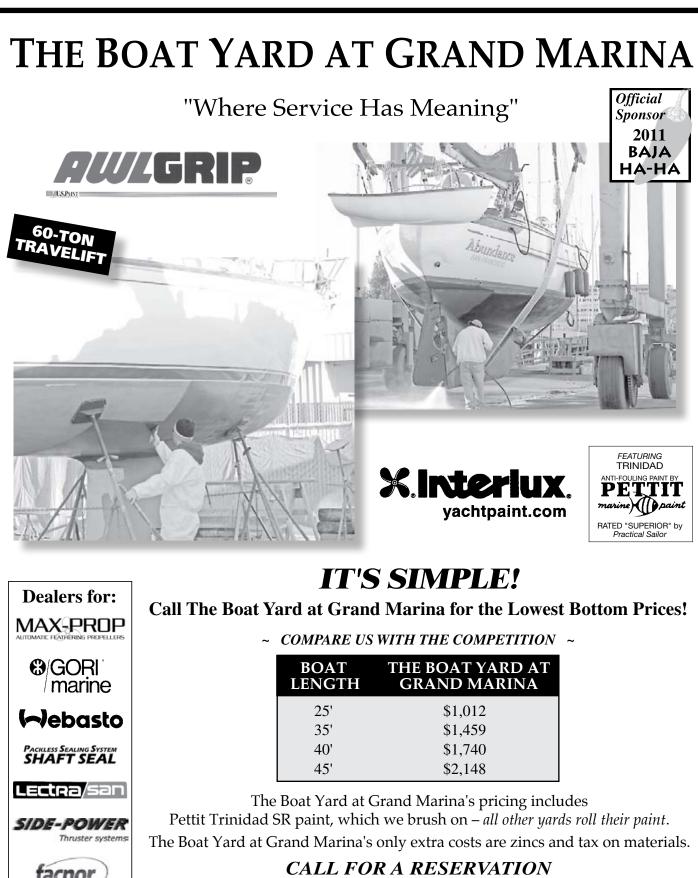
**TIBURON YC** — Friday nights through 9/9. Ian Matthew, *ian.matthew@comcast.net* or (415) 883-6339.

**VALLEJO YC** — Wednesday nights through 9/28. Gordon Smith, (530) 622-8761 or *fleetcaptainsail@vyc.org*.

Please send your calendar items by the 10th of the month to calendar@latitude38.com. If you're totally old-school, mail them to *Latitude 38* (Attn: Calendar), 15 Locust Avenue, Mill Valley, CA, 94941 or fax them to us at (415) 383-5816. But please, no phone-ins! Calendar listings are for marine-related events that either are free or don't cost much to attend. The Calendar is not meant to support commercial enterprises.

July Weekend Tides				
date/day	time/ht. HIGH	time/ht. LOW	time/ht. HIGH	time/ht. LOW
<b>7/02</b> Sat	0006/ <b>6.4</b>	0657/ <b>-1.1</b>	1416/4.9	1848/2.7
<b>7/03</b> Sun	0050/ <b>6.2</b>	0753/ <b>-1.1</b>	1452/5.0	1938/2.5
	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH
7/09Sat	0109/0.6	0740/3.8	1223/2.0	1914/ <b>6.4</b>
7/10Sun	0215/0.0	0911/3.9	1328/2.4	2008/ <b>6.5</b>
	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW
7/16Sat	0015/ <b>6.3</b>	0656/ <b>-0.8</b>	1408/5.1	1859/2.5
7/17Sun	0057/ <b>6.0</b>	0732/ <b>-0.5</b>	1441/5.2	1946/2.4
	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH
7/23Sat	0030/1.5	0646/3.4	1129/2.4	1812/5.5
7/24Sun	0132/1.1	0829/3.5	1230/2.8	1901/5.6
<b>7/30</b> Sat	0554/ <b>-0.8</b>	1301/5.0	1744/2.4	2354/ <b>6.6</b>
7/31Sun	0631/ <b>-0.8</b>	1334/5.3	1832/2.1	

#### July Weekend Currents date/day slack slack max max 7/02Sat 0526/**5.3E** 0202 0919 1220/4.1F 1547 1801/2.7E 2106 7/03Sun 0000/2.9F 0609/5.3E 0245 0956 1845/2.9E 1258/4.1F 1625 2153 7/04Mon 0047/2.9F 0332 0654/**5.0E** 1034 1338/4.0F 1704 1931/3.1E 2247 7/09Sat 0319 0610/2.6F 0922 1133/2.0E 1754/2.6F 2055 1449 7/10Sun 0011/4.3F 0426 0730/3.0F 1858/2.6F 1040 1245/1.7E 1559 2152 7/16Sat 0209 0523/5.1E 0918 1222/4.1F 1535 1757/2.7E 2115 7/17Sun 0002/3.0F 0253 0602/4.8E 0955 1835/2.8E 1256/3.9F 1611 2200 7/23Sat 0827 0239 0516/1.7F 1035/1.5E 1700/1.8F 2004 2313/3.1E 1351 7/24Sun 0345 0638/1.8F 0944 1138/1.2E 1759/1.7E 2058 1457 7/30Sat 0106 0424/5.2E 0818 1118/4.1F 1437 1657/2.9E 2008 2301/3.3F 7/31Sun 0153 0507/5.4E 0855 1153/4.3F 2347/3.4F 1512 1739/3.4F 2053



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## **LETTERS**

#### **↑↓**"WILL THERE BE BERTHING IN AUGUST '13?"

As my two-year plan to join the Baja Ha-Ha in '13 continues apace, I have concerns about one part of it. My plan has



There's no way you want to miss this kind of sailing action, particularly when it's going to be on 72-ft cats.

will be via television. Any thoughts/suggestions?

Lani Schroeder Balance, Endeavour 43 Seattle

Lani — We don't think anybody really knows how many boats will be attracted to San Francisco Bay by the America's Cup. It makes sense to us that a lot of mariners like you, who will be migrating south to the tropics, will see the Cup as a great excuse to stop in San Francisco Bay for the month of August. But will a lot of folks from Southern California with 40- to 50-ft boats make the long slog up the coast to be around the event? We suppose some will, but we don't foresee a mass migration.

We anticipate there will be a real sailing buzz around the Bay during the month of August '13, and that it's going to be great fun. But rather than trying to watch the event from our photoboat, we expect to be a part of the America's Cup via a combination of watching from one of the many shoreside venues or at the Cup Village in San Francisco. The one thing that you can count on is that the event will be presented in the most technologically advanced manner, and there will be an electric atmosphere around the Village. We can't wait to be part of it all.

So if we were in your Top-Siders, we would expect that we'd be able to find a slip in August '13, but in an outer area such as Vallejo or down the Peninsula rather than in the Central Bay. But no worries, as you can liveaboard your boat in those places, and then have an easy commute via public transportation to America's Cup Village or great viewing venues. So yes.

#### **↑↓**HEREWITH AND THEREIN

What do the rules say about an America's Cup boat pitchpoling — as one of the 45-footers did on June 13 — in the

Cup Finals? Bill Nyden Mountain View

Bill — Rule 19A(c)iii

reads: "If you flip your cat in the Finals, you'd

better hope the other cat flips, too, because if she doesn't, and she completes the course,

you lose. It's just like a



"You can't win if you can't finish."

Beer Can race — you can't win if you can't finish.' It's nice that the new America's Cup rules have been written in language we can all understand rather than in constipated legalese, isn't it?

my boat in San Francisco for the month of August. But with the 34th America's Cup now being a big player on the Bay, am I at all being realistic about finding moorage for

that month? As nice as it would be to observe the energy on the waterfront, I know the best coverage of on-the-water action 'Tis a Good Thingge we stopped at Svendsen's First for a Haul-Out & Bottom Jobbe\*... or Historie might have turned out Quite Differently!

\*Note: George Washington was NOT an actual client of Svendsen's.



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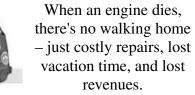
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## LETTERS

#### $\$

About Russell Coutts' AC45 capsize, which saw him free fall right through the wing sail: I raced Class A cats in the United Kingdom for some time, and they go faster upwind with the lee bow just an inch above the water. It's great — until the tip of the bow gets buried. Then you either sheet off very fast, or you pitchpole, just as the video of Coutts' cat shows.

On another subject, I once effected the rescue of someone trying to commit suicide by drowning himself. In my case, it was someone who jumped off a bridge in Redding into the Sacramento River. I'm a river guide up there, so I made up a loop and dragged the person to the bank, where medical attention was given. You know what a suicidal person says when you offer him help? "Please don't hurt me."

P.S. Can't wait to do the Ha-Ha this fall!

Barry Foster Tinuviel, True North 34 Benicia

Readers — We'll have much more reader response later in Letters about the Alameda Fire Department's lack of response to a suicidal man off Crown Beach.

#### $\Uparrow\Downarrow A$ little scuttlebutt is good for the soul

Thank you for printing my letter in the June issue regarding berth transfer policies here at San Francisco Marina. Unfortunately, I made a couple of errors.

First, the berth transfer fees at the San Francisco Marina are not based on a percentage of the boat's sale price, but rather on the length of the boat, and can go as high as \$100/ ft on larger boats.

Secondly, I could have made my point about berth transfer policy at Fisherman's Wharf without going into quite as much detail as I did. A certain amount of the story I wrote is scuttlebutt. But the indisputable fact is that the boat in question would have been worth far more if its Jefferson Street berth could have been transferred to her new owners.

Hedley Prince Wharfinger San Francisco Marina

She was the first 'peace boat' — in '58 a group of four Quaker activists sailed her to the Marshall Islands in an attempt to

stop the atmospheric testing

of nuclear weapons. Members

of our group found this ketch,

and are currently restoring her in Leroy Zerlang's shipyard

in Fairhaven, Humboldt Bay,

see her as a genuine relic of the

We're often asked why we're restoring the old ketch and what we're going to do with her. We

which is near Eureka.

#### $\Uparrow\Downarrow$ Follow the golden rule

Members of a Northern California Veterans for Peace chapter are rebuilding the *Golden Rule* ketch with intentions of touring the country with her

under sail.



All we are saying is give the 'Golden Rule' a chance.

be seen and again work in the cause of peace. She will require at least another year of work depending on

She will require at least another year of work, depending on funding. Our goal is to show up in San Francisco Bay during



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## **LETTERS**

America's Cup festivities in the summer of '13. All the world's media will be there looking for the background stories behind the billionaire yacht races, and we're confident that the Golden



The NorCal Veterans for Peace are restoring 'Golden Rule' for another peace tour.

Rule and Veterans for Peace will be one of those stories.

We are working to restore Golden Rule to first-class condition. because after San Francisco, we're planning to take her on a tour of the United States, visiting as many peace and justice groups as possible via navigable waterways. Our tentative plan is to sail down the West Coast and through the Canal, then up several of the major rivers of the United States, including the Mississippi, to various Veterans for Peace chapters, and to the headquarters in St. Louis.

We will continue to tour many of the rivers and cities damaged by Katrina, around the state of

Florida, and up the East Coast of the United States, visiting all of the major cities that are located on the ocean, rivers or bays. Hopefully, we could continue up the Hudson River Valley to Buffalo, and go through those canals to the Great Lakes waterway system to many big Midwestern cities. After that, she would be trucked back to the West Coast, eventually returning to Humboldt County.

We are interested in support, working volunteers and networking. We hope Latitude readers will check out our website at www.vfpgoldenruleproject.org.

> Fredy Champagne Coordinator, Veterans for Peace Golden Rule Project

Fredy — The best of luck with your project. If you get the boat completed, we imagine you'll get more than enough local support to see you around the United States.

#### **ARE SPEED LIMITS THE ANSWER?**

I'm not so sure a 10-knot speed limit for big ships in California's marine sanctuaries is a well-thought out idea.



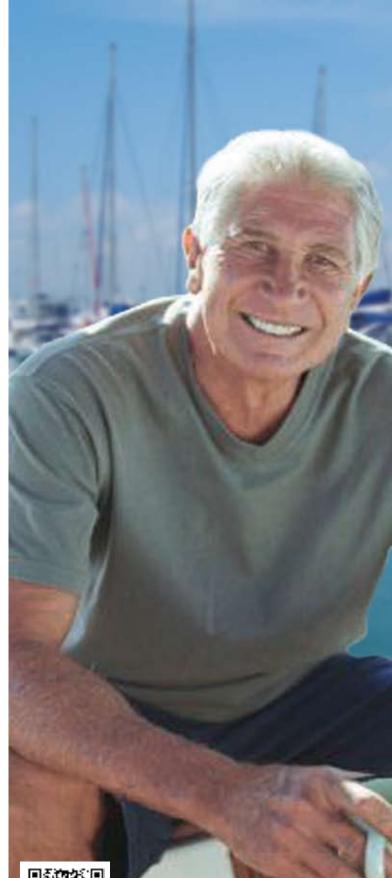
Will whales be any safer if ships travel at slower speeds?

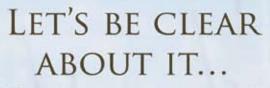
apparently hit by ships going that slowly, too. And based on our experience of coming north from L.A. to San Francisco on a 960-ft American President Lines container ship, the momentum of the ship was so great that they all but turned off the engine

When at speed, the turning of a big ship's screw makes a lot of noise. Slow them down and they become much quieter. I suspect a whale would be more likely to get out of the way of a faster, noisier, machine.

> Al Reed Ensueno, Gulf 32 PH Long Beach

Al — We wish that some kind of solution could be found to prevent contact between ships and whales - and even more so between whales and small boats. We're not sure if a 10-knot speed limit would be a solution. because whales are





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If you have a boat without holding tanks, plan your trip to use shore side restroom facilities.

Don't waste away our waterways! Proper disposal of sewage allows the living things in our waterways to keep on living.

IF IT'S YOUR BOAT. IT'S YOUR RESPONSIBILITY. California Department of Boating and

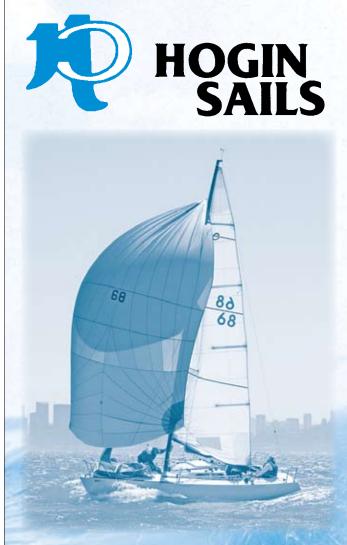
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## LETTERS

down the coast at Davenport, so they weren't coming through the Farallones Sanctuary that quickly anyway.

It seems to us that the ideal solution would be for ships and small boats to be able to emit some kind of warning sounds to whales. We know this has been tried a number of times in the past, but don't believe it's been successful. Maybe more research is needed.

If you see an injured or entangled whale while out sailing, you can report it at (877) SOS-WHALE.

#### $\parallel$ SMART PEOPLE, STUPID DECISION

Let's see, you take the James River near Norfolk, Virginia, where the water was 55 degrees, 10 people without lifejackets on a 22-ft sailboat, at night, and a capsize. Criminy, it's a miracle that anyone survived!

Charles Lane Shamwari, Tayana 37 San Francisco

 $\label{eq:charles} Charles - The May 13th incident makes us sick, and sadly proves that even very bright people can do some lethally foolish things. All 10 - six men and four women - aboard the small lether shows the small statement of the small statement of the statement of$ 



sailboat were in their 20s, and were either graduate students at local universities doing research at NASA's Langley Research Center or employed by the National Institute of Aerospace. In other words, these were your creamof-the-crop young folks. Two of the group,

Ten people on this tiny little vessel was a recipe for disaster.

*zi*, originally from Mill Valley and a Northwestern graduate who was an associate research engineer for the National Institute of Aerospace, and Alex Brown, perished from exposure after the capsizing. Five others managed to swim ashore after four hours in the frigid water, and three others were rescued after authorities were alerted to what had happened.

So it was a case of a bunch of smart young folks socializing, as young folks should, but who collectively didn't realize what a dangerous situation they were putting themselves into. Ten people on a 22-ft sailboat? No, no, god no!

See this month's Sightings for the Coast Guard's most recent report on boating accidents and deaths. While the deaths are at a historic low, they are still way too high. Interestingly enough, only a tiny number of boating deaths occur on sailboats.

#### $\uparrow \downarrow HOW LOW CAN YOU GO?$

*Latitude's* request for feedback on the cost of cruising was a timely topic, as we were just talking about it here in Puerto Escondido, Baja. I've been in Mexico since January of '06, and my total monthly income is under \$2,000. It's taxable, so Uncle Sam takes his cut.

I've tried different ways to budget, but two months ago settled on my current system. The minimum wage in Mexico is a little over 2,000 pesos/month, or about \$175 U.S. So a Mexican couple working full-time makes about \$350 a month. I reasoned that if a Mexican family can live on \$350 U.S. per month, my basic living expenses shouldn't be any more than that.

So once a month, I've been taking 4,000 pesos out of the ATM. If it runs out, well, it runs out. To my surprise, \$350















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## LETTERS

has been sufficient for my needs. I've even been able to do normal boat maintenance, such as oil changes and minor repairs, within this budget.

What are my secrets to cruising inexpensively? I rarely



eat out. And I always anchor out because marinas are beyond my budget. I also do all of my own maintenance and repairs. If you have to pay people to fix your boat, your cruising budget is going to zoom — especially if you hire *gringos* with work permits. It would take some of them less

Chuck happily cruises 'Hale Moana' for \$350 per month.

than four hours to go through my monthly budget! The days of inexpensive skilled labor and boat workers seem to be long gone.

The key to my budget has been that no matter what, I don't take more than 4,000 pesos a month from the ATM. It's been my experience that if people have money in their wallet/purse, they will spend it. Myself included.

I was discussing cruising budgets with a friend who has been living on 6,000 pesos/month — about \$500 U.S. — for the last several years. He eats out more often than I do, and he likes his rum. A Canadian friend has a total income of \$1,000 U.S. per month to cover all his expenses, and he manages. All three of us are singlehanders. It seems as though singlehanders spend far less than do couples. The cruising couples I talk to seem to have minimum expenses of \$1,000 to \$1,500 per month.

The bottom line is that you can spend a ton of money cruising in Mexico, but if you're careful, you can also live both comfortably and inexpensively.

To give your readers some background, I was a member of Dana Point YC for 30 years, and did most of my sailing out of there. I found my Gulfstar 37 in Mission Bay in '04, and spent two years there sorting out the boat and making a few modifications, repairs and upgrades. But not too many, because I like things to be simple and easy to use.

By the way, I'm a Sea of Cortez guy. I've been down to mainland Mexico twice, and I don't care for it. Sure, Isla Isabela was great, and I thought Chacala was the best anchorage. But generally speaking, I found that most of the anchorages were too rolly for my liking, and the water visibility wasn't very good. I thought everything south of Chacala was just going downhill, and was making my slog back to the Sea even longer.

I love the Sea of Cortez, and pretty much cruise out of Puerto Escondido, where I have a mooring in the Ellipse. I go down to La Paz for January to March, and spend the summer months in the Bahia de Los Angeles or hauling out in Guaymas. Well, I gotta go — the Sunday polluck starts in an hour and I've got to prepare something to share with the others.

Chuck Losness Hale Moana, Gulfstar 37 Puerto Escondido, Mexico

Readers — With the U.S. recovery weak, employment opportunities bleak, yet the cost of used boats quite low, an increasing number of readers are thinking this might be the perfect time to go cruising. Naturally, they are curious what it really costs. It differs greatly, of course, depending on how one

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## LETTERS

wants to cruise, but in this Letters section, an article elsewhere in this issue, and the August issue, cruisers share what they've been cruising on. Enjoy.

#### **↑↓**"I STILL HAVE THE ORIGINAL \$1,000"

In a recent letter, I mentioned that I've sailed around the world, much of the way with my wife, on "a ridiculously low budget." The publisher wrote back to ask me to be more spe-



Kirk McGeorge has successfully found work wherever he goes.

cific. May I begin with a couple of paragraphs from Sterling Hayden, noted seaman, actor and author, that provided my early inspiration?

"I've always wanted to sail the South Seas, but cannot afford to,' [people say.] What these people cannot afford is to not go! They are enmeshed in the can-

cerous discipline of 'security'. And in the worship of security, we fling our lives beneath the wheels of routine — and before we know it, our lives are gone.

"What does a person really need? A few pounds of food each day, heat and shelter, six feet to lie down in — and some form of working activity that will yield a sense of accomplishment. That's all, in our material sense. But we are brainwashed by our economic system, and we end up in a tomb beneath a pyramid of time payments, mortgages, preposterous gadgetry, playthings that divert our attention from the sheer idiocracy of the charade. The years thunder by. The dreams of youth grow dim where they lie caked in dust on the shelves of patience. Before we know it, the tomb is sealed.

"Where, then, lies the answer? In Choice. Which shall it be: bankruptcy in purse, or bankruptcy in life?"

So wrote Hayden. It seems that over the past 17 years of full-time living aboard a boat, I've spent about as much time wandering around under sail as I have in port, working at some form of marine-related enterprise or another. I started in '94, when I purchased Carol Post's Islander 37 motorsailor *Beche de Mer*, which was chained to the dock at the Ala Wai. I re-christened her *Polly Brooks*, and abandoned my sub-sea career by sailing west a year later. When I departed Hawaii, I had \$1,000 left in my wallet, but a job waiting in Saipan. After a 31-day passage across 3,500 miles of ocean, I arrived at a new boat job with a new attitude — and a 'cruising bug' up my ass that kept my gaze fixed on the horizon.

I drove a dinner cruise boat in Saipan for a few months, and then headed south to Guam. Before I managed to clear Customs, I was offered another job on a tour boat! Poking around the Pacific on my boat and getting paid to drive other peoples' boats was heaps of fun! The best part was learning how little it cost to live at anchor, especially when I got fed at work.

Next thing I knew, I was heading south through Papua New Guinea to Australia. I landed in Cairns, and scored a casual job going out to the Great Barrier Reef every day on big, fast ferries, where I attempted to sell helicopter joy flights to the hundreds of tourists. On a good day, I'd fly home with more money than the captain! And with a big bag of prawns for dinner. On a bad day, I'd go scuba diving on one of the seven natural wonders of the world. In my spare time, I'd earn cash by doing canvas repairs and making sailing harnesses with my sewing machine.



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## LETTERS

When my Aussie visa expired, I returned to PNG. For six months I had a mate position on a small expedition cruise vessel that took high-end tourists up the rivers and to the outer islands of New Guinea. In addition to pay, I got food and a free berth for *Polly Brooks*.

I returned to Guam for a hard-hat diving job, followed by a stint driving the pilot boat in the commercial port. This



'Arrr Boy' Stuart and mom Cath don't seem to mind Captain Kirk's frugal ways. In fact, the family is thriving.

the commercial port. This was when I married a loving lass from Australia. Cath and I slaved and saved in Guam for years, so when we shoved off for the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand in '00, *Polly Brooks* had a new engine, radar, fridge, and electric windlass.

Two years later, we arrived in St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgins, where we worked for the next six years. This is where Cath

presented me with a fine son, 'Arrr Boy' Stuart. Needing more room, we sold our Islander Pilothouse — exclusively through a *Latitude Classy Classified* — for a larger and newer S&S-designed Hylas 49. She did, however, need quite a bit of work.

We departed the U.S. Virgins three years ago, and celebrated Stuart's fifth birthday in Trinidad, his sixth in Moorea, and his seventh in Fiji. During this voyage, we dropped the hook in Pago Pago just in time to take a crash course in 'tsunami tsurfing'! Riding out the cyclone season there for eight months, I went to work with the local department of Fish & Wildlife, and Cath worked with the local radio station. Stuart even helped by getting a job as co-host on a kid's Saturday morning cartoon show.

We continued west from American Samoa a year ago, and recently arrived in Australia — three years after quitting our jobs in St. Thomas. Cath has now gone back to work with the same radio network she worked with before joining me, and I'm slowly getting back into the earning groove while simply messing about in boats. 'Arrr Boy' is in school and the Cub Scouts, and standing tall in his new uniforms.

Before I got married, meaning the first five years of this adventure, I simply lived on what I earned while wandering about. Our records show that, after getting married, Cath and I spent a total of \$18,000 — or \$750 per month. Included in this figure were a routine haul-out in Langkawi, a few journeys inland, provisions, fuel, minor upgrades, and so forth. We caught fish, ate well, and always had cold beer in the fridge and a bottle of wine to share.

Everyone knows that the Med is more expensive than Southeast Asia, but it cost far less to cruise than we'd been led to believe.

The cost of maintaining a larger boat is a bit more than that for a smaller one, and the additional cost of feeding, clothing, entertaining, and schooling 'Arrr Boy' has probably doubled our costs. But it seems that whenever we need to stop and rest awhile, some kind of employment naturally presents itself to us.

Being a Navy veteran with minor service-connected disabilities, I'm entitled to health care at any VA hospital or clinic in America. But I'm always careful, so I have rarely used this benefit. As for the cost of health and dental care for my family, when we're cruising abroad, it's a fraction of what it would be in the States. It's true that we haven't gotten paid as much when working in most places we cruise as we would

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## LETTERS

have back in the States, but we don't need as much money in those places either.

Different countries have different rules about foreigners working in their country. But we've found that if I'm willing to share what I know, and don't take work away from anyone else, people will gladly employ me wherever I go.

There you have it, the way I support my family while maintaining this free lifestyle and keeping a smile on my dial. God only knows where the wind will blow us from here, but my former employer in Guam has offered me the helm of a harbor tug should we decide to head north from here, and the kind family I worked for in St. Thomas seems to want us to return to the Caribbean. So the future looks bright.

By the way, I still have the \$1,000 I set sail from Hawaii with 16 years ago!

Kirk McGeorge Gallivanter, Hylas 47 U.S.V.I.

#### ${\ensuremath{\Uparrow} \Downarrow \ensuremath{\Downarrow} \blacksquare \ensuremath{\square} \blacksquare \ensuremath{\blacksquare} \blacksquare \ensuremath{\square} \blacksquare \ensuremath{\blacksquare} \blacksquare \ensuremath{\square} \blacksquare \ensuremath{\blacksquare} \blacksquare \e$

For almost three years, our Colorado-based family — Jim and Meri, son Tim, daughter Carolyne, rescue hound Bailey Dog and orphaned Mazatlan feline Bad Kitty — have sailed the Sea of Cortez and mainland Mexico. We've enjoyed fabulous experiences and created wonderful memories together.

How much does it *really* cost to cruise? It's hard to say, because everyone is different, every cruising ground is different, and every boat project is different. We know families who cruise for less than we do, and some families who spend much more, but we believe our costs are moderate for a family of four.

If you go to our website at *www.expaticus.com* and click on the 'Expenses' link, you'll find our '09 numbers and see that we spent a total of \$17,611 — which included a haul-out, a bottom job, a new Engel 12-volt freezer, and three road trips back to the States. Keep in mind that we began calculating our expenses after fully outfitting and provisioning our thenboat, a Cal 35, for our first year of cruising.

In '10, having realized that we'd outgrown our Cal 35, we sold her and purchased a center-cockpit Tartan 41 in Mazatlan. To say she was a 'fixer-upper' is putting it mildly. We



purchased her for a good price, but had to spend five months in a marina repairing her. Therefore our numbers for '10 are a bit whacked. But they do show you what buying a fixerupper and outfitting her for cruising can cost. Keep in mind that we're cheapo penny-pinchers, 'do-

The Faulkner family moved up to 'Hotspur' after outgrowing their Cal 35.

it-yourself-if-you-can' cruisers. We'd rather do our own work instead of paying others, as it allows us to cruise longer.

Anyway our '10 expenses ran \$41,942. This number does not include the sale of *Windfall* or the purchase of *Hotspur*. The cost of an engine rebuild alone was \$10,341, plus another \$8,131 for boat equipment. Had we not incurred the equipment and rebuild costs, our '10 aboard cruising expenses would have been about \$23,000.

> The Faulkner Family Hotspur, Tartan 41 Mazatlan



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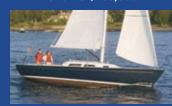
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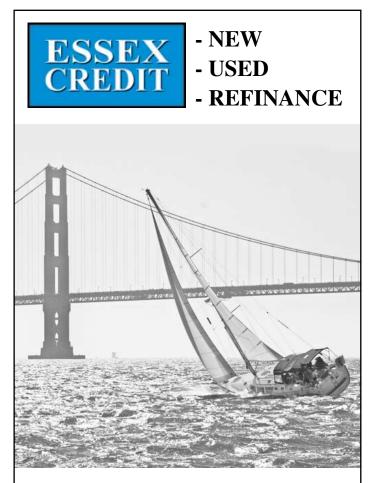
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## LETTERS

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After reading the June 1 *Zen Sailing in the Estuary* article in *'Lectronic*, with the bit about Doña de Mallorca's automatic lifevest going off under her jacket, I just had to write.

I left Vallejo in '09 for retirement life aboard here in Puerto Escondido, but prior to heading south, my wife Linda and I used to really enjoy getting into the dink for Vallejo's 4th of



Doña de Mallorca got a surprise when her auto-inflate PFD auto-inflated.

July festivities and fireworks. If you went on the river, you could practically get right under the fireworks, as they were launched over the Napa River from the city park on the waterfront. It was absolutely great!

One year we and our friend Mike were in the dink for the fireworks when all of a sudden

there was a 'psssssss' sound. Oh my heavens, all three of us started looking for the hole we presumed we had somehow just put in our inflatable. When we couldn't find the problem right away, we grabbed our lifevests, assuming that we'd soon be swimming.

But we soon discovered that the 'psssssss' we'd heard was not from some damage to the inflatable, but rather one of our auto-inflate lifevests. Evidently the humidity was a bit much for the poor unit. We reloaded our glasses with vino, and had a wonderful evening watching the rest of the festivities.

By the way, *Latitude* is just 'the bomb', and we in Puerto Escondido simply can't wait each month until someone drives down from the States with a pile of fresh issues. Personally speaking, I've always thought that your magazine's articles have been balanced and well-written. I tip my hat to you and your crew.

Dale Weatherly *Moxie*, Ingrid 38 Puerto Escondido, Mexico

Dale — Thanks for the kind words. We're glad you're enjoying retired life in Puerto Escondido, where most of the time life has been more tranquil than here in the States. To make it even better, if you have good internet service, you can download the entire magazine — ads and all — in its full glory directly from our website for free. No need to wait for some generous soul who hasn't gone over their airline baggage limit!

As bad as automatic lifevests going off by mistake might be, there is something worse. We can't remember the circumstances, but a number of years ago one mariner reported that he was in the boat's head with the liferaft — no, we don't know why and it started to inflate. The person was trapped — and nearly crushed — before the raft could be stabbed into submission.

#### $\Uparrow\Downarrow$ Focus on places where the sun doesn't shine

I'm glad to see that members of the *La Gamelle* Syndicate are enjoying their new-to-them, 31-year-old Olson 30. Having read in the June 1 *'Lectronic* about how the stainless steel bolt that keeps the rudder from falling out of the boat failed, I recommend that, when you go over the rest of the metal on the boat with a magnifying glass as you say you're going to do, you focus on areas where the sun don't shine.

Allow me to explain. Stainless steel has a little known Achilles heel that goes by the name of crevice corrosion cracking. Stainless steel depends on a free flow of air to its surface

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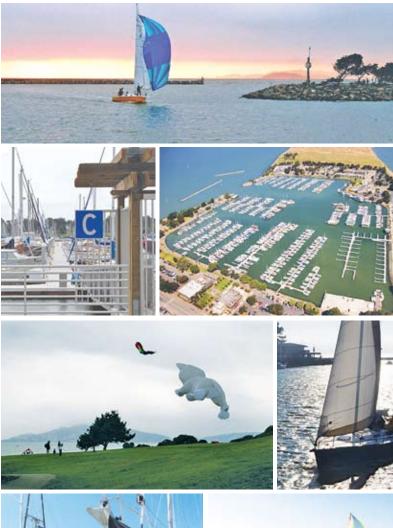
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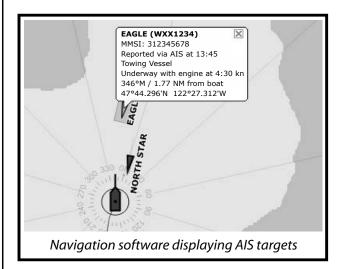
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## LETTERS

to continuously replenish its oxide surface coating, which is the primary barrier that makes it 'stainless'. Stagnant water, however, contains little or no oxygen, and therefore can preclude the flow of all-important air. This accelerates the depletion of surface oxide coating. If the oxide coating is depleted long enough, corrosion will occur in the crevices between the grain structure of the material.

Any place stagnant water can accumulate for long periods of time while in contact with the stainless is a potential trouble spot. Likely places for this problem are chainplates (where bedding can trap stagnant water), prop shafts inside the stern tube of little-used boats, and fasteners located in wet areas.

The accompanying photos are of an 18-8 stainless



Flip side of the washer — the side exposed to air looks fine, but the truth is revealed after flipping it over.

washer I use to disabuse my colleagues of their irrational faith in the immortality of stainless steel. The first photo is of the top side. The second is of the flip side. And yes, Virginia, they are flip sides of the same washer! The ugly side trapped water between it

and a fiberglass surface. Some of the worst pitting looks as if 'stainless steel termites' had been at work.

Lack of oxygen can also affect the threads on fasteners.



The good news is that it usually takes a long time for stainless to get this bad. The bad news is that complacency can fool you into thinking everything is good.

While *Latitude*'s photo of the broken bolt does not confirm that the failure was due to crevice corrosion, I'll bet you'll find at least some of it with your magnifying glass, if you look in the perpetually wet areas of the boat.

It doesn't take a metallurgist to see that this bolt had corrosion issues.

While you're at it, if you pull a bolt to check it, at least replace the lock nut with a new one. They are cheap insurance, and the nylon locking part is susceptible to UV

degradation.

For the record, I am not a metallurgist. Have fun with your new toy.

Bill Willcox *Faith*, Scandia 34 Currently on SAR assignment in Hong Kong

Bill — Thanks for the great info.

For the record, La Gamelle is not a 'toy', but rather every bit as much of a meditation tool as a sand mandala, a tao totem, nude yoga and all the rest.

#### **↑**↓RACERS DON'T ALWAYS MAKE GOOD CRUISERS

My letter is in response to your editorial response to the letter about Abby Sunderland in the May issue.

I raced on the Bay for about eight of the more than 50 years I've been sailing, and believe that the experience taught me things about sailing I might never have learned if I had just cruised. For example, how *really* close you can sail to other boats, buoys, and seawalls without hitting them, how to tweak your rigging for maximum speed, and the sheer joy of eating a handful of brownie crumbs from your foulie pocket while sitting up on the rail. All of that is good experience and made

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## LETTERS

me a much better sailor.

I think Abby Sunderland's adventure was ill-advised to say the least, but whether or not she or her brother Zac, who successfully circumnavigated, could win a race in the Estuary against peers — as *Latitude* suggested would be interesting doesn't necessarily correlate to their long distance, bluewater capability. Most racers I know hire someone to fix things that break, and only have to worry about weather and sea conditions for the next six to eight hours. Bluewater cruisers face a different set of challenges.

No offense to the many fine skippers I raced with, but if they invited me to sail around the world with them, I'd have a long list of qualifying questions to ask before signing on.

Marcy Zimmerman Sandman Too, Catalina 30 Pt. Richmond

Marcy — While a racing background doesn't necessarily correlate with being a successful cruiser, most racers who want to cruise — and lots of them aren't interested — do very well at it. If we had to choose whether to go with someone who had a racing background or no racing background, all other things being equal, we'd go with the former.

We don't want to get into the whole Sunderland thing again, but neither Zac nor Abby was the least bit self-sufficient. They benefitted tremendously from extensive support teams prior to the start of and during stops in their circumnavigation attempts. And unlike Robin Lee Graham, for instance, who was out of communication with shore while going around, the Sunderlands were in frequent phone contact with shore for emotional support, weather forecasting and mechanical assistance.

#### $\Uparrow\Downarrow$ we all go where the wind blows

You need to read Laura Dekker's epistle of June 11, which is all about her checking-in woes. I would accuse her of plagiarism for writing "we go where the wind blows" — except that she's way too young, naïve and innocent to know that she is



somewhat repeating your mantra. By the way, she writes as if she is much older, and reports her sailing adventures as though she were an adult rather than a teenager.

> Byron Corley Sabrina, Rawson 30 Fremont

Byron — As is well known, we're not in favor of age-based sailing records, and therefore believe that 15-year-old Ms. Dekker's attempt to become the youngest person to solo circumnavigate is a stunt that, even if successful, won't prove much. Except, of course, that the lure of

Laura Dekker is currently exploring the South Pacific.

fame and fortune is as strong for kids as it is for adults. As for her writing "we go where the wind blows" in her Day 295 report from Tahiti, we're not bothered in the least. After all, it's a common enough thought, and she clearly had no intention of trying to copy us or trade on our reputation.

As for her reports, someone on her team is almost certainly editing them for public consumption. This doesn't get our knickers in a twist either.

#### $\Uparrow \Downarrow \mathbf{A}$ boondoggle bonanza

San Francisco approving a plan for 19,000 new residents

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## LETTERS

on Treasure Island — but with no public facilities — is just another San Francisco boondoggle that is all politics and no common sense. It's just like the multibillion dollar bridge project. The island should be developed for public use and facilities, as was the original intent.

> Robert Lockwood Celebration, Gulfstar 50 Alameda

Robert — As we've written before, we don't have strong feelings either way on the Treasure Island project. We think its success or failure is going to be completely dependent on the details. Unfortunately, local government has a dismal record overseeing major projects on behalf of taxpayers.

#### $\Uparrow\Downarrow$ where did the money go?

*Latitude*'s report on the Alameda Fire Department's refusal to help a suicidal man standing in the water off Crown Beach was largely correct, but it should be noted that Interim Chief Michael D'Orazi had only been on the job one week. There was another interim chief between him and David Kapler, the latter being the chief who was dismissed after he was observed filling the tank of his BMW convertible from the fire department's tanks.

One of the bigger pieces of B.S in this story is the fire department's line that 'we're not trained for water rescue'. The fire department was trained and continuously re-certified for water rescue up to '09. They stopped re-certifying that year because of a budget shortage. The bottom line is that many of the men on-scene had received extensive training, but just didn't have the current piece of paper. It's like saying that if your driver's license expires, you don't know how to drive a car.

The big question is how so many qualified public safety officers can stand and watch someone die without one of them deciding that it's worth getting in a little trouble to do the right thing. Unfortunately, there's really no answer for that one.

John Hansen Alameda

John — Matthias Gagni reported in the Contra Costa Times that the fire department had been allocated the money to continue rescue training, but for some reason the department hadn't spent the money on the training and certification.

#### $\Uparrow\Downarrow UISGUSTING AND IMMORAL$

A man died in Alameda because public union rules were stronger than the testosterone of our public servants. Disgusting *and* immoral.

Mark Leonard Corte Madera

Mark — According to officials in Alameda, firefighters wading into the water to try to help the man would have been in violation of Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards. Ironically, "water rescues" is specifically listed as one of a firefighter's job responsibilities. Not that this was even a real 'water rescue' situation.

#### $\Uparrow\Downarrow \mathbf{A}$ 'LOW RISK, HIGH REWARD' SITUATION

It sure does look bad for the first responders, but as a former lifeguard, I want to say that it wasn't a normal water rescue, but rather a successful suicide attempt. Most firefighters are not trained for water rescue, but rather to fight fires and untangle wrecked cars. Many fire departments have specially trained water rescue teams, but these are not suicide preven-

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## LETTERS

tion teams. Suicide and attempted suicide are crimes, but if someone is in the water, what are first responders to do?

One of the first things I was taught in lifeguard training was not to risk your own life for a rescue, especially in extremely hazardous conditions.

> David Mulmat Flying Shadow, Beneteau First 47.7 San Diego

David — Thank god you're no longer a lifeguard. Alameda firefighters were certified in water rescues as recently as '09. Are they such morons that they've already forgotten their training? And since the money for recertification had been allocated a long time ago, the Alameda Fire Department needs to explain why they weren't recertified.

"What are they to do?" Just because the firefighters weren't trained in attempted suicide response doesn't mean they have to behave like helpless idiots. Three of the firefighters could have slowly walked out to within 15 feet of the despondent man and assured him that he had friends and relatives who loved him, and that he still had a lot to live for. A couple of weeks later a suicidal man was talked down from the Bay Bridge in this manner.

"Extremely hazardous conditions?" What!? Here's an excerpt from Daniel Lisker's contribution to the Contra Costa Times Readers' Forum titled: Man Died from Alameda Firefighter Negligence and Incompetence:

"It is unfortunate and disgusting that a depressed man lost his life in the water off Crown Beach on Memorial Day because of the lack of appropriate response by the Alameda Fire Department. Situations fall into four classifications according to risk to personnel and probable outcome of the situation: Low risk, low reward; low risk, high reward; high risk, low reward; and high risk, high reward. From the video of this sad scenario that I saw, this man was about 100-150 yards offshore in about 4-5 feet of water. This was not a water rescue; this was a case of wading out to the man, communicating with him, and walking him back to the beach.

"For any incident commander, this situation fell into the category of low risk, high reward. End of story. This man died because of the negligence and incompetence of the Alameda Fire Department."

#### **↑↓WHERE WAS THE COAST GUARD?**

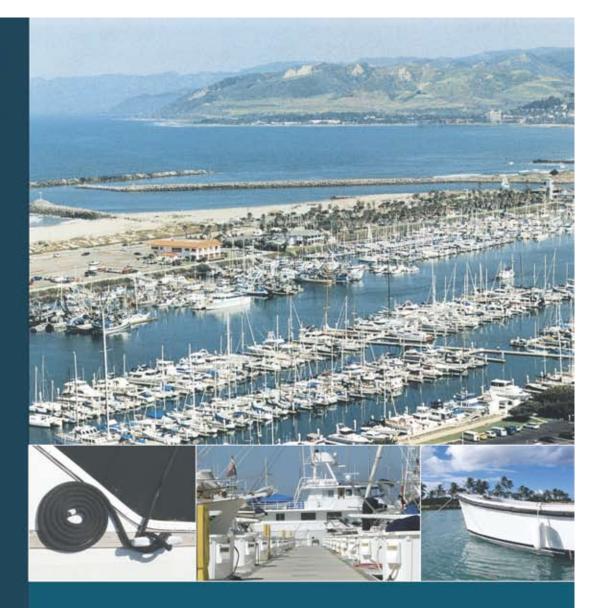
What was the Coast Guard's role in the incident? I understand that they had a boat on scene, but that the water wasn't deep enough for them to get to the victim. If that was the case, why didn't they request a helicopter?

About 20 years ago I found myself in a similar situation when, sitting in the office of the marina I managed, I noticed a woman floating in the water. I told my secretary to call 9-1-1 as I rushed to the dock and, without any hesitation, jumped into the water and saved the woman. I learned later that she was despondent over the loss of her husband and was attempting suicide.

> Jim Haussener Vallejo

Jim — The Coast Guard did get a boat to the scene, but the subject was standing in shallow water. A Coast Guard helicopter was called, but having been on another mission, it arrived too late.

But no boat or helicopter was needed, just an Alameda public safety employee with a big enough sense of humanity and big enough balls to wade into the chest deep water. Wade into the Management Consulting Development



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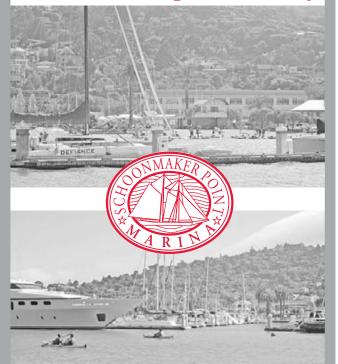
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## LETTERS

chest deep water like the young woman who ultimately had to recover the body for the firefighters. Wade into chest deep water as a dozen people did a few weeks later to protest the pathetic response on the part of the Alameda Fire Department.

#### **↑↓I KNOW YOU ARE BUT WHAT AM I?**

You're an asshole.

Dale Speroni Riva Siren 17 Fairhaven, WA

Dale — And you're eloquent in expressing a point of view.

#### $\Uparrow\Downarrow$ your tax dollars not at work

The people of Alameda are paying a lot of money for heroes. They got cowards.

> Cary Otis Swallow, Nor'Sea 27 Petaluma

#### $\Uparrow \Downarrow OBSCENE$ SALARIES AND PENSIONS

According to the *Alameda News*, the incompetent sociopaths in the Alameda Police and Fire Departments twice declined to request Alameda County Fire Department rescue boats that stood ready in San Leandro. Even after being advised the boats were available! The *Alameda News* also reported that the Alameda Fire Department has two boats of their own that are mothballed, while firefighters pull down obscene salaries and pensions.

Timothy B. McCormick Walnut Creek

Timothy — Are you suggesting that if firefighters contributed a little bit more of their generous salaries to their own pensions, Alameda could have an entire fleet of first-class rescue boats? If so, you're probably right. In the year '08, the last year for which we could find records, 27 members of the Alameda Fire Department received over \$200,000 in compensation, and 15 of them weren't even brass.

#### **↑↓PUSSIES!**

Horrible, just horrible. Fire them. Jail them. Everyone I've talked to here in Alameda is ashamed of the Fire and Police Departments, their personnel, and their combined lack of response. Any one of them would have been a hero to 'break the rule'. Pussies!

Daniel G. Hayes Alameda

#### $\parallel \downarrow GO TO JAIL, DO NOT PASS GO$

The 'non responders' should be arrested and tried. You may recall the Sydney Hobart Yacht Race of '98, where sailors lost their lives in the ferocious weather conditions. One civilian skipper ignored calls for help because he felt the weather conditions were too severe. If you want to discuss the matter with him, he's easy to find, because he's still in jail for not trying to help others. Jail is where these brave Alameda first responders belong.

> Perry Mullinix January's Child II, Hunter 35 San Francisco

#### ${\ensuremath{\Uparrow}} \Downarrow {\ensuremath{\Downarrow}} eureka doesn't kick it alameda fd-style$

I'm disgusted to my core, as that was the worst example of the human condition on our soil that I've ever read. As a soci-

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## LETTERS

ety, we've lost all reason. I totally agree that the chief should be charged with manslaughter and the rest of the public safety people on the scene be fired. We have to turn the tide on our collective gross lack of common sense and decency.

Adrian Morgan Motu, Cross 40 Sebastopol

Adrian — We think everyone is so angry because the public safety folks in Alameda behaved in such an aberrant way. On June 15, a despondent man jumped off the Samoa Bridge between Eureka and Woodley Island. The Eureka Fire Department was on the scene within five minutes, and noticed the man having trouble staying afloat 50 yards from shore. Instead of watching the man drown Alameda Fire Department-style, firefighter Jason Campillo, wearing a dry suit, jumped into the water and brought the man back to shore. The man was rushed to the hospital and survived.

#### **↑↓A \$200 CAR WASH**

As an avid sailor for 63 years and a resident of Alameda for 40 years, I think the non-action by these 'heroes' on Memorial Day was unconscionable. We know that laws and policies are broken repeatedly in the name of saving a buck, but in this case nobody would break a policy to save a life. It was left to a young female civilian to do what the rest of them should have done.

The list of compensation for the entire Alameda Fire Department is public record. If you look it up, you'll see the average fireman with a high school education and five or so years in the department receives a total compensation of about \$225,000 a year — not counting retirement, starting at age 50, at nearly full salary.

By the way, about two weeks ago I was driving by the Grand Street fire station in Alameda, and observed a firefighter washing his late model Porsche — which was parked in front of the fire trucks. Were we citizens of Alameda paying him \$200 an hour to wash his car?

> John Selbach Alameda

John — We presume your point is that the guy washing the Porsche while on duty could have more wisely used taxpayer's money by brushing up on his wading skills. If so, we agree with you.

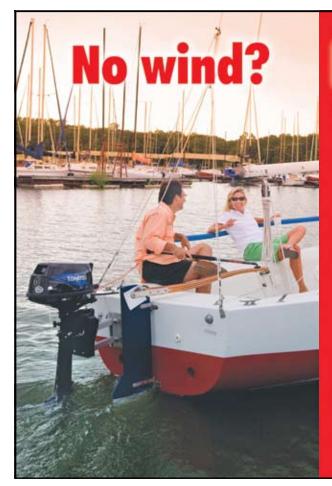
As for Alameda firefighter compensation, a low-end firefighter makes about \$130,000 to \$140,000 a year in total compensation. If a regular firefighter wants to work the overtime game, he/she can knock down \$239,000 — as was proven in '06 by Louis Donati, Jr. Of course, if you want to factor in the approximately \$135,000-a-year pension they are likely to collect if they retire at age 50, in that sense even basic firefighters can be viewed as making a quarter of a mil a year.

We received many more angry and disgusted letters on this subject, but have nowhere near enough room to run them all.

#### **↑↓LEAKING SAILDRIVE SEALS ARE NO BIGGIE**

I read the paragraph in the June *Changes* about one cat owner's saildrive showing no signs of rust after the lower seals had been leaking, and letting water into the transmission oil, for six years. He had, however, been changing the oil every three months or so.

After 12 years and about 2,500 hours on the saildrive on our boat, I had to replace the lower seals due to water leaking into the transmission. While I have the transmission oil



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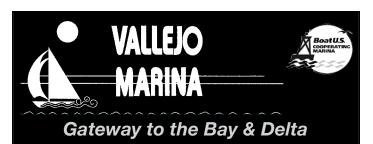
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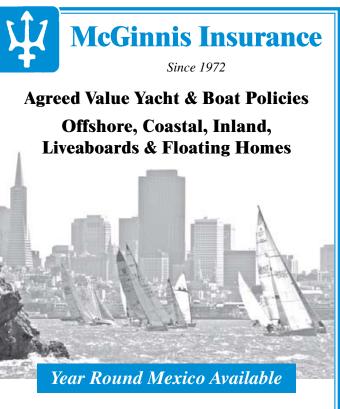


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For Reservations: 415.495.4911 (x1111) fax: 415.512.1351 sb.harbor@sfgov.org www.southbeachharbor.com changed during each annual haulout, I didn't know the seals had been leaking until the haulout, so I had no idea how long it had been going on. But there was no sign of rust.

By the way, having had both stand-alone transmissions, and currently a saildrive, I think they are of equal quality. My saildrive is a Volvo Penta.

Myron Eisenzimmer Mykonos, Swan 44 San Anselmo

Myron — That's great news because we always assumed that if even a little bit of water had gotten into our saildrive transmission oil we'd have to pretty quickly get our big cat to one of the few places she could be hauled out in order to change the seals. Or as Scott Stolnitz did, find a place with a big enough tidal range to ground the cat and replace the seal.

Based on our experience, we prefer regular transmissions to saildrives. In the 13.5 years we've had Profligate, we've gone through two sets of Yanmar saildrives in her 7,500 engine hours, and on the most recent set, have twice had to replace the cone clutch, which seems to be a relatively common problem on boats with saildrives. On the other hand, we've got 7,500 hours on our charter cat 'ti Profligate's regular transmissions, and to our knowledge they haven't needed any repair. And lord only knows what abuse inexperienced charter skippers have inflicted on them.

#### **↑↓RATE OF EXCHANGE**

We enjoyed the May article about the three foreign exchange students from Germany who were brought together with Bay



Bella Ries looks comfortable at the helm of 'Clarsa'.

water once during her stay — that being on May 21, when we sailed out of Benicia on our Venture 23 Clarsa - we kept



Don't thank us, Bill. You and Kathy get all the credit.

added a lot of joy to our "emptynester" home, and we highly recommend the program to other Bay Area sailing families. We and Bella are extremely grateful

Area sailing families through the kindness of Latitude's publishing information about the Inter-Ed program administered by Cheryl Williams of Clovis.

There was actually a fourth sailing student, Isabella Ries, in the program. Known by all as Bella, and from Flintbek near Kiel where she sails with her dad on the Baltic Sea during their short summers, she was placed with our family.

While we only got Bella out on the

her busy with camping trips, a spring break visit to Disneyland, a flight over the Bay, and a weekend at Tahoe, where we nearly got snowed in during the middle of May.

Bella consistently exhibited a maturity level beyond her 16 years, was very reliable in keeping to her arrangements, was helpful around the home, and did exceptionally well at Napa High School. As was the case with her mates in the Inter-Ed program, she was an easy keeper. Our experience with Bella





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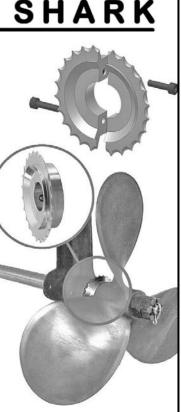
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## LETTERS

to Latitude for bringing us together!

Before we took Bella to the airport for her flight back to Germany yesterday, we took one last photo as a thank you to *Latitude* for bringing us together. We also gave her a copy of the latest *Latitude* to read on the airplane.

Bill & Kathy Crowley Clarsa, Newport 23 Napa

#### $\Uparrow\Downarrow$ There's always an 'other side' to any story

Being on 'the other side of the story', I must respond to Don Klein's letter in the June *Latitude* about his 35-lb CQR anchor.

I was on the boat anchored near his *Passion* in Los Frailes, and I dove the anchorage a couple of days after he left. After I found the anchor lying in the sand, I put out numerous announcements on the Ham and local nets, offering to return it to the owner. But after four months of no response, I decided to trade it.

When I made an announcement on Swaps and Trades on the local La Paz net, I heard from Don, who told me it was his anchor. He came over and offered me \$25-\$30, which I thought was a pretty low reward, and told him so. He got pretty upset, and took off in a huff. I then traded the anchor, and donated what I received to PATA, an animal humane service that spays and neuters cats and dogs in Santiago, Mexico.

I know that I wasn't being very 'cruiser friendly' in my actions. I guess the main reason was that Don just kinda set me the wrong way. Plus, I had carried the anchor for months, and had put the word out about it many times. I know Don is a hamster who listens to the morning nets, so he must have heard about it. In fact, his wife told me that he had seen the anchor drop off his bow when he was anchoring, and he really didn't care about it. So it kinda irks me for him to now publicly whine about it.

We, too, have saved someone from drowning, also off Los Frailes, and as a vet tech, I have assisted numerous cruisers with their pets, and I have never expected anything in return. This was just a case of a personality problem.

That's my side of the story.

Janice Hawkins *Ceilidh*, Pearson 40 La Paz, Baja California Sur

Janice — You tell your side of the story very well, and with an honesty — "I wasn't being very 'cruiser friendly" — that eliminates any aspirations you might have for political office.

If we were the judge, the fact that he didn't let you know it was his anchor for four months — he didn't make this very clear in his letter to us — would count heavily against him.

#### $\Uparrow \Downarrow GREAT$ HEALTH CARE IN MEXICO

My wife and I did the '09 Ha-Ha on *Willful Simplicity*, our outboard-powered Catalina 27 — possibly the lightest boat to ever do the Ha-Ha. We had an absolute blast, and weathered the strong winds and big seas on the first leg just as well as the larger boats.

We have stayed in Mexico ever since, and have had nothing but positive experiences — until we arrived at Puerto Escondido, where we incurred the wrath of a single cruiser. Our problem was that we didn't follow the 'rules' this relatively newcomer *gringo* had set down for all the good folks at Puerto Escondido to live by. We soon discovered that all the other folks in Puerto Escondido were truly a great bunch of folks who would do anything they could to help others in need. And



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## **LETTERS**

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More recently, we've been in La Paz, which is the friendliest and most helpful community we've ever encountered. We've developed many close friendships.

On January 25 last year, I injured my back to the point



Charlotte and Steve Baker have loved cruising Mexico . . .

that I was actually paralyzed. When we called Dr. Tuchmann, a local doctor. he not only came to our boat to check me out, but he absolutely went into overdrive to see that I would recover. The doctor determined that I needed to see an orthopedic surgeon, so he brought Dr. Mondragon, one of the top surgeons in Mexico, out to our boat to examine me!

To make a long story short, I had an MRI to confirm what they suspected was wrong. So they set up a surgery team of three doctors and assorted nurses to see me through six hours of complete back reconstruction surgery. I have since fully recovered, and my back is in better condition than before the surgery. What an absolutely fantastic and unbelievably positive experience - at probably one-tenth of would it would have cost in the States!

Based on my experience, the medical care in Mexico is fantastic, and puts U.S. medical care to shame. As a case in point, all the doctors I've seen in Mexico - including specialists in Guadalajara — have had us put their numbers in our cell phone so we can reach them personally, any time of day or night. And they have answered their phones each and every time we've had reason to call them. The doctors have also called other doctors to make appointments for me. I could go on and on about the quality of care.

Another high note of cruising in Mexico has been our



adopted family. Actually, it's a family in the fishing village of San Evaristo 55 miles north of La Paz - and they adopted us. We generally spend December, January and February in San Evaristo, and make a monthly trip to La Paz for supplies. Our

... on a Catalina 27!

adoptive family there made us the godparents of their newest child. We have been truly honored!

We want to thank everyone at Latitude 38, and especially the publisher, for having fueled the dream for many of us with the writing in Latitude, and encouraging us that we 'can do it', no matter if our boat is large or small. We know you'll say "gashaw", but it's true.

We are loving cruising in Mexico, and plan to continue.

Steve & Charlotte Baker Willful Simplicity, Catalina 27 Sausalito

Steve and Charlotte - Gashaw. But thank you very much for the kind words.

**↑**↓U.S. HEALTH CARE COMES SECOND TO NO ONE

I have read different reports in Latitude comparing medical care in foreign countries to that in the United States.

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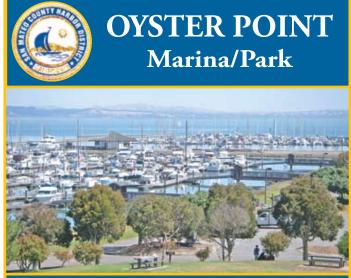
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## LETTERS

I have been in the international medical business — clinical laboratory diagnostics, orthopedics, cell transplantation — for a quarter of a century and believe that I know the medical systems in foreign countries quite well. Due to my extensive and long-time travels, I also have received medical treatment abroad. Living in the United States, I am also a consumer of United States medical care — and I am making a distinction between 'medical care' as practiced by physicians and administered in hospitals versus 'health care', which encompasses all the other aspects of health, e.g. long-term care, elder care, and so forth.

To understand the medical care cruisers receive abroad and the associated costs, you have to understand the health care system. In most countries of the world — with the exception of the United States and Switzerland — there is universal health care based on insurance to which all but the most affluent must subscribe. The physicians get reimbursed by the national health care insurance. The patient never sees a bill. In some countries, the physicians get a quarterly sum for each patient who is listed with his practice. For this sum the physician has to treat the patient.

Very few patients are in the position to be privately insured because of the local laws governing health insurance. Privately insured patients or non-insured patients are directly billed by the physician at a rate which is often three times or more the rate he receives for the same treatment from the national health insurance. Those privately insured patients or patients without insurance are the money makers for the physician. That's often the icing on the financial cake — and such payments are often in cash. So, there is a two-class system of medicine: one for those with money, and one for those belonging to the national health insurance.

Cruisers fall into the category of patients with money. It is understandable that they are well-received and experience immediate treatment. In some countries there are even separate waiting rooms for these patients.

Now, lets address the treatment. What can you expect to be well-treated for when abroad? Usually the conditions which the physicians encounter daily in that area, such as staph infections in the tropical areas of the world, diarrhea, trauma, etc. But if you have diffuse abdominal pain, a broken hip or ankle, need knee replacement or involved dental treatment like a root canal or implants, I would advise you to seek medical treatment in one of the industrialized nations, such as Australia, New Zealand, Central Europe or preferably the United States. Yes, the United States, because we have the best medical care in the world — if you can afford it. Worldwide, the United States is the standard to which reference is being made, either by medical education or postdoctoral training in a speciality.

The U.S. system is expensive because of the wages, the high degree of specialization (which guarantees superior outcome), inefficiencies, and defensive medicine. With regard to the last point, in the U.S. we do two to three times the number of laboratory tests per patient compared to Germany, the country that does it at the next highest rate. Most of the tests are unnecessary, but are required as defensive tools should a complication arise. If they're not done, the lawyers will point to substandard treatment and ask for a large compensation.

Just one more point of reference: In the United States, we spend about 16-17% of Gross Domestic Product on health care versus 6-7% in Germany. France, the United Kingdom and Japan are all lower.

My message to cruisers who need medical care abroad: enjoy the low cost, choose well what you want to have done,

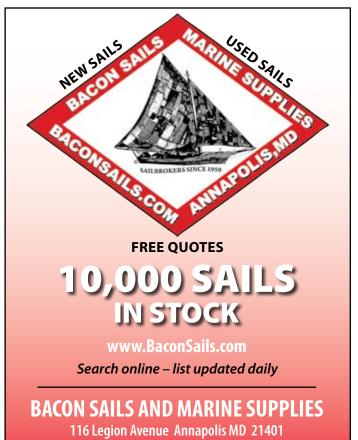


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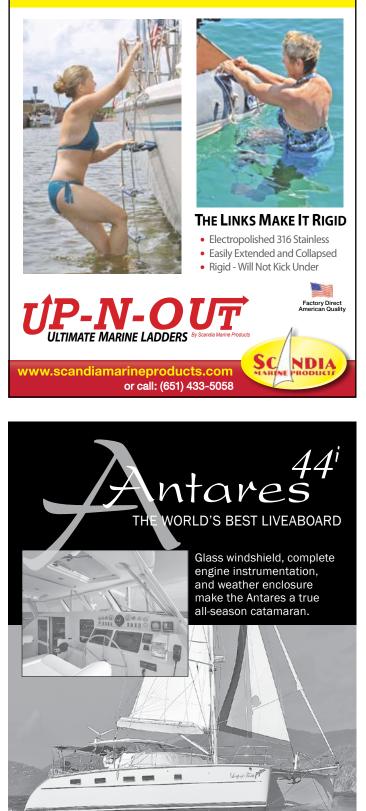
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## MARINE LADDERS DEPLOYABLE FROM THE WATER



## LETTERS

and keep in mind you have always a fall back position to the best place for medical care — home in the United States.

Richard Leute, Ph.D. Acey Deucy, J/44 Sausalito

Richard — We'll agree that if money is no object and you're far enough up in the elite to be treated by the best doctors in New York City and several other centers, you're probably going to be availing yourself of the best medical treatment in the world. Unfortunately, most cruisers can't afford the best doctors, even in the unlikely event they have the connections to gain access to them.

Based on our experience, we've found any correlation between expensive health care — such as in the United States — and successful outcomes to be suspect at best. We once suffered a nasty ankle injury. Despite the considerable pain, we called the hospital to ask when they'd be the least busy, believing that we'd get the best treatment then. We showed up at 7 a.m. the next morning, as advised. We were diagnosed as having a sprained ankle, and had the x-rays reviewed by a specialist. When things didn't get better after 10 days, we visited another doctor. Looking at the very same x-ray from a distance of about 10 feet, he said, "Well, you obviously have a broken ankle."

On another occasion, we were diagnosed as having a herniated disc by the Navy hospital in La Paz, at which point they medicated us and put us on a stretcher for a flight to LAX. We were taken to the L.A. Orthopaedic Hospital, where the doctor's diagnosis, as explained to our then-wife, was: "He's faking it." It was weeks of extreme pain before we were able to see another doctor who, although not a big believer in surgery, highly recommended that we go under the knife that evening. Thank god we did.

We're not going to slag all U.S. doctors, as we think there are many excellent ones, and that many of them got into the field more to serve than to profit. But unlike people in the medical field such as yourself, we and most other readers get treated by average U.S. doctors. In our opinion, and that of a lot of nurses we know, there are many doctors in Mexico and other countries that are just as good as, if not better than, those in the U.S. and Canada. And more importantly, these Third World doctors seem to be more personally involved with their patients. We hear this again and again.

While it's true that we've gotten a couple of cruiser reports of substandard medical treatment, the overwhelming number of reports rave about the high quality of the care, the low cost, and the much more personal attention.

For what it's worth, we're convinced that single-payer health care is the best possible system. But only in theory, as the United States government has become so inefficient, incompetent and corrupt — as the heavily subsidized U.S. Post Office's inability to compete with FedEx so well demonstrates — that we fear the cure would be worse than the disease.

#### **↑↓"CATS ARE BETTER"**

Now that we've started our second cruise, this time on a Spindrift 43 monohull rather than the Wildcat 35 catamaran we did our circumnavigation on, much of my writing over the next few weeks is going to revolve around comparing our monohull with our catamaran.

Nobody ever goes from owning a catamaran to a monohull. It's unheard of. And, it turns out, for good reason. The fact of the matter is that cats are better. They are also three times as expensive. Not twice as expensive, but three times. So after

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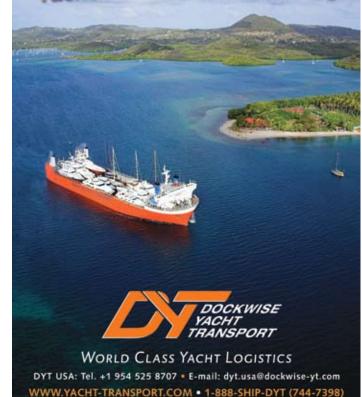


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## LETTERS

33,000 miles going around the world on our cat, and 100 miles on a monohull, my advice is this: If you can afford the cat without delaying your trip or cutting into the time you will be able to spend out cruising, then by all means, buy that dream cat of yours. But if you can buy the monohull and get out cruising now as opposed to having to spend a couple more years working to buy the cat, then just get the mono and get out there. It's as simple as that.

Our Spindrift 43 monohull isn't nearly as comfortable on the water as was our cat. At least in today's conditions. We had a big swell on our beam most of the day, which caused us to roll around quite a bit. The cat would have floated up and over these swells without our even noticing. Once the wind was dead behind us, our monohull actually rode nearly as nicely as our cat would have. But every few minutes, a wave would catch her just a little off, and throw us a little to the side, causing a nice big roll from one side to the other, then and back again. The boat does roll nice and slowly though, leaving us enough time to support ourselves before she completes the process.

Overall, I didn't hate the motion nearly as much as I'd expected to. In fact, I didn't really mind it at all. Ali, who is pregnant, did really well, too. Although she once laughed at the motion and said, "This is stupid." I think that sums up



the motion of a monohull in one simple sentence.

As for our 18-month-old Ouest, she didn't care. We had to keep one hand on her at all times, because she isn't really understanding what is happening yet. But I did see her brain working a couple of times when she decided to crawl for something rather than stand up and walk. She'll get it. What else did we learn our

*The 'Bums' don't pussyfoot around* — "Cats are better," they say.

We learned that in rolly seas, Ali will not be cooking anything on the stove. I figured out that peeing off a monohull is not nearly as easy as peeing off a cat.

We found that Ali did a good job of organizing the boat, as we didn't have anything fly out of cabinets, and when we did open cabinets to get something, nothing fell on us.

I also learned why monohull sailors are so worried about safety. It's because these rolly beasts are not nearly as safe and secure as a cat. You really do need to have one hand holding onto the boat at all times because at any second she can roll and send you running full speed across to the other side. With the cat, we could wander around on deck as if we were on land — even in rough seas.

I also discovered that we need a dodger, if for no other reason than as a place to attach handholds. I have also discovered that having a dodger — even one with windows — is going to completely obliterate any view we have from the cockpit.

But most of all, we figured out that cat or mono, it doesn't really make much difference — as long as we are out here. Cruising along the wild California coast, watching the swells smash against the rocks on shore, watching the dolphins play around us, and watching my daughter stare through the netting at the water rushing past her makes it all worthwhile

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## LETTERS

no matter what kind of boat we're on.

Pat & Ali Schulte Bumfuzzle, Spindrift 43 Minneapolis, MN

#### $\Uparrow\Downarrow$ wear bug spray and pick your ride carefully

As *Latitude* knows, it's a very good idea to go through the Panama Canal as a line-handler before transiting with your own boat. The practice run gives you a feel for the trip and, as you again know, going through as skipper is way too stressful to be enjoyable.

We hung around the yacht club for several days before getting a ride, and were lucky in that we knew a number of people who were making transits. I'm not sure how much luck backpackers would have landing line-handler positions. One of the boats we knew was owned by a singlehander who is a frequent contributor to another U.S. sailing magazine, and who asked us to come with him.

This singlehander was not really prepared to have four people — all boats making a transit must have a helmsman



and four line-handlers — spend the night on his boat in Gatun Lake. For example, he ran out of water something you really need in Panama — on the second day. We also learned that dogs don't like strangers on their boat, especially at night. And, that nobody likes cock-

Line-handling for other boats is a great way to get experience for your own transit.

roaches scuttling over their bodies in the dark. In other words, don't be overly keen to get on just any boat. Carefully evaluate the skipper and boat before agreeing to go along.

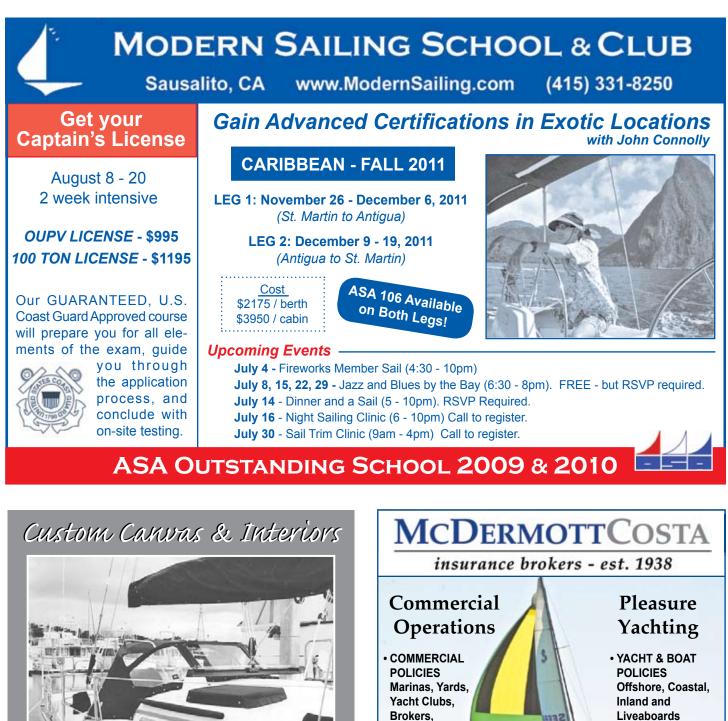
We learned the following as well: It's very scary going into a lock behind a ship, and being caught in the turbulence when it leaves the lock. Spray yourself with mosquito repellent before going into the lock, as it's hot and there's no wind down there. Cover solar panels and other delicate items with cockpit cushions and other protection. The monkey fists thrown down are heavy and will break a panel. Don't assume that your pilot/ advisor is competent. If you tie alongside another yacht, you are relying on the skipper and crew of that boat to keep your boat off the harsh lock walls. Lastly, we were very surprised at how scenic the Canal is, as other than going up or down in the locks, you motor nearly 30 miles across a jungle forest that is half-flooded by a man-made lake.

After a lot of thought, we decided to pay an agent to do our paperwork, even though it cost a lot more. One reason is that the lines and fenders were included in the price, and we wouldn't have to take the lines back to Colon. In addition, it allowed us to clear out of Panama from Colon without having to do more paperwork in Panama City. And I believe that having an agent meant we got a quicker transit.

By the way, Jetti Matzke and I are back in Oakland for a few days, having spent our third winter sailing in the Bahamas. But we're about to drive up to British Columbia for six months of sailing there. No matter where we go, we read *Latitude* and *Lectronic* online.

Richard Woods Woods Designs

Richard — At the risk of sounding like a pompous ass, we



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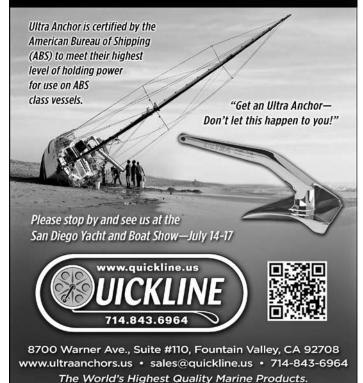
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## LETTERS

took our Ocean 71 Big O through the Canal without doing a practice run as a line-handler, and didn't find it any more stressful than a lot of things we've done in sailing. The only part we didn't enjoy was when Don Antonio des Mortes, our captain, refused to heed the Canal Authority's insistence that we spend the night at Gatun Lake.

"No," he told the Authority over the VHF, "we're going to do the transit in one day, and I'm turning off the VHF so the matter can't be discussed any further." We fully expected to be arrested and have our boat impounded when we got to the Miraflores Lock. Not only did we not get arrested, but a Canal pilot happily sent us a photo he'd taken of Don Antonio doing another unthinkable thing — passing the ship the pilot was commanding in the narrow Gaillard Cut. How Don Antonio was always able to get away with stuff like that is beyond us.

We also did a transit with Profligate, and it's our feeling that the most important thing in a transit is that the line-handlers — both on the boat and on shore — pay attention.

We've used agents to do the paperwork for a Canal transit, and we've done it ourself with the help of taxi drivers. For those who have more time than money and enjoy adventure, we recommend the latter.

#### **↑↓MULTIHULL SALES ARE PICKING UP**

It would come as no surprise to *Latitude* readers that the business of selling boats this past couple of years has been grim. So it seems worth mentioning that, in the past six weeks, I've seen evidence of a real turnaround. I work at West Coast Multihulls in San Diego, and in the last six weeks we've sold the following multihulls: a 2000 Privilege 37, a 2008 Seawind 1000XL, a 2011 Lagoon 400, a 1991 Corsair F-27 and a 2007 Corsair Sprint 750. Too bad the Privilege 49 I had listed burned in Turtle Bay last fall, or I could have sold that, too. I found it interesting that buyers of both the Privilege and the Seawind intend to cruise Alaska.

We're also making changes for what would have been our Sixth Annual Seawind Rally to Catalina on August 18-21. Previously it was only open to Seawind cats, but this year we're opening the rally up to all multihulls, and are therefore looking for a new name for the event. We'll keep you posted. Monte Cottrell San Diego

#### **↑↓THE TROUBLE WITH RUM**

Unless I forgot someone, there were 17 of us who descended on Antigua for Antigua Sailing Week to celebrate life, boats,



and my birthday. We headquartered at the Catamaran Hotel and, fittingly enough, rented an Island Spirit 40 catamaran — Free Spirit 2 — and moored her in the immediately adjacent marina. There were four solo men in our group, so the cat became their quarters. It was there,

Just one of the many excellent meals, but where's the rum?

I heard, the rumored trouble with rum began.

We went sailing every day to catch the start of the daily races, then it was off to swim, sail some more, and drink rum. The racing was excellent. We primarily rooted for *Jaguar*, a Frers 43 that was berthed just down the dock from us. It was fairly windy for the Wednesday race, and we saw two or three

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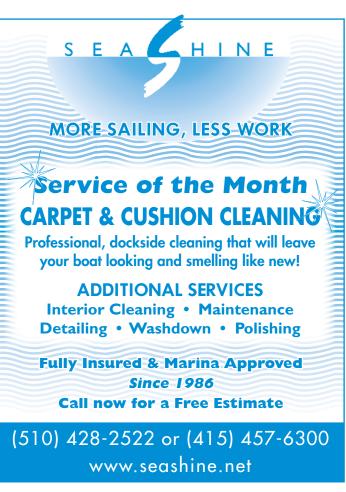


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## LETTERS

spinnakers get shredded. It was a pretty exciting sight. Each evening we'd go down to Nelson's Dockyard or a party up at Shirley Heights. Nelson's Dockyard, an impressive and



intact Georgian-era English boatyard, easily brought back memories of pirate times — except for the long quay of high-tech Swans docked side-by-side. The locals couldn't have been nicer, and they had tents set up where they sold wonderful fish, BBQ and cold beers. The

Antigua Sailing Week was just what the doctor ordered for that special "big" birthday.

best meal of the trip, and there were many excellent meals, was the 'tasting menu' we pulled together from as many of the vendors as we could manage.

The raucous parties weren't as wild as their reputation, but perhaps we missed some of them because we were celebrating a birthday of a really big number, and, of course, there was the trouble with rum. There is a rumor that drinking it can make you sleepy.

Anyway, hats off to the Antigua Race Committee, the Catamaran Hotel, and Horizon Yachts for an excellent pirate adventure.

David Younkman Falls Church, VA

David — This year's was the 44th Annual Antigua Sailing Week, an event that back in the day — meaning the late '80s and early '90s — established the gold standard for wild regattas in the tropics, with nearly 250 entries. We did six of them with Big O, and will never forget the challenging racing or the outrageous parties.

Then, for whatever reason, Sailing Week seemed to slip a bit, at least compared with the growing Heineken Regatta in St. Martin and the Antigua Classic Regatta. It took a real punch a few years ago with the big slump in the world economy. There have been some changes to the event since, notably that all the



races are now held on the south coast of the island instead of being around-theisland races, and the overnights in Dickenson Bay and Jolly Harbor. And as opposed to the wet t-shirt contests and wild freestyle partying each night around all the race

Reggae fusion artist Maxi Priest packed in the crowds at Antigua Sailing Week.

venues, this year Maxi Priest put on a show up at beautiful Shirley Heights for an appreciative crowd of 2,000. Best of all, we're told that the once-tense vibe around English Harbor has mellowed out a lot.

Anyone wishing to get an idea of the spectacular tropical sailing conditions to be found off of Antigua should go to the Sailing Week website and check out the videos. Good stuff.

↑↓DON'T BE TALKIN' SMACK ABOUT CATALINA! Naysayers Beware!

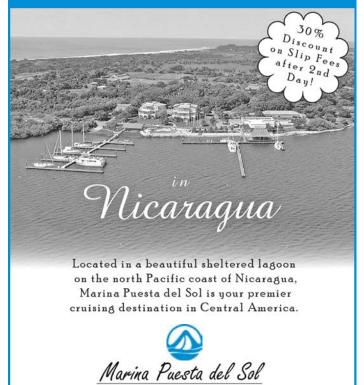


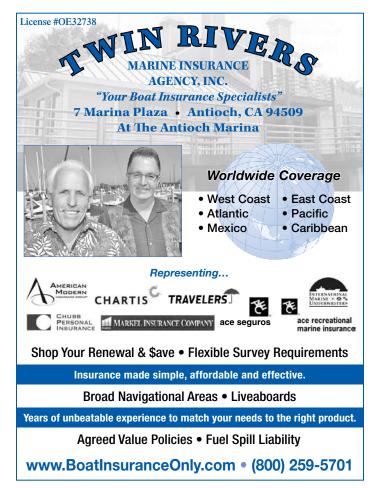
## AS IT TURNS OUT, THE WIND IS AS EFFECTIVE AT DRIVING BLOOD CANCER BACKWARD AS IT IS AT DRIVING A BOAT FORWARD.

Raise a sail and save a life. The sixth annual Leukemia Cup Regatta benefitting The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society is at The San Francisco Yacht Club in Belvedere, CA.

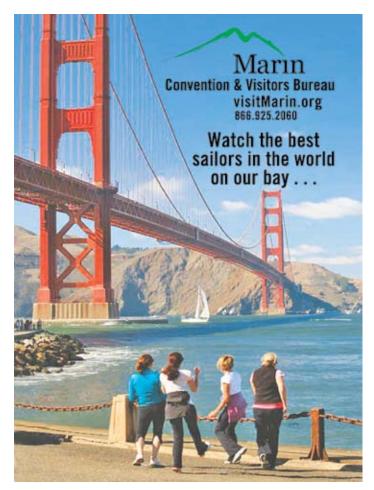
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## LETTERS

How dare *Latitude* demean the mighty Catalina Island, whose muses always lure us to her shores?

Having spent much time sailing our Cal 20, then Cal 25, then Newport 28, to every possible harbor and anchorage on both sides of Catalina for over 10 years, I can attest to its many gorgeous coves and diving spots.

I guess the real secret is to escape during the week, as Southern California's masses seek refuge at the island on weekends. Of course, much depends on who your crewmates are, what you bring to eat, and what activities you plan.

We've taken newborns — two weeks old — to the island, bringing the playpen in the dinghy. Our sons grew up sailing to the island, and still enjoy it.

The Channel Islands provide even more exploring and fun! There is a pure treasure trove at our beck and call. So heed to it, matey, and explore life all the more!

> Christine Thomas Southern California

*Christine — We bet you can't wait for Talk Like a Pirate Day, which is September 19.* 

You almost make it sound as if we wrote something negative about Catalina and the Channel Islands. Why you would think that is a mystery to us. Up until last year, Profligate spent much of each summer on the hook at Harbor Reef just off the Isthmus. While the water at Catalina is a little cold after the tropics, the



hiking on the island is fabulous, as is exploring all the little coves in the dinghy. Weekdays were quiet enough to get lots of work done, either using a modem on the boat or the wi-fi in the restaurant garden patio area, which was very quiet in the afternoon. And it seemed as if you were a million miles from urban California. Thurs-

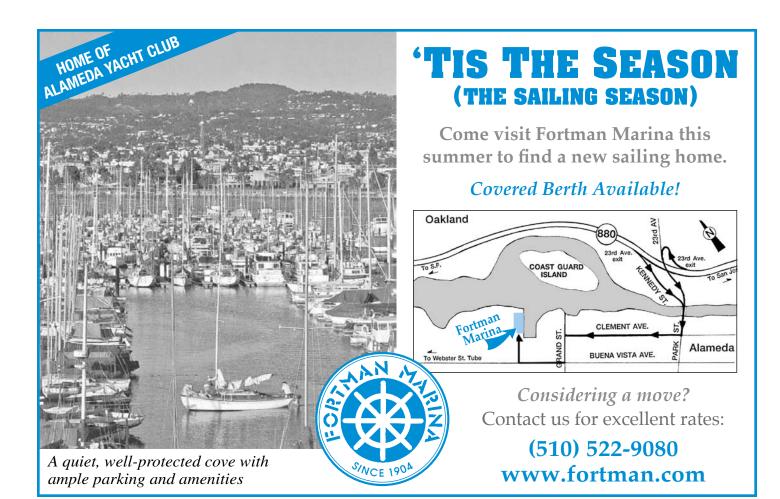
Hiking on uninhabited Santa Cruz Island is as good as it gets.

day through Sunday afternoons were pleasantly crowded, with live music, dancing, sports on all the bar televisions, and all the BBQs blazing. Two Harbors is just fine with us, offering a whole lot of nature, with the basic conveniences — internet, showers, laundry, store, restaurant, bar, and BBQ pits. Avalon, about seven miles down the coast, is normally too touristy for our taste, but it's fun now and again, and it has a well-stocked grocery for a better selection than Two Harbors.

As for the other Channel Islands, the water may unfortunately be on the cold side, but there is so much to explore. Uninhabited Santa Cruz, for example, has 77 miles of pristine coastline waiting for surfers, divers, hikers, and nature lovers. There is no landing fee on any of these islands, except at the Nature Conservancy's 75% portion of Santa Cruz Island, which costs \$30 a boat per day or \$70 a year.

In a typical month, we receive a tremendous volume of letters. So if yours hasn't appeared, don't give up hope. We welcome all letters that are of interest to sailors. Please include your name, your boat's name, hailing port and, if possible, a way to contact you for clarifications.

By far the best way to send letters is to email them to richard@latitude38.com. You can also mail them to 15 Locust, Mill Valley, CA, 94941, or fax them to (415) 383-5816.



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Frank Gallovich

\*Captain John Curry is owner of **Stern to Stern**, a premier leader in boating services with trained instructors, licensed captains and insured service providers. Our vendors provide services from general maintenance to major repairs so you can spend more time enjoying your boat.

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## SIGHTINGS

## coutts wads it up

The road to America's Cup 34 made its way through the Bay last month, and Oracle Racing CEO Russell Coutts found a pothole on June 13. Following a successful media outing which drew mainstream journalists from a plethora of outlets out for a spin on the Bay aboard the replica of the the first winner of the Auld Mug, the schooner America, the team got to work with race practice. As the journos were packing up their gear and pulling out of the Golden Gate YC parking lot, Coutts and team skipper James Spithill went toe-to toe in their respective AC45s on a ripping, 25-plus-knot afternoon. During the pre-start of one of their scrimmages, Coutts went to bear away, hesitated, and tried again, sending the bows of his Oracle 5 "down the mine" in a ball of spray.

In the pitchpole, Coutts was sent flying through the wingsail, and although it made for some good dramatic video and a long night for the boatbuilders, he was uninjured. The wing ribs, extremely light laminations of what appears to be a single layer of carbon fiber top and bottom with a Nomex core and exposed edges, were apparently no match for the world's most accomplished inshore sailor.

The boat was righted quickly and, by the next morning, the wing was repaired and Oracle 5 was ready to go back out on the water. The capsize followed on the heels of a near-miss the week before that was the closest thing we've ever seen to a capsize that wasn't. If nothing else, it illustrated Coutts' oft-repeated mantra that this Cup will be sailed by the best sailors in the world sailing the most challenging boats in the world. It left everyone wondering, "How are they going to do this in the AC 72s?"

If you missed Coutts' tumble (and near-tumble), you can find video on YouTube. Search for "Oracle Racing Team" and, for the near-miss, add "High Five!" For the full monty, look for "Oracle Racing capsizes." Both videos show just how wild the AC 45s are.

— rob

was to row to the Oakland farmer's market every Sunday," said close friend

Berman says a neighbor at Grand Marina saw Rui fall in and called for

help to get him back on

his boat. It appears he

was in the water for just a few minutes, and when he was pulled aboard, was

breathing and talking. But Berman says at some point 911 was called, and Rui was given CPR, put on a breathing bag and

rushed to the hospital

with a weak pulse. "I had

Jeff Berman.

## eight bells for rui luis

The Bay Area sailing community lost a well-loved and highly respected member on June 5. Rui Luis, the 48-year-old owner of Rooster Sails, fell into the water while trying to board his powerboat from his dinghy. "Rui had lost 100 lbs in the last year-and-a-half, and part of his exercise program



**JEFF BERMAN** 

The jovial Rui Luis of Rooster Sails in Alameda will be missed by many in the Bay Area sailing community.

> just arrived at the hospital when they told Ruthie [Rui's partner of 20 years] that he'd died," said Berman.

> Although Rui was a longtime advertiser in Latitude 38, we didn't really get to know him until last month, when the publisher had him repair and recut some sails for the La Gamelle Syndicate's Olson 30. May he rest in peace.

> > — latitude 38

## politics

In last month's Sightings, we reported that Washington State had banned copper bottom paint and California was close to passing a similar law in SB 623. The Recreational Boaters of California and Boat U.S. have loudly opposed the legislation. The RBOC inaccurately claimed in a widely distributed letter that boatowners would be required to spend \$5,000 every year to have a special non-toxic bottom coating applied, but later conceded that those numbers were inflated.

The reality of the bill was pretty mun-



#### as usual

dane: copper paints would be banned starting in 2019, giving boaters eight years to find an acceptable non-copper substitute. This shouldn't have been too troublesome since so many inexpensive and reasonably effective alternatives are already on the market, and more are released every year by paint companies who seem to understand which way the wind is blowing.

But California politics are never easy or simple. SB 623 passed the State Senate continued in middle column of next sightings page

## "honey, we have a problem"

It's not uncommon for sailors to arrive at their boat after a prolonged absence only to find a bird's nest tucked into the main - usually after raising the sail. But imagine being greeted by several thousand bees. That's just what happened last month at Vallejo YC when Dave Nadolne's Newport 30 Windsome Winch became the new royal digs for her majesty, Queen Bee.

When a swarm of bees attached itself to Nadolne's main on June 15, member Mary Kraybill knew just whom to call to take care of the situation: her sister, Benicia-based amateur apiarist Deborah Morrison. "I'm an avid gardener and already had two hives," says Morrison. "Now I have three!"

On June 17, Morrison and Kraybill suited up in beekeeping gear continued on outside column of next sightings page



#### bees — cont'd

and began the painstaking process of gathering the swarm. "First, I sprayed them down with sugar water," explained Morrison. "They'd been there for a few days without eating because they were guarding their queen, so they were hungry — plus the sticky water weighs down their wings." When that was done, the sisters carefully swept the bees into a "Christmas ornament tub."

As Kraybill slowly unzipped the mainsail cover, Morrison realized that this job was going to be tricky. "I'm so lucky to have had a sailor to help me," she laughed. "I have no idea what I would have done because thousands of bees were glommed into each fold of the sail." Kraybill slowly raised the main as Morrison continued to sweep up the bees. There were so many, in fact, that they had to find another lidded container to collect them all. In the end, Morrison believes that continued on outside column of next sightings page

## politics

on June 2 and moved on to the Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials. On June 21, an amended version of the bill was released, and it bears almost no resemblance to its previous incarnation. As amended, the bill would allow the use of "low-leach" rate copper antifouling paints and would require the Department of Pesticide Regulation to "determine the maximum allowable leach rate" for such paints by January 1, '14. A year after that, all other copper paints would be banned.

"Low-leach rate" isn't defined in the



Sugar water helped soothe the estimated 10,000 bees that had crammed themselves in and around 'Windsome Wench's main last month.





#### — cont'd

bill, but our assumption on reading it was that non-ablative/"hard" paints would be the likely choice. Don't count on it, says a source well-informed on the legislation. He says a paint's actual copper content, not the rate at which it leaches, will most likely be what the DPR looks at.

But the changes to the bill don't stop there. The biggest change — the one that made us think, "That has to be a typo!" — is the provision that if the State Water Resources Control Board determines that low-leach copper paints are still contribcontinued in middle column of next sightings page



The queen, protected by her workers, was tucked inside the folds of the main. She was likely attracted to the blue sail cover.

A CONTRACTOR OF A

#### bees — cont'd

the queen, who is only a little bigger than all the other bees and very difficult to spot, was among the 10,000 or so bees she collected. How does she know? "Because it's several days later and all the bees are still here," she said.

Morrison says the spring and early summer are when a new

queen will go on a "mating flight." Her subjects follow her and when she picks a spot to call home, they surround her for protection and start building the combs into which she'll lay her eggs. But why on earth did she choose such a seemingly unlikely spot as a boat's mainsail cover? "Bees are attracted to the color blue — think lav-ender, asters, etc."



KRAY

Morrison says the swarm was tired and hungry from accompanying their queen on her mating flight, so they put up little resistance after being sprayed with sugar water (aka food).

Morrison said. "I think she saw the color blue and found the safest little place in the folds of the sail."

If you find your boat's main covered in bees in the spring or summer, you're most likely looking at the honey variety, as opposed to the Africanized 'killer' variety. Morrison suggests calling your local animal control office to see if they know of an apiarist who will come collect them. Not only has the honey bee population been mysteriously declining worldwide - and lord knows we need all the sweetness we can get in this world — but those bees will be none too happy to leave their queen unprotected. "Even though they were very unaggressive at this point and we were in protective gear," Morrison pointed out, "my sister and I each got stung."

— ladonna

#### pangaea inspires youth

Mike Horn's face doesn't have any scars, he's not missing any limbs, and he doesn't walk with a limp. Only with careful searching might one notice that the tip of his ring finger is missing — the only visible hint at his history of adventure, risk-taking, and daring exploration. Horn has been to places most of us only dream of, and is globally acknowledged as one of the world's greatest modern-day explorers.

Horn's newest adventure is aboard Pangaea, a 115-ft aluminum ketch he's taking on a four-year journey to visit youth across the globe. Pangaea will also serve as a platform to explore the natural world, learn about its challenges, find solutions, and act swiftly to make changes to safeguard the environment.

On its way north from L.A. at the end of May, Pangaea stopped on the Bay for a visit before heading to Vancouver and, ultimately, the Northwest Passage. OCSC's Anthony Sandberg organized a meetand-greet with Horn and his crew of two, and I was lucky enough to be invited. As a 19-year-old "youth," I'm concerned for my tomorrow, and was quite impressed with Pangaea and Horn's plans for her.

At the beginning of our afternoon, a group of young people, as well as a number of adults, were regaled with stories from Horn's previous expeditions. Originally from South Africa, Horn moved to Switzerland and opened an outdoor activity center in '95. In '97, he completed his first major expedition in which he navigated the entire length of the continued on outside column of next sightings page

#### pangaea — cont'd

Amazon River alone and without motorized aid. Two years after that. he circumnavigated the globe along the equator, either on foot or on an engineless 28-ft trimaran. (It was while preparing for that expedition that Horn was introduced to the world of sailing.) He went on to solo circumnavigate the Arctic circle, travel to the North Pole during the permanent darkness of the winter months, and climb peaks higher than 26,000 feet without the aid of additional oxygen.

Horn's newest projects - Pangaea Expedition and the Young Ex-

plorers Program - aren't physical mountains but

they present new chal-

lenges to tackle. Pangaea

set sail from Argentina in

'08, and has since visited ports around the globe, inviting youth onboard

to learn, grow and be

pressed by the scale of

everything. Even though

Our sail on the Bay was a pretty straightforward reach from San Francisco to Richmond and back. I was very im-

inspired.



Sarah (left) and Hannah Arndt flank world-renowned adventurer Mike Horn during a recent Bay Area visit.

we all took turns raising the sails, everyone was huffing and puffing by the time they were fully up. When I took my turn at the wheel, I was surprised by the number of times I had to turn it to feel a response. But the best part of the day was having time to chat with Horn oneon-one.

He explained that the Young Explorers Program (YEP) takes young adults on smaller versions of his other adventures. These expeditions use nature as a resource to increase understanding of environmental issues. By fostering an appreciation for the natural world, the program catalyzes youth into action. If Horn can show young adults the inextricable link between living and the earth, then maybe there is a brighter future ahead, a future in which humans learn to care for our Mother Earth.

Horn spoke of why he does it: to feel alive, to feel utterly awake in his body. As my sister, Hannah, simply put it: "You can't care for something you don't love." In this spirit, young people between the ages of 15 and 20 who are "adventurous, keen to explore, and inspired to make a difference" can apply online at www.mikehorn.com for a selection camp where, after 10 days of training, eight candidates are chosen for an expedition. This fall's trip to Nunavut, Canada, is already full, but more are coming up. The YEP program, which is funded by Mercedes-Benz, is so fascinating that I'm seriously considering applying.

Mike Horn's maxim states: "The impossible exists only until we find a way to make it possible." I believe that, for all of us onboard that day, our eyes were opened to new possibilities and we have newfound hope for a better future — with today's youth at the helm.

– sarah arndt

## hee-hee and ha-ha

Chico YC recently completed its 6th annual Lake Oroville Hee-Hee. That the name of this cruise resembles another, more famous cruiser's rally is no mistake. The Baja Ha-Ha was the original inspiration but that's where the comparison ends.

Lake Oroville was created in the '60s as the cornerstone to the California Water Project. The 770-ft-high earthen dam is the second continued on outside column of next sightings page

## politics

uting to poor water quality — how they would be able to distinguish between copper from bottom paint and copper from brake pads is anyone's guess — all antifouling paints would be banned. Yes, you read that correctly. All.

"117146 (b): On or after January 1, 2019, if the State Water Resources Control Board does not demonstrate that the trend line of the measured water quality data points toward attainment of the dissolved copper water quality objectives in California marinas and harbors, then the use or application of antifouling paint



We totally agree with this gal's reaction to sailing on San Francisco Bay.



Grind it, girls! Young people experience firsthand what's involved in sailing such a big boat.

#### — cont'd

on recreational vessels shall be prohibited one year after the determination."

We're assured by our source that the word "copper" probably wasn't left out accidentally - all bottom paints would be banned, and boaters would be required under the law to remove the paint on their boats. Not only would that be ridiculously expensive for boaters, but it would also be completely unenforceable. And let's not even discuss where all that groundoff copper paint would go, because we all know an obscene amount would end up

## hee-hee — cont'd

largest in the world and is built below the confluence of the three forks of the mighty Feather River, which drains nearly 4,000 sq miles of the northern Sierra Nevada and southern Cascade Mt. Lassen. It holds nearly 3.5 million acre feet of water and has 167 miles of shoreline. Besides providing flood control, electricity, and water for rice and other ag lands, it's a top attraction for fishing and boaters in the state.

The original concept for the Hee-Hee was to spend a week circumnavigating the South, Middle, and North Forks, as well as the west branch of the Feather River by sailing when we could, motoring when we had to, and anchoring overnight before happy hour and lighting the BBQs. After about a week of making our way up the long steep fjords, we finished up by renting a floating campground on the last weekend. Floating campgrounds are very cool two-story aluminum continued on outside column of next sightings page



## hee-hee — cont'd

structures anchored around the lake — folks can pitch a tent on top, raft up, and celebrate the end of the Hee-Hee with a party. The campgrounds come with a galley, head, and BBQ, and rent for a very reasonable \$150 per night.

This year we had an abundance of water so passing beneath the two bridges was handled with caution. High water made it possible to go all the way up the Middle Fork and view Feather Falls — at over 400 feet, it's the fourth tallest in the state. We also cruised up the South Fork to Ponderosa Dam before rafting up for the evening.

During the raft up on the floating campground, we welcomed three new boats to the club and hosted a total of nine boats ranging from a Lido14 to an Islander 36. All told, 25 CYCers enjoyed celebrating the end to another successful Oroville Hee-Hee. Maybe one day the Hee-Hee will be as big as the Ha-Ha — but, considering the size of the floating campgrounds, we hope not!

> — herb clark imagine, catalina 270 / hotel charlie, catalina 25

## politics

right back in our waters, doing far more harm than if it'd just stayed on the bottom of our boats.

Talk about throwing the baby out with the bath water!

So why on earth did the bill get changed so drastically? Our source suspects the RBOC had a heavy hand in sabotaging this latest draft, submitting wording in such a way that essentially makes it a lame duck law because of its unenforceablity. The state can't afford to keep DMV open five days a week, much less hire someone to go check every boat for copper bottom paint. Either that, or the environmental lobby pushing the bill through is completely out of touch with



#### cont'd

reality.

Interestingly enough, the RBOC seems much more satisfied with this new version of SB 623 - though they wrongly state on their website that only "copper paint" could be banned in '19 — which might lead someone to agree with our source's first suggestion.

Regardless, we're sad to say that what had been a promising piece of legislation is now one of the more ridiculous boatingrelated bills we've seen in a while. No matter which side of the fence you stand on, it's a lose-lose, and a complete waste of the legislature's valuable time.

And don't be surprised when it passes. — ladonna

**JIC MAKAI** 





## budgeting aboard carmen miranda

Cindy Holmes and partner Faith Tamarin of the Berkeley-based Vanguard 32 Carmen Miranda are just a Baja Bash away from completing a 12-year circumnavigation, and they have three major pieces of advice for women based on their experience:

1) "Via a cruising boat is the only way for women with no real money

to be able to see all the things they want to see in the world.'

2) "For women — and men — to be confident and relaxed while cruising, they need to know how things work, and to be full partners in the sailing and maintenance of the boat. Between us, Faith and I can fix anything, except for things that need to be sewn or welded."

3) "Two women can cruise the world on \$500-600 a month. We don't know anybody who cruised on Cindy Holmes and Faith Tamarin (not shown) less money than we did."



are close to finishing a circumnavigation.

And lest any women think that age is any more of a barrier than gender is, Cindy is 55 and Faith is 70.

It's important to note that the duo's circumnavigation did not involve denying themselves any important experiences. Prior to starting, they got out a globe and put red dots on all the places they wanted to go and things they wanted to do, no matter if it was seeing the Komodo dragons of Indonesia, the orangutans of Borneo, or the pyramids of Egypt; climbing to the top of St. Peters in Rome; transiting 265 locks in Europe; or even living the lives of London train commuters.

Faith has been a long time sailor and boatworker, having been a delivery skipper, the captain of an S&S 65 on the Bay, a rigger at the top of masts, and a varnisher. It's Cindy, however, who has the greater experience and skills with mechanical things. In fact, she's had a career at UC Berkeley setting up physics experiments for professors to run in front of 500 students.

Cindy got into boats because she couldn't find an economical place to live in Berkeley. She started with an old landing craft she bought from the Sea Scouts that she turned into Cleopatra's Barge, but soured on how much it cost to fill up the fuel tanks, and how smoky and noisy it was. Having become friends with sailors in the marina, she moved to a Triton 28, and for the cruise with Faith, the Triton's big sister, a rugged Vanguard 32, which she says has been a great boat.

So when it came to replacing Carmen Miranda's Atomic 4 engine with a Kubota diesel, Cindy did all the work. In fact, she's rebuilt the undersized original and replacement Hurst transmissions for the diesel four times, and can now do it in the boat's galley in one afternoon while on the hook.

It troubles Cindy that more cruisers — particularly women — aren't very knowledgeable about mechanical and sailing issues. "I've seen lots of couples have problems or split up in large part because they were always having to wait for very expensive mechanics to do even simple jobs on their boats, or because they didn't understand the basics.'

Cindy and Faith's circumnavigation was unusual in a couple of respects. First of all, they sailed all the way to Greece, 80% of a circumnavigation, in the first three years. But then, at a place where many West Coast circumnavigators make a mad dash for home, they started to really settle in. They returned to Northern California to work, and used the boat as their summer home in the Med. "When we kept the boat at Fiumicino Marina, which is just down the Tiber River from Rome, we'd take the train into Rome each day — it wasn't expensive - and then just walk around that fabulous city until we were exhausted. I can't tell you how many pairs of shoes we wore out."

After about five years of that, they lowered their mast and set it on

continued on outside column of next sightings page

## budgeting — cont'd

deck, then traveled the Rhone and other rivers and canals to Arles, Avignon, Lyon, Paris, and ultimately Amsterdam. You know the Arsenal Marina; less than half a mile from Notre Dame in the heart of Paris? Cindy and Faith lived on their boat there for a month for \$25/night.

They kept the boat in Ipswich, England, for two years, and used her as an inexpensive hotel for for countless 90-mile train trips to London and to explore the rest of England. From there they did a conventional trip down to the Canaries, across the Atlantic, through the Canal with an all-women transit crew — and up toward California.

Faith and Cindy are poster women for world cruising not having to cost that much. "We took off for the South Pacific with \$500. The keys to being able to survive on a low budget are being able to do everything ourselves, not drinking, not smoking, and not staying in a marina for the first three years." After the first three years, they returned to the Bay Area to work, except for the summers, and they also found boat and furniture work in Australia and in Israel.

If the non-drinking and non-smoking duo sound like they don't have a vice, they do: "It's what the Aussies called 'bikkies' or biscuits, or what we Americans call cookies. In every country we were quick to try the local versions." And for vegetarians, Cindy says they ate as poorly as teenagers. "We like our food quick and easy. When we arrived in the Marquesas, we were delighted to find Lady Lee frozen vegetables, just like here in the Bay Area. We also eat a lot of cous cous, because it doesn't require much water, and it only takes a few minutes to prepare. But France was the best for eating. We'd go to the local *patisserie* and get a nine-inch lobster quiche for four euros!"

— richard

## the joys of fishing naked

When you're out cruising, laundry facilities can be hard to find. The chore of doing laundry in a bucket is so dreaded aboard our Seattlebased Chris White Atlantic 42 *LightSpeed* that clothes pile up for a month or more at a time. If it's warm out, and there's no one around to impose upon, why not take off the clothes and save yourself from adding to the laundry pile? This is an especially good idea when fishing because few things smell worse than month-old dead fish.

But this article isn't really about cleaning a fish naked. It's about how to catch, clean and prep a 'naked fish' — in other words, to make it sushi grade. The proper technique is called *Ike Jime* and is a bit detailed but, with practice, can be very quick and makes for superb eating. Prepared using this method, fish are firmer, not mushy or smelly, and will last longer.

When fish run amok, get smashed on the head and flop around the deck, lactic acid builds up in their flesh, so it's critical to dispatch the fish as quickly as possible. As soon as you get the fish close to the boat, find the soft spot between and just just behind the eyes and, using an ice pick or similar tool, 'spike' the brain. This is the quickest and most humane way to kill the fish.

Once the fish is spiked, insert a length of thick monofilament or wire (I always have a piece of weed whacker line tied to my stern step for easy access) in the spike hole and run it down the spinal column. This will completely sever the spinal cord, and the fish will instantly stop tensing and thrashing.

It's essential to bleed out a fish before you gut it. There are several schools of thought on the subject, but my preference is to sever the gill cage by simply reaching in and ripping out the gills with my fingers. You can also cut the gill arch, the soft area just below the gills. Lift the gill cover and cut the arch where the soft membrane meets the rough skin. Some people prefer to cut below the pectoral fin across the lateral line, but if the cut is too deep, it can really chop up a good portion of the filet. Be sure to also put two small cuts on either side continued on outside column of next sightings page

#### 2010 uscg

Last month, the U.S. Coast Guard released their 2010 recreational boating stats, always an illuminating read. For example, take a guess which month had the highest percentage of fatal accidents. Did you say July or August? You'd be wrong. According to the report, March, February and November had the highest percentages of fatal accidents — 26%, 25% and 22% respectively — while June through August had the lowest at 9% each. Ironically, July had the second highest number of fatalities, 118, but it also had the highest number of non-fatal accidents at 1,023.



Sushi anyone? Kathy shows you how to prepare 'naked fish' naked. She and husband David have sailed 55,000 miles on 'Lightspeed' and are currently working their way up the Inside Passage to Alaska. We have no doubt Kathy will put her fish cleaning skills to good use, though we guess she'll be wearing more clothes!



#### boating stats

But most of the statistics in the report were fairly unsurprising: Nearly half of the 672 fatal accidents last year occurred on open motorboats (325) - sailboats had only 23 - and boats that were under 26 feet (584); drowning was the most common cause of death (484; 395 of them were not wearing PFDs) and alcohol use was the most common contributing factor in fatal accidents (126); and 84% of all fatal accidents happened on boats operated by someone who had received no boating instruction.

Here are a few highlights from the continued in middle column of next sightings page

## naked — cont'd

of the tail across the lateral line.

Choose the method you prefer, then loop a small line through the jaw with a bowline and attach it to the boat. Drop the fish in the water and let it drag for about 10 minutes (it's best to keep the boat's speed to under seven knots for this part). This will expedite the bleeding out and will also help cool down the fish.

To make gutting simple, I cut the gills all the way around where they attach near the head, then I cut out the anal opening. If done correctly, it's an easy trick to just grab hold of the gills and pull the entire innards out in one piece. Rinse the fish in the seawater and prepare to filet or chill.

Ideally, the fish would be packed with ice to chill it, but I usually filet it before I cool it down since I'm already dirty and all the gear is out - plus my fridge can't accommodate an entire fish. Everyone

continued on outside column of next sightings page



#### naked — cont'd

has their own fileting techniques, and mine are always evolving, so I'll leave it to the reader to develop his or her preferred method.

Before packaging the fish, sop up any liquids with a paper towel. The goal is to cool the fish down quickly, so avoid packing a bunch of filets in a large Tupperware or ZipLoc. Instead, wrap each piece in plastic wrap and put the pieces in the coolest part of the fridge. When you are ready to eat, they will be cleaned, skinned, bled and ready to serve.

While cruising the South Pacific, we just had to drop a line behind the boat and fresh fish — tuna, mahi, wahoo and so on — was on the menu. My husband, David, doesn't like fish too raw, so I often sear it quickly on each side in a hot cast iron pan and serve it up with some wasabi and fresh ginger. For that, I highly recommend a full-size apron to prevent splatter burns!

— kathy kane

#### stats

executive summary of the report:

"In 2010, the Coast Guard counted 4604 accidents that involved 672 deaths, 3153 injuries and approximately \$35.5 million dollars of damage to property as a result of recreational boating accidents. • The fatality rate was 5.4 deaths per 100,000 registered recreational vessels. This rate represents a 6.9% decrease from last year's fatality rate of 5.8 deaths per 100,000 registered recreational vessels. • Compared to '09, the number of accidents decreased by 2.66%, the number of deaths decreased by 8.70% and the



#### — cont'd

number of injuries decreased by 6.10%. • Almost three-fourths of all fatal boating accident victims drowned, and of those, 88% were not reported as wearing a life jacket.

• Eight out of every 10 boaters who drowned were using vessels less than 21 feet in length.

• Alcohol use is the leading contributing factor in fatal boating accidents; it was listed as the leading factor in 19% of the deaths.

• Twenty-one children under age 13 lost continued in middle column of next sightings page



The crew were smiling aboard 'Bandaloop'.



'Marv Ann II' struts her stuff.

## catch a ride on the ha-ha

With nearly 100 boats already signed up for this fall's Baja Ha-Ha Rally, there's a lot of excited chatter among soon-to-be cruisers

in marinas all along the West Coast. If that's making you feel sadly left out because you're not ready to make the southbound pilgrimage to Cabo in your own boat this year, we've got a suggestion for you. Try catching a ride aboard someone else's boat — perhaps even someone you've never met. How? Check out the Mexico-Only section of our online Crew List at www.latitude38.com. There you'll find a bunch of skippers looking for able-bodied watchstanders for the Lars Hassler is sailing 'Jennifer' 4,800



750-mile rally. The list is accessible 24/7 miles from Japan to join the Ha-Ha.

and is constantly evolving, so who knows? An ideal ride to the sunny latitudes of Mexico might be just a few mouse clicks away.

This year's rally starts on October 24, with the deadline for entries September 10. As you'll see by the latest entries below, boat types and homeports are as varied as ever.

— andy

#### Additional entries as of June 24:

- 75) Jennifer, Beneteau Oceanis 500, Lars Hässler, Stockholm, Sweden
- 76) Knuckle Dragger, Hunter 38, Robert Craig, Portland, OR
- 77) Arctic Tern 111, Nordic 40, John Garteiz, Whittier, AK
- 78) Realtime, Norseman 447, Bob & Karyn Packard, Long Beach
- 79) Azure-Té, Ron Holland 43, Jack Gill, Sausalito
- 80) Buena Vida, Catalina 42, Jeff & Julie Leonard, Ventura
- 81) Sojourn, Pearson Alberg 35, Bridget & Bruce Eastman, Brisbane
- 82) Outraygeous, Hunter Legend 45, Ray & Dori McEneaney, Vallejo
- 83) Murar's Dream, Beneteau 46, Andrew Rosen, Marina del Rey
- 84) Tranquilo, Catalina 400, Lloyd & Colleen Clauss, San Pedro
- 85) Sundance, Beneteau M38, Rick Donker & David Rempel, San Francisco
- 86) Tara, Caliber 28, John Neeley & Shannon Walker, Berkeley 87) Nirvana, Irwin 45, Bob & Sherry Davis, Shell Beach
- 88) Sailpotion, CSK 40, Herschel & Susan Pence, Vallejo

89) Orion, Hunter 466, Connor Lamm & Yvonne Sininger, Marina del Rey 90) Caledonia II, Jeanneau 452, Ed Fudge & Peter Ruben, Calgary, AB

91) Tan Tori, Island Packet 445, Roger & Tori Robinett, Seattle, WA

#### the bride wore blue socks & top-siders

As the steward for the La Gamelle Syndicate's Olson 30 La Gamelle, which is currently berthed at Marina Village in Alameda, we've suddenly gained a whole new group of sailing friends in that part of the world. Among them are David and Elena Esser of the new Prout 50 catamaran Tigress, with which La Gamelle shares an end-tie.

We first met David last month by saying, "We're glad you have that inflatable hanging down from the back of your cat, because we took the engine off the Olson, so we plan on docking by sailing the bow of our Olson into your inflatable at a 90-degree angle, which will carom our boat right into her spot on the dock."

"That will be fine," David replied. "By the way," he continued, "Elena and I are getting married next Saturday, and are having the reception aboard. You should come." So we did.

Everyone was given bright blue boat socks, and Elena proudly wore hers with her TopSiders. We think it's a pretty saucy look. Her socks were monogrammed with the date of June of '10, because that's when their boat was scheduled to be launched and they were to be married. Since the boat was a year late in being delivered, they obviously had to postpone the wedding by a year, too.

People say that the 'apple never falls far from the tree', but only continued on outside column of next sightings page

#### blue socks — cont'd

people who don't live on hillsides. You see, David is the son of admitted 'hippie vagabonds', who 35 years ago would buy one-way tickets to the far corners of the world and drag him along. Instead of following in the footstops of the parents, David has thrown himself into the internet world, and apparently has been successful at starting several companies. The big cat is his move away from life being all about work.

David has also been successful in gradually introducing Elena to the water and sailing. He had to start with the ultra basics because in



The groom and bride aboard their luxurious new Prout 50 catamaran, 'Tigress'.

gratulating our new good friends David and Elena on their marriage — and on their new catamaran.

— richard

the beginning Elena was so afraid of the water

that she wouldn't even

walk down a dock. But

now she's happily living aboard, and looking forward to the mast being stepped in a few weeks. *Tigress* is actually the couple's second sailboat. They also have an

exact sistership to Lin and Larry Pardey's 29ft wood *Taleisin*, right down to the bathtub. If you're looking for a boat like that, you know who

Anyway, we'd like all

to contact.

#### pass the falafel

Despite recent regime changes and revolutions in nearly every surrounding country, Israel has not only remained intact, but was recently voted the "ninth happiest country in the world" by a Parisbased nonprofit research center. Countries were ranked by employment, health care and quality of life. Israel beat out Austria, and was right up there with Norway, Switzerland, Denmark, and Canada. The U.S. didn't even place in the top 10.

We like to think part of that satisfaction may come from sailing. Israel's 170-mile-long coast boasts eight major marinas, with most being full. Interestingly, sailboats outnumber powerboats by a large margin — 9-to-1, it seemed to us. With beautiful Mediterranean waters, balmy air and abundant sunshine, it's a sailor's paradise. Its proximity to Turkey, Greece, and Cyprus — just a daysail away — is the proverbial 'icing on the cake'.

On a recent visit to Israel, my wife Miri and I met our long-time friend and Israeli sailor Iris Katz, who arranged a day trip with some local sailors. We'd sailed with Iris to Cyprus, Turkey, and Greece in '91 on her Beneteau Evasion 28 *Meitalon* and since then she's become one of Israel's preeminent skippers for deliveries, rallies, and instruction.

We met Iris at Tel Aviv Marina, which has been expanded and considerably improved since our last visit there. It even features a large lap pool, rental bikes for "green" excursions, and new modern docks and facilities.

Iris introduced us to her friend Rafi Israel, a local businessman and long-time sailor. Rafi bought his Hunter 41, *Carioca*, new in '04, graduating from a Catalina 30. Hunters are very popular boats in Israel, as are Beneteaus, Jeanneaus, Bavarias and most other European boats. continued on outside column of next sightings page

#### stats

their lives while boating in '10. 42% of them died from drowning. 44% of those who drowned were wearing a life jacket.
The most common types of vessels involved in reported accidents were open motorboats (46%), personal watercraft (20%), and cabin motorboats (14%)."

Interestingly, though only 23 people died on sailboats last year, while 380 died on powerboats, the numbers suggest that sailboats are less safe than powerboats. As reader Steve Hodges, who sails his Islander 36 *Frolic* out of Santa Barbara,



L'chaim! — (clockwise from above) Sausalito's John and Miri Skoriak enjoyed falafel in Israel last month aboard a new friend's Hunter 41; 'green' rental bikes ready to ride at the Tel Aviv Marina, where Med-style mooring is practiced; local shops offer a wide and beautiful variety of food; "Where's the hummus?"; just in case sailing isn't enough exercise — or you simply want to lounge — the marina also boasts a luxurious new lap pool.



#### — cont'd

points out, "The death rate for all powerboats is about 33 deaths per million boats, but the death rate for sailboats is about 58 per million, so it seems sailors have almost twice as high a death rate *per boat* as powerboaters."

This seems to go against common sense, but the numbers don't lie. Steve theorizes that sailboats are used more frequently, and that the "death rate per hours of operation" for sailboats would be much lower. Let's hope so!

— ladonna

## falafel — cont'd

As one would expect with a late-model boat, *Carioca* was immaculate, well-equipped and comfortable. Rafi was joined by his "Friday sail" friends — they sail every Friday from spring to late fall, and often sail to Turkey or Greece for several weeks.

Soon after leaving the dock and sailing out the breakwater we were gliding along at about 5-6 knots in 10 knots of wind. Coming from San Francisco Bay, we forgot how pleasant sailing could be — some might even call it "zen." We had plenty of shade for the mid-80s temperatures, and lots of fresh Middle Eastern food on board — fresh falafel, hummus, fresh baked pita bread, etc. Sailing doesn't get much better than that, and despite living in a 'rough neighborhood', Israelis take advantage of it every chance they get.

— john skoriak













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