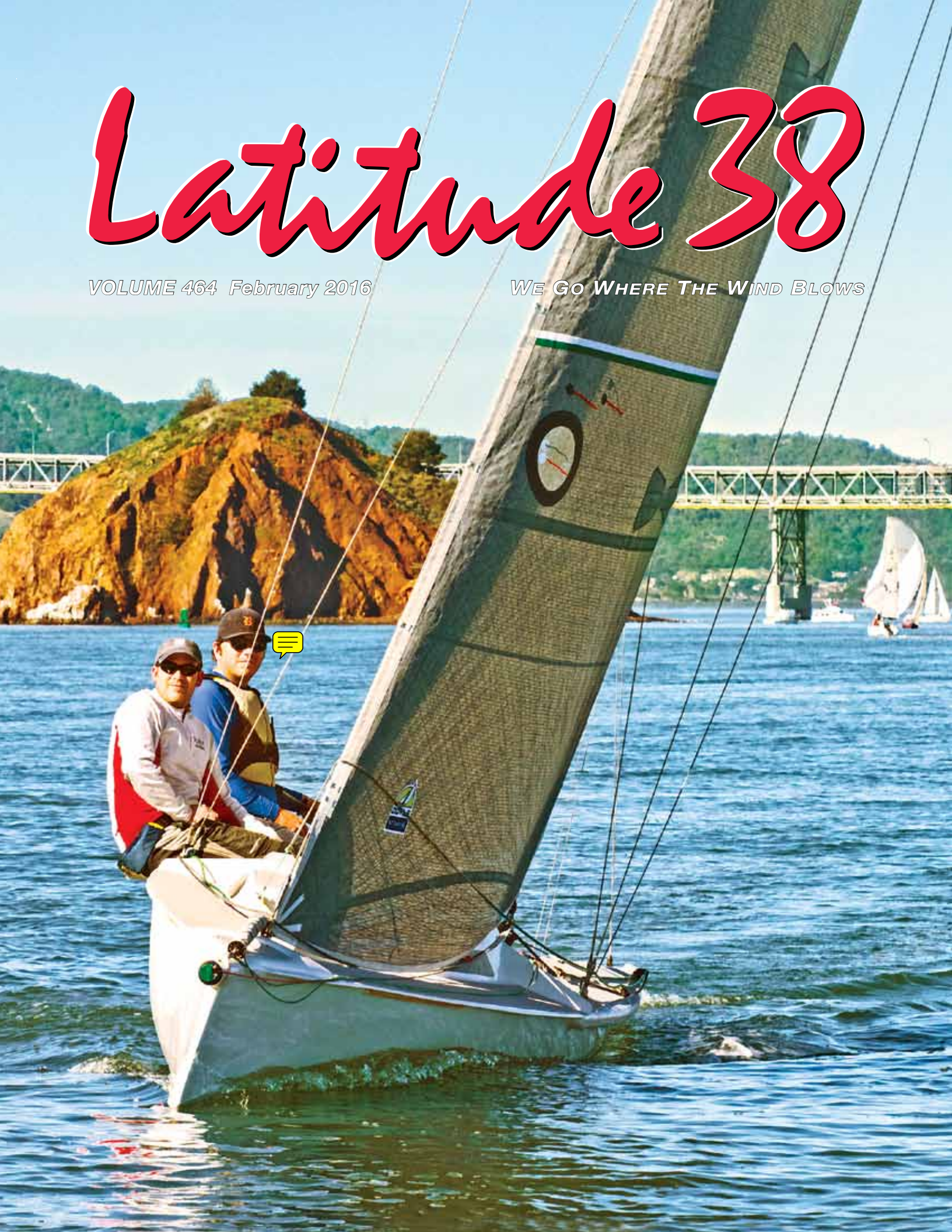


# Latitude 38

VOLUME 464 February 2016

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PHOTO BY SUSAN WOLCOTT



Pete and Susan Wolcott's *Kiapa Nui*\* sailing into 'Ua Pou, Marquesas

(1000 words)

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Cover: Andrew Hura and Josh Butler on the Wylie 24 *Run Wild* topped the Doublehanded Sportboat division in the 2015 Three Bridge Fiasco. We'll report on the 2016 edition in our March issue.

Photo: Erik Simonson/[www.pressure-drop.us](http://www.pressure-drop.us)

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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 self-addressed, stamped envelope. **Submissions not accompanied by an 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](mailto: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](http://www.latitude38.com/writers.html).



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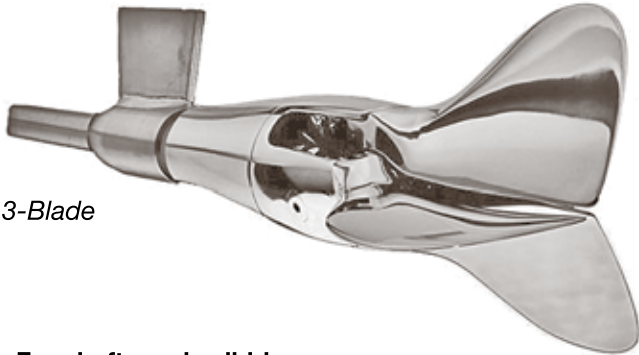


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# CALENDAR

### Non-Race

**Jan. 29-Feb. 6** — Seattle Boat Show Indoors + Afloat, CenturyLink Field Event Center & Chandler's Cove, South Lake Union. Info, [www.seattleboatshow.com](http://www.seattleboatshow.com).

**Feb. 1** — Marine Career Fair at the Seattle Boat Show, 9-11 a.m. Marine businesses are seeking 75+ full-time permanent and seasonal employees. Free admission to the show for attendees. Info, [www.seattleboatshow.com/job-fair.html](http://www.seattleboatshow.com/job-fair.html).

**Feb. 1-Mar. 9** — The tall ships *Lady Washington* and *Hawaiian Chieftain* are in Ventura through 2/8 and visit Oxnard 2/10-15; Oakland, 2/20-29; then Antioch, 3/2-9. Info, (800) 200-5239 or [www.historicalseaport.org](http://www.historicalseaport.org).

**Feb. 3-24** — Wednesday Yachting Luncheon Series, StFYC, 12-2 p.m. Lunch and a dynamic speaker each week for about \$25. All YCs' members welcome. Info, [www.stfyc.com](http://www.stfyc.com).

**Feb. 3-24** — San Diego's South Bay Sea Scouts meet aboard the schooner *Bill of Rights* at Chula Vista Marina on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Sea Scouts is for guys & gals ages 13-20. John, (619) 852-7811 or [mossfish@gmail.com](mailto:mossfish@gmail.com).

**Feb. 4** — Captain Gregory Stump, commander of USCG Sector San Francisco, presents Coast Guard Strategic Themes. Corinthian YC, Tiburon. 7 p.m. Free and open to the public, but RSVP to (415) 435-4771.

**Feb. 6** — US Sailing Certified Race Officer course, Encinal YC, Alameda, with instructor Bill Gage. \$40. Info, [commodore@encinal.org](mailto:commodore@encinal.org) or [www.ussailing.org](http://www.ussailing.org).

**Feb. 6** — Women's Sailing Convention, Bahia Corinthian YC, Corona del Mar. Classroom and in-the-water workshops with female instructors. \$230. Southern California Yachting Association, [www.womenssailingconvention.com](http://www.womenssailingconvention.com).

**Feb. 6, Mar. 5** — Chantey Sing aboard the ferryboat *Eureka*, Hyde Street Pier, San Francisco, 8 p.m.-midnight. Dress warmly and bring a mug for hot cider. Free, but RSVP to Peter, (415) 561-7171.

**Feb. 6-27** — Sailing in Access Dinghies, 10 a.m., every Saturday with BAADS at South Beach Harbor in San Francisco. Free. Info, (415) 281-0212 or [www.baads.org](http://www.baads.org).

**Feb. 7, Mar. 6** — Maritime Crafts for Kids, Hyde Street Pier entrance, San Francisco, 1-2 p.m. For kids ages 5-10. Free. Info, (415) 447-5000 or [www.nps.gov/safr](http://www.nps.gov/safr).

**Feb. 7-28** — Veterans' Sail, 10 a.m., and Keelboat Sail, noon, every Sunday with BAADS at South Beach Harbor in San Francisco. Free. Info, (415) 281-0212 or [www.baads.org](http://www.baads.org).

**Feb. 9-May 3** — USCG Auxiliary presents Sailing Skills and Seamanship classroom course, USCG Station Golden Gate, Sausalito, Tuesdays, 7:00-9:30 p.m. \$95/course + \$25/book. Charles, [class@auxgoldengate.org](mailto:class@auxgoldengate.org) or (707) 321-6094.

**Feb. 10** — Singlehanded TransPac Seminar: The Return Trip, Oakland YC Regatta Room, 7:30 p.m. Everyone welcome; free. SSS, [www.sfbaysss.org](http://www.sfbaysss.org).

**Feb. 10, 11** — Tide Currents on San Francisco Bay by Kame Richards, Bay Model, Sausalito, 7 p.m. \$15, cash only. By reservation only, [jimtantillo@comcast.net](mailto:jimtantillo@comcast.net) or (707) 759-2045.

**Feb. 11** — Adam Ratner of the Marine Mammal Center presents Behind the Bark: Saving Seals & Sea Lions. Club Nautique, Sausalito, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Members free; non-members \$20, including appetizers and beverages. RSVP required to (415) 332-8001.

**Feb. 11** — Single Sailors Association monthly meeting, Ballena Bay YC, Alameda. Social hour, 6:30 p.m.; dinner, 7 p.m.; meeting, 7:30. Info, [www.singlesailors.org](http://www.singlesailors.org).

**Feb. 13** — Medical Seminar, Richmond YC, 1-5 p.m. Presented by Kent Benedict, MD; Mary Lovely, RN; and Denny Emory, EMT. \$30. Info, [www.pacificcup.org](http://www.pacificcup.org).

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- 42' Catalina 42 MkII, 2005 ..... **NEW LISTING** 177,500
- 37.7' Catalina 375, 2010 ..... **NEW LISTING** 179,900
- 36' Catalina 36, 1989 ..... **NEW LISTING** 42,500
- 36' Catalina 36, 1989 ..... **COMING SOON**
- 36' Catalina 36, 2000 ..... 91,900
- 34' Catalina 34, 1988 ..... **NEW LISTING SOLD**

### 32' Catalina 320, 1988 ..... **SOLD**

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- 43' Dufour/GibSea 43, 2003 ..... **REDUCED** 129,000
- 43' C&C CUSTOM, 1973 ..... 225,000
- 41' C&C, 1988 ..... 109,000
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- 35' Cal 35, 1981 ..... 38,700
- 31' Cantieri Baglietto International 5.5, 1955 ..... 38,000

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- 27' Ranger Tug, 2016 ..... 159,937

### Pre-Owned Ranger Tugs

- 29' Ranger 29 Classic, 2010 ..... **NEW LISTING** 164,500
- 21' Ranger Tug Classic, 1997 ..... **REDUCED** 26,500
- 21' Ranger Tug Classic, 1996 ..... 21,500

### New Powercats

- 27' Glacier Bay 2780, 2014 ..... **REDUCED** 149,137

### Pre-Owned Power Yachts

- Stephens 70 Classic Motor Yacht, 1966 ..... 1,100,000
- 43' Stephens, 1930 ..... 125,900
- 38' Chris Craft 36 Corsair, 2008 ..... 225,900
- 28' Protector Targa, 2007 ..... 159,000
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CC CHEN 37 KETCH, '70.....\$43,500	GULF 32 PH, '85.....\$48,000

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# CALENDAR

**Feb. 14** — Take your sweetie sailing on Valentine's Day.

**Feb. 15** — Presidents Day. Go for a sail on a Monday.

**Feb. 20** — Kame Richards presents Do I Really Need to Reef? Big wind sail design and safety equipment, Berkeley YC. \$15/Polynesian dinner & program. Info, [www.berkeleyyc.org](http://www.berkeleyyc.org).

**Feb. 21** — Knot Tying Demonstration and Seminar, Almar Marina, Marina del Rey. 11 a.m. Info, (310) 822-0316.

**Feb. 21, 28** — The Great Migration in Alaska: African Americans, the Alaska Packers Association, and the Politics of Race at Sea. Aboard *Balclutha*, Hyde Street Pier, San Francisco, 2:15-3:15 p.m. \$10; kids 15 & under free. Info, (415) 447-5000 or [www.nps.gov/safr](http://www.nps.gov/safr).

**Feb. 22** — Full moon on a Monday.

**Feb. 25** — Line Splicing by Ryan Nelson of Rogue Rigging. Club Nautique, Alameda, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Members free; non-members \$20, including appetizers and beverages. RSVP required to (510) 865-4700.

**Feb. 25** — Women Sailing of HMBYC present Dan Morgan on Boat Safety. Half Moon Bay YC, Princeton, 6 p.m. Not your usual CG safety seminar. Free. Info, [wsmanager@hmbyc.org](mailto:wsmanager@hmbyc.org).

**Feb. 25-28** — Progressive Insurance Los Angeles Boat Show, L.A. Convention Center & Burton Chace Park, Marina del Rey. Info, [www.losangelesboatshow.com](http://www.losangelesboatshow.com).

**Feb. 26** — Laser Masters Clinic on Mission Bay, San Diego. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. MBYC, [www.mbyc.org](http://www.mbyc.org).

**Feb. 26-27 or 28-29** — Offshore Personal Survival Course (Safety at Sea). West Vancouver and Vancouver, BC. Info, [www.vicmaui.org/opsc-safety-at-sea](http://www.vicmaui.org/opsc-safety-at-sea).

**Feb. 27** — Chanteys: The African American and Caribbean Connection, aboard *Balclutha*, Hyde Street Pier, San Francisco, 3-3:45 p.m. \$10; kids 15 & under free. Info, (415) 447-5000 or [www.nps.gov/safr](http://www.nps.gov/safr).

**Feb. 27** — Marine corrosion, wood burning & shock hazard seminar by Malcolm Morgan, Spaulding Marine Center, Sausalito, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. \$50 donation includes lunch. Info, (415) 332-3721 or [www.spauldingcenter.org](http://www.spauldingcenter.org).

**Feb. 27** — North U Trim Seminar with instructor Bill Gladstone, Berkeley YC, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. \$60-\$139 includes lunch. Fran, (203) 245-0727 or [www.northu.northsails.com](http://www.northu.northsails.com).

**Feb. 28** — North U Trim Seminar with instructor Andrew Kerr, Seattle YC; or with Bill Gladstone, Kitsilano YC, Vancouver, BC. See above for details & contact.

**Mar. 3** — Charlie Simon presents The Adventure of a Lifetime: Circumnavigation Under Sail. Corinthian YC, Tiburon, 7 p.m. Free, open to the public, but RSVP to (415) 435-4771.

**Mar. 5** — Sail a Small Boat Day, Richmond YC. Free boat rides; free hot dog lunch. Info, [www.richmondyc.org](http://www.richmondyc.org).

**Mar. 5** — Mariners Swap Meet, Channel Islands Landing, Oxnard, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Info, (805) 985-6269.

**Mar. 5** — Safety at Sea Seminar, Kaneohe YC, Oahu. 8:30 a.m. US Sailing certification. \$135. Info, [www.pacificcup.org](http://www.pacificcup.org).

**Mar. 5, 7-9** — Celestial Navigation, SFYC. Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Mon.-Wed. 5:30-9:30 p.m. Info, [www.sfyc.org](http://www.sfyc.org).

**Mar. 5-6** — Safety at Sea Seminar, Bainbridge High School & Aquatic Center, Bainbridge, WA. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. \$185/Saturday; \$335/both days. Info, [www.thesailingfoundation.org](http://www.thesailingfoundation.org).

**Mar. 6** — North U Trim Seminar with Steve LeMay, North Sails San Diego, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. \$60-\$139 includes lunch. Fran, (203) 245-0727 or [www.northu.northsails.com](http://www.northu.northsails.com).

**Mar. 8** — Inaugural California Boating Congress, Hyatt Regency, Sacramento. \$149 by Feb. 29; \$199 thereafter. Mariann, (209) 334-0661 or [www.marina.org/thecongress](http://www.marina.org/thecongress).

**Mar. 9** — *Latitude 38* Crew List Party, Golden Gate YC, San Francisco. 6-9 p.m. Snacks; no-host bar. \$7 cash only at the door (\$5 for 25 & under with ID). Info, (415) 383-8200

# CALENDAR

or [www.latitude38.com/crewlist/CrewParty/CrewParty.html](http://www.latitude38.com/crewlist/CrewParty/CrewParty.html).

**Mar. 9** — Singlehanded TransPac Seminar: Communications at Sea, Oakland YC Regatta Room, 7:30 p.m. Everyone welcome; free. SSS, [www.sfbaysss.org](http://www.sfbaysss.org).

**Mar. 10** — Salty Dog Cook-Off Competition. Club Nautique, Sausalito, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Members free; non-members \$20, including appetizers and beverages. RSVP to (415) 332-8001.

**Mar. 11-12 or Mar. 13-14** — ISAF Safety at Sea Seminar, SFYC, Belvedere. 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. \$240. Info, [www.sfyf.org](http://www.sfyf.org).

**Mar. 13** — Daylight Saving Time begins.

**Mar. 13** — North U Trim Seminar with Andrew Kerr, Long Beach YC, 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. \$65-\$144 includes light breakfast & lunch. Fran, (203) 245-0727, [www.northu.northsails.com](http://www.northu.northsails.com).

## Racing

**Feb. 6** — Double Up and Back. CPYC, [www.cpyc.com](http://www.cpyc.com).

**Feb. 6, 27, Mar. 5** — Spring Series. FLYC, [www.flyc.org](http://www.flyc.org).

**Feb. 6-7, 13-14, 20-21** — 87th SCYA Midwinters Regatta in SoCal. Dates of each class's racing will vary depending on hosting venue. Info, [www.midwinters.scyawebsite.org](http://www.midwinters.scyawebsite.org).

**Feb. 13-14** — BAYS Opti Regatta, hosted by EYC on the Estuary. Info, [www.bayarea-youthsailing.com](http://www.bayarea-youthsailing.com).

**Feb. 19-27** — Puerto Vallarta Race, San Diego to PV. Followed by MEXORC. SDYC, [www.pvrace.com](http://www.pvrace.com).

**Feb. 20** — Long Distance #1. SSC, [www.stocktonsc.org](http://www.stocktonsc.org).

**Feb. 27** — Singlehanded/Doublehanded #1. SeqYC, [www.sequoiayc.org](http://www.sequoiayc.org).

**Feb. 27-28** — California Dreamin' Series in Catalina 37s, Long Beach. LBYC, [www.lbyc.org](http://www.lbyc.org).

**Feb. 27-28** — California Laser Masters Championship on Mission Bay, San Diego. MBYC, [www.mbyc.org](http://www.mbyc.org).

**Feb. 28** — Sadie Hawkins Race for women skippers on the Estuary. The first event in *Latitude 38's* unofficial women's circuit. IYC, [www.iyc.org](http://www.iyc.org).

**Mar. 5** — John Pitcher Regatta. CPYC, [www.cpyc.com](http://www.cpyc.com).

**Mar. 5** — NorCal Opener for Mercurys at EYC. Info, [www.mercury-sail.com](http://www.mercury-sail.com).

**Mar. 5-6** — Spring Keel/Spring One Design. StFYC, [www.stfyf.org](http://www.stfyf.org).

**Mar. 6** — Spring Series #1. SSC, [www.stocktonsc.org](http://www.stocktonsc.org).

**Mar. 12** — Rites of Spring. OYC, [www.oaklandyachtclub.net](http://www.oaklandyachtclub.net).

**Mar. 12** — Doublehanded Long Distance Race. SSC, [www.stocktonsc.org](http://www.stocktonsc.org).

**Mar. 12-13** — Big Daddy. RYC, [www.richmondyc.org](http://www.richmondyc.org).

**Mar. 12-13** — California Dreamin' Series in J/22s, San Francisco. StFYC, [www.stfyf.com](http://www.stfyf.com).

**Mar. 25-27** — Southern Straits Yacht Race. A qualifier for the Vic-Maui. West Vancouver YC, [www.southernstraits.ca](http://www.southernstraits.ca).

## Midwinter Regattas

**BAY VIEW BOAT CLUB** — Midwinters: 2/13, 3/12. Info, [www.bayviewboatclub.org](http://www.bayviewboatclub.org).

**BERKELEY YC** — Midwinters: 2/13-14; Champion of Champions Race: 2/28. Bobbi, (925) 939-9885 or [www.berkeleyyc.org](http://www.berkeleyyc.org).

**BERKELEY YC** — Chowder Races: Sundays through March 28 except when it conflicts with above. Paul, (510) 540-7968 or [www.berkeleyyc.org](http://www.berkeleyyc.org).

**CAL SAILING CLUB** — Year-round Sunday morning dinghy races, conditions permitting, intracub only, typically in Laser Bahias and JY15s. Info, [www.cal-sailing.org](http://www.cal-sailing.org).

**CORINTHIAN YC** — Midwinters: 2/20 (Rob Moore Memorial Regatta), 2/21. Info, (415) 435-4771 or [www.cyc.org](http://www.cyc.org).

**COYOTE POINT YC** — Winter Beercans: 2/14, 2/28, 3/13, 3/27. Info, (650) 347-6730 or [www.cpyc.com](http://www.cpyc.com).



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**ELKHORN YC** — Frostbite Series: 2/27, 3/12, 3/26, 4/9, 4/23. Info, (831) 724-3875 or [eyc@elkhornyc.org](http://eyc@elkhornyc.org).

**ENCINAL YC** — Jack Frost Series: 2/27, 3/19. Info, (510) 522-3272 or [www.encinal.org](http://www.encinal.org).

**GOLDEN GATE YC** — Manuel Fagundes Seaweed Soup Series: 2/6, 3/5. Info, (415) 346-2628 or [www.ggyc.org](http://www.ggyc.org).

**ISLAND YC** — Island Days on the Estuary: 2/14, 3/13. John, (510) 521-2980 or [www.iyc.org](http://www.iyc.org).

**KONOCTI BAY SAILING CLUB** — OSIRs (Old Salts in Retirement) every Wednesday at noon. Info, [www.kbsail.com](http://www.kbsail.com).

**LAKE MERRITT SAILING CLUB** — Midwinters: 2/13, 3/13. Mark, (925) 245-0287.

**MONTEREY PENINSULA YC** — Perry Cup/Midwinters: 12/6. Info, [www.mpyc.org](http://www.mpyc.org).

**OAKLAND YC** — Sunday Brunch Series: 2/7, 2/21, 3/6, 3/20. Jim, (510) 277-4676, [oyracecom@gmail.com](mailto:oyracecom@gmail.com) or [www.oaklandyachtclub.net](http://www.oaklandyachtclub.net).

**REGATTAPRO** — Winter One Design: 2/13. Jeff, (415) 595-8364 or [www.regattapro.com](http://www.regattapro.com).

**RICHMOND YC** — Small Boat Midwinters (Sundays): 2/7, 3/6. Optis & El Toro Green (Saturdays): 2/6, 3/5. 29er Winter Series: 4/30, 5/28. Info, [www.richmondyc.org](http://www.richmondyc.org).

**SAN FRANCISCO MODEL YC** — Victoria one-design radio-controlled races every Wednesday afternoon year-round at Spreckels Lake in Golden Gate Park. Info, [www.sfmjyc.org](http://www.sfmjyc.org).

**SANTA CRUZ YC** — Midwinters: 2/20, 3/19. Info, (831) 425-0690 or [www.scyc.org](http://www.scyc.org).

**SANTA ROSA SC** — Spring Lake Winter Series: 2/14, 3/20, 4/17. Info, [www.santarosasailingclub.org](http://www.santarosasailingclub.org).

**SAUSALITO YC** — Sunday Chili Midwinters: 2/7, 3/6. Info, [www.sausalitoyachtclub.org](http://www.sausalitoyachtclub.org) or [race@sausalitoyachtclub.org](mailto:race@sausalitoyachtclub.org).

**SEQUOIA YC** — Winter Series: 2/6, 3/19 (St. Patrick's Day Race). Redwood Cup pursuit race series: 2/20, 3/12. Info, [www.sequoiayc.org](http://www.sequoiayc.org).

**SOUTH BEACH YC** — Island Fever Midwinters: 2/27, 3/19. Info, [www.southbeachyc.org](http://www.southbeachyc.org).

**TIBURON YC** — Midwinters: 2/6, 3/5. Info, [race@tyc.org](mailto:race@tyc.org) or [www.tyc.org](http://www.tyc.org).

**VALLEJO YC** — Tiny Robbins Midwinters: 2/6, 3/5. Info, (707) 643-1254 or [www.vyc.org](http://www.vyc.org).

### In the Tropics

**Jan. 28-Feb. 2** — Grenada Sailing Week. Grenada Sailing Association, [www.grenadasailingweek.com](http://www.grenadasailingweek.com).

**Jan. 28-Feb. 6** — Conch Republic Cup/Key West Cuba Race Week. Info, [www.conchrepubliccup.com](http://www.conchrepubliccup.com).

**Feb. 10-14** — Inaugural Miami to Havana Race, with a Coastal Race along the Malecón on Sunday. Info, (386) 437-9400 or [www.havanarace.org](http://www.havanarace.org).

**Feb. 22-26** — RORC Caribbean 600, with starts and finishes in Antigua. Info, [www.caribbean600.rorc.org](http://www.caribbean600.rorc.org).

**Feb. 28-Mar. 5** — MEXORC (Mexican Ocean Racing Circuit), Puerto Vallarta. Boats arriving from San Diego in the PV Race will be competing with boats from Acapulco and Banderas Bay. Info, [www.mexorc.net](http://www.mexorc.net).

**Mar. 4-6** — St. Maarten Heineken Regatta, world-class racing. St. Maarten YC, [www.heinekenregatta.com](http://www.heinekenregatta.com).

**Mar. 9-12** — Banderas Bay Regatta, laid-back racing for cruisers, great parties. Info, [www.banderasbayregatta.com](http://www.banderasbayregatta.com).

**Mar. 9-12** — Loro Piana Caribbean Superyacht Regatta and Rendezvous in Virgin Gorda. Costa Smeralda YC, [www.loropianasuperyachtregattaandrendezvous.com](http://www.loropianasuperyachtregattaandrendezvous.com).

**Mar. 17-20** — St. Barths Bucket Regatta. St. Barths YC, [www.bucketregattas.com/stbarths](http://www.bucketregattas.com/stbarths).

**Mar. 25-27** — St. Thomas International Regatta in USVI.

# CALENDAR

St. Thomas YC, [www.stthomasinternationalregatta.com](http://www.stthomasinternationalregatta.com).

**Mar. 28-Apr. 3** — BVI Spring Regatta & Sailing Festival. Royal BVI YC, [www.bvispringregatta.org](http://www.bvispringregatta.org).

**Mar. 28-Apr. 27** — Cruisers Rally to El Salvador. Info, [www.elsalvadorrally.com](http://www.elsalvadorrally.com).

**Mar. 31-Apr. 3** — La Paz Bay Fest for cruisers. Club Cruceros de La Paz, [www.clubcruceros.net](http://www.clubcruceros.net).

**Apr. 4-9** — Maxi Yacht Rolex Caribbean Cup. Costa Smeralda YC, [www.yccs.it/en](http://www.yccs.it/en).

**Apr. 11-16** — Les Voiles de St. Barth. St. Barth YC, [www.lesvoilesdesaintbarth.com](http://www.lesvoilesdesaintbarth.com).

**Apr. 13-19** — Antigua Classic Yacht Regatta. Antigua YC, [www.antiguaclassics.com](http://www.antiguaclassics.com).

**Apr. 24-29** — Antigua Sailing Week. "Where sailing comes first." Antigua Sailing Association, [www.sailingweek.com](http://www.sailingweek.com).

**May 2-7** — Tahiti Pearl Regatta. International fleet racing. Info, [www.tahitipearlregatta.org.pf](http://www.tahitipearlregatta.org.pf).

Please send your calendar items by the 10th of the month to [calendar@latitude38.com](mailto: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 are either free or don't cost much to attend. The Calendar is not meant to support commercial enterprises.

## February Weekend Tides

date/day	time/ht. LOW	time/ht. HIGH	time/ht. LOW	time/ht. HIGH
2/06Sat	0314/2.7	0924/6.4	1606/-0.6	2312/5.0
2/07Sun	0358/2.4	1009/6.5	1645/-0.8	2347/5.2
	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW
2/13Sat	0303/6.1	0911/1.0	1535/4.7	2107/1.3
2/14Sun	0353/6.1	1023/0.8	1658/4.3	2207/1.9
2/15Mon	0449/6.1	1138/0.6	1830/4.2	2318/2.3
	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH
2/20Sat	0330/2.2	0937/6.2	1615/-0.3	2313/5.3
2/21Sun	0415/2.0	1022/6.1	1651/-0.2	2347/5.4
	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW
2/27Sat	0212/5.3	0817/1.4	1430/4.3	2009/1.8
2/28Sun	0247/5.3	0900/1.4	1528/4.0	2050/2.2

## February Weekend Currents

date/day	slack	max	slack	max
2/06Sat		0212/2.2E	0516	0754/2.0F
	1004	1352/3.8E	1830	2110/2.9F
2/07Sun	0015	0254/2.4E	0600	0842/2.3F
	1053	1437/4.0E	1903	2149/3.1F
2/13Sat		0113/3.0F	0341	0700/3.6E
	1106	1354/2.2F	1621	1939/2.8E
	2258			
2/14Sun		0201/2.7F	0423	0752/3.5E
	1222	1458/1.9F	1741	2045/2.3E
	2355			
2/15Mon		0253/2.3F	0512	0851/3.4E
	1346	1610/1.8F	1914	2201/2.0E
2/20Sat		0215/2.8E	0533	0757/2.5F
	1038	1420/3.9E	1830	2107/3.1F
2/21Sun	0007	0304/3.0E	0624	0849/2.6F
	1128	1506/3.9E	1909	2145/3.2F
2/27Sat		0042/2.2F	0310	0640/2.7E
	1113	1334/1.5F	1603	1917/2.3E
	2228			
2/28Sun		0120/1.9F	0334	0713/2.6E
	1213	1427/1.3F	1700	2009/1.9E
	2310			

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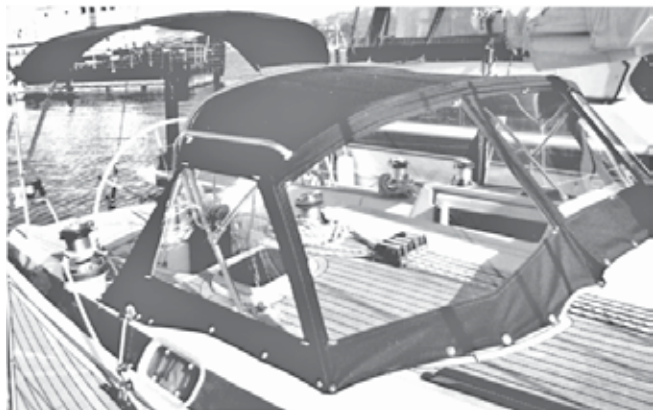
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## LETTERS

### ↑↓ HE'D SEEN MY FLIPPED TRI, BUT DIDN'T BOTHER TO SEE IF ANYONE NEEDED HELP

Reading the editor's response to Jane Pitts' letter about a boat not willing to give them a tow back to their marina brings up a sea story that happened to me many years ago. It started in 1972 when at the ripe old age of 22 I built *Cloud*, a 31-ft Kismet trimaran. Even though she didn't have an engine, I learned to sail along the British Columbia coast. In September 1974 I set sail for Hawaii, learning celestial navigation — the only kind back then — on the way. Oh, those free and easy hippie days of yore!

Immigration officials only gave me, a Canadian, six months to stay in the Islands. Nonetheless, I managed to eke out a two-year stay before I was kicked out. I spent most of that time playing with dolphins in Kealakekua Bay before it became a marine sanctuary, not realizing at the time how rare it was to be swimming alone with marine mammals.

Using contributions from a small crew to pay my way, I then sailed *Cloud* to the South Pacific via the Line and Cook Islands. I especially remember loving cruising Tonga at a time when there were only a handful of cruisers in Neiafu, Vava'u. Threading through the reefs of the Ha'apai Group with a man in the spreaders brings back fond memories as well.

In November 1976 I soloed to New Zealand from Suva, Fiji, and had a very slow trip because of light headwinds. After 15 days I'd finally made it to within 100 miles of Opuia in New Zealand's Bay of Islands. Unfortunately, I was then hit by a major storm. Cross swells created a 60- to 70-ft rogue wave that capsized the *Cloud*. I had the same sensation as gliding up in an elevator at high speed — but then going over the falls to crash-land upside down.

The storm continued to blow for a couple more days while I rearranged the furniture in my capsized tri. I did not have a liferaft, so there was no option there. (Apparently, folks on other boats bailed to their liferafts and died, even though their boats were later recovered.) As a result, I became one of the first sailors to survive a capsized.

I spent 17 days in survival mode. I actually got quite a bit of sleep, as my forward berth, upside down, cleared the level of water inside the boat by a couple of inches. I was finally rescued by a San Diego-based purse seiner on its first season fishing for skipjack in Kiwi waters. Actually, I was first spotted by their helicopter.

The day before my rescue I was totally ignored by a small, rusty tramp steamer that, as it drew closer, looked as though it might ram me. I blew an air horn until it was empty, and even banged pots together, as the steamer passed just a couple of hundred yards away. I apparently was not 'in peril'?

Ten years later, back on my home island of Salt Spring, British Columbia, I was fitting out *Companion One*, a Piver 36. It was to be delivered for my father in Kingston, Ontario, via Panama, Jamaica, the Bahamas, the Intracoastal Waterway and the Erie Barge

Canal. We were hauled out at a small marina when the owner of the marina introduced me to a sailor he thought might be *simpatico*, as we had both sailed the South Seas.

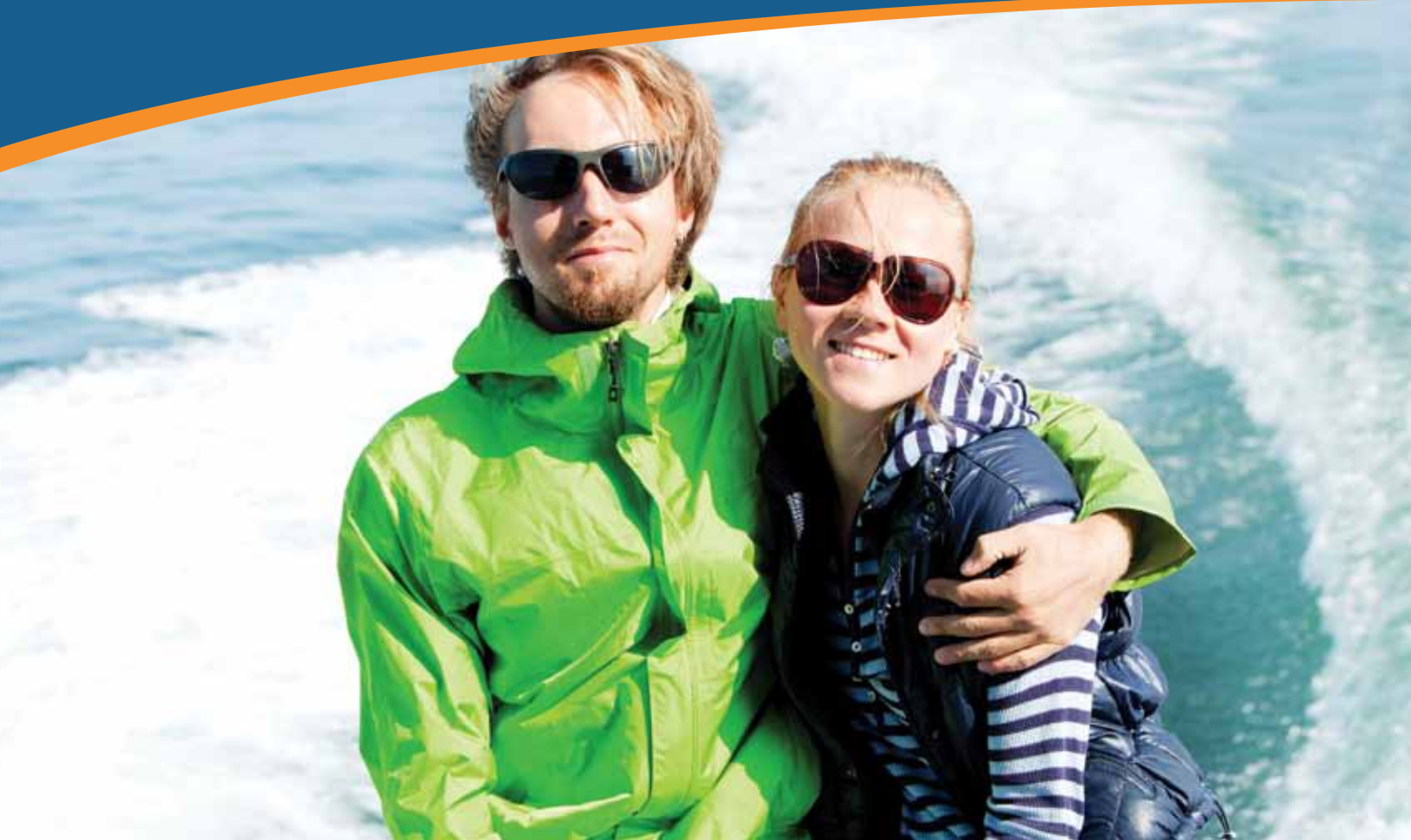
In talking with the fellow, we narrowed it down that we had been there at exactly the same time. You can just imagine



When 'Profligate' came across this flipped trimaran in a King Harbor Race a few years ago, we didn't hesitate dropping the chute and rescuing the three crew.

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## LETTERS

my surprise as I came to realize from his story that he had also passed by my capsized tri! He said he'd seen my boat, decided it was abandoned, and carried on. He didn't even bother to check in case someone needed help! I apparently wasn't keeping a very good watch, even though I did see four other deep-sea ships' sterns as they disappointingly failed to see my flares.

Looking back on it now, it would appear to be a blessing that neither the steamer nor the sailor on Salt Spring rescued me, since things worked out so well otherwise. The San Diego vessel that picked me up gave me a job as crew, so I earned enough funds to fly home. And I don't know if that sailor who passed without stopping was before or after I had the great privilege of spending an entire day in the company of a majestic blue whale that dwarfed my boat. She expressed such empathy for my fate that we 'connected' at a deep level I hadn't experienced before and not since. I would gladly spend another 17 days on a capsized trimaran to have anything near that experience again. It was truly life-changing.

So the mystery of these sea stories is that sometimes you can't really know what's best.

Thanks for letting me bend your ear for a while. Thanks also for so many great years of providing such a fantastic platform for sailors to share their stories. I've been a fan of *Latitude* since that fall in 1986 when I sailed my dad's tri into Richardson Bay and discovered your treasure. While there I also got to save a boat that broke loose from its mooring at the Sausalito YC before it hit the beach over by Tiburon.

Gary Gagné

*Ho'omaluhia*, 32-ft Marples Coastal Racer  
Salt Spring Island, BC

*Gary* — Thanks for the kind words, but it's great sailors such as you, and the great sea stories such as yours, that have made *Latitude* what it is.

### ⇓ "THE KEY IS TO HAVE THE RIGHT CLOTHING..."

I want to weigh in on the 'tow/won't tow' issue raised in the January issue by Jane Pitts. I have never refused to tow anyone while on various boats over the years, but I have no sympathy for the writer hoping to be towed.

I raced an Etchells on the Bay for about 10 years. As you know, this 30-ft boat doesn't even have a motor, so to participate in regattas she regularly needed to be sailed between Richmond, Berkeley, San Francisco and Marin. It required planning, awareness and thoughtfulness about currents and the wind. For when you don't have a motor, you need to have a game plan to get from Point A to Point B.

Being becalmed at Southampton Shoal, as the author of last month's letter had been, is just something that occasionally happens. But as *Latitude* pointed out, it's not an emergency that requires outside intervention. It would never even have occurred to me to request a tow in my Etchells — except for the one time I needed to get the hull back from St. Francis to Richmond YC after the rig broke in half during a race. The key is to have the right clothing, some food and water, and the attitude that 'we'll get there when we get there'. It's not someone else's responsibility to keep another boat's voyage



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## LETTERS

on schedule if life is not in danger.

Marc Fountain  
 Point Richmond

Marc — Most of the people who sail on San Francisco Bay are just out to enjoy a pleasant time with their family and/or friends. Their boats have normally reliable propulsion systems, so they develop a belief that they can get back to the dock pretty much at an appointed time, meaning they can schedule other things for after sailing. So in the rare case when their engine doesn't start, it can really mess up the rest of their day — as well as the day of everyone else on the boat. For example, you think the 16-year-old daughter who is missing a date with her first boyfriend because the battery won't start on the family boat is ever going to go sailing with Mom and Dad again?

We think most mariners have found themselves in semi-helpless situations or know they probably will in the future, so most are more than happy to give a tow of a reasonable length. Sailors helping other sailors in need has long been the hallmark of the sport, and is particularly true in the world of cruising.

You also need to remember that an Etchells, similar to our Olson 30, is a lightweight high-performance boat. Their advantage over almost all other boats is most evident in very light wind. When we got our Olson 30 to the Caribbean, we gave the engine away. So your Etchells was not a typical boat.

And by the way, how many times have we seen groups of high-performance sportboats being towed en masse from the big yacht clubs to and from the Olympic Circle, which, it turns out, isn't far from Southampton Shoal?

We're all for self-sufficiency, but we think you're being a little hardcore about this. Maybe try an empathy supplement with meals.

### HEIFETZ, GABOR, BOGART, COUSTEAU...

Bonjour from La Rochelle, France!

The Frenchman who is the current owner of the yacht *Serenade*, a 62-ft double-ended N Class sloop, has commissioned me to write a book about the history of the boat, and I am looking for information. The yacht was designed by Nicholas S. Potter and built by the Wilmington Boat Works in Wilmington, CA, in 1938.

In particular, I'm looking for information about *Serenade* when she was owned by Jascha Heifetz, and then by Charles Isaacs, both of whom were married to Eva Gabor. If any *Latitude* readers have any information about *Serenade*, or know where I can find more information, I would appreciate being contacted at [jacques.taglang@free.fr](mailto:jacques.taglang@free.fr).



COURTESY WILLIAM CANNELL BOATBUILDING

**Originally designed as a sloop, at some point 'Serenade' was given a split rig.**

Jacques Taglang  
 Yachting Historian

Readers — *Serenade* is a distinctive sloop that was built for Jascha Heifetz, sometimes heralded as the greatest violinist of all time. He kept the boat in Newport Beach, and she was the boat on which Humphrey Bogart learned to sail. *Serenade* would later be owned by, among others, Jacques Cousteau and Zsa Zsa Gabor. (Zsa Zsa was sis Eva's superior in matrimony, as Zsa Zsa accumulated nine husbands compared to only four for Eva.)

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**LETTERS**

*William Cannell Boatbuilding of Camden, Maine, did an extensive yearlong restoration of Serenade in 2000 that included "removing her deck and all of her interior, and replacing all her frames. The restoration included a new laid and sheered and caulked solid teak deck, new stem, new stern stem, complete refastening, new frames, new deck houses and new hatches, a considerable amount of new hull planking, new systems including a new engine and related systems, new mast step and bronze mast partners, and a considerable amount of repair and restoration to her lovely butternut paneled interior." Whew.*

*The William Cannell company provided an interesting insight into Serenade's designer. "Nick Potter became known as the 'Herreshoff of the West Coast'. He is not as well known as some designers of the golden era of classic boats, but his pedigree was inferior to none. Potter grew up as a boyhood friend of L. Francis Herreshoff and later worked in the design office of L. Francis' legendary father, Nat Herreshoff. Potter eventually worked alongside his childhood chum, L. Francis, in the Starling Burgess office in Boston during the period of some of Burgess' most important designs. Eventually Potter settled in Newport Beach and supervised the construction of many of his designs at the nearby Wilmington Boatworks. Potter always maintained his ties to the East Coast and remained active in New York YC affairs, including sitting on the America's Cup defender selection committee.*

*"Potter's lovely double-enders were works of art. But in those days the most activity in American yachting was centered in the East around the New York YC, the Eastern YC on Boston's North Shore, and Long Island Sound's Seawanhaka Corinthian YC. California was just too remote in that era to earn Potter and the excellent craftsmanship of Wilbo (Wilmington Boat Works) the recognition they merited. Sadly, Potter left instructions to the executor of his estate that all his drawings be destroyed after his death. Fortunately, Serenade was still so intact that we didn't need drawings, and were able to retain her original Herreshoff windlass and binnacle."*

**↑↓ MORE MERLIN MEMORIES**

We had one pitch-black night with big wind and heavy squalls during the middle of the 1987 Transpac aboard *Merlin*. For a two-hour period the wind averaged nearly 30 knots — and peaked at 37 knots. Naturally we were carrying the biggest spinnaker. It was pretty scary, so we worked hard to keep the boat on her feet and the spinnaker from collapsing. We knew that if the chute collapsed, it would likely explode when it refilled. We teetered on the knife edge of disaster a couple of times, but we never rounded up or down, and the kite never collapsed.

Donn Champion, *Merlin's* owner at the time, was aboard for the race. After things had settled down the next day, he told me the story about his service as a dentist during the Vietnam War. During the day, the Army would helicopter his medical team into remote villages to treat the local population. The team was guarded by helicopters full of armed soldiers, but they always flew out at night because that's when the Viet Cong came. One day there was a screw-up, and the helicopters left without Donn, forcing him to spend the night alone in a remote Vietnamese village.

"It was the most terrifying experience of my life," he told me. "Until last night."

There was always a chat session on the VHF among the fleet prior to the morning's roll call. The morning after the big blow the members of the fleet bantered about the problems of the night before. First one boat, then another, and eventually what sounded like the rest of the 17-boat sled fleet admitted



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## LETTERS

that they had experienced conditions similar to ours and had changed down to chicken chutes. All of these boats had their eye on the first-to-finish trophy, and none of them would have changed down to a smaller spinnaker unless they felt they absolutely had to. We figured they either broached and couldn't get back on their feet without taking their spinnakers down or their spinnakers exploded. Once the kite's down in those conditions, the logical move is to put up the chicken chute. You lose a lot of time during a broach and recovery, and then end up going slower with the smaller spinnaker. Our assumptions seemed to be confirmed during the morning roll call, when we were pleased to learn that we had gained 25 miles on the rest of the sled fleet since the previous day.

Despite being 87 miles behind the leaders during roll call on Day Three, *Merlin* went on to take line honors. Good times!

Bill Leary  
*Moku pe'a*, Beneteau Oceanis 351  
Kaneohe Bay, HI

### ↑↓ BILL LEE WAS A CLASS ACT

I did the 1977 Transpac, the one in which the brand new *Merlin* smashed the Transpac record by nearly a day, finishing in 8 days, 11 hours. But I was aboard Milt Smith's 45-ft sloop *Mako*. It was a pretty rough 12-day trip for us, as we blew five spinnakers. But at least we weren't one of the five boats that were dismantled.

When we finished, *Merlin's* Bill Lee came out to cheer for us and all the other finishers. That was class.

Gregg Corbitt  
Temecula, CA

Readers — Bill always did his part to make sure the Transpac was as colorful and as popular an event as could be. It was reported that 25,000 people showed up for *Merlin's* record-breaking finish, and Bill was all about in his wizard outfit. There were big parties for every finisher, with plenty of food and garbage cans full of mai tais. Oftentimes three or four different parties were raging in the wee hours of the morning, featuring the crews and friends of crews on boats that had just finished. Alas, Hawaii's fascination with the Transpac has dwindled to almost nil since then.

### ↑↓ WE DIDN'T GET THE SPINNAKER WET OR KILL OURSELVES

In 1980 Scott Lamson and I set out to charter *Merlin* so we could sail in the Doublehanded Farallones Race. While Bill Lee was quite receptive to the idea, his insurance company wasn't as enthusiastic. After a series of negotiations, the insurance company agreed to provide coverage with the following provisions: 1) We'd agree to pay a higher deductible and premium. 2) The insurance company wanted their appointed marine surveyor to write up a 'crew competency report'. 3) For us to provide the insurance company with a plan that demonstrated we'd not go out or kill ourselves!

Thankfully the insurance company's surveyor was Jim



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Bill 'the Wizard' Lee back in the day at Wizard Yachts in Santa Cruz. The Wizard knew how to have fun.





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## LETTERS

Jessie, someone who knew of our abilities and provided the necessary report. We then wrote up a detailed plan on how we'd try not to get killed. This included several weeks of sailing *Merlin* on a daily basis, practicing our boat-handling and man-overboard procedures. We purposely avoided discussing flying a spinnaker in our plan, as we made the decision there was no point in practicing, as whatever conditions we would have on race day would dictate whether we'd fly a chute or not. We figured if the wind was light during the race, we'd fly a chute. If it was windy, we wouldn't. Most important, we decided that if the breeze came up while we were carrying a spinnaker, we'd hold on as long as we could, praying the wind would lighten up. If it didn't, we'd take our chances — and likely have to buy Bill a new spinnaker.

On the day of the race Scott showed up wearing a helmet. It was pretty funny, although James Spithill would follow suit some 30 years later. We started the race with a full main and 110% jib and short-tacked up the Marin County shore on our way out to the Farallones. By the time we cleared the Headlands, we had worked up quite a sweat. But then we got lucky, as we were able to lay the islands in a breeze that never blew more than 15 knots.

Once around the islands, we set the spinnaker as though we had a full crew aboard. It was actually simple. We carried the spinnaker to the Golden Gate Bridge, jibed, and headed for the finish line. Simple again! We dropped the spinnaker without even getting the sail wet. All in all, a frigging miracle! We were first to finish, first in class, and first overall on corrected time. Not a bad day on the water. And we hadn't killed ourselves.

While it was quite a challenge and very rewarding to double-hand *Merlin* around the Farallones, the best part of the charter was actually having the opportunity to take our family and friends out sailing on what was then the fastest boat around. We'd go screaming across the Bay, spray flying, and people were hooting and hollering. Everyone had a blast — even my mom. The accompanying photo shows her driving the boat... or at least she thinks she is. The guy sitting to leeward on the starboard side actually had the wheel.

Ahhh, what great memories! Who knows, maybe it's time to charter *Merlin* again. I can't wait to see her sailing the Bay once more.

Paul Kaplan  
KKMI, Point Richmond



Scott Lamson and Paul Kaplan behind the wheel of 'Merlin' back in the day.

COURTESY PAUL KAPLAN

### ↑↓ SIPPING A MUG OF COFFEE AS HE PASSED

It was fun to read Paul Slivka's recollection of his finishing second with his Piver 30 trimaran *Harmony* to Bill Lee's 67-ft *Merlin* in the first Singlehanded Farallones Race in 1977.

Several of us, all friends of Paul's, hiked to the point overlooking the Golden Gate to observe that first Singlehanded Farallones. The wind was howling through the eucalyptus trees on that day. I remember seeing *Harmony's* weather hull come clear out of the water, and watching Paul jockey the 30-footer as though she were a dinghy. From time to time daylight showed beneath all three hulls, as *Harmony* leaped from one crest to another.

I also remember Paul telling us that he saw Bill Lee standing in *Merlin's* companionway, sipping a mug of coffee as he



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STEERING THE DREAM

## LETTERS

passed him by.

Derek Van Loan  
Mill Valley

### ↑↓ WHAT WERE YOU TWO SKIPPERS THINKING?

When I saw the December issue *Sightings* photo of Bill Lilly and Judy Lang's Newport Beach-based Lagoon 47 *Moontide* flying over the wave while departing Bahia del Sol, El Salvador, it reminded me of another photo of a cat flying over a wave. If I'm not mistaken, it was a photo of *Profligate*, with the *Wanderer* at the helm, leaving some Southern California harbor.

What were you two skippers thinking?

Brian Short  
Pasadena

Brian — We assume you're talking about the photos that Oceanside harbor patrolman Jonathan Hoover took of *Profligate* as we took her out of that harbor for Catalina a few years back. It's true, there is a similarity in the two cats heading out. But unlike *Moontide*, which reportedly took water over the cabintop, *Profligate* didn't even get her decks wet.

If we're not mistaken, what Bill Lilly was "thinking" is he could make it safely over the bar because the *Hotel del Sol* bar pilot told him he could. By the time Bill realized that the wave was going to break on them, it was too late to turn around.

In our case with *Profligate*, we simply thought that we could make it out safely. We've surfed most of our life, so we have a pretty good understanding of waves and sets. We also hovered in the deep water of the harbor for about 15 minutes to get a sense of the situation and make a final decision as to whether we'd leave. Another factor is that *Profligate* can motor pretty quickly. That said, if anybody else had thought of doing it on their boat, we would have tried to dissuade them.

The cool thing about the incident is that when we got to the bar at Two Harbors later that day, some San Diego television station was showing video of us going out on their 6 O'Clock News.

However, there are even better videos of boats crossing bars. The first is the one of the 40-ft catamaran *Sultanate* surfing down a wave and into a harbor off the west coast of Australia. It can be found at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=ETir8OEdDrc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ETir8OEdDrc). An even better one is of a Cal 39 that was taking some folks out of the Ala Wai Yacht Harbor on the way to spread the ashes of a loved one when a huge set came through. It can be found at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=m15wBgV7iMs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m15wBgV7iMs). Although the skipper had displayed poor judgment going out, he handled the situation superbly, keeping the boat pointed directly into the very large but already broken waves.

There are other videos that show what happens when a boat



JONATHAN HOOVER

**The Wanderer thought he could make it out of Oceanside because his mental calculations told him he could.**



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# LETTERS

gets hit broadside by a breaking wave. It's ugly. Don't ever let that happen to you.

## ↑↓ BAJA BASH BY LAND

Tom Carr's otherwise excellent and accurate report titled 'A Baja Bash on Land' contains a statement with which I disagree. He gives the distance between Guerrero Negro and El Rosario as 165 miles. According to my AAA map, the distance given is actually 224 miles. The accuracy of this number has been verified by experience on two trips in recent years.

It is a number that concerns me because I have dragged my travel trailer along that stretch of highway using my Jeep Liberty, a car notable for having 'short legs'. Anyone who attempts this distance with such a car should be aware that there is a Pemex station 23 miles north of Guerrero Negro in the village of Jesus Maria.

The beauty of this little-realized tidbit is that the actual distance between Jesus Maria and El Rosario is only 201 miles, a distance my thirsty Jeep can usually cover with one tankful. In fact, I count on it, slowing for headwinds when necessary. So far it has not been necessary to buy the high-priced stuff of questionable quality from the vendors at the Bahia de Los Angeles Junction, nor the ones in Cataviña, all of whom sell from large drums set in the beds of pickup trucks.

Don Neilson  
No Boat but a Longtime Reader  
San Diego

## ↑↓ THE BEST WAY IS TO TAKE THE MAINLAND ROUTE

Thank you for publishing Tom Carr's January issue letter on trailering a boat along the Baja Peninsula. I've been wondering about that drive since I have twice trailered my boat from the Bay Area to Puerto Vallarta on the mainland route. Carr's letter confirmed my understanding that the best way to trailer a boat to Cabo is to take the mainland route to Los Mochis, then take the car ferry to La Paz. The truck route border crossing at Nogales, Arizona, is easy with a trailer, and the mainland toll highway is excellent, with only one rough patch around Navolato.

The recent incident with the Australian surfers is troubling, of course, but seems as though it was very unusual. Any insights on this?

Neal Holmlund  
Make Me Smile, Express 27  
Orinda

Neal — In February 1985, long before the then-12-year-old, 1,063-mile Carretera Transpeninsular Benito Juarez from Tijuana to Cabo San Lucas was improved, we singlehandedly trailered the Cal 25 Absquatchalato from Berkeley to Loreto. We made it in 33 hours, having slept at San Diego and Guerrero Negro. Short on time, we plopped the boat into the water at Puerto Escondido, slept aboard her that night, and had some Mexican friends hand-step the mast the next morning. Then we hightailed it back north with the trailer.

Despite being stopped in Ensenada just before dawn for exceeding the speed limit, not wearing a seat belt, and driving on the wrong side of the road, we made it back to Tiburon in 29 hours. It would have taken longer had the officer in Ensenada — "You have broken all the rules, señor," he told us — not agreed to take the \$20 we gave him and promised to pay our fines for us when the court opened the next day.

What we did might not have been very safe, what with all the big potholes on the shoulderless highway and our willingness to drive at night when the cattle liked to warm themselves on

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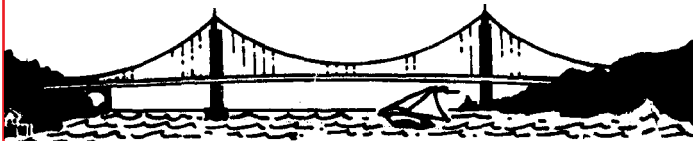
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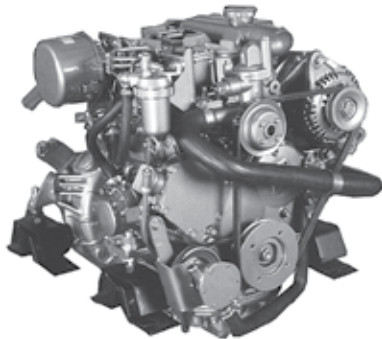
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**LETTERS**

the pavement. But we were relatively young, and it was alternately beautiful and terrifying, so we had about as mystical an experience as we could this side of India. We only had one CD, so every time we hear a cut from Graceland we relive the experience.

Our point is that if we could trailer our boat on that road before it was greatly improved, and when Baja was much more primitive and 'foreign', it can't be that hard now. Furthermore, in the four years prior to our trailering trip, friends had twice towed our Olson 30s back from Cabo on that highway.

We've also driven a Honda Element, sans trailer and boat, the 983 miles of mainland highway from Nogales to Puerto Vallarta. The road was much better than the one down the Baja Peninsula had been decades before — except if we'd been towing a boat on the windy last stretch from Tepic to Vallarta. In fact, most of the mainland road was better than most of the main highways in California.

That said, if we wanted to trailer an Express 27 down to Cabo, we'd do it all on the Transpeninsular Highway, as we think it's a more magical experience than going by the mainland route, and there is less chance of issues with bandidos. We're not saying that the mainland road is that dangerous — except in the Sinaloa region at night. As you surely know, Culiacán, Sinaloa's biggest city, is the center of the huge Sinaloa drug-cartel region, and was home to El Chapo, who was recently recaptured at nearby Los Mochis.

We're not sure what you mean by the "rough patch" of Navolato, but you're wrong if you think "the incident" involving the two Australian surfers was "very unusual." To recount, Navolato is where on November 21 the bodies of 33-year-old Aussie surfers Dean Lucas and Adam Coleman were found in their burned-out van. They had come over from La Paz on the car ferry earlier that night, arrived at Topolobampo terminal at 10:30 p.m., and made it about 100 miles south on Highway 200, the main north/south road. Navolato is just off the toll road, and apparently the surfers were identified as targets when they stopped to buy a map.

At some point five Mexicans, described as low-level drug dealers who had been robbing southbound cars, illuminated the flashing lights on their own van and forced the surfers' van off the side of the road. According to confessions of the three bandidos who have been caught, Coleman resisted by striking one of the thieves, all of whom had been wearing policia and federales uniforms, at which point he was shot and killed. Since they'd shot him, they 'had' to kill Lucas, too. After the murders, the van was driven to an isolated road and set on fire. Terrible, terrible stuff.

Prior to driving the Element down to Puerto Vallarta, we had repeatedly been warned not to drive anywhere in the Culiacán region — also known as The Cemetery — after dark. Navolato is about six miles on the other side of the toll road from Culiacán. We made Culiacán about dark and hurried our asses to the best downtown hotel we could find. We got a luxurious room for just \$100, perhaps because it was Christmas Eve and the hotel was empty. But to be honest, we didn't breathe deeply until we made it to Mazatlán the next day. The deal in the Culiacán region is that anybody who isn't known is assumed to be the enemy, be it from another cartel or drug agents. Life is very cheap, so in that area people shoot first and ask ques-



A typical stretch of the Transpeninsular Highway as it drops down to the Sea of Cortez.

LATTITUDE / RICHARD



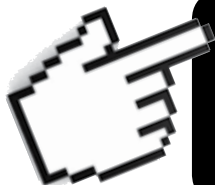
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## LETTERS

tions later.

By the way, Navolato is only about 10 miles from the new marina at Altata. Some cruisers have visited there and had a good time. The area is too sketchy for us to recommend.

If we wanted to get an Express 27 to Cabo, we'd drive it all the way down the Transpeninsular Highway. Actually, that's not true. Assuming it was winter or spring, we'd trailer the boat to Bahia de los Angeles, about halfway down Baja, and put her into the water there. Or maybe farther down to Puerto Escondido. In either case, we'd put the boat in the water and have an absolute blast sailing her a couple of hundred miles downwind to Cabo. Having twice cruised an Olson 30 in the Sea of Cortez, we can tell you that an Express 27 would be a fabulous minimalist cruising boat for the Sea of Cortez. And if you could leave the boat in Cabo or environs until summer, you could return to her in early summer and have a spinnaker run back up to your trailer in Puerto Escondido or Bahia de los Angeles.

Of course, the very best thing of all would be to enter your Express in the Ha-Ha.



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### ⇓ WILL THE INCIDENT BANKRUPT OYSTER MARINE?

Have you been following the story of *Polonia Star III*, the relatively new Russian-owned Oyster 90 that lost her keel off Spain last July? She quickly turned turtle. Fortunately, no lives were lost, as the crew were picked up by a fishing boat several hours later.

Based on news reports, it sounds as if Oyster Marine downsized the number of workers and in the process got rid of critical quality control, engineering, and lay-up workers, and ended up with *chambones* doing hack work in the building of the yacht. It was probably total managerial incompetence and lack of integrity.

Imagine, for example, as they did, adding a ton of ballast in the bow to compensate for the extra weight of a garage structure in the stern. From the photos, the hull skin on that boat also looks way too thin, so that any breakdown from repeated mast and rigging stress would cause fatigue and eventual hull failure.

How sad that the famous Oyster company turned out a total piece of garbage in that boat. I predict they will go bankrupt from this incident.

Carlos Valencia  
Felicia, Bristol 29.9  
Channel Islands Harbor

Carlos — We have been following the story. The keel falling off one's boat is probably close to a monohull sailor's ultimate nightmare. It's not common, but neither is it unknown. According to the ISAF, there have been 72 recorded cases of keels falling off boats since 1984, with 24 lives being lost. In some cases, the boats were extreme racing boats, but in other cases they were popular production boats of which hundreds had been made.

Among the more famous keel-loss incidents are the Juan K 100 Rambler in the Fastnet Race; Simon Le Bon's Holland 80



Although 'Rambler 100' flipped after losing her keel, she's been repaired to race again.

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# LETTERS

Drum, also in the Fastnet; Charley, the San Francisco-based Holland 67 sled on her way back from Hawaii; the N/M 67 Pandemonium on her way back from Hawaii; Martella of Finland in the Whitbread Race; and the San Francisco-based J/80 Heatwave coming back from the Farallones. Fortunately, and perhaps miraculously, no lives were lost in any of those incidents.

But there have been terrible tragedies as a result of keel losses. Six lives were lost when the Sun Fast 42 Moquini dropped her keel off South Africa. And more recently, four lives were lost after Cheeki Rafiki, a highly regarded Beneteau 40.7, lost her keel sailing across the Atlantic.

In the cases where the boats have been found or recovered, there have been a variety of causes for the failures. There have been design, construction, maintenance and repair issues. But a number were repaired and are still sailing, namely Rambler 100, which is now Perpetual Loyal.

Polonia Star III lost her keel last July 3 while sailing off Spain in 18 knots of wind while carrying a modest amount of sail. Italian skipper Alessio Cannoni, who had sailed the boat 10,000 ocean miles, said it was only seven minutes between the time the crew heard a strong vibration from the keel area until he had "water cooling my balls while I stood at the chart table."

Oddly enough, the heavy, overturned boat, minus her keel, was still floating a day later some 20 miles from where her keel had fallen off. She later sank and was then recovered.

Oyster said that they had used industry standard Classification Society rules for the design of the vessel, and that the design calculations had been analyzed and confirmed by independent experts in composite construction. But obviously there was a failure of some sort. The incident continues to be under investigation. Personally, we'd be hesitant to identify a cause based on just photographs.

Does that mean sailors shouldn't buy an Oyster? We don't think so. Let's put the brand in perspective. Oyster was established in 1973 by Richard Matthews, and in 1978 began to have great success with the deck salon concept that became their trademark. Through the 1980s, 1990s and 2000s, Oyster was extremely successful in marketing hundreds of well-regarded, large, luxurious cruising boats. Oyster was so successful that in 2008 Matthews, a hardcore racer and avid cruiser, was bought out for a rumored \$75 million by Balmoral Capital. In 2012, the company was purchased by HTP Investments. Matthews now has a company called Gunfleet that sells a line of boats similar to Oysters.

Sometimes products change for the worse after the founder is gone, and particularly when taken over by a management company. We don't know if this was true after Matthews sold the company. It's also noteworthy that it is the first such keel failure in the 42-year history of the company.

Oyster is such a strong luxury brand that they, like Swan, put on various Oyster Regattas in Europe and the Caribbean. They also did an Oyster Around the World Rally a few years ago. We interviewed a British couple who went around in their Oyster, and they had nothing but rave reviews for their boat, the support by Oyster, and the quality of the Oyster employees in the support team. Despite reportedly losing half a million



POLONIA STAR III

**Something obviously went wrong for 'Polonia Star' to lose her keel — and to have her skin peeled off.**



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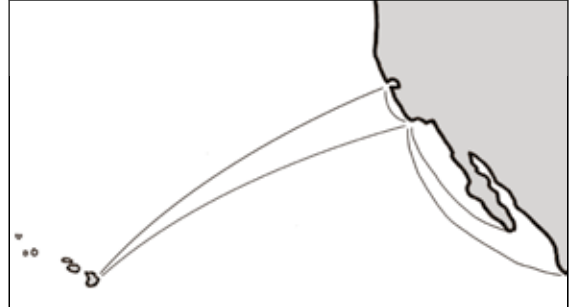
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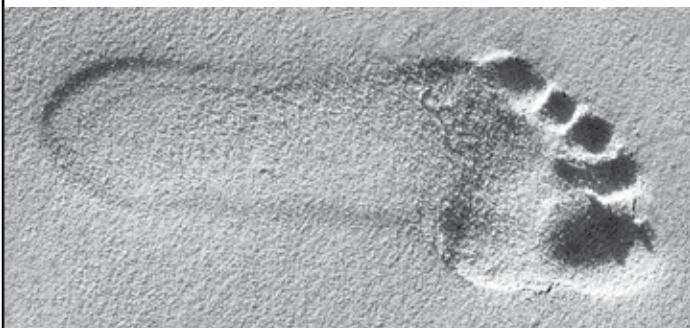


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## LETTERS

dollars on that first event, Oyster is planning a second around-the-world rally for 2017-2019, a 27-month event that will be 12 months longer than the original version.

We'll have an updated report when the Polonia Star III investigation is concluded. Until then, we'd remind monohull owners that keels and keel bolts, like the rest of the boat, need monitoring.

### ↑↓ CONTACTING SYLVAIN BARIELLE

I'm looking for a contact with Sylvain Barielle, an old friend of mine. By chance do you or any of your readers have it?

Isabelle Autissier  
France

Readers — We found Sylvain's Twitter address, but when we tried to pass it along to Isabelle her email address didn't work. Merde! A sailmaker, Sylvain can be reached through the UK Sails loft in Alameda, at (510) 523-3966 or [sanfrancisco@uksailmakers.com](mailto:sanfrancisco@uksailmakers.com).

Frankly, we were chuffed that Isabelle would even ask us, as she's one of the original women sailing greats. Born and raised in Brittany, she got a degree in nautical engineering, which she basically used to help fishermen. But then she welded together her own 30-ft boat and sailed her singlehanded across the Atlantic. When she returned to France, she decided to try racing. Starting in 1987, she finished very near the top of Mini Transats and Figaros.

In 1991, she entered the BOC solo around-the-world race, the first woman to do so, with Ecureuil Poitou-Charentes 2. Despite being dismasted, she would finish seventh.

In the spring of 1994, Isabelle and a crew sailed Ecureuil Poitou-Charentes 2 from New York around Cape Horn to San Francisco in just 62 days, crushing the old record by two weeks.

Later that year she beat the other 18 boats in the Charleston-to-Cape Town leg of the Around Alone by 5.5 days! But she later lost her 83-ft mast. She fabricated a jury rig, but was hit by a monumental wave that rolled the boat 360°. She spent four days in a liferaft not far from Antarctica before being rescued.

Isabelle would be disqualified from the 1996 Vendée Globe around-the-world race for needing assistance to repair a broken rudder. But she would finish the course.

Her fourth solo trip around the world was her most famous — but once again known for misfortune. Her new ride, PRB, flipped in the far reaches of the Southern Ocean. Competitor Giovanni Soldini of Italy battled terrible conditions for 20 hours to reach PRB's coordinates, and miraculously found the overturned boat despite very limited visibility. Twice he passed PRB and yelled for Autissier, but there was no sign of her. Desperate, Soldini threw a hammer, striking the hull with a thud. A moment later Isabelle crawled out the escape hatch of the overturned boat. She had been sleeping.

That was the end of hardcore racing for Isabelle. "This has been my crazy job for 10 years. I had 10 wonderful years doing this, maybe the best years of my life—great adventures, great friends, great feelings. But now it's time to do something else."

Soft-spoken and never seeking the limelight, thoughtful Isabelle gave a TED Talk in which she shared some of what



The great Isabelle Autissier aboard 'PRB' before she flipped in the Southern Ocean.

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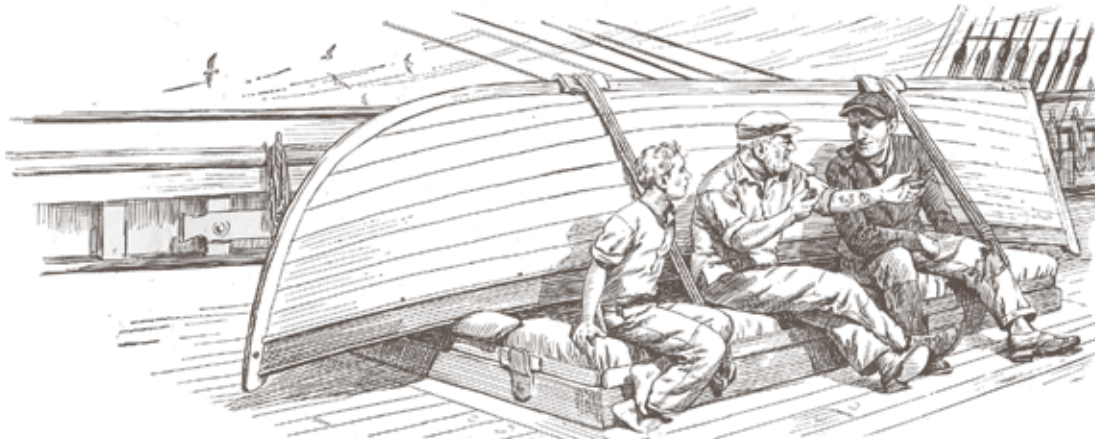
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## LETTERS

she has learned about life from living, and having wild experiences, on the ocean. She spoke of the importance of observing, understanding, and adapting to what nature gives, rather than trying to overpower the forces of the natural world. We recommend checking it out.

### ⇅ EPIC BRAWLS IN BARS

In 1956, Jake Crane, my father-in-law, sailed the 41-ft cutter *Ly-Kou* from Saigon to Annapolis with a couple of Frenchmen. One of them was schoolteacher Simone Moncharmont, who wrote two books in French about the adventure. Their favorite spots were the Nicobar Islands of Southeast Asia, where they were received by the queen, and later Gibraltar and the Grenadines, where they ended up in epic brawls in bars.

*Ly-Kou* may have been owned by a fellow named Tom Chapham in the 1980s. Besides that small hint, I have no idea what became of that gorgeous teak boat. The only thing I have from her is the sextant in a wooden box.

If anybody knows more about *Ly-Kou* or where she might be now, I'd love to hear from them. I can be reached at [bernardi.eeb.ucsc.edu](mailto:bernardi.eeb.ucsc.edu).

Giacomo Bernardi

Professor, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology  
University of California Santa Cruz

Giacomo — We're not sure if you realize it, but very few people cruised in the 1950s, so the voyage of the *Ly-Kou* was extremely unusual. For example, Eric and Susan Hiscock did the first of their three circumnavigations from 1952 to 1955. The world, and particularly the world of cruising, was not only so different back then, it hardly existed.

We did a little research and discovered that *Ky-Lou* stopped 91 times on the way from Saigon to Miami, and on July 11, 1958, pulled into Chicago YC. It was noted that her skipper, Patrick Ellam, then 38, had sailed a 20-ft boat across the Atlantic five years before.

What became of the *Ly-Kou*? We don't know for sure, but if she's like almost all other boats of her era, she probably fell into disuse and disrepair, and is no longer with us. Wood boats were never intended to last. It's a pity; we'd like to have seen her.

### ⇅ LET'S DO THE SOCAL TA-TA AGAIN

I'm wondering if another SoCal Ta-Ta is planned for 2016. It looks as though it's a really great rally, so if it's a go again this year, I hope to have my boat and crew ready.

Steve Reeder

*Desperado*, Cheoy Lee Offshore 47  
Ventura

Steve — Yeah, what the heck, let's do it again. The dates will be September 10-17. We'll have the same course — Santa Barbara to Santa Cruz Island for two nights; Channel Islands Harbor for one night; Paradise Cove for one night; and one night at Two Harbors, Catalina.

As previously, the fleet will be limited to 50 boats because of space limitations in Santa Barbara. Ta-Ta entries will be able to reserve space in the har-



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# LETTERS

## ⇅ **THERE MUST BE A MIDDLE GROUND**

As a resident of Alameda since the '80s and former owner of a sailing school that spent the first two years of its life in Alameda Marina, I have reviewed your article and Mr. Poland's op-ed piece in the Contra Costa *Times*, as well as some of the replies to his article on that website.

Demonizing dry storage tenants as 'not from Alameda' is quite perverse. There are only, to my count, two places in the entire Central Bay Area where boats can be dry-stored and hoisted into the water affordably. All of those boats are small and would suffer damage to their function if forced to re-locate to a wet slip somewhere. And, good luck trying to get permits for another dry-storage yard elsewhere. Mr. Poland talks about being unable to make the current plan financially sustainable — what about the investments of the boaters whose boats' values will be decimated if they can't find a place to properly and safely hoist into and out of the water?

Claiming that the Alameda Marina doesn't provide waterfront access is false on its front. It's mostly an open area. And, by the way, the odds on there being true access to the water rather than just a view of the water from a narrow sidewalk in front of private homes are quite low.

We need developers to continue to keep Alameda up with the times. I don't resent his making as much money from his investments as possible. And, he bought this property with full intention to do what he's got planned. However, to describe it as 'the only way to preserve the operation of the marina' is a canard. He will build, sell the parcels and leave wealthier for it. He should call a spade a spade. I understand rhetoric to be just that — an attempt to phrase persuasively. However, as my philosophy professor put it, "There's a very thin line between rhetoric and deceit."

There is a ton of unused or underdeveloped waterfront in Alameda. Places that need 'improvement' much more than does Alameda Marina as it is described: "demolition and/or replacement and/or comprehensive rehabilitation of existing improvements on the property and for construction of a new, higher-value project."

I think there must be a middle ground between no upgrades and improvements and 400 housing units plus a couple of low-profile businesses. If Mr. Poland is serious about hearing from the sailing community, then, let's start talking about compromise. There are many Alamedans who would represent the interests of sailors and boaters well while being responsive to hard financial data that helps clarify for the public rather than 'sell' the public on his plans. That has yet to happen from my perspective.

Rich Jepsen  
Alameda

## ⇅ **"YOU'RE BLOCKING OUR SLIP!"**

After a great time at the Sausalito Lighted Boat Parade, we ducked in to drop off some passengers. Before we were even near the pier, another boat came up behind us and we heard a loud bellow, "You're blocking our slip!" We then abandoned that 'touch and go' landing and moved on, only to have them repeat the warning. Finally, after running out of room to maneuver, we just ignored them, dropped our passengers, and left.

So did they pull into any of the slips that we were near? No. They took off for the far end of the marina. I'm not sure what was going on, but they came across as arrogant, bullying, pushy and downright rude. My personal suspicion is



*"When a man comes to like a sea life,  
he is not fit to live on land."*  
— Dr. Samuel Johnson



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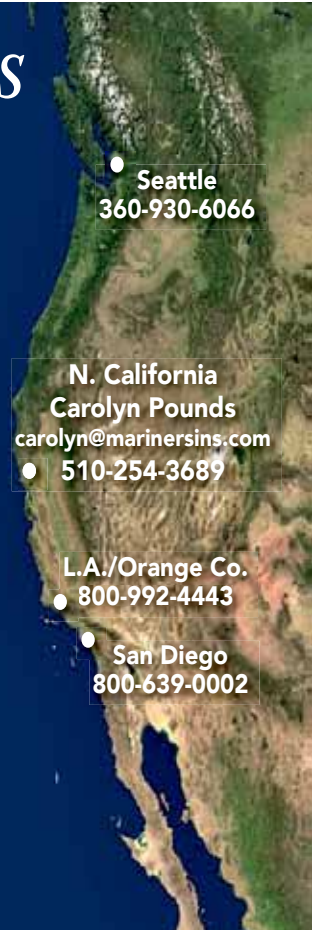
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## LETTERS

that someone was a little too full of themselves or had a few to drink.

Try to be polite and courteous out there, people. A minute's patience, a friendly word or a wave, and most things sort themselves out. Belated Merry Christmas, and Happy Channukah, New Year, Kwanzaa, and whatever else does it for you!

Bob and Gale Schulke  
Planet Earch

*Bob and Gale — We're sorry to say that the picture you paint isn't very clear to us, so we don't have any idea what happened. Generally speaking, patience and courtesy do go a long way, especially on unusual occasions such as Lighted Boat Parades. On the other hand, some people — and we're not suggesting that you're part of this group — think they are entitled to park in someone else's slip for 15 to 20 minutes during which time extended goodbyes are exchanged by all 30 people on the boat.*

*We're all for polite and courteous.*

### ⇕ **THE RV IN UTAH OR THE CANAL BOAT IN FRANCE?**

We previously talked about our experiences with canal boats. We'd bought one from LeBoat in Narbonne and traveled all over France with it. Unfortunately, our partner forced us to sell, so we are now looking for another boat.

We'd like to buy in one of the northern countries, such as Belgium or the Netherlands, and are interested in your thoughts on how to shop up there. Did you find your boat from a broker or just walking the docks? And any wise words for buying outside France? Lastly, where is your boat now? Have you spent any winters on your canal boat?

Joel and Mary Thornton  
Seattle, WA

*Joe and Mary — The only reason we write a little about canal boats in a sailing magazine like Latitude 38 is that given the exchange rate with a euro, they are a now a very viable economic option for 'six and sixers' doing something other than spending their summers driving an RV around the West. As you learned, Europe is fabulous, and enjoying it on your boat/home is convenient and economical.*

*We've actually bought two canal boats; a smaller one two years ago in Volendam, a Sausalito-like place just north of Amsterdam, and a 42-footer last summer in Terherne, Friesland, about 100 miles north of Amsterdam. Based on what we've seen and heard, we would always buy a boat in the Netherlands. The Dutch build great boats and they do a much better job of taking care of them than do the French. It's just a fact. The service people we encountered in the Netherlands were much more professional, too. We were told that we could sell our Dutch-built boats for a 20% premium in France. And many French people come to the Netherlands to buy boats.*

*We found our boats through a combination of looking through the Internet and the free magazines distributed at marinas, and by walking the docks. But unlike in California, where all marinas are on the coast and pretty big, they are all over the place in France, Belgium and the Netherlands.*

*Many marinas in the Netherlands don't allow boats for sale to be berthed in them, so these boats have to go to special marinas where all the boats are for sale. It makes it like a used car lot, which is very helpful for boat buyers comparing boats. There is a similar marina at St. Jean de Losne, the center of canal boating in France, but we were not at all impressed with the quality of the boats for sale there compared with those in the*

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**LETTERS**

Netherlands. It also helps that just about every Dutch person speaks English as well as most Americans.

Marjani, the 31-footer we bought in Volendam but never used, is currently in a marina in Terherne and for sale directly from us for \$20,000. She's a great little canal cruiser with an excellent single diesel. After we bought the larger boat, we found that many people prefer the smaller canal boats for their lower price, less maintenance and simplicity. Because there are so many inexpensive marinas — \$10/night — with all the amenities, you don't need a larger boat with all the bells and whistles. Boats like Marjani are ideal for retirees on a budget.

Because Doña and the Wanderer are still working full-time, we bought the larger boat, a 42-ft Valkkruiser, for about \$90,000. Like Marjani, Majestic Dalat is steel. We quickly found that she's 12 feet longer than most slips and is truly larger than most couples need. But it was very important to us to get a boat that has two engines and a bow thruster, because if one engine craps out and takes a long time to repair, we'd lose our entire season. With just one engine and a thruster, we have all we need to cruise all we want.

Majestic Dalat is currently located at Port Ilon, about 40 miles as the crew flies from Paris and two days via the Seine. We can't wait to get back to her in early May, which is somewhat early in the season and sometimes a little cool. After six months in the tropics, it's a nice change for us, particularly knowing the heat will come in June and July. We hope to spend at least another three weeks in Paris, then continue on through the Loire Valley and Burgundy, and then perhaps rocket down the fast and untamed Rhine River back to the Netherlands. We really liked the Netherlands and hear that Belgium is terrific, too. We're saving the Canal du Midi and the South for a couple of summers from now.

We have not done any 'winter stay-overs' on the canal boats. Not to sound like complete asses, but we've worked our asses off — and continue to do so — to be able to enjoy four garden spots of the world three months a year. And while a number of people spend the winter on their boats in the Canal du Midi in the South of France, we think it's better to be on a boat in Mexico or the Caribbean at that time of year.

**IT WASN'T SEXUAL, BUT HOW COULD WE FORGET?**

I know it's been 20 years, but I hope Richard, the publisher, will remember me. We met at Las Palmas in the Canary Islands when I was looking for a ride across the Atlantic to the Caribbean. It was a day after the start of the Atlantic Rally for Cruisers, which Richard had missed because of a *Latitude* deadline, and almost all the boats were gone. So I was beginning to lose hope.

I was asking every boat that was leaving for a berth, but had no luck. Then I asked Richard. We talked for about five minutes, and he said I could come. A few minutes later he came back and said he wasn't so sure after all, but to check back in the morning when they were going to leave. I did and he told me to hop on.

As Richard knows, that was the start of an absolutely amazing Atlantic crossing with eight



LATTITUDE / RICHARD

**To each their own, but we'd rather have a canal boat in France than an RV in Idaho.**



COURTESY LAURA GOLDEN

**Laura used to do yoga on 'Big O'; now she does it on land.**



# LETTERS

crew on his Ocean 71 *Big O*. I think he published a photo of me in the magazine. I saw him again at Race Week in Antigua the following year, and when he waved, I jumped off the boat I was on to swim over to *Big O*.

I got together with a sailor that I met shortly after that crossing, got married within the year (for a green card for him), and unexpectedly moved back to New York City. I spent 10 years there, got divorced, headed south, and for the last 10 years have been running a company for the guy whose boat I got off right before I got onto *Big O*. I quit recently and am going to spend next year in Central America, traveling — hopefully sailing — and leading a couple of yoga retreats/trainings. Richard will remember that I got everyone doing yoga on that crossing. No plan after that.

I've been out of sailing for quite a few years now, but am going to get back into it again to cruise. I just started looking for my first ride and saw that *Latitude* was still there, so I had to say hello. I hope our paths will cross again. Peace.

Laura Golden  
Central America

*Laura — We remember you very fondly as a great part of the terrific nine-person Big O transatlantic team. We'd been on deadline, so we'd arrived in the Canaries a day after the start of the ARC, exhausted by having to make awful connections in New York and Madrid. When we got to the boat, Captain Jim Drake had put together a crew of seven. There was his girlfriend Annette, who had been along for the whole California-to-Turkey and back across the Med warm-up; Big Bill from Australia; the gal from Australia whose name we can no longer remember; a gal named Sue; and the two young novice sailors from Amsterdam. The only ones we'd seen before were Jim and Annette.*

*We recall staggering around Las Palmas with jet lag for a few hours, then met you on the dock about nightfall. After we talked and you sounded normal, we said you could be on the crew. Why not? When we broke the news to the rest of the crew, they — at least the women — were horrified. "Where will she sleep?!" they demanded.*

*"Well, she can sleep in the aft cabin with me," we sputtered, unable to imagine how finding a spot for a ninth person could be a problem on a 71-ft boat. This didn't go over so well with Annette, who was best friends with our long-time on-off, on-off, on-off, ad nauseum girlfriend and future wife the Wanderette, who had left the boat just before we arrived.*

*"On the sole, on the sole, she can sleep on the sole in the aft cabin," we clarified, "not in the double bunk with us."*

*Given the crew's objections, we had to tell you we couldn't give you a final decision until just before we left the next morning. We didn't think it was fair that you should be discriminated against because you were young, female and cute, so when morning came we just told you to hop on, and you — with all your possessions with you — did just that. The rest, of course, is Big O history.*

*There are three things we remember about you on that great trip. The first is when we were overtaking that German boat about halfway across, and you ran up to the bow wearing nothing but your panties to wave to them. We think that's the photo we ran of you. The second is the time we crossed paths with a ship whose captain was speaking in French. Much to the shock of everybody on the crew, you walked over to the radio, picked up the mic, and started jabbering away in French. If we remember correctly, you'd taught school in Belgium for awhile. We were impressed. Lastly, there was the afternoon about two days out of St. Lucia when the trades had gone light and the Caribbean sun was beating down. The whole crew was lying*

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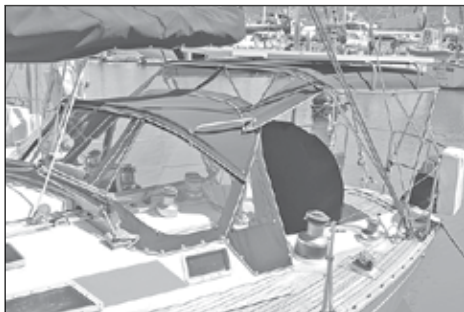
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## LETTERS

around the deck in silence, pretty much wilted. You had your headphones on, and all of a sudden you shattered the quiet by accompanying Pat Benatar on Heartbreaker at the top of your lungs. Once again we were all impressed.

There's that famous Mark Twain quote about how 20 years from now you won't regret the things that you did, but rather the things that you didn't do. Well, we didn't not do anything, and not only made that audacious trip from California to Turkey and back to the Caribbean with Big O, we signed you on as crew at the spur of the moment. And Twain was right, because we really would have regretted it had we not done any of it. By the way dear readers, it was entirely platonic.

### PLEASE, CAN'T WE HAVE POSITION #4?

Waaaaaaa! We want a good Baja Ha-Ha sign-up position, too. I, Michael, have been reading *Latitude* since the 1980s, and it's finally our turn to participate.

In late 2013, Allison Lehman of Yachtfinders helped my wife Lisa and me buy *Footloose*, a Catana 471 in Tacoma, Washington. We did some cruising with her in the San Juans, although not enough, and then spent the winter of 2014 in Astoria. We've sold the house, gotten rid of all the stuff, and are now living aboard — legally — at Ballena Bay Marina in Alameda.

Lisa has to do just a little more work before she gets to pack it in. I'm retired, which means I get to work on the to-do list. It's 90 items long as of today. But we've got some big things done. Jason at Argo did our standing rigging, while Bill Colombo at Doyle Sails is building us a new set of Hydra-Net white sails.

We plan to start our cruise in June, with some time in the Delta. Then we'll head to Tomales Bay, where I sailed for decades. Then south to Catalina, where we've never been before. Then, the long-awaited Ha-Ha.

After a year in the Sea of Cortez, we hope we will have decided whether to turn right or left at the Canal. And just like Jonathan and Rebecca Mote of the Corona del Mar-based Jeanneau 42DS *Serendipity* — who were promised slot #3 by the Grand Poobah — we plan to keep on going until we don't want to go any farther.

So please, please, please, can't we have position #4?

Michael and Lisa Britt  
*Footloose*, Catana 471  
 Ballena Bay

Michael and Lisa — Oh boy, we've really stepped in it, haven't we? Yes, we will promise you position #4. But that's the end of it — everybody else has to wait to sign up on the official entry day early in May.

### IT'S NO CONTEST BETWEEN EAST COAST AND WEST COAST SAILING

The editor's response to why he didn't/doesn't start an East Coast version of *Latitude 38* got me to thinking about East Coast sailing versus West Coast sailing.

I grew up on Chesapeake Bay and sailed there between the ages of 8 and 25. I also was a qualified Naval Officer of the Deck for Formation Steaming (OODF) for the years I was in the Navy, based in Little Creek, Virginia. So I have conned everything from an 8-ft dinghy to a 510-ft LSD on those waters.

And on the West Coast, I've had my Islander 28 *WindWalker* based out of Santa Cruz for more than 30 years, sailing Monterey Bay and coastal waters. In my opinion, the following are the differences between East Coast and West Coast sailing:

# LETTERS

1) Things don't go 'bump in the night' as often on the West Coast. Back East they have these things called sand bars. They shift almost every winter, and many of them aren't marked. In addition, the sailing waters of the East Coast are generally much more shallow than on the West Coast. For example, once I'm clear of a harbor on Monterey Bay, I'm pretty much home free in terms of depth. But I do have to watch out for the kelp.

2) On the West Coast you can pretty much pick your sailing conditions, as the wind is almost always out of the northwest. Want a quiet sail? Go out at 9 a.m. and come back at noon. Want a spirited sail? Go out at 1 p.m. and come back at 5 p.m. The wind direction and speed on the East Coast, on the other hand, are highly variable and unpredictable.



*Whale (and bird) watching while sailing in Santa Cruz.*

3) I like ice in my cocktail glass as opposed to my boat's sinking in ice in her slip. On the East Coast, people have to use a bubbler to keep ice away from the hull.

4) I like my water in the water, not in the air. So when it comes to the East Coast's 90° of heat and 90% humidity in the summer, fergeddaboutit!

5) During the summer on Chesapeake Bay they have mosquitoes that are big enough to fly off with small dogs.

6) When it gets hot and humid on the East Coast and you want to swim, you have to remember that there are 'stinging nettles' that will keep you out of the water. All right, we have great white sharks on the West Coast, so it's a tie.

Throw in the longer sailing season, more wildlife — see the attached photos of whales taken from my boat when she was just 300 yards off the harbor mouth at Santa Cruz — and it's no contest.

Van Tunstall  
WindWalker, Islander 28  
Aptos

*Van — While all your points are valid, we think it's more of a comparison between Chesapeake Bay sailing and California sailing. For example, the Pacific Northwest doesn't have the reliable northwesterlies and the season is pretty short up there, too. And while the Northeast has a ridiculously short sailing season, it does have reliable afternoon winds, and it also has many great cruising destinations that California cruisers would die for. Then too, there is some fine sailing to be enjoyed in Florida during all but the hottest summer months.*

*The other big advantage that California cruisers have over East Coast cruisers is that it's only half the distance to the tropics, and much easier to get there. And the cost of cruising in Mexico is a fraction of what it is in the Eastern Caribbean.*

*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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## around the horn in a proa?

One of the most unusual boats ever built on the West Coast came into the *Latitude* spotlight recently, as the 36-ft proa *Jzerro* passed through the Bay en route to Panama. Built by renowned Port Townsend, WA-based boatwright Russell Brown — who sailed her to Australia and back years ago — she was purchased last fall by New Orleans-based offshore racer Ryan Finn. He was attracted to *Jzerro* by her speed potential, upwind ability and ease of handling; all requisite features to attain his wildly ambitious goal of setting a solo

New York-to-San Francisco record — a feat never before accomplished. Finn's campaign is aptly dubbed 2Oceans1Rock — the rock, of course, being Tierra del Fuego.

As sailing record buffs know, the fastest time for that 13,000-mile route was famously held by the great tea clipper *Flying Cloud* for 135 years (89d, 8h), until 1989, when it was finally broken by Warren Luhrs' 60-ft monohull *Thursday's Child* (80d, 20h). The current multihull record was set in 2008 by Frenchman Lionel Lemonchois and a crew of nine aboard the 110-ft catamaran *Gitana 13* (43d, 3m). The monohull record was broken in

2013 by Italian Giovanni Soldini and a crew of eight aboard the VOR 70 *Maserati*: 47d, 42m. If we've got our facts straight, the smallest crew ever to break the N.Y.-S.F. record on any type of boat was Luhrs' crew of three (total).

Although Finn's proposed trip will certainly be punishing, he is no stranger to rugged singlehanded sailing. Since 2004, when he did the Singlehanded Transpac aboard the J/90 *Surfinn*, he's been active in the solo-sailing scene, including wins in the 2007 Bermuda 1-2 and the 2011 Atlantic Cup. And he's 'apprenticed' under battle-tested offshore skippers such as Rich Wilson and Mike Birch.

Inspired by the voyaging canoes of ancient Polynesia, *Jzerro* — which was cold-molded with wood and epoxy — is a double-ender in the most literal sense of the word, as she is perfectly symmetrical. That is, her two bows (ends) are identical, and she has two rudders, either of which will drop into place when needed. Her single ama, which is always employed to windward of the main hull, carries a changeable quantity of water ballast. *Jzerro*, like all proas, literally has to stop in order to tack (the mast must be rotated and the rudder swapped), but this ultralight (3,300-lb) multihull can point much higher than virtually any cat, most trimarans and many monohulls.

Last month, we caught up with Finn by phone while he was preparing for a nonstop solo run from L.A. to the Panama Canal. His game plan is to deliver *Jzerro* to New Orleans, where — assuming he still thinks she is the right tool for the job — he'll make modifications that include upgrading the ama and installing a taller carbon rig in order to carry bigger spinnakers. He intends to set sail from the Big Apple late next fall. If computer models are correct — and Lady Luck is riding shotgun — Finn could make it around in 60-70 days. We can't wait to follow along via *Jzerro's* transponder track.

To learn more about the campaign, see [www.2Oceans1Rock.org](http://www.2Oceans1Rock.org).

— andy

## puddle jump parties in

Almost as predictable as the swallows returning to San Juan Capistrano each spring, there's long been an annual westward migration of cruisers who set sail for French Polynesia from various West Coast anchorages — a crossing we call the Pacific Puddle Jump.

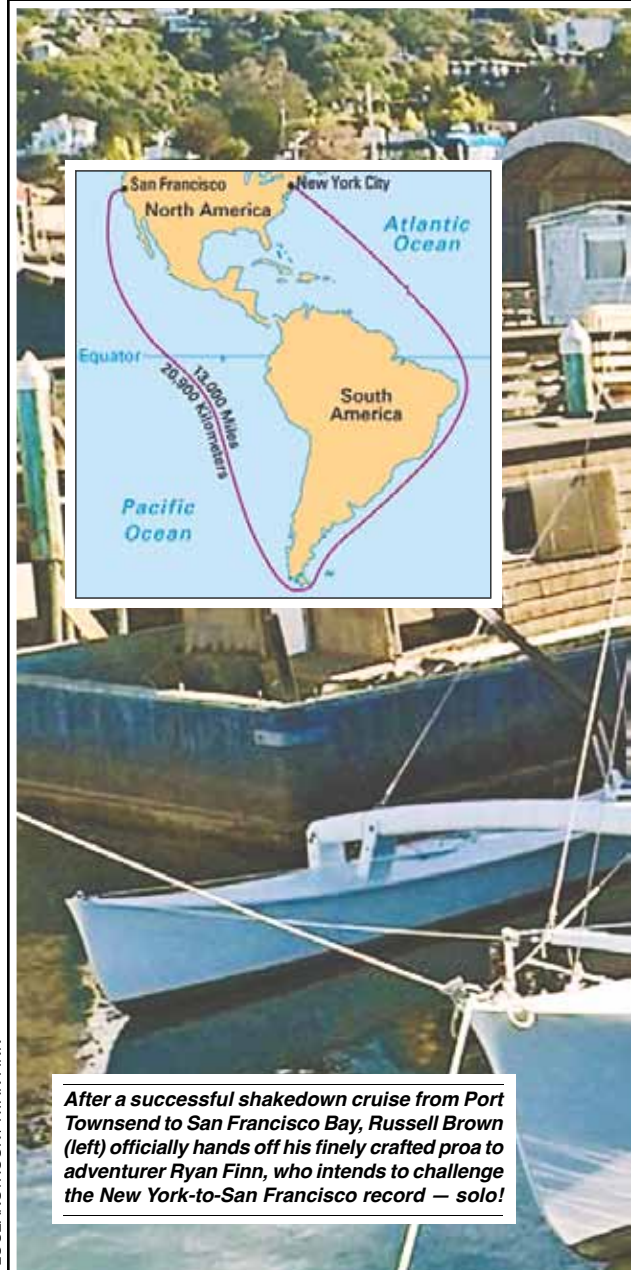
The roster of entries for this loosely organized rally is near 100 and growing, with boats from at least a dozen countries. (See [www.pacificpuddlejumps.com](http://www.pacificpuddlejumps.com).)

As in years past, *Latitude 38* will host PPJ Sendoff Parties in both Mexico and Panama, where each crew will be interviewed and photographed for their 15



ZACK CARVER

**The speedy proa 'Jzerro' romps upwind in the Pacific Northwest. Builder Russell Brown smoked the fleet in Leg One of last summer's Race to Alaska.**



**After a successful shakedown cruise from Port Townsend to San Francisco Bay, Russell Brown (left) officially hands off his finely crafted proa to adventurer Ryan Finn, who intends to challenge the New York-to-San Francisco record — solo!**

2OCEANS1ROCK / RYAN FINN

## mexico and panama

minutes of fame in these pages:

- February 29, 3-6 p.m. — Vallarta YC at Nuevo Vallarta's Paradise Village
- March 6, 2-5 p.m. — Shelter Bay Marina, Panama
- March 7, 2-5 p.m. — Wyndham Hotel, Balboa (Albrook), Panama

In June, we and our Tahitian partners will again host the three-day Tahiti-Moorea Sailing Rendez-Vous (June 24-26), a celebration of the fleet's arrival that introduces cruisers to Polynesian traditions in music, dance, sport and cuisine. Stay tuned for PPJ updates.

— andy

## a marquesan epiphany

When cruising sailors find themselves getting stressed out from trying to stick to a planned itinerary, the best solution may simply be to change the plan. That's what Eric and Leslie Rigney have done at least twice since setting sail from their Marina del Rey homeport.

The first time was in the fall of 2014 when they were scrambling to complete preparations on their 1987 Tayana 42 *Kandu* in order to participate in that year's Baja Ha-Ha rally with their adolescent sons Bryce, then 13, and Trent, then 11. "The stress of trying to achieve that goal prevents me from sleeping," Eric wrote to the Rally Committee in his dropout note. They'd actually signed up and dropped out the previous year also due to a misunderstanding over Eric's retirement status. But they did attend the 2013 Costume Kickoff Party in full pirate garb, and collected their swag bag full of Ha-Ha logowear.

The family finally began their cruising adventures in February 2015,

continued on outside column of next sightings page



# SIGHTINGS

## epiphany — continued

sailing first to Mexico, then eventually to the Galapagos Islands and on to the Marquesas. Eric was wearing his bright-yellow 2013 Ha-Ha shirt when Sausalito-based cruisers Sylvia and Barry Stompe of the Hughes 48 *Iolani* bumped into him on the dock at Nuku Hiva's Taiohae Bay last month. "Before the family's arrival," explains Sylvia, "They'd been beset by difficulties — poor weather, the adjustments to living aboard, breakdowns — and thus had not been having a great time. But after arriving in the Marquesas, they had an epiphany. Rather than rush onwards with their planned five-year circumnavigation, they decided to spend a whole season here. As a result, of course, they're having a much more in-depth experience than most cruisers we've met." And as you can see by the photo on the left, they're now all smiles.

Sylvia explains, "The family has recently obtained certificates of

continued on outside column of next sightings page

## tompkins biopic

Commodore Tompkins has never won the America's Cup or an Olympic medal, but he is widely regarded as one of the most knowledgeable and accomplished sailors on the West Coast.

Born into a voyaging family, he famously rounded Cape Horn aboard the family schooner, *Wander Bird*, at the age of four, and he's been adding impressive feats to his sailing résumé ever since.

A new film about Warwick 'Commodore' Tompkins, Jr.'s life will premiere February 24 at Mill Valley's Throckmorton Theatre — the latest in the highly



*When the Rigneys finally reached the Marquesas they asked themselves, "What's the rush?" Today, they've obtained special residency status, Bryce, 14, and Trent, 12, attend the local school, and Eric and Leslie have volunteered to help with myriad community projects.*

## premieres on 24th

acclaimed *Life on the Water* series of salty sailor profiles by Director Oleg Harencar.

Commodore will fly up from New Zealand to attend, and will field questions. A who's who of local sailing luminaries will also be on hand to share stories. This is sure to be a sellout, so get tickets early at the box office or call (415) 383-9600.

— andy



Aboard 'Wander Bird'.

LIFE ON THE WATER



SYLVIA STEWART STOMPE

## epiphany — continued

resident status in Taiohae Bay, the administrative capital of the Marquesas. The boys are attending the local secondary school; Eric [a former motion picture exec.] is involved with a vocational training program, helping entrepreneurs present their ideas, and culinary students learn their trade. He is also organizing an outrigger racing team to travel

to Southern California. Leslie, a musician and opera singer by trade, is teaching English to locals for free, working with the local music club and school music program, and she sings in church. Volunteering is fun for them, and has been a great way to make friends and integrate into the community."

As we learned by digging out the family's entry materials from the 2013 Ha-Ha, this unplanned stint in the remote Marquesas archipelago is a case of coming full circle for Eric. He and his three younger brothers were raised by their Uncle Bill (Kohut), a mechanical engineer who, Eric recalls, "taught us self-sufficiency, and how to repair and maintain just about anything mechanical or otherwise. He set strong examples in the areas of education, making your own opportunities, dreaming outside the box, the power of small steps leading to big achievements, service to others, and avoiding materialism at all cost."

The ultimate example of Uncle Bill's rugged individualism was when he enlisted Eric, then 14, to help him build a 32-ft ferrocement Colin Archer-style cutter, which they sailed to Hawaii and back, followed a few years later by a more ambitious cruise to French Polynesia, where they lived among the islanders for 18 months.

After completing college, Eric took a break from grad school at California State University at Northridge to captain the same boat, *Getel*, back to the islands again, where he researched his master's thesis on the effects of television on remote islanders.

With such a background, we can't imagine why the Rigneys would ever have thought they could stick to a predetermined game plan. But we certainly look forward to hearing from them as they slowly make their way around the planet.

— andy

## super 12s to debut in 2017

About a year ago, when ex-America's Cup employee Tom Ehman introduced his pipe dream of staging a 12-Meter racing renaissance on San Francisco Bay — in reaction to the astronomical costs of foiling-era A-Cup campaigning — the idea drew a mixed reaction. But today, momentum is building, with several nations showing strong interest, a summer 2017 race date announced, and last month the first renderings released for this sexy new one-design class.

Farr Yacht Design embraced the challenge of drawing an elegant-looking sloop reminiscent of the classic 12-Meters (used in Cup competition prior to 1987) above the waterline, yet with ultra-modern

continued on outside column of next sightings page



KANDU

Back in 2013, the family struck this pose for inclusion in the Baja Ha-Ha event program. Not surprisingly, these days the guys' hair is a bit longer, and their shirts are not freshly pressed.

# SIGHTINGS

## super 12s — continued

underbodies.

As reported earlier, the new event, dubbed the San Francisco Racing Challenge, would take place annually here on the Bay, and would be focused on match racing among teams that would have strict crew nationality requirements — including participation of female sailors, as well as crew under 30 and over 65. Only a bare minimum of modern electronic gadgetry would be allowed

Because boats would be identical (apart from sail inventories), boat construction cost would be \$2- to \$3 million — 'affordable', at least by recent A-Cup standards — and would be used for a decade or more of racing. According to Ehman, the strongest interest thus far has been from an Italian team, with additional interest by teams from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, The Netherlands, Thailand, and Spain, in addition to three US teams.

The first event's date? July 21, 2017 — shortly after the conclusion of America's Cup 35. Skeptics be warned. This is one pipe dream that might actually come to fruition.

— andy

## solo sailors in lonely waters

As we've been reporting here and in 'Lectronic Latitude, in recent weeks the massive trimarans IDEC Sport and Spindrift 2 roared around the world through the high latitudes of the Southern Ocean, attempting to set a new Trophée Jules Verne record. Neither did so, but along the way their crews kept armchair supporters in many nations updated through blog posts, press releases and uploaded on-board photography. (See page 60 for a recap.) Meanwhile, far from the glare of international media spotlights, two solitary sailors have also been circling the globe on different routes without the fanfare that accompanies heavily sponsored campaigns.

In 2007 US Virgin Islands-based Donna Lange completed a two-stop solo circumnavigation via the Great Capes aboard her spar-

tan Southern Cross 28 *Inspired Insanity* — one of only a few women ever to sail that route alone. Then last July 31 this grandmother of 11 set sail from Rhode Island aboard the same boat, determined to complete another lap around the planet, this time nonstop. If she does it, she will become the first American woman to hold that distinction.

As we go to press, Donna is sailing in very lonely waters: along latitude 43°S, roughly halfway between New Zealand and Cape Horn, the last of five Great Capes that she has yet to round before driving north to complete the loop at Rhode Island.

Meanwhile, longtime bluewater cruiser Jeff Hartjoy of Washington state is roughly 1,000 miles northeast of Cape Horn in his battle-



**Donna Lange is certainly one of the toughest female sailors on the planet. She's now approaching the Horn, then it's north to Rhode Island.**

INSPIRED INSANITY

continued on outside column of next sightings page

## what's next

As we reported previously in *Latitude 38* and 'Lectronic Latitude, Bill Lee has bought back the 68-ft sled he designed that epitomized the whole 'fast is fun' revolution. Lee first launched *Merlin* in 1977 and set the Transpac record that year. He sold the boat in late 1982. "My wife and I are now the eighth owners," he said when we visited him over the New Year's holiday. In late October, he had the boat trucked from Wisconsin to the Santa Cruz Harbor Boatyard.

In the hands of the six intervening owners, *Merlin* underwent a metamor-



**Spread: 'Merlin's designer and the boat's diminutive mascot, Harvey, gave us a tour at the end of December. Inset: Bill Lee.**

BOTH PHOTOS: LATITUDE / CHRIS

FARR YACHT DESIGN



**With traditional lines topside and a modern underbody, the new Super 12s should be fast and fun.**



## for merlin

phosis. Only the hull is original. "The third owner redid the house and put all new hardware on it," said Lee. "We're on the fourth mast, the fourth engine, third keel, and second deck and cockpit."

Lee removed the machinery for the canting keel. "We're not going to do the canting keel again." Lee has a couple of leads on a fixed keel, and one possibility is to remodel the existing keel. "It's a 12-ft draft and we don't want any more than 10 and a half. It's too deep for lots of places and it just turns into inconve-

continued in middle column of next sightings page

## lonely waters — continued

tested Baba 40 ketch *Sailors Run*, heading for South Africa. Having started his trip last Halloween from Bahia Caraquez, Ecuador, the 69-year-old retiree got the trickiest cape out of the way early, but many substantial challenges still lie ahead. If he is successful, Jeff will be the oldest American to circumnavigate alone nonstop.

Needless to say, to complete such an arduous rounding — even at six knots — you need to be a jack of all trades as well as an extremely competent mariner. Thus far, both Donna and Jeff have faced all sorts of fix-it challenges, from torn sails to computer problems. On January 9 *Inspired Insanity* took a knockdown that broke her boom. "It was a critical point," wrote Donna in an insightful blog posting ([www.sailblogs.com/member/sailtwicearound](http://www.sailblogs.com/member/sailtwicearound)), "as now the entire second half of the trip would cater to sailing a vessel with a

continued on outside column of next sightings page



# SIGHTINGS

## lonely waters — continued

broken boom." With the mast intact, she ran her main loose-footed while devising a step-by-step plan to splint the boom using whatever materials she had on board.

Half a world away, Jeff has had plenty of problems of his own; especially trying to hold his genoa together. He's reported sewing it back together so many times that by now it must look like a patchwork quilt. "Wow, 82 day totally alone;" he wrote late last month, "not another soul to lay eyes upon. This all seems pretty strange. I'm definitely a prisoner of this voyage, and thank God it is by my own doing." (Get email reports via: [sailorsrun01@yahoo.com](mailto:sailorsrun01@yahoo.com).)

As this issue hits the streets February 1, Donna will have been at sea for 185 days, with less than 10,000 miles to go. Jeff will have been at sea for 92 days, with half the distance yet to conquer. We wish them both the very best of luck.

— andy

## merlin —

nience waiting for high tide."

The boat has a bowsprit now, and swept-back spreaders. "It was done in '97 before they were sweeping 'em back as far — it's only half-sweep. The current poles are 100 pounds and 28-ft long — way too big. "In the original cockpit, the wheel was clear up where the traveler is. The cockpit itself was much smaller. The deckhouse was three inches lower and stopped before the mast. There's nothing wrong with this one functionally, but it's really ugly."

Lee's ambition is to race *Merlin* in the 2017 Transpac. "We went with eight crew



## continued

in '77, and they were all 25-35 years old. Some of us are older now! So it may take more." He'll also do Wednesday night races in Santa Cruz. Regarding the 2016 Pacific Cup, Lee confirmed, "It's available for charter. Nobody has raised their hand yet."

Lee said that when he took delivery, "It hadn't been used for three years. The last season they sailed it was 2012." The previous owner, Jerome Sullivan, was 82 when he bought her. "He had five great seasons on the Great Lakes, and then it was just a little much."

— chris



**Moni Blum delivers her new-to-her Express 27 from Richmond to the start of a Berkeley Chowder Race.**

LORI TEWKSBURY

## hang 20 with lori & moni

"When we heard that *Great White* might be for sale it sparked something in us and made us realize that we wanted to take the next step and become boat owners," said Bay Area sailor Lori Tewksbury. She had doublehanded an Express 27 years ago and always loved the boat — and doublehanding. Her friend Moni Blum has been racing on a fully-crewed Express 27 for the past few years and also loves the boat.

"We've always enjoyed sailing together and realized that owning a boat together would make it affordable for both of us," explained Tewksbury. In September, they talked to *Great White's* owners, Rachel Fogel and JP Sirey, during Jazz Cup and Rolex Big Boat Series. With the Express, Fogel and Sirey had taken second place in Doublehanded 2 in the 2010 Pacific Cup. "It took a little while, but we finalized the deal over breakfast at All's Fare the Sunday of Great Pumpkin, October 25," said Lori.

She and Moni plan to race fully crewed inside the Bay — hopefully with all women — and doublehanded on the ocean, and will share driving and foredeck between the two of them (both normally do

bow on other boats). "We're working on a paint job to match the new name of the boat, *Hang 20* — which comes from us both being foredeck." And yes, they'll have a proper renaming ceremony.

Neither sailor has owned a boat before. Lori Tewksbury, who's 48, has extensive experience crewing on other people's boats. "I started as foredeck with Bill Chapman on the Catalina 27 *Latin Lass*, have experience doublehanding the Express 27 offshore with Rachel, crewed ocean racing on *Petard* (Farr 36) and *Ahi* (Santana 35), then *Sea Star* (Cal 39)." On the Bay, her experience — usually on the bow — includes many years with *Ahi*, 'little' *Bodacious* (a 40-ft Farr one-ton), *Bodacious+* (ID48), *Stewball* (Express 37) and *Sea Star*, and also years racing aboard the Merit 25 *Bewitched* on the Oakland Estuary. Last year the Martinez resident joined the Moore 24 *Hasta Nunca* for beer can races in Vallejo. "I learned to sail at Cal Sailing Club on dinghies and try to get out on a trapeze whenever I can," she added.

Moni Blum, age 33, lives in Berkeley but comes from Germany, where she started sailing originally. Like her new boat partner, she developed her skills at Cal Sailing Club in Berkeley. "Straight from the beginning of my racing keelboats I was put on the foredeck and never left it," said Blum. "My first was on an Express 27, *Hurricane*, and this is also the reason why I fell in love with the Expresses. Over the last years I have crewed in Bay races on many different boats, but my two main boats were the Cal 39 *Sea Star* (Bay and offshore) and the Express 27 *Current Affair* (on the Bay)."

In January, the duo sailed doublehanded in the 11-boat full-crew Express 27 division of the Corinthian Midwinters, and were signed up for January 30's SSS Three Bridge Fiasco. We wish them the best of luck.

— chris



MONI BLUM

**Lori Tewksbury, Moni Blum's new boat partner in 'Hang 20' (ex-'Great White'), feels right at home on the bow.**

# SIGHTINGS

## jules verne record remains unbroken

Pitting maxi-trimarans *Spindrift 2* (ex-*Banque Populaire V*) and *IDEC Sport* (ex-*Groupama 3*, *Lending Club 2*, etc.) against the 45-day circumnavigation record set by *Banque Populaire V* in 2011-12, the de-facto 2015-16 Trophée Jules Verne 'race' was a thriller from start to finish. After crossing the startline between France's Ushant Island and Cornwall's Lizard Light just two hours apart on November 22, *IDEC Sport* and *Spindrift 2* raced down the Atlantic on an almost ideal weather window, completing just one jibe to reach the equator. Both were well ahead of the record pace until being slowed by a storm front off the Brazilian coast. Once past the Cape of Good Hope and into the Indian Ocean, Francis Joyon's *IDEC Sport* dove south and reeled off an incredible five-and-a-half-day run — the 105-ft VPLP trimaran's speed almost never dropped below 35 knots, allowing her to set a new Indian Ocean crossing record.

Regaining 800 miles on *Banque Pop V*'s reference time and closing to within striking distance of her larger rival, *IDEC Sport* stalked Dona Bertarelli and Yann Guichard's 130-ft *Spindrift 2* as the two boats sailed within sight of each other for a time while crossing the Pacific. Living up to its name, the Pacific Ocean slowed both trimarans with light air off New Zealand and lingering high pressure in the middle, plus short, choppy seas on the approach to Cape Horn. Despite these adverse conditions, *Spindrift 2* still managed to cross the Pacific quickly enough to maintain a lead over the reference time at Cape Horn, with *IDEC Sport* less than a day behind and just three and a half hours off the record-breaking pace.

With both *Spindrift 2* and *IDEC Sport* still in the hunt some three-quarters of the way around the globe, both crews pushed as hard as they could up the Atlantic. In the end, their fate was sealed by the gods, who sided with 'their own' and protected Loïck Peyron and *Banque Populaire V*'s now-elusive record of 45d, 13h, 42m. Slowed by light air and headwinds while ascending the South Atlantic and more light air at the latitude of the Canaries, neither boat enjoyed the fast conditions that *Banque Populaire V* had sailing up the Atlantic. On January 8, the challengers finished within two hours of each other, although in the reverse order from which they started. *Spindrift 2* clocked the second fastest circumnavigation in history with a time of 47d, 10h, 59m. *IDEC Sport*'s six-man crew captured the third quickest time ever with an elapsed time of 47d, 14h, 47m, some 17 hours quicker than the boat's former TJV time of 48d, 7h, 44m.

— ronnie simpson

## receding ice reveals lost ships

If you're always looking for 'silver linings', you'll be interested

in recent discoveries made by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) scientists thanks to diminishing sea ice in the Arctic.

Early last month the agency announced discovery of the remains of two sail-powered whaling ships that, along with 31 others, became trapped by pack ice in September 1871 — 144 years ago — in Arctic

latitudes off Alaska's northwest coast. All 33 ships had to be abandoned, leaving 1,200 crewmen stranded in the icy wasteland ashore.

continued on outside column of next sightings page



This artist's rendering captures the desperate scene as 12,000 whalers are forced to abandon their ships.

HARPER'S WEEKLEY

## el niño ate

Anyone who's spent a real winter on the water there can tell you that San Francisco's South Bay can fetch up some nasty wave action in stormy weather. We haven't had a 'real' winter in a few years, but this season's El Niño-driven march of fronts has changed all that.

In the churned-up sea state, the temporary docks that were intended for use in McCovey Cove for the Progressive San Francisco Boat Show on January 15-18 would have resembled bucking broncos more than safe walkways.

So, the organizers at the National Marine Manufacturer Association made the tough decision to postpone the third edition of the City's boat show. They



INSET IDEC SPORT / ALEX PELLA

Needless to say, nonstop around-the-world record-setting is not for every sailor. Spread: 'Spindrift 2' Bowman Sebastien Marsset is winched to the lofty heights of the 130-ft tri's towering mast during a tranquil day early in the Trophee Jules Verne challenge. Inset: While hanging on to 'IDEC Sport's 110-ft masthead with no hands, crewman Alex Pella — who's called the Spanish Swiss Army knife due to his versatility — couldn't resist snapping a selfie.

SPREAD SPINDRIFT RACING / YANN RIOU

## the boat show

worked through the night of January 7 to break the news and confirm alternate dates, April 28-May 1. "El Niño is wreaking havoc on the Bay Area, and, as a result, is forcing us to change our plans for the San Francisco Boat Show," wrote NMMA's vice president, Dave Geoffroy, at the time.

Then, on January 25, NMMA announced that there would, after all, be no show this year. "After speaking with many exhibitors over the past couple weeks, and running into significant challenges that a last-minute move requires, we have decided to cancel this year's show," said Geoffroy.

— *chris*

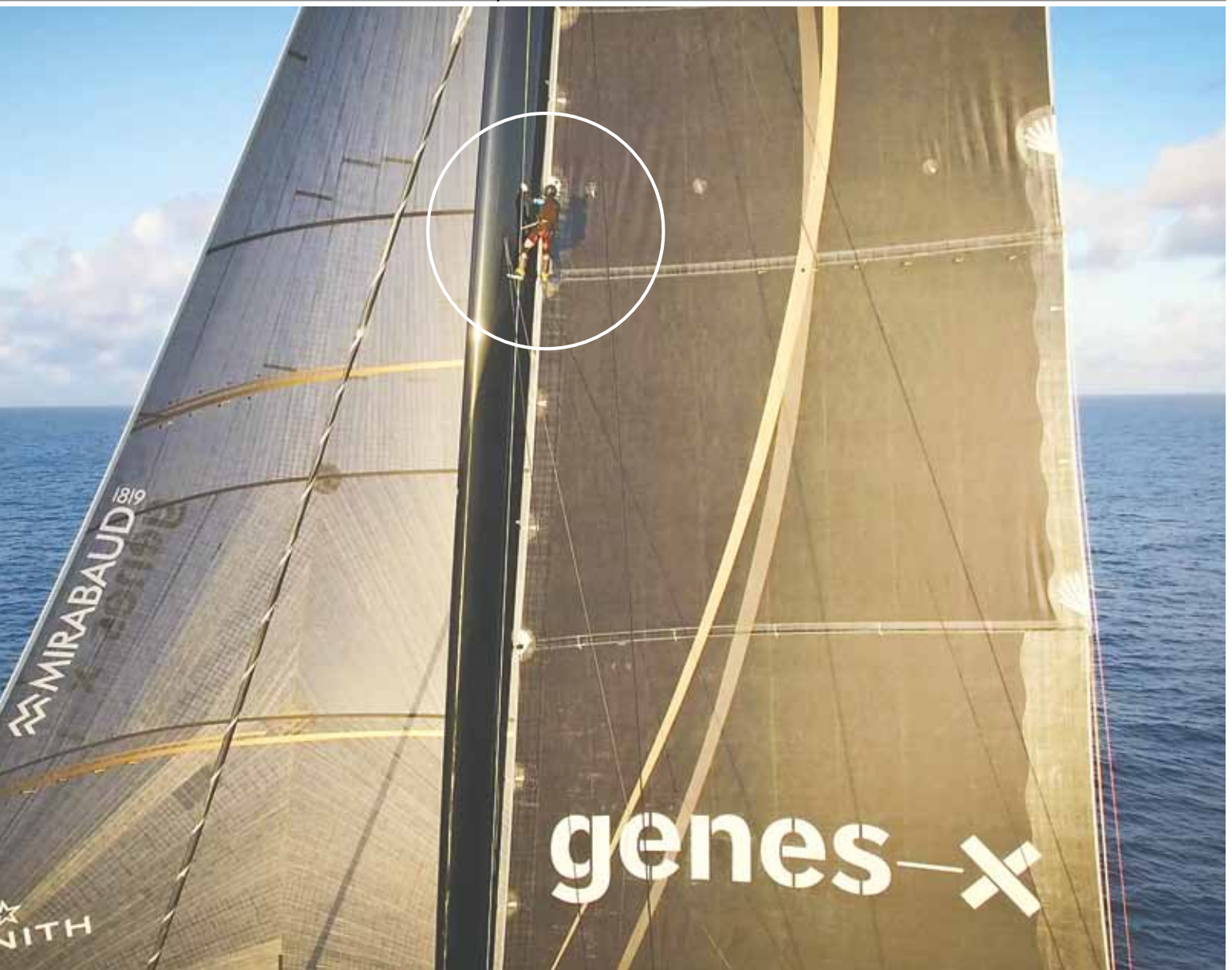
## lost ships — continued

Within a few weeks the entire fleet had broken up and sunk to the bottom. Incredibly though, all of the shipwrecked crewmen were eventually rescued by seven additional whaling ships that had been operating nearby — but in order to do so, those vessels had to jettison their hard-earned cargo of whale oil, as well as other supplies.

According to the NOAA report, "With less ice in the Arctic as a result of climate change, archaeologists now have more access to potential shipwreck sites than ever before... Using state-of-the-art sonar and sensing technology, the NOAA team was able to plot the 'magnetic signature' of the two wrecks, including the outline of their flattened hulls. The wreck site also revealed anchors, fasteners, ballast and brick-lined pots used to render whale blubber into oil."

But as fascinating as it was to close this chapter of maritime history, researchers are naturally wary of long-term effects of diminishing sea ice and melting permafrost — a climatic wild card if ever there was one.

— *andy*



# CRUISING IN THE 'LAND OF MEN' —

Longtime cruisers Linda Edeiken and Chuck Houlihan of the San Diego-based Allied 39 Jacaranda are respectful travelers who love to immerse themselves in the cultures they visit. As a new fleet of Pacific Puddle Jumpers prepares to cross to French Polynesia, we'll share the couple's insightful report from their visit last summer.

The remote Marquesas Islands — *Te Henua Enana* ("Land of Men") as they are called by the islanders — are at the edge of a new world for Chuck and me: the South Pacific, with its storybook allure and resemblance to paradise. We are awed by the magical landscapes and exotic culture, and intoxicated by the colors and fragrances that bombard our senses, but it is the people who have seduced us most of all. The proud Marquesans laugh so easily; they are always ready with a smile and wear *tiare* (gardenia) flowers in their hair. These distinctive people, who almost vanished from the face of the earth not so very long ago, eagerly welcome you and take you home with them, all the while generously showering you with gifts of tropical fruits.

Since the 1800s, when Captain Cook's journals were widely read, Polynesia has served as the definition of paradise for many outsiders. Its 117 islands are contained within an area of the South Pacific Ocean that is larger than Western Europe. Certainly, the most well-known of its five archipelagos is the Society Islands, with Tahiti, Moorea and Bora Bora at its heart. To the northeast lies the isolated Marquesas archipelago. Says a website, "Happily, the islands are not flooded by tourists — this place is very remote and the beauty of Marquesas is not much known in the world." Out of 12 islands, six are inhabited: three southern islands — Hiva Oa, Tahuata and Fatu

**A favorite Marquesan anchorage is the idyllic Bay of Virgins in Fatu Hiva.**

Hiva, and three northern islands — Ua Pou, Ua Huka and Nuku Hiva (where the administrative capital of Taiohae is located).

The Marquesan allure of romance has remained strong in the Western imagination, initiated by the literary celebrity of Herman Melville's *Typee* — until the 20th century, he was better known for this book than for *Moby Dick* — and reinforced by other such notables as Robert Louis Stevenson, Jack London, Thor Heyerdahl and Jacques Brel. But perhaps the South Pacific's most renowned devotee was Paul Gauguin, who escaped from France to search for a "simple, savage life" and captured it in his art for all the world to see. He found it in Tahiti and then the Marquesas, where he died in 1903 on the island of Hiva Oa. We made the pilgrimage to visit his grave in the Atuona cemetery, near the grave of French singer Brel, and also visited Gauguin's museum and an exhibition dedicated to Brel.

Although a Spaniard stumbled upon the Marquesas in 1595, the remote archipelago wasn't visited again until 1774 by Captain Cook. The French tinkered with them a bit early on as did American Captain Joseph Ingraham who tried to claim the islands in the name of an uninterested US. Finally, in 1848, they were claimed by France, which supports them today as a French overseas territory. The Marquesas archipelago flies three flags: French, Polynesian and

Marquesan. French and Tahitian are the official languages of French Polynesia, but the revived Marquesan language is also spoken here.

Of the two types of island landforms found in French Polynesia — low-lying coral atolls and high, craggy, lush volcanic mountains, the Marquesas are characterized by the latter, and are geographically reminiscent of Hawaii. Imagine a crumpled piece of paper in the shape of a green pyramid: from the main peak of formidable cliffs, rock pillars and spires dotted with tall waterfalls, radiate lush canyons and valleys that slope toward the sea, and terminate in rocky outcroppings, boulder shores, or white- or black-sand beaches.

Once upon a time in the days before Western contact, each isolated valley, separated by nearly impassable, knife-like ridges, was occupied by its own settlement and chief. They were a strong and proud people who adhered to a resilient Polynesian culture and belief system that included a strict hierarchical society, intertribal warfare, tattoos, ritualistic cannibalism, tiki symbolism, and polytheistic worship, as well as expert carvers, dancers, drummers and

*Contact with navigators, trade ships, whalers and missionaries nearly brought about the total demise of the people.*

musicians.

Discovery by the Western world was devastating, and contact with navigators, trade ships, whalers and missionaries nearly brought about the total demise of the people themselves, as well as their culture. Foreign diseases and epidemics decimated their numbers. The population was estimated to be 80,000 at the time of European arrival, shrinking to 15,000 in 1848, and then to a mere 2,000 by 1926. Today, there are only 9,000 Marquesans.

Marquesan culture and traditional ways largely disappeared through colonization and Catholic conversion, which was almost complete by 1860. Their ancient societal foundations crumbled, oral traditions were lost, and the archipelago became a largely vanished world. What little survived was transformed. Even now, many valleys remain empty where great communities once lived — archaeological remains are found everywhere.



**Flower artistry and tattoos are ubiquitous in these islands.**



# THE MARQUESAS ISLANDS

Today, traditional art forms such as tattooing and some aspects of culture are experiencing a strong renaissance. Ironically enough, it is the journals and documentation of some early western visitors that form the basis of reconstruction. Archaeological sites are being excavated and restored, major inter-island cultural festivals are held, and traditional dance, music and handicrafts are showcased. The fine decorative arts traditions of Marquesan ancestors



are finally getting their due. The first museum exhibition took place in 2005 — only 11 years ago — at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.

For four centuries these islands have served as a preserve of explorers, adventurers and artists. Arrived on June 10 after our three-week voyage from the Ecuador's Galapagos Islands, we were thrilled to take our place among the collection of dreamers who have made the effort to see the Marquesas Islands for themselves firsthand.

The following are notes from some of the islands we visited.

**Tahuata Island** — This is the smallest inhabited island, with a population of 671. There are no tourists here. It has a stormy history of first Polynesian contact with Europeans in 1595.

**Hanamoenoa Bay** — Making landfall on Tahuata Island, in picture-perfect Hanamoenoa Bay, was a smart decision guided by Chuck's memory from a previous trip in 1991. We chose to hang here and rest, catch up on our sleep, clean the bottom of sludge and barnacles, swim, beach-walk, visit with cruiser friends, and just recuperate. This is a beautiful bay with turquoise water and a palm-fringed white-sand beach backed by green mountains. Best of all, it is flat — a treasure here, as the Marquesas have a well-deserved reputation for roly, uncomfortable anchorages. Manta rays glide around the boats, dolphins come

to feed, and wild horses and goats dot the hillsides. Hanamoenoa became one of our favorite anchorages, and we returned several times within the first months.

When we went ashore we met Steven, who we realized later is an atypically typical Marquesan. A handsome young man of 33, he is tall with bronzed skin, long dark hair and a beautiful smile, looking rather like an unpretentious Johnny Depp/Jack Sparrow sans make-up and foppery. Steven is a modern-day Robinson Crusoe who is cultivating his ancestral property, existing hand-to-mouth off the land and sea.

Although he had a house across the Bordelais Channel on Hiva Oa, he claims he swam across the channel to settle on the beach where he grew up with his grandfather rather than stay in Atuona as his parents wished. His shelter is a small shack at the edge of the beach, surrounded by his garden of coconut palms, *pamplemousse* (grapefruit), oranges, limes and bananas. We often saw him fishing at night with a light. Inland, all the islands are teeming with wild pigs and goats, free for the taking and hunting. This is done daily, with the help of a handful of skinny dogs. 'Rustic' is too elegant a word for Steven's lifestyle.

Steven is a gentle and soft-spoken soul who gave us our first lesson in Marquesan values of respect for nature and love of self-sufficiency and independence. He was the first, but not the last, to rail against Tahiti saying, "If you are in Papeete and you have no money, you will not eat. Here in the Marquesas you can always eat. But we only take what we need and nothing more." Steven enjoys befriending those cruisers who come ashore and who are considerate not to enter his garden or pick his fruit without permission; however, he has nothing but disdain for trespassers. He often takes cruisers fishing — he knows which fish have the ciguatera toxin and which are safe to eat — and invites them to have dinner, cooking goat, pork or octopus in coconut milk, which he rasps from the



**Young and old take great pride in performing traditional dances in handmade costumes.**

fresh coconut meat himself. In return, cruisers often support him in innumerable ways — giving him food, water or supplies; charging his phone; transporting him to the next bay — whatever they can do to help.

On a sunny afternoon that suddenly turned gray with characteristic tropical fickleness, Steven and I sat on the beach together in a robust but ephemeral downpour, exchanging stories of our love of the sea. Steven had brought out a half coconut shell filled with sweet, grated coconut meat for us to snack on. He told me about the bay: "Lots of dolphins come in here and push the fish to the rocks," he said motioning to the north shore. "Then they fish until they are full and go, leaving the mothers behind with their babies so they can teach them how to do it. Manta rays swim over the reef," he continued, pointing to a spot beyond where *Jacaranda* was anchored. "Some cruisers chase the dolphins and manta rays in their dinghies, and come and kill sea animals only for their shells, not for food," he said, shaking his head sadly. I spoke of whale nurseries and riding the giant manta rays of Socorro Island, of shark-finning, octopus hunting with bleach, and the overfishing I had witnessed elsewhere. Steven spoke of his '*Jacaranda*' makes landfall after a three-week crossing from the Galapagos Islands.



# CRUISING IN THE 'LAND OF MEN' —

ALL PHOTOS JACARANDA



**Needless to say, Marquesans take their tattooing tradition very seriously.**

grandfather. I spoke of my sons. Then he got up, went into his garden, and returned with three cowrie shells as a gift and a flowering sprig of basil for me to wear behind my ear (any fragrant flower will do). When I asked him if I could take his picture, he declined, gently touching my head and then my heart, and told me to remember him that way.

Our admiration and friendship deepened with each subsequent visit to Hanamoenoa Bay. Steven joined us for lunch one afternoon on *Jacaranda* and we joked that all he needed now was a good *pirogue* (outrigger canoe) and a pretty woman (*vahine po 'otu*) or a pretty *pirogue* and a good woman. He laughed and said his grandfather was building him a canoe.

Other wonderful memories of Hanamoenoa Bay included: swimming for hours with manta rays, joined by the girls from the sailboat *Muneera*, an evening on *Space* and *Orion*, two catamarans rafted together, both owned by the same intrepid and crazy young Australian named Jeff and his French girlfriend, and crewed by a changing international gang of six to eight youth. We shared fresh sashimi with them and

**The underwater realm here remains unspoiled, and is abundant with wildlife.**



had a look at the goat that was going to be the guest of honor at an imminent beach barbecue.

**Hapitoni** — Two days after our initial stop in Hanamoenoa we got sidetracked by the enticement of a church festival in the small nearby village of Hapitoni, and joined an exodus of a dozen sailboats to relocate five miles down-island to Hana Tefau, so we could attend the celebration. This beautiful anchorage is at the base of a high, steep cliff wall that has several small waterfalls trickling down it. A large pod of dolphins was feeding in the bay among the group of sailboats. Steven had told us it was a dolphin nursery.

If Steven was our first introduction to the Marquesan persona, Hapitoni was our first exposure to Marquesan society. We took the dinghy to the wharf where several young boys hung out to help us with our line, yelling "*KaOha!*" in greeting. Chuck was delighted to see that since he was last here in 1991 the town had built a protective riprap breakwater, which made our landing easy, and no longer made it a necessity to anchor the dinghy and swim ashore. Colorful outrigger canoes called *vakas* were pulled up on shore.

This was a picturesque village with the unique feature of Queen Vaekehu's 'royal road' paralleling the seafront, overhung by an arbor of large, gnarled, century-old tamanu trees. We walked down this distinctive 19th-century dirt road past houses with woven palm-frond fences, an ancient religious site (*me 'ae*), copra-drying sheds, community artisan space and a cemetery, then finally reached a small church and adjacent school in the center of an open, grassy field, the epicenter of activity on this Saturday.

Spirited teams of men and women played *pétanque*, a French game of lawn bowling similar to *boules* or *boce*.

Elsewhere, young children were engaged in 'fishing' for prizes, similar to our familiar carnival games. Perched along steps leading up to the field were a dozen women with boxes of flowers in their laps, weaving traditional garlands called



**The jagged remains of ancient volcanoes give Marquesan peaks their tooth-like appearance.**

*hei* to wear on their heads at the evening's dance and at the next morning's church service. The sweet fragrance of the *tiare*, a gardenia that is the national flower of the Marquesas, can knock you off your feet. We ogled a display of carvings of wood, bone, swordfish bills and shells by the famously expert Hapitoni artisans.

We people-watched, captivated by our observations — and frustrated by the communication gap we suddenly found ourselves in. We felt like fish out of water not knowing French. So many wonderful new people and things we were seeing with no way to actively participate, get adequate explanations, or carry on conversations! Envious of our French cruising friends who helped us with translations, we relied on them and contented ourselves with quietly taking it all in. Eventually, we began to pick up a few Marquesan words and phrases here and there.

At 6 o'clock, a free dinner was served to all in attendance (roughly 300 people). It was a delicious plate of pork and lentil stew over rice with a piece of buttered bread and a sweet finger banana for dessert. The evening performance of religious dramas enacting Bible stories commenced an hour later, incorporating a modest sampling of Marquesan dance, music and song.

One thing that really delighted us was watching the Marquesans with their babies and toddlers. The phrase "it takes a village to raise a child" could have been coined here. The little ones are so loved and shared by everyone. They are picked up, held and kissed, played with and cooed at. There was one adorable little girl in particular who was with a different woman each time we saw her, and we never did figure out who her mother was, although we kept asking.

In church the next morning, small children were handed up and over from one pew to the next, passed from one person to another, until they made



# THE MARQUESAS ISLANDS



the rounds of the entire congregation during the service.

Sunday morning we returned to the village early to attend the church service and listen to the acapella singing in complex harmonies that the Marquesans are renowned for. This is now

our Sunday routine no matter where we are, as we enjoy the superb harmonizing, drumming, family interaction, and women dressed in their finery with flower crowns.

As we were sitting outside waiting for the service to begin, a woman and her family sat next to us and she introduced herself. She wanted to practice her English and we were excited to connect with her and spend time together both before and after the singing. Her name was Tahia, meaning "princess" in Marquesan, and she was the school teacher at a village called Motope. School teachers are the people to seek out in each village if you are looking for someone who speaks English!

**Vaitahu** — After several more weeks of exploring, we returned to Hanamoenoa Bay on July 2 yet again to welcome our friends David and Kim Wegesend to the Marquesas after their tiring 18-day Puddle Jump from the Galapagos. Having had to hand-steer their Hawaii-based

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Catana 42 *Maluhia* for eight days due to autopilot malfunction, they were a bit weary, but in great spirits! We had a fun combination birthday/happy landfall dinner on *Jacaranda* complete with crowns and 'hand-steering awards' that I made out of aluminum foil.

Two days later Kim and David joined us to take *Jacaranda* down-island for the day to the main village of Vaitahu, known for its beautiful Catholic church and great carvings. Very significantly, Vaitahu is where Europeans first arrived in the South Pacific. In 1595 the Spanish navigator, Álvaro de Mendaña, made a most murderous entrance, shooting inhabitants on sight. Captain Cook arrived 200 years later in 1774, but was shunned. Admiral Abel Dupetit-Thouars took possession for France here in 1842 despite strong resistance.

Less than an hour after leaving Hanamoenoa, we entered the large open bay and anchored next to the *Aranui*, a working supply ship that serves as a delivery lifeline between Tahiti and the Marquesas. Built as a cargo ship in the front, it doubles as a cruise ship in the back with cabins, decks and a swimming pool. It accommodates 200 passengers and offers tourists an iconic 8- to 14-day cruise to the islands that is supposed to be one of the world's best adventure cruises.

The *Aranui's* appearance at each Marquesan Island is a major event and the whole village/town mobilizes around it. Cars queue up to meet it at the dock for offloaded goods, or small boats ferry out to pick up goods and deliver copra or fruit. Artisan markets are brimming with articles for sale, traditional dances are performed, and special meals are offered. We used to run away when the cruise ships came to Mexican towns, in order to avoid the crass commercialization and hordes of tourists. But here in the Marquesas, it is the best time to see a sleepy town show its stuff.

A big swell was running this day and Chuck and David did a reconnaissance in the dinghy to determine the best place to get ashore. The northern concrete loading dock and several rough beach



**Master carvers shape both bone and hardwood.**



areas were untenable, so we decided to try the rocky shore in the southern part of the bay. Chuck skillfully maneuvered the dinghy as Kim and I disembarked on the rocks and scooted higher to safety. David got out of the dinghy next, but the timing was bad, and he almost got swept away by some big swells, suffering

some scrapes and barely recovering his hat and backpack. The only choice for Chuck now was to anchor the dinghy 30 meters beyond the breaking waves and swim over to us. What a gnarly landing! We all scrambled over the rocks to reach the shore, watching the dinghy over our shoulders as it lifted and fell with the incoming swells, but it seemed secure enough.

By the time we walked around to see the village, the tourists had returned to the *Aranui*, the artisans had packed up their wares and departed, and the town

**A young dancer watches the moves of a competing troupe, as she waits to perform.**



# CRUISING IN THE 'LAND OF MEN'

was deserted and still.

We explored the waterfront, entered the beautiful church to see the wood carvings and stained-glass windows, and climbed the hill from the creek to reach a famous artisan's house and workshop.

Teiki Barsinas is considered one of the best bone and shell carvers in the Marquesas. His work is in the British Museum, a French museum, and several other impressive collections around the world. A big, shy man with large hands, Teiki led us into his small, dark and cluttered studio. We all had to duck down as we entered the dark recesses of the shed that led to his work area. His worktable faced an open window that let some natural light into the dark space. It was filled with an array of materials and tools, bones were piled high in one corner, and animal skulls hung from the ceiling. Mother-of-pearl shells lay in a heap in another corner. There were also whale teeth, helmet shells and swordfish bills. Under a lamp and next to a Dremel tool, some carving rasps, and files lay some intricately carved pendants and tikis. He modestly showed us his work:



CHUCK HOULIHAN

**By the time Linda left Teiki's studio with her hand-carved pendant, she'd made a friend.**

available items he had completed that were for sale, a few things in progress, an extensive looseleaf notebook filled with previously purchased works, letters of customer appreciation, and business cards from various museum curators. He was justly proud.

David and I each picked out a favorite bone pendant and asked Teiki if he would trade for some cash and some large *tagua* nuts which I had brought

from Ecuador. This was a new material he was interested in and he showed us some recent carvings he had done in *tagua* that had been obtained from other cruisers. The exchange happily made, we left the cramped semi-darkness and emerged into his sunny open yard. Teiki summoned his 12-year-old twin daughters, "Thelma and Louise" (as he called them, with a broad smile), to help him pick some fruit for us. Adorned with our new treasures around our necks, David and I posed for photos with Teiki before we all shared a juicy *pamplemousse*, followed by an orange and a new type of mango. We left with armfuls of fruit and a lot of pleasure from meeting such a talented master and his wonderful family.

— linda edeiken

*Readers — We'll have to end here, but we encourage you to read more of Linda's insightful reporting on the Marquesas and elsewhere by visiting the couple's blog-site: [www.jacarandajourney.com](http://www.jacarandajourney.com) (Select Passage Notes in the main menu.)*

— Ed.

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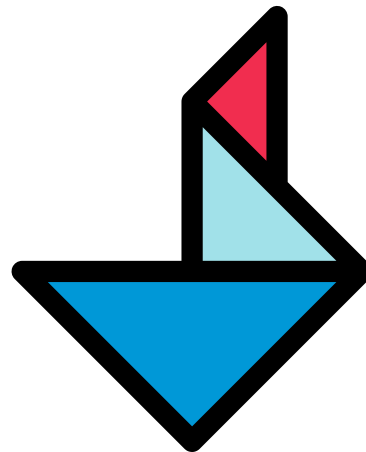
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# THE EVOLUTION OF MIDWINTERS



**I**t's not really a 'Circle' anymore, but the racing venue west of Berkeley Marina, known as the 'Olympic Circle' or 'Berkeley Circle' serves up windy-to-nukin' conditions in the Slot for serious summer racing and casual beer cans. During the winter, the Slot goes into hibernation, the conditions are (usually) pretty mild, and Berkeley Yacht Club and RegattaPRO run winter races there.

"The original design of the Circle centered on XOC," explains BYC's Bob Gray. "One mile due north was A; one mile east of X was C; one mile south of X was E; one mile west of X was G. B, D, F and H were at 45° off the preceding letter's line. Each letter was set one mile from X. The original metal ball buoys were anchored in place with really heavy railroad wheels and big chains. The metal balls had to be removed when power boats kept running into them and we were told to get 'soft'

buoys."

The vast, shallow shelf of the Circle has silted in. AOC and HOC's locations are now too shallow for keelboats to navigate.

The circular mark arrangement was used in the 1960 Rome Olympics. Picking the mark that was most directly into the wind as the first mark made the start upwind. Triangle courses were popular in those days; now windward/leeward courses are de rigeur.

Over the past few years, BYC has transitioned to using inflatable drop-marks. This was made possible by 2011's acquisition of a 19-ft runabout, which was christened the *Bobbi Tosse* in honor of the longtime race chair of that name. "I'm guessing it had something to do with the fact that, for many, many years, I kept urging anyone who asked that we *not* acquire such a boat," said the human

Bobbi Tosse. "I worried that we wouldn't have the money and people to properly maintain it. Until last year, we only used it to set missing marks. Since the Circle marks have been disappearing regularly, this kept the launch quite busy. This season becomes only the second year we've played with drop-marks only. I confess to being royally spoiled by the ease of working with a mark-set boat."

On the morning of January 10, the *Bobbi Tosse* refused to start. "After dilly-dallying trying unsuccessfully to get the darn thing started, we stacked the three blown-up marks on *Windance* and went off to set the course and ourselves," recounts Tosse. *Windance* is the Gulfstar 41 used for race committee. "As the appointed hour of the first gun neared and we still had ourselves, our start-finish line buoy, and L to set, we announced the problem on the VHF, along with the

# ON THE BERKELEY CIRCLE



pending postponement. Will Paxton on *Motorcycle Irene* immediately offered to set L. A sight I won't soon forget is the Express 27, with main and spinnaker up, sailing away, bright yellow buoy in tow. How else would one know which direction was truly downwind?"

The center cockpit Gulfstar is a live-aboard owned by Tom Tazelaar. "We've been lucky to have Tom think that powering from Fortman Marina in Alameda, hanging out at the club dock during the regatta, having 10 or 12 people tromp all over the boat during the racing, and then powering back to Alameda in the dark and cold is a fun thing to do," said Tosse. The Gulfstar makes a great race committee boat, heavy and stable. The anchor holds well, and she carries a lot of people. "If you have to go out in a big chop, it's a good boat to be on," said Bob Gray.

*A pair of Open 5.70s return from the windward mark in the Berkeley Midwinters on Saturday, January 9. RegattaPRO's Winter One Design race can be seen sprawled out in the background.*

*— All photos Latitude/Chris except as noted.*

**M**etropolitan Yacht Club of Oakland started the Midwinter Series in 1957. In 1982, MYCO's Kirt Brooks told Bob Gray that he needed him for race committee. Gray replied: "But I'm racing." Brooks countered: "I've looked at the race results, and you're in no danger of winning."

MYCO partnered with Berkeley YC in 1984. "Bobbi came into the fold with that move," said Gray. "We ran protest hearings just about every race day. Protest committees were generally me, Paul Kamen and Sam Goldstein. We used to get four to five protests every weekend." Now they are relatively rare. "Everyone's older," said Gray. "Not enough protest-eron," added Kamen, who started hear-

ing protests in the '70s.

"BYC already had a monthly winter Chowder Race when we went in with MYCO on the Metropolitan Midwinters," said Paul Kamen. "So the Chowders were downgraded to a beer-can-style weekly race, aimed at the entry-level racer. They continue as a weekly Sunday afternoon event running all winter, a nice complement to the Friday Night Races, which run every Friday evening all summer long. There's no entry fee for either Chowder Races or Friday Night Races, and BYC is pretty informal about having a PHRF certificate — till you start winning, that is!"

MYCO was located at Jack London Square. "It was a large facility with the marina directly in front with nice (for that

# THE EVOLUTION OF MIDWINTERS



**This page, clockwise from bottom left: BYC Race Committee stalwarts (left to right) Bob Gray, Bobbi Tosse and Betty Gray; John Gulliford's J/24 'Phantom' is leading Division C in January 9's BYC Midwinters; Bob Johnston's singlehanded windward douse on the J/92 'Ragtime!' in the January 10 race; doublehanders Ben Williamsz and John LyMBERG on the Flying Tiger 'Wild 1'.**

time) guest berthing," explained Gray. "The club lost its lease with the Port of Oakland and moved to another Port building at Central Basin. That building was inadequate, and MYCO moved again to the vacant Victoria Station building — rehabilitating it with volunteer labor — and eventually lost that, losing members with each move."

"Kirt Brooks manipulated the MYCO finances to preserve his race budget," said Paul Kamen. "When MYCO was in financial trouble, the Metropolitan Midwinters race budget was doing fine. Participation was way up and entry fees were more than covering expenses. For example, he could afford to give us starving college students from Cal Sailing Club a very nice free dinner at an upscale restaurant when we served on the protest committee."

"The MYCO board was ready to raid

the race budget to help keep their club afloat, but Kirt considered the race program more important than fending off the demise of the club. By making the Midwinters a joint BYC-MYCO event, and setting up a joint bank account that required two signatures, one from each club, the race budget was beyond the reach of the MYCO board." Brooks passed away in 1994.

Betty and Bob Gray joined BYC when MYCO collapsed in 1998, and they brought all of the MYCO race gear along.

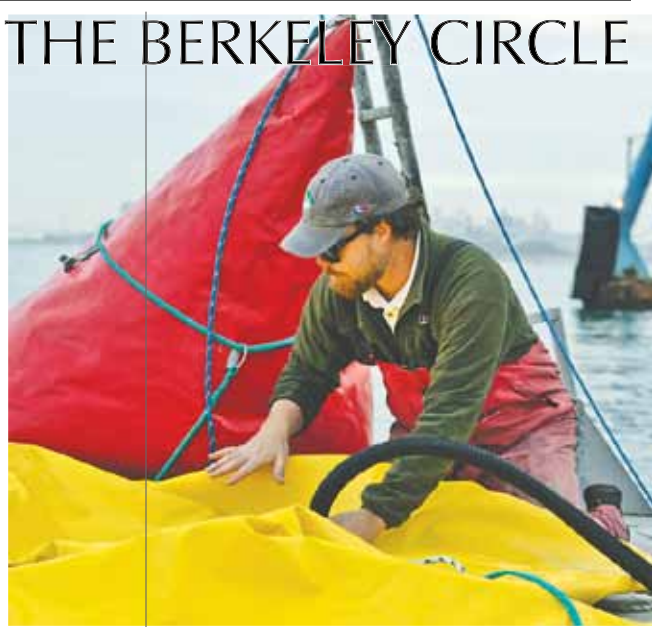
**O**n January 9 and 10, BYC gave all the divisions Course 1, an 8-mile, twice-around windward/leeward. "There was light rain and an agreeable 10-12 knots from the south at the start," said Tosse of Saturday's race, "and quite a few holes for the racers to suffer through."

The southerly died, but the Olson 30 Hoot was so fast they finished before the course could be shortened. Division A got the full course, the course for the Cal 20 class was shortened to one lap, and everyone else was told to finish at the second leeward mark rounding. A zephyr wafted in from the north, turning the windward mark into a leeward mark and vice versa. Intermittent rain squalls blew through, but none did too much drenching or blustering. "Only two of the original 48 starters opted to retire," reports Tosse.

At the instigation of members of the Singlehanded Sailing Society, Sunday's series is unique in offering shorthanded divisions for the second year in a row.

**B**YC's Midwinters aren't the only winter series in the neighborhood. RegattaPRO's Winter One Design sails in the deeper water west of the Circle on the second Saturday of the month. In 2002 Mary Coleman of the Farr 40 fleet

# ON THE BERKELEY CIRCLE



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contacted Jeff Zarwell to manage a winter series. "The purpose was training to keep crews and skippers sharp through the 'off-season' by trying to provide racing as true to summer racing as winter conditions would allow," recalls Zarwell.

"For the second season we added the J/120 fleet, the only one-design fleet with a handicap even close to the FARRs. It was a good thing we added the 120s — only four FARRs participated that second season, as the sell-off had begun.

"By season three the FARRs were down to three boats, the 120s were holding at seven, and I added the J/105s, which made a big jump in the numbers."

By 2005 the Farr 40 class had fallen apart in Northern California, perhaps having fallen victim to checkbook wars. Zarwell added the Beneteau First 40.7s, Express 27s, and Melges 24s. "That allowed me to charter a real signal boat along with two support boats.

"In 2008 or so I met Jay Hickman while we both worked at West Marine. Jay was interested in learning mark set.

*This page, clockwise from top left: 16 Express 27s start the BYC Midwinters on Saturday, January 9; mark-set operator Jay Hickman cleans up after a RegattaPRO race; slow going for the J/105 fleet in December 10's RegattaPRO race; another J/24, this one Richard Stockdale's 'Frogflips', races with RegattaPRO on Saturdays and BYC on Sundays.*

To say he was a prodigy is an understatement. Jay was an absolute natural. The next year Jay became the first professional mark-set operator on the Bay.

"I had been operating out of Sausalito YC, and SYC's Tim Prouty had volunteered a few times. In 2009 Tim suggested SYC sponsor the event by providing their signal and support boats as well as trained volunteers. I can't tell you what a relief that was."

The series continues to focus on keeping one-design fleets tuned up for spring racing. "To that end I think the program has been hugely successful."

January 9's edition of Winter One Design turned out better than the forecast had predicted, the breeze on the Berkeley Circle having filled slowly from the southeast at 5-9 knots. Racing

got underway after only a 30-minute postponement. All classes completed a two-lap course for the first race, but then the wind started to fade and the RC elected for a one-lap course for race 2. "For the smaller boats this wasn't quite short enough, and the breeze shut off completely, with most of the Melges 24s and J/70s within boatlengths of the finish line," reports the RC's Forrest Gay. "Many boats in those fleets and in the J/24 class did not make the 10-minute finish window behind their first finisher. A total glass-off at the end made for some true midwinter racing on the Bay."

The RegattaPRO series will conclude on February 13 and the BYC series on February 13-14. BYC will also run a Champion of Champions Race for top finishers on February 28. See [www.berkeleyyc.org](http://www.berkeleyyc.org) and [www.regattapro.com](http://www.regattapro.com).

— **latitude** /chris

"Do I have to put on my sea boots just to walk across the parking lot?" I complained. The depth of the puddle surrounding my car exceeded the freeboard of my shoes. Now my socks were wet. Yes, I usually carry spares in the car — but I've had too many evenings at the yacht club with cold damp feet; hence the foot doctor's orders: "Always change to dry socks after sailing." But I had used the spares I keep in the car last weekend and had neglected to re-stock.

The yacht club parking lot, like most yacht club parking lots, is on landfill that has been sinking and shifting for the last 40 years, so of course it does not drain properly. Combine a heavy rain with an extra-high tide, and there wasn't enough grade to persuade the water to flow anywhere. In fact, it was hard to tell just where the parking lot ended and the harbor began.

I squished my way across the puddles, walked into the club, stowed the umbrella, and went directly to the fireplace.

It turned out that I was not the only one drying off wet feet at the fire. Lee Helm and her all-female, all-student crew were there too, having sailed to our guest dock from the nearby hoist where they had put their borrowed ultralight race boat into the water. They were not happy.

"Max," she whined. "like, why did they have to cancel the race?"

"Maybe the fact that it's a miserable, wet, stormy day had something to do with it?" I suggested.

"Totally superficial details," she answered. "But it's not that windy — just, like, small craft warnings, same as any summer afternoon. No gale warnings or anything."

"The race committee are wimps," declared another young woman who was part of Lee's crew.

"We really wanted to race!"

"There are lots of weekends to choose from, all winter," I explained. "Personally, in the winter I like to race only on the days when it's warm and sunny, and that's the RC's philosophy too. We get enough of the cold and wet stuff in the summer. So I think canceling today's race was the right move."

"But you're used to the drought years, and now we're in for a lot more rainy

*"Even a strong El Niño," added another one of Lee's crew, "won't get California out of the drought."*

weekends," Lee asserted. "If they won't give us a race in 20 knots of wind and a little rain, it's going to become hard to complete a midwinter series."

"Actually, Lee," I suggested, "I think you're secretly happy to sit by the fireplace today. Now that the race is officially canceled, it's easy to say that you'd much rather be out there getting slammed."

Of course they all adamantly denied this possibility.

Meanwhile my own foredeck crew, who knew the race was canceled but had also come down to the marina just to watch the wind and waves from the warmth and safety of the yacht club bar, joined the conversation.

"Sure glad they canceled!" he said, being older and wiser than Lee's crew. "It looks like no fun at all out there. And did you see how high the tide is today? You could walk right into the harbor if

those light poles weren't there to mark the edge of the flooded parking lot."

"Lee might be right about the long-term forecast," said one of her crew. "We could be in for a lot more weather like this, and an extra dose of rising sea level besides. The Eastern Pacific has been lagging behind the Atlantic on that, but it's about to catch up."

"That won't help our flooded parking lot any," added my foredeck crew.

"Is this an El Niño thing?" I asked Lee. "If predictions are correct..."

"Like, it's much bigger than El Niño," Lee replied.

"Think of it as El Niño's big brother," said Lee's crew. "The Pacific Decadal Oscillation, or PDO."

"Never heard of it," I said.

"Oh, you will!" she said. "It was only first identified and named in '97, so it's not a household thing like El Niño just yet. But it's the big kahuna of Pacific climate cycles."

"How is it different from El Niño?" I asked as I finished peeling off my wet socks so I could hang them over the top of the screen in front of the fireplace.

"The key word is 'decadal'. That means it takes decades to cycle from warm to cold and back again. El Niño is a short-term thing by comparison, typically lasting only six to 18 months."

"Even a strong El Niño," added another one of Lee's crew, "won't get California out of the drought."

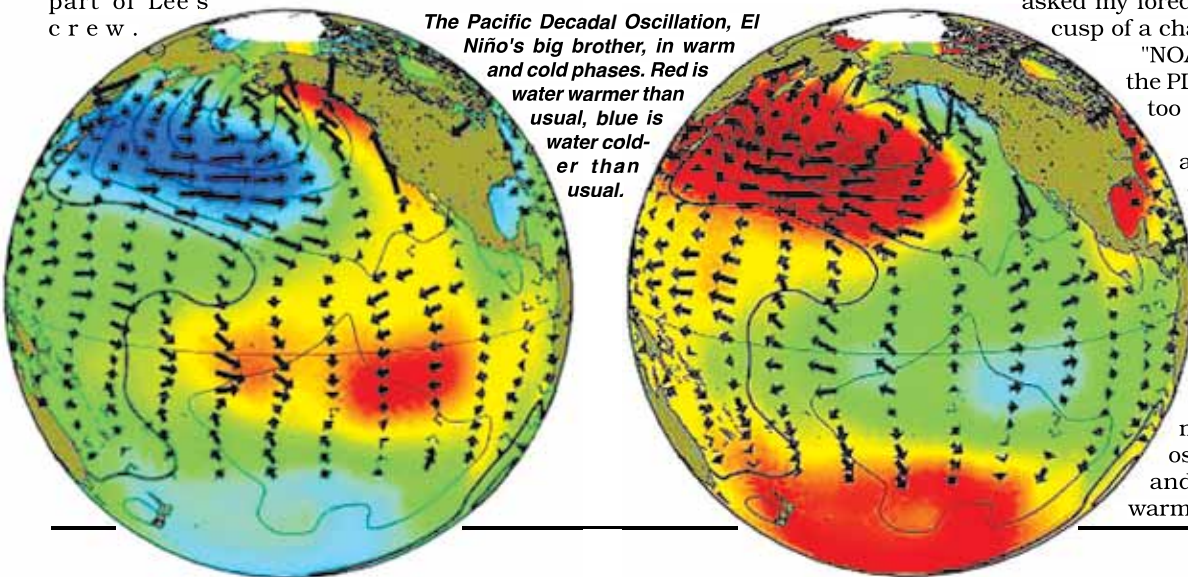
"But the PDO," continued the other woman, who turned out to be an oceanography postdoc, "can take 10 or 20 years to cycle on and off. So we could see a whole decade or even two decades of wet winters after a PDO regime shift."

"Is this what NOAA is forecasting?" asked my foredeck guy. "Are we on the cusp of a change?"

"NOAA doesn't try to predict the PDO," she told us. "It's way too chaotic."

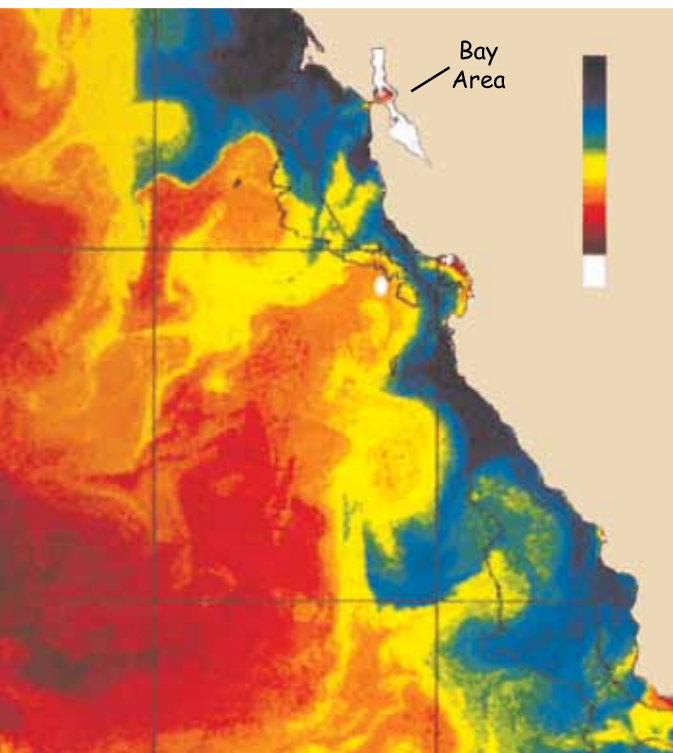
Lee had gone uncharacteristically quiet, because she was searching for something on her phone's Web browser.

"Here it is!" she announced, and held up the phone to show me what was on the screen. "El Niño is mostly an equatorial thing, with most of the temperature oscillations in the tropics, and currents taking some warm water north. But, like,





# 'EL HERMANO MAYOR'



**Typical coastal water temperature anomaly during a typical summer. All the warm surface water is blown offshore by NNW winds and coriolis effect, leaving upwelling cold water and a slightly lower sea level near shore.**

the PDO involves a huge area in the North Pacific that fluctuates from hot to cold. It also features warm equatorial waters, but has a much more massive and much more long-lasting effect on weather patterns. NOAA won't make predictions, but I will: I think we're in for at least a decade of more rain."

"That's good news," I said. "But you know, these drought years have been a guilty pleasure for us sailors, with so much pleasant weather all winter."

"Well, get ready for more rain, more wind, and higher tides in winter."

"How is it going to make tides higher?" I asked. "Is it just because of more runoff from more rain?"

"Much more than that," explained the oceanographer. "In the normal weather pattern, with strong northerly winds along the offshore waters most of the time, the water gets pushed away from the coast."

"But the wind isn't really from the north," observed my foredeck crew. "It parallels the coast, from north-northwest. Wouldn't the wind just push the water south along the coast?"

"Coriolis effect," said Lee. "Imagine you're a piece of water. The wind, from the north, starts pushing you south along the coast. Let's say the wind is really strong and you're drifting down-

wind at three knots. Six hours later, before you've even gone 20 miles, the earth has turned 90 degrees to the east, and what you thought was going straight is now headed 90 degrees offshore! And, like, actually you are trying to go straight, but the coast has turned away from you."

"This means that surface water is always being pushed away from the coast, at least while the north winds are blowing," said the oceanographer. "And with surface water pushed away from the coast by north wind, the cold water from down deep is always coming up to replace it. That cold water along the coast is part of what makes our summer sea breeze so powerful."

"And that causes sea levels to rise?" I asked skeptically.

"No, that causes sea level to drop," said Lee. "And, like, all that wind stress pushing water away from the coast is like tipping the ocean basin away from California. It's why we're a few years behind the Atlantic in terms of sea level rise."

"Now reverse this wind direction," said the oceanographer. "As in a stormy winter with a lot of strong southerlies blowing. The south or southeasterly storm winds push water north, but the earth turns to put the coast right in front of the moving water, and the momentum energy from the collision makes the water try to pile up on shore. So the average sea level is a little higher. This is borne out by data. There were spikes in mean

sea level height during the big El Niño events of 1982-83 and 1997-98."

Lee found another great picture somewhere on the Web, showing the temperature along part of the California coast on a typical summer day.

"Blue is cold and red is warm," she explained. "See the result of our north wind pushing surface water away from the coast. And, like, imagine this reversed during a stormy El Niño winter."

"But El Niño is just the little brother," added the oceanographer. Big brother Pacific Decadal Oscillation is what might

end the drought. Or might not. As I said, the data is too chaotic for good forecasting. Although, one research paper analyzed tree rings and coral growth patterns from 1840 to 1990, and after some careful manipulation of the data was able to extract a Fourier analysis that yielded three main frequencies of oscillation: 80 years, 23 years and 20 years. Add them all together, throw in a lot of noise, and you can imagine how hard it is to come up with a prediction."

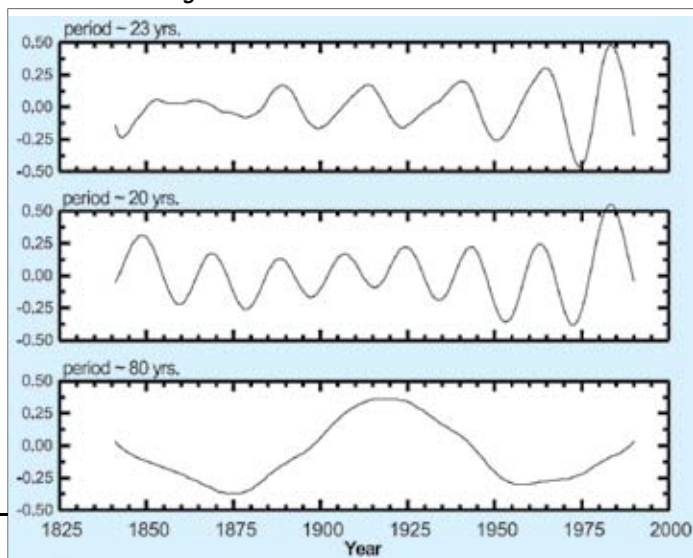
"What does the recent history of these oscillations look like?" asked my foredeck crew.

"There's evidence of only two full PDO cycles in the last century," she said. A PDO regime that was cool-in-the-tropics, hot-in-the-northwest-Pacific ran from 1890 to 1924, then warm-in-tropics from '25 to '46, then cool again from '47 to '76. It was warm-in-tropics from 1977 to 2000, and it's been cold-in-the-tropics since then, accounting for the 15-year drought in the Southwest. The jury seems to be out on where we're going next."

"Does it interact with El Niño?" I asked. "From that PDO temperature map, it seems that the warm equatorial waters are just like an El Niño."

"Probably does," answered the oceanographer, "and a strong El Niño might be a kind of trigger for a PDO reversal from cool to warm. Or it might not be. But they both have the effect of giving us rainy winters. Really it's the North Pacific High that drives all of this. When the high is strong, storm tracks are diverted north, California is dry, the 500 millibar chart shows the stable meridional flow pattern, trade winds are strong, and warm surface water in the tropics is pushed

**The PDO record from 1840 through 1990, based on tree rings and coral growth, deconstructed into its three dominant periods of oscillation. Is this enough data for a forecast? You decide.**

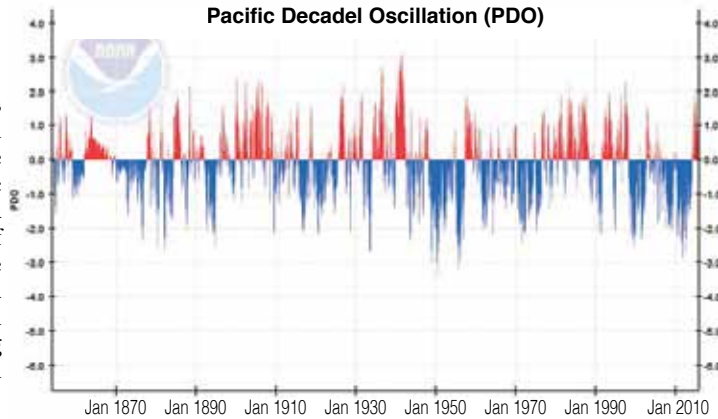


# MAX EBB

west to Southeast Asia. That's the PDO negative phase, with warmer than average surface water in the northwest Pacific and cooler than average in the eastern tropical Pacific. If the high weakens, the trade winds drop, allowing the warm tropical water to build up in the east. That's El Niño. If big brother PDO shows up, then the northwest Pacific cools, and the blocking high doesn't form as often, we have more upper-level zonal flow, so more rain gets to California, the trade winds don't build, the warmer surface water stays on the east side of the ocean, and the pattern persists. If that happens, then the drought could be over."

"That's what I'm predicting!" asserted Lee. "And, like, unless the race committees get some better foulies, we can expect to see a lot more winter races cancelled for the next couple of decades."

"The data is unclear," cautioned the oceanographer. "See for yourself. Monthly PDO temperatures starting at year



**The PDO index from 1855 to 2015. Red is the positive or warm-in-the-tropics cycle, corresponding to wet winters.**

1900 are on a University of Washington website. These are corrected for overall global warming, so you can see the monthly, yearly, and decade-by-decade oscillations, right up to last month. Try to make sense out of that data set."

I turned my socks around to expose the other side to the radiant heat from the fireplace logs.

"Let's go sailing," suggested Lee's

other crew, as a gust of wind and rain rattled the sliding glass door between the yacht club bar and the storm outside. "We have to get the boat back to the hoist anyway."

"Good idea," said Lee. "And, like, we'll do some spinnaker practice too. Max, want to come out with us?"

My foredeck guy and I looked at each other, and shook our

heads.

"Have fun out there," he said.

— max ebb

## RESOURCES

- U. of Washington PDO website (with link to data set, 1900 through 2015) <http://research.jisao.washington.edu/pdo/>
- Online textbook, Introduction to Tropical Meteorology, PDO chapter <http://tinyurl.com/zt6bjxz>
- NOAA's take on the PDO <http://tinyurl.com/zcafqb9>
- Podcast of a lecture at JPL by climatologist William Patzert (78 minutes) <http://tinyurl.com/jcfpeb5>



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# THE RACING

This month we venture to race venues near and far, starting with far: Australia's boat-busting **Rolex Sydney Hobart Race**. Closer to the San Francisco Bay Area Latitude 38 World Headquarters, we check in on the **Corinthian Midwinters**, **Oakland YC Sunday Brunch Series** and **Sequoia YC Winter Series**, and profile the **Ultimate 20** fleet champions. With **Race Notes** we split town again.

## Rolex Sydney Hobart Race

The latest edition in Australia's legendary Rolex Sydney Hobart Race will go down as one for the ages. From broken boats and dreams to thrilling racing, harrowing stories of repairs made at sea, and finally the sweet taste of success, the 71st race on Boxing Day had it all. The tone was set in Sydney Harbour, before the race even started, when the starting boat *Aussie Legend* began taking on water, forcing the dignitaries on board to transfer vessels. As soon as a backup boat started the race under horn instead of the traditional cannon, the battle began in earnest.

Perennial line-honors winner Robert Oatley's 100-ft *Wild Oats XI* looked to have the fleet covered as the supermaxi at the head of the fleet short-tacked toward the Sydney Heads. Anthony Bell's Juan K 100 *Perpetual Loyal* forced *Oats* over on a port-starboard encounter, however, and stole the lead at the first turning mark. After turning the corner, Jim and Kristy Clark's VPLP 100 *Co-*

East Australia Current, much of the fleet set spinnakers in rapid succession before slamming into a southerly front.

With heinous seas left over from the fading northerly, south-setting current directly opposing the strong southerly breeze, and a near-instantaneous transition, the fleet began to sustain damage in rapid, wholesale fashion. *Wild Oats XI* retired after destroying their mainsail, *Perpetual Loyal* retired with rudder damage, and the American supermaxi *Comanche* announced their intent to retire with rudder, daggerboard and steering damage. In one fell swoop, the top contenders had all been knocked out and George David's American Juan K-designed 88-ft maxi *Rambler 88* assumed the lead, with Syd Fischer's *Ragamuffin 100* in second.

In another shocking twist, *Comanche's* American skipper, Ken Read, announced a change of heart on board the supermaxi — they would effect repairs and in fact not retire. "We decided to punch on through," the determined Read said at the time. "We think we can get to Hobart safely... I don't care if we limp over the line. We are going to finish this damned race." Kenny, Kristy and the boys made good on their word and finished the race in grand style, claiming a dramatic and popular line-honors victory in Hobart, Tasmania. *Ragamuffin 100's*

*manche*, with the Bay Area's Stan Honey navigating, lit the afterburners and took off down the New South Wales coast in an awe-inspiring display of raw power reminiscent of the 2014 start. Propelled by a brisk northeasterly wind and the

crew clawed their way back up to *Rambler 88*, just barely beating them over the line.

By the time the dust settled, the race had seen the highest attrition rate in more than a decade, with just 77



BOTH PHOTOS KURT ARRIGO / ROLEX

of 108 entries reaching the finish line, further underscoring how challenging the conditions were. Paul Clitheroe's TP52 *Balance* claimed overall honors on handicap while the French entry of Gery Trentesaux's JPK 10.80 *Courier Leon* claimed second overall — not a surprise to anyone who saw the same team prevail in the summer's Rolex Fastnet. For complete results and much more, see [www.rolexsydneyhobart.com](http://www.rolexsydneyhobart.com).

A week and a half after the celebrations ended in Hobart, the entire Australian yachting community was saddened to learn that Bob Oatley — owner of *Wild Oats XI* — had passed away from a long illness at the age of 87. The businessman, wine magnate, yachtsman and philanthropist was loved Down Under and abroad, and was a major supporter of Australian yachting. As such, the Oatley family has indicated that they will continue to campaign his beloved supermaxi in his honor.

— ronnie simpson

## Corinthian YC Midwinters

A postponement on the first day of the 65th Corinthian Midwinters lasted 35 minutes, after which the 11 starts went off in orderly five-minute intervals. Saturday, January 16, started with adequate breeze that softened while



KURT ARRIGO / ROLEX

Patrick Boutellier of Rolex Australia presents 'Comanche's co-owner Kristy Hinze-Clark with a watch for the line honors win. Hubby Jim, founder of Netscape, stands behind them, and skipper Ken Read holds the trophy.



**Spread: 'Comanche' leads the charge out of Sydney Harbour at the Rolex Sydney Hobart on December 26. Inset: The colorful 12-boat Clipper fleet of 70-footers, seen here at the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia the morning of the race, sailed in the RSH as Race 5 in their gallop around the world.**

the ebb turned to flood and built to a game-changing current.

The fastest eight divisions were given Course 5, a 12-mile Bay tour. From the Knox-area start it was a beat to Blackaller in the southwesterly, then a spinnaker reach to Blossom Rock south of Alcatraz, a run to YRA 8 east of Angel Island's Point Blunt, and a reach to Yellow Bluff off south Sausalito. The intention was to then finish the race back at the start line. The wind had other ideas. It fluttered out short of YRA 8, and the fleet compressed, converging on the red can in slow motion, carried by momentum, with little ability to maneuver and no brakes. Crews hailing "No overlap!" did so futilely, and everyone just did their best to round in pinwheel fashion with as little contact as possible. Protests might have been contemplated but, apparently, none were filed.

"Boats were rail-to-rail jibing through the rounding," reports Michael O'Callaghan, helmsman of the J/120 *Peregrine* in PHRF 2. "Reaching up to Yellow Bluff, the boats to the south had clearer air and pulled away quickly."

The race committee shortened the course at Yellow Bluff in hopes of al-

lowing the most boats possible to finish before the cutoff time of 4:30.

The wind freshened again, carrying the fleet to the next parking lot, tantalizingly close to Yellow Bluff. As the boats drifted from the vicinity of Angel Island, past the ripping flood at Harding Rock buoy, toward the Marin shore, a giant (620-ft) car carrier quietly entered the Bay, destined for Richmond by way of Harding Rock. The pilot coolly guided the behemoth through the underpowered sailboats, and no horns sounded.

"We were well behind much of our competition up until the last quarter of the racecourse," said O'Callaghan. "The wind got lighter and boats to the south lost what little breeze there was. The Express 37 *Golden Moon*, *Peregrine*, and a few others carried a light and very private band of wind to Yellow Bluff." *Peregrine* won PHRF 2.

Alas, about a third of the boats on Course 5 were unable to finish in time. The smaller boats given Course 1 almost all made it. That 8-mile course stays in the Knox area, resembling a summer beer can race course.

"We as a fleet feel blessed that we were not on Course 5," said Jim Snow, fleet

captain for the local Cal 20s. "My heart goes out to all who endured bobbing, bumping and slatting around Blossom Rock and YRA 8. With a building flood and dying breeze I'm sure stress limits were tested!"

Rain fell in the morning and evening, but mostly held off during the actual racing. Free beer, a buffet dinner, an oldies dance band, and daily trophies (coffee mugs) topped off the day.

Sunday promised to be breezier. Even the water looked brisk. The wind came out of the south and stayed puffy.

The race committee used the same courses, but switched from 5 to 1 earlier in the sequence. A general recall of the PHRF 2 division resulted in a brief postponement.

"The wind went up over 20 knots at times on the first leg, and our boatspeed suffered as we labored under the 150% jib, but it turned out to be the correct sail for most of the leg and the reaching to come," reports O'Callaghan. At Blackaller, the J/120 crew set an A-2 kite. "We held on for the tight reach down the Cityfront with the rail loaded, heading to Blossom Rock in southerly puffs, struggling at times to carry the big spinnaker." *Peregrine* battled the Swan 53 *Blue* around the course. "Our crew executed a picture-perfect jibe-set at Yellow Bluff and finished about 45 seconds behind *Blue*, but minutes ahead on corrected time."

"All the Cals racing showed good boatspeed and strong starts," said Snow, whose *Raccoon* tops that division's standings. "The separating factor was being quick to get a clean alley on port, staying on the right side of the course, and then hitting the shifts while approaching Yellow Bluff on starboard."

For more racing news, subscribe to *Electronic Latitude* online at [www.latitude38.com](http://www.latitude38.com)

January's racing stories included:

Quantum Key West Race Week  
Super 12-Meters • Trophée Jules Verne  
Richmond Sailor in Thai RC Regatta  
Two Gates Pursuit Race  
BYC, SeqYC & CYC Midwinters  
RegattaPRO Winter One Design  
Eight Bells for Wild Oats Patron  
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Round St. Barths Race

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# THE RACING

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LATITUDE / CHRIS

**Corinthian YC Midwinters.** Clockwise, from top left: a splash of sunshine illuminates the SC50 'Adrenalin' and Farr 36 'Wicked Sister'; Dick Swanson drives while Tim Gulley trims the main as the J/111 'Bad Dog' slips past the scuffle at YRA 8; running in slow motion in Blossom Rock to YRA 8; happy sailing aboard Dave and Betty Rasmussen's Synergy 1000 'Sapphire'.

The first boat to turn the corner took the win both days." The fleet's new website is up at [www.sfbaycal20.com](http://www.sfbaycal20.com).

Once again the rain mostly held off until the end. However, at least a couple of spinnakers did not survive the day.

The Corinthian Midwinters conclude on February 20-21, with the Saturday race doing double-duty as the Rob Moore Memorial Regatta, aka 'Robgatta'. See [www.cyc.org](http://www.cyc.org).

— latitude/chris

## OYC Sunday Brunch Series

Oakland YC's Sunday Brunch Series on the Estuary is off to the races! Expanded to a seven-race series for 2016, remaining races are scheduled for 2/7, 2/21, 3/6 and 3/20. Race #1 on January 3 found us with little to no wind at the start and an ebb, which for some was the helping hand they needed to cross the

start line. After a postponement to clear the line and the hint of a breeze, the race was back in sequence. The spotty wind slowly built, allowing all racers to finish shortened courses.

The second race on January 17 had a much different feel, under threat of rain, and we did see some sporadic sprinkles. But 18 boatloads of hearty racers jumped into a downwind start, with those in the spinnaker fleets popping their colors right at the line. The courses were challenging, and the wind held for full-course racing by all.

The day finished up at the clubhouse in Alameda with the customary banter, libations, prizes and noshing. It's not too late to join the fun; entry forms are available at OYC and online at [www.oaklandyachtclub.net](http://www.oaklandyachtclub.net) under the racing tab.

— debby ratto

## Sequoia Winter #3

On the South Bay, Winter #3 went off on January 9, a cloudy Saturday with widely variable wind forecasts and a 2-knot ebb. SeqYC's power boat fleet stepped up to provide a committee boat. Dave Bagby's Island Gypsy 36 *Calypso* set a line that kept the pre-start maneuvering away from the ebb and those unyielding daymarks. With wind out of the south, 10 boats had a clean downwind start and immediately headed into deep water, popped their kites, and rode the ebb out to B just south of the San Mateo Bridge. The fleet then headed for the shallows to get current relief on the long beat to S, followed by a shorter run to the finish at Y. The southerly never clocked around, staying light, yielding flat water.

Light wind and a strong current made on-course decision-making critical, so the racing was intense and tight — the top five boats were separated by only 6.5 minutes of corrected time. Just 2 minutes of corrected time separated the top three boats. Stan Phillips' Farr 30,



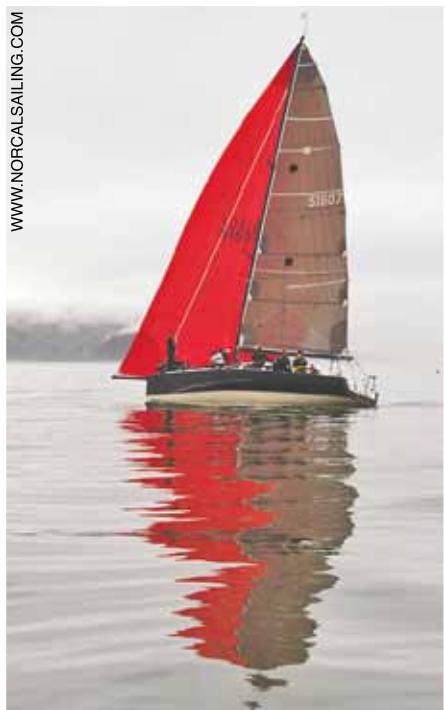
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KEN BROWN

*Frequent Flyer*, took top honors. Jenny Thompson's J/30 *Friction Loss* took second. *Head Rush*, the Antrim 27 skippered by Anja Bog that had two bullets in the two previous Winter Series races, had to tack to cross the finish line and got nipped for third by *Red Boat*, the Open 5.70 skippered by Charlie Watt. Alex Huang on the J/29 *L2O* took the fifth spot only 6.5 minutes (corrected time) after the lead boat.

The race committee enjoyed the wait between the start and the finish, finding *Calypso* a pretty comfy way to support winter racing.

— cathy moyer & kathy conte

### Ultimate 20 Fleet Champions

David Krausz, Craig Watson and Liz Ellison found the hot spot with their first year as owners of *Salsa*, winning the 2015 Ultimate 20 season of 12 events, which included Richmond YC's Big Daddy and Great Pumpkin and Tiburon YC's H.O. Lind Series. It was a season that almost didn't happen when *Salsa* lost her mast in June's Delta Ditch Run,

*Corinthian YC Midwinters, continued. Clockwise, from bottom center: Zach Anderson's Schock 40 'Secret Squirrel'; Natalie Criou at the helm of the Express 27 'Elise'; 'Pearl Ace' glides through the fleet without fanfare; dancing to the Hot Rods in CYC's ballroom on Saturday night; trimming the kite on Walter George's Capo 30 'Wahoo' on Sunday, the breezier day of the weekend.*

but the fleet spare was put to good use, allowing the team to win the H.O. Lind Series at three very windy events while the new carbon mast was on order.

"We've got a great one-design boat and a competitive PHRF racer," said *Salsa's* David Krausz. "I am going to toot our own horn and highlight that our Ultimate 20 beat out 95 PHRF boats in the Jazz Cup. This isn't the first time a U20 has come out on top in a big PHRF race against newer boats with top sailors."

The Pacific Coast Championship was held at RYC during Fleet Week in October, with 13 boats from Colorado, Utah, Idaho, Oregon, Nevada and California. "We consistently get great competition in our fleet and will need to up our skills when the Nationals come to the Bay this year," said Krausz.

The season trophy is named in honor of Matt Boroughf, who lost his battle with

cancer in August. Matt was a member of RYC and sailed in most all local and regional Ultimate 20 events before selling *Salsa* to her new owners.

"We are pleased to win this trophy to honor Matt and his legacy to the fleet," concluded Krausz.

*Salsa* had the low-point score of 38. Fifteen Ultimate 20s competed throughout the year, with seven sailing the minimum number of races to qualify for the season.

2) **Uagain**, David Woodside, 48 points; 3) **Uhoo!**, Mike Josselyn, 51. (7 boats)

— mike josselyn

### Race Notes

At 25 entries, July's **Vic-Maui Race** is full and a waitlist is forming. Roy Pat Disney's Marina del Rey-based *Pyewacket* raced in the Pacific Cup in 2014, but the Andrews 70 will return to the Canadian

# THE RACING SHEET

race this summer. In the 1996 Vic-Maui, *Pyewacket* set a race record and won line honors and their division on corrected time. See [www.vicmaui.org](http://www.vicmaui.org).

We wouldn't normally cover a World Sailing youth regatta hosted abroad, but the brouhaha over discrimination against the Israeli team by the host county, Malaysia, can't pass without notice. A statement from World Sailing (ex-ISAF) said that two sailors from the Israel Yachting Association (aka Israel Sailing Association) were unable to compete at the 2015 **Youth World Championships**, held in Langkawi on December 29-January 3, due to the conditions imposed by the Malaysian authorities. The ISA chose not to send two young windsurfers and their coach to the championship in the Muslim country after they were told that the kids would not be able to compete under their flag or display Israeli emblems on their gear, and that their national anthem would not be played. Plus,



**David Krausz, Craig Watson and Liz Ellison of 'Salsa' were the Ultimate 20 champions in 2015.**

the Israelis had not yet been granted visas within 24 hours of their scheduled departure. According to the *Jerusalem Post*, the ISA is concerned that its team members will be unable to compete at the 2016 Youth World Championships in Oman in December or the World Cup final in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, in October. Like Malaysia, Oman and the UAE do not have diplomatic relations with Israel. Perhaps sailing could be a good place to start.

Hundreds of dead fish have joined the garbage and pollution already contaminating Rio's Guanabara Bay, the site of sailing in the **2016 Olympics**. Officials in Rio de Janeiro have admitted that they will not meet their clean-up goals in time for the Games, which will start on August 5.

In happier Olympic news, **US Sailing Team Sperry** has released its roster of sailors who have qualified. West Coast team members include Paris Henken, Coronado, CA, and Helena Scutt, Kirkland, WA, 49erFX; Caleb Paine, San Diego, Finn; Chris Barnard, Newport Beach, Laser; and 470 sailor Briana Provancha of San Diego, crewing for 2015 US Sailing Rolex Yachswoman of the Year Annie Haeger. In Paralympic classes, former Marinite Dee Smith, 2.4mR; and Ryan Porteous of San Diego, with crew Maureen McKinnon, SKUD-18, have made the team. We hope they all have cast-iron constitutions.

— *latitude/chris*

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**With reports this month *Why the Time is Right to Book Your Summer Charter*, a frequent charterers *Cruise Through the Spanish Virgin Islands*, and miscellaneous *Charter Notes*.**

## **This Is No Time to Procrastinate: 'Great Value' Rules the Day**

If you find it much easier to procrastinate than to take action, you're not alone. Millions and millions of people procrastinate about all sorts of things every day; things as loathsome as doing their taxes as well as things as potentially pleasurable as taking a yacht vacation at some exotic hideaway.

Yes, seasoned procrastinators can always find reasons to put off just about anything — even things they've been dreaming about doing for years like coralling a bunch of sailing buddies and chartering a bareboat someplace where the winds blow sweet and steady, the beaches are sandy and clean, and the top priorities in life have nothing to do with email, Internet searches, blathering politicians or freeway driving.

We don't mean to sound preachy — Lord knows we procrastinate too. But this month we've chosen to harp on procrastination as it relates to chartering because we think we've got some pretty good arguments for you to get off your duff and, if you'll excuse the overused expression, just do it.

The most important issue is that now's a great time to get exceptional 'value' in the charter market. After enduring the long and painful recession, those of us who have good old American greenbacks to spend are suddenly killin' it in many currency exchanges. As you've undoubtedly heard, the dollar has risen

***The weak euro has even affected the price of chartering — to your advantage — in Tahiti. Can you hear opportunity knocking?***

from being battered and bruised by many international currencies to being one of the top dogs again.

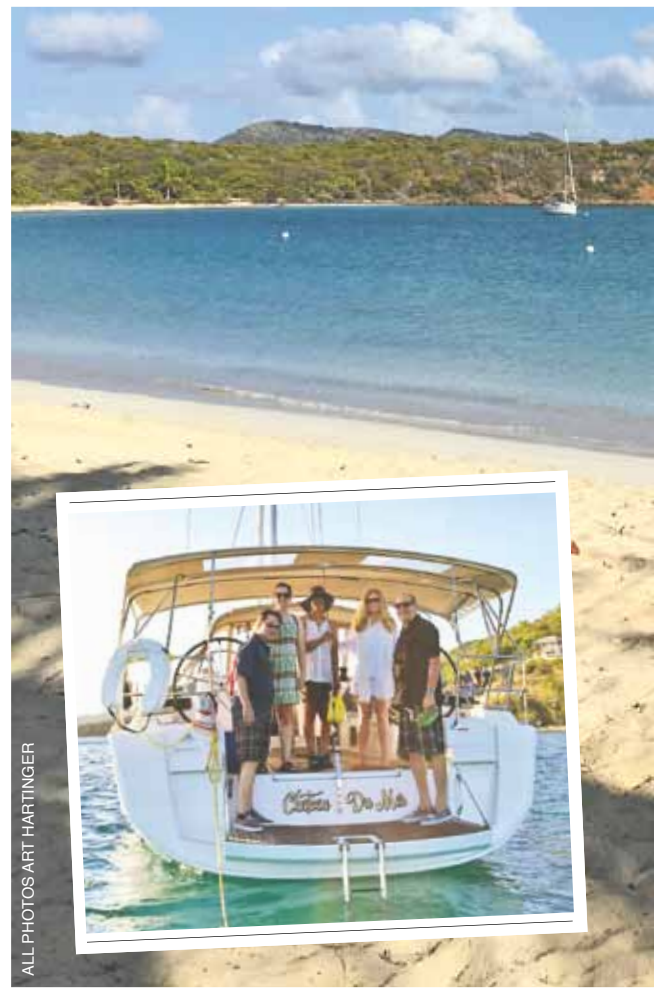
Due to financial woes in the eurozone, the dollar is so strong throughout Europe that even a trip to Paris is relatively affordable. Likewise, chartering anywhere in Europe — from Scandinavia to Brittany to Italy to Greece — has rarely if ever been a better value in our lifetimes.

By extension, the dollar is also stronger than in years past in Tahiti, as the French Polynesian franc is tied to the euro. Closer to home, the American dollar has gained so much ground on its Canadian cousin that it's almost embarrassing — 1.43 Canadian = 1 USD today, compared to 1 to 1 not long ago. This makes excursions to the spectacular Gulf Islands or Desolation Sound even more inviting than usual. In Mexico also the dollar is much, much stronger than it's been in recent memory — 18 pesos to a dollar, compared to 12 to 1 a couple of years ago. (By the way, you may have heard that The Moorings has pulled out of La Paz, but Dream Yachts has stepped into that market as the one and only bareboat operator in the Sea of Cortez.)

In addition to the strong dollar giving you good value in foreign markets, there's an added bonus that most of us never would have anticipated a few years ago: The current oil glut has made air fares cheaper in most markets. There's no telling how long this will last, of course. But for the time being, lower air pricing should be a great motivator to quit making excuses, set a date, and go have some quality fun in the sun.

Life is short. Windows of opportunity don't stay open forever. So take our advice and book that long-anticipated charter now. We'll bet that you'll thank us if you do.

— andy



ALL PHOTOS ART HARTINGER

## **Off-the-Beaten-Track Chartering: Exploring the Spanish Virgins**

In late May, our group of three couples explored the so-called Spanish Virgin Islands aboard *Chateau du Mer*, a Jeanneau Sun Odyssey 469 from Sail Caribe. The charter base is at Fajardo, on the east coast of Puerto Rico. Aboard were friends Donna and Steve, and Lis and Brian, plus Yumi and me.

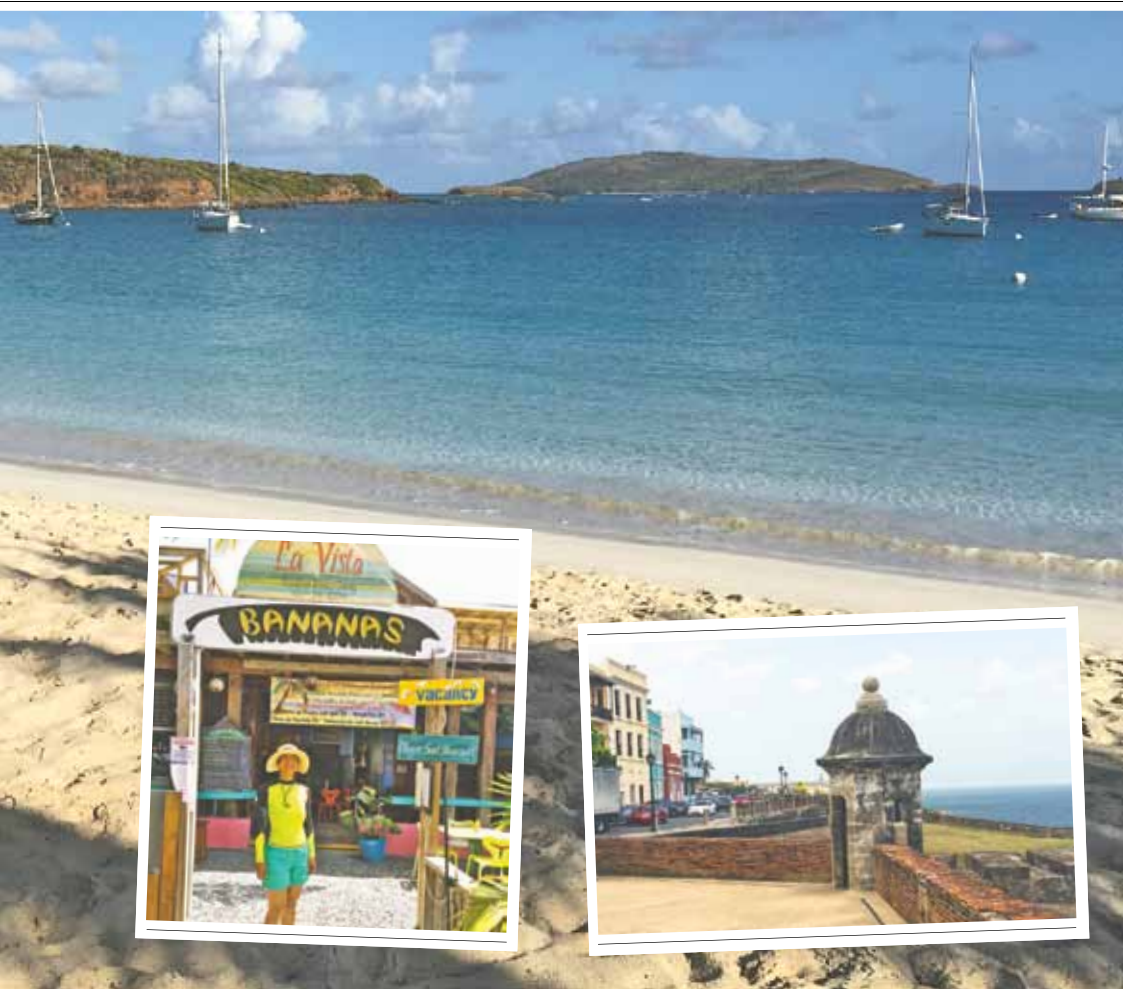
Before the charter, we spent a few days hanging out in Puerto Rico. From the capital city, San Juan, we drove to Ponce, a good-sized town on the south coast, and we found it very odd to see mortuaries, hospitals, medical clinics, funeral homes, and lawyers' offices, yet nobody walking around at all. The Ponce Marina seemed completely deserted also. We began thinking we were in a horror movie.

The next morning we drove back to San Juan, and on a whim, stopped at Guavate for its famous roast pig. (Anthony Bourdain has visited here!) Wow, it was excellent. The cook hacked portions of pork from a pig with a machete, in 1/2- to 1-lb chunks. We realized we needed bread to make sandwiches, so we



LATITUDE / ANDY

# OF CHARTERING



**Spread:** Compared to most Eastern Caribbean anchorages, Culebra is practically deserted. **Insets, L to R:** The intrepid crew, ready for a trip ashore; Yumi in Vieques; a centuries-old battlement guards Old San Juan.

drove down the road to the *panaderia*. What a delicious lunch! It was perfect with a Medalla, the local Puerto Rican beer.

We heard there was salsa dancing at El San Juan, so, of course, we had to check it out. We soon *owned* that dance floor.

The 35-mile drive from San Juan to Fajardo takes about 50 minutes. We'd rented a car from Thrifty upon arrival at San Juan Airport, because we knew that company has an office right at the Puerto del Rey Marina in Fajardo, so we were able to do a one-way rental, and drop the car off there.

Puerto del Rey Marina is said to be the largest in the Caribbean, and it does seem immense. You are transported to your boat by a guy driving an electric golf cart, with a trailer behind for your gear.

*Chateau du Mer* was new, and had electric everything: electric winches, electric heads, air conditioning, electric halyards, an aft windlass, bow thrusters,

you name it. One can get used to these modern conveniences. I originally said I did not need air conditioning, but by the end of the trip, it was on constantly!

We shoved off at about 2:30 p.m. and sailed directly to the large island of Vieques (about 15 miles). This is the only place where we paid for an overnight mooring ball (\$25). They were free and plentiful everywhere else we sailed throughout the rest of the trip.

A top priority for Brian and Lis was doing the "Bio Bay" tour, so we decided to tick it off first. It's a bioluminescent bay that is accessible only through a tour group. After an expensive dinner at El Quenepo, we took the van to this bay, and ventured out onto the bays in kayaks. The luminescence was beautiful. One highlight was when we heard Steve yell, "Donna, what the f--k! They had tipped over their kayak, and even lost their paddle.

We cruised the next day to Culebrita, a small

island north of Culebra. There is a lovely bay and beach there, with very cool "baths" that have tidal inflow. And there's also good snorkeling. On our walk to the lighthouse we had to dodge numerous goats.

Culebra itself is lovely. We cruised there several days, and snorkeled every day, sometimes three times a day. The reefs all look healthy there, with nice coral and lots of colorful fish, as well as turtles.

One of our favorite watering holes and lunch spots at Culebra was The Dinghy Dock — a restaurant catering to yachties who are anchored in the inner harbor. A resident group of big tarpon swim right next to the dock. We also liked Mamacita's, which is in the channel connecting the large bay called Ensenada Honda with the ferry dock and bay to the southwest. Zaco's Tacos are also really good.

Flamenco Beach is supposed to be one of the most beautiful in the Caribbean. We picked up a mooring ball just northwest of Bahia Tamarindo, and took a hike across the island. After about 20 minutes of walking, we emerged on the other

side only to see a sign that said, "Danger, unexploded ordnance, no trespassing!" Years ago, these islands had been used for target practice, as the Roosevelt Roads Naval Base is not far away on the southeast corner of Puerto Rico. Luckily we encountered no explosions.

Ironically, at Flamenco Beach a lot of debris had blown up on the sand, and it was crowded with tourists. We liked our smaller beach on the other side much

**Cap'n Art Hartinger dinghies through the Culebra Channel. He's probably done more charters than any other 'Latitude' reader.**



COURTESY ART HARTINGER

# WORLD OF CHARTERING

better.

All in all, though, the Spanish Virgins are really wonderful, and Sail Caribe did a great job. We have to give a shout out to our *amigo* Iggy, who gave us a very professional checkout.

— Art Hartinger  
*Pied-a-Mer*, Beneteau First 310  
 South Beach Harbor, S.F.

*Art — Thanks for your report. We'll bet most readers didn't even know bareboats were available out of Puerto Rico.*

*It's worth noting that by making special arrangements in advance — and paying an additional fee — you can do a one-directional cruise from St. Thomas to Fajardo, thus eliminating virtually all upwind sailing.*

## Charter Notes

As we pencil in dates on our new 2016 calendar, we're reminded that the **Strictly Sail Pacific** boat show takes place **April 7-10** — the largest all-sail show in the West.

If you're a devotee of charter vacationing, the show is a great opportunity to



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get some one-on-one counseling from bona fide **industry experts**, as several **international** firms are normally represented, as well as **Pacific Northwest** charter outfits and **Bay Area** sailing clubs (which also rent out boats for both daysailing and overnighting).

We'll also remind you that in our April issue every year we run comprehensive listings on every legitimate bareboat and crewed sailing charter operation in the Greater Bay Area — including Monterey Bay and Lake Tahoe — timed to complement ideas and info gleaned at Strictly Sail.

Whether you're a frequent or potential charterer, you'll want to check out these listings and make some mental notes, because you never know when a special occasion might arise when you'll want to throw a sailing party on a large-capacity vessel — i.e. for weddings, birthdays, ball game excursions, office parties, or simply to get out on the water with a gang of old friends.

If you have a boat that you're putting into charter, be sure to send a few photos, and the following info to *editorial@latitude38.com*:

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- Where berthed?
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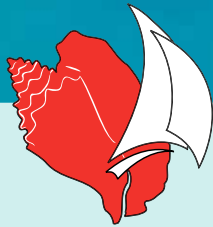
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# CHANGES

With reports this month from **Chesapeake** on crossing the Indian Ocean; from **Ocean Echo** on completing a North Pacific Loop; from **Aussie Rules** on switching boats and switching oceans; from **El Gato** on thoughts on cruising the Med last summer; from **Geja** on an eighth season cruising the Adriatic; and **Cruise Notes**.

## Chesapeake — Outbound 46 Jim Fair and Linda Powers Across the Indian Ocean (Berkeley)

When we departed Berkeley on February 9, 2009, to start our circumnavigation, we knew that crossing the Indian Ocean would likely be one of our more difficult passages. When it came time for

us to cross it in July 2015, we'd heard plenty of stories about the confused seas, the wave trains running in multiple directions — usually S and SE with 13-foot waves — and winds in excess of 30 knots.

There are three options for crossing the Indian Ocean. The shortest, most traditional route is west from Phuket, Thailand, across the northern Indian Ocean up to and through the Red Sea and Suez Canal. Unfortunately, piracy has made this option too risky in recent years. The second option is to head west through Sri Lanka and then south through the Chagos Archipelago, Rodrigues, Mauritius, and Reunion to South Africa. Most boats taking this route depart December-January. The third option is to head east back through Malaysia and part of Indonesia in order to start the Indian Ocean crossing by going through the Sunda Strait between Java and Sumatra.

Each option has its drawbacks. We chose the third, the main drawback being having to make our way nearly

**This map shows the progress of 'Chesapeake' from Queensland, Australia to Richards Bay, South Africa. It's a very long way.**

1,000 miles down the Strait of Malacca to reach the Sunda Strait. That passage was bedeviled by mostly very light wind, and was littered with boat traffic, much of it poorly lit at night.

We provisioned and refueled in Puteri, about halfway down the Malacca Strait, which left us with 500 miles to Sunda Strait. We thought we'd never get out of SE Asia! We eventually cleared the Strait, saw a hazy Krakatoa, site of one of the most destructive volcanic eruptions ever, and cheered that we were finally in the Indian Ocean. We were relieved to finally be away from all the shipping traffic, heat and humidity.

It took us four days to sail 600 miles to Cocos Keeling, the first of several island stops when going across the Indian Ocean. The southeast trades made it a quick trip, and we logged some of our fastest days ever — 191 miles in 24 hours was our best. The seas were typically 10 to 15 feet, which made things lumpy, but overall the sailing was fine.

On August 24 we left for 1,999-mile-distant Rodrigues. It took us 12.5 days. The sailing was a mixed bag — gentle downwind sailing, then squalls and erratic winds to 35 knots and 12-ft seas.

On September 29, we took off for 348-mile-distant Mauritius. We had a terrific downwind sail and arrived at Port Louis after just 49 hours.

Bob Walden flew in to help us sail the rest of the way to South Africa. We left on November 9 for an easy 132-mile overnight passage to Port Ouest, Reunion. "So far so good," is what we were thinking at the time.

On Friday, November 13 we left for Richards Bay, South Africa. This was the most difficult part of the crossing, as we had to cross the Agulhas Current, which is a changing whirlpool of 3-5 knots of current. It took us 11 days to go 1,272 miles. We saw some light winds and did some motoring the first few days. Our speed over ground was 7+ knots. Then the seas got bigger and then the wind died altogether.

We started to get favorable current, but it also got chilly, so we had to pull our foulies out. We finally got blessed with a 3+ knot current in our favor, kicking our speed over ground to above 10 knots. At



the time we were about 80 miles south of Madagascar, and we recorded a new 24-hour record — 196 miles.

Then the trades died and we got wind from every direction. We were constantly reefing, unreefing, gybing and tacking. We slowed down to avoid weather in front of us, but still had rain, lightning and wind to 52 knots. We finally hove to for a day in light wind and sloppy seas. When we started moving again, we did more than eight knots over the bottom, despite carrying a triple-reefed main and a small jib. We arrived at Richards Bay, South Africa at 2 a.m. on November 24, Jim's birthday. We rafted up at the Tuzi Gazi Marina until the office opened in the morning.

Here's what we learned: The Indian Ocean seas can be large and confused with gale-force winds — but it's not always that way. On the final leg, from Reunion to South Africa, you can be guaranteed one or more high-wind fronts passing through. The front will start with light winds, but can blow at more than

CHESAPEAKE



**Jim and Linda, having successfully crossed the difficult Indian Ocean.**

CHESAPEAKE



# IN LATITUDES



ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OCEAN ECHO

*There is plenty of diversity in a North Pacific Loop. Clockwise from the lower right; Bears in Alaska; Reliance Float at Wrangell, Alaska; fish for sale in La Paz; dolphins running free in the Pacific; the beautiful Agua Verde anchorage in the Sea of Cortez; and two shots of the charms of Hawaii.*

50 knots in less than an hour.

Sailors must pay close attention to avoid being surprised by bad weather. Boats that left before us had more severe winds. And you must keep monitoring the currents. We found several sites that were helpful: [www.svsarana.com/oscar](http://www.svsarana.com/oscar); [www.keelscape.com](http://www.keelscape.com); and [www.predic-twind.com](http://www.predic-twind.com). We also used [www.sailmail.com](http://www.sailmail.com) for email and weather information.

We leave Richards Bay for Cape Town on Christmas Day.

— jim and linda 12/24/2015

**Ocean Echo — Hallberg-Rassy 45  
Hellmuth Starnitzky  
The North Pacific Loop  
(Alameda)**

I finished my Pacific Loop — a two-year, 12,000-mile adventure — at the end of last October and am now back home at Marina Village in Alameda. I started from here with my wife Angelika

at the end of September 2013. She would cruise with me in Mexico and later in parts of Alaska.

After sailing down the coast of California, we did the Ha-Ha and took honors in the Kilo Division. Staying with the program of so many other cruisers that head south, we made La Paz our home for the winter. Using that as a base, we sailed the Sea of Cortez, including tracing the great path we'd taken when we chartered a boat from The Moorings out of Puerto Escondido back in 1990. In the spring of 2014, we crossed the Sea of Cortez to Mazatlan, and spent time in both La Cruz and Paradise Marina in Nuevo Vallarta.

The similarity of itineraries with most other cruising boats ended at mainland Mexico. To my knowledge, my boat was the only one that sailed to Hawaii. We

started that voyage from Vallarta in the middle of April. It took us 23 days to cover the 3,200 miles. It's longer than most people think because they don't realize how far east P.V. is — due south of Denver. Our trip was earmarked by the lack of wind, particularly for the first 10 days or so. We even resorted to motoring slowly to conserve our limited fuel.

I had a crew of three, which worked out well, as everyone got sufficient rest and time to themselves. After crossing shipping routes from/to the Panama Canal, we saw no other vessels — visually or electronically — for 20 days.

A layover of almost two months at Honolulu's Ala Wai Harbor — more on that next month — drew to an end in July when, with a crew of four, *Ocean Echo* left for Sitka, Alaska. It was only 150 miles shorter from Honolulu to Sitka than from P.V. to Honolulu. Our passage to Alaska took 22 days.

The weather during the two passages was manageable, with winds topping out at 36 knots true, and waves at an estimated 25 feet. We engaged the services of Commander's Weather for the leg to Sitka, and found their findings mostly in line with our own weather expectations based on the GRIB files.

Heading south on the Inside Passage, with its many neighboring waterways, was interesting. Unfortunately, when my wife and I were there in the July – September time period of 2014, it was often cold and rainy. And when there was wind, it was usually on the nose. Nevertheless, our visits to Glacier Bay National Park — with its glaciers, killer whales, bears, moose, bald eagles and other stunningly beautiful wildlife — made up for many inconveniences. After Glacier Bay National Park, we visited Juneau, Petersburg, and at the season's end, Wrangell, where *Ocean Echo* spent the winter of 2014-2015.

I had no takers on my invitations

***As seen here, Hellmuth started his two-year North Pacific Loop by doing the 2013 Baja Ha-Ha with his wife Angelika and crew.***



OCEAN ECHO

# CHANGES

to join me for the voyage south from Wrangell in 2015. Nor was my wife interested in returning to the cool and often rainy Alaskan weather. So I ended up doing

OCEAN ECHO



**Hellmuth called the trip "eye-opening and extremely satisfying."**

four months of singlehanding. Fortunately, I had sailed my boat singlehanded many times before in the Bay and adjacent waters, so it wasn't a problem. I started the 2015 season on May 1, and slowly made my way south, in and out of the Inside Passage. I visited Ketchikan and many small settlements as I crisscrossed Southeast Alaska. I eventually reached Prince Rupert, BC, where I checked into Canada. I then continued south through the myriad waterways among the islands of British Columbia. When I got to Port Hardy, I was joined by a friend for exploring Desolation Sound and the Powell River area.

Singlehanding once again, I arrived in Vancouver shortly thereafter, where a great-nephew and his girlfriend from Germany joined me for the trip to Victoria, BC, via the Gulf Islands. After Victoria and Orcas, San Juan and Lopez Islands, we reached Port Angeles, Washington, where a full crew joined me for the trip down to San Francisco Bay.

The 990-mile journey to Alameda, via Neah Bay, went as expected. Initially we had great northerly winds, which allowed us to quickly eat up the miles. But the wind came out of the south with an approaching low pressure system, so we pulled into Eureka for shelter and fuel. Resuming our trip south, we had up to

**One of the last stops in the two-year voyage was at Hope Island in Puget Sound. This photo shows a rare cloudless day.**

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OCEAN ECHO

40 knots of wind from the north before making our next and final stop at Drakes Bay.

My cruise was fantastic to plan and execute, and it was an eye-opening and extremely satisfying experience of maybe my lifetime. But hopefully it was only a teaser of things to come.

— hellmuth 10/15/2015

## **Aussie Rules — Catalina 34 Dave Hayes and Rose Alderson The Chapter After the Pacific (Gabriola Island, British Columbia)**

After seven years of planning, and an extensive house renovation, we sold our fixer-upper to finance our cruising dreams. The first part of our dream was ambitious — sail our humble, not-really-meant-for-cruising Catalina 34 from British Columbia to Australia. Though some sailors may have thought we were nuts going with a boat that wasn't designed to cross oceans, only one said, "You're going where?! In that?!" to our faces. He was likely just voicing what others thought but kept to themselves. We did, however, add a bunch of new gear, including oversized standing rigging, 420 watts of solar panels, an SSB radio, radar, a B&G chart plotter, and Hydrovane self-steering.

Dave and I were concerned that our 34-footer was too small. But as we learned over the course of the trip to Australia, about 80% of the time we were fine with the boat's size. After all, Catalina makes roomy boats. We entertained often, having four, six and even 10 people over for sundowners and even full-blown dinners. *Aussie Rules'* cockpit is huge, bigger than the ones on some much larger boats.

Other than perhaps three days of nasty weather, we were perfectly confident in our boat's abilities. As it turned out, we often reached destinations faster than friends on buddy boats because our boat was lighter, and because we're racers at heart, we liked to tweak the sails.

We sailed down the West Coast quickly in order to make the start of the 2014 Baja Ha-Ha. We found the rally to be a lot of fun, with an emphasis on safety, fun social events, and some lighthearted competition. Nonetheless, we were glad to win our division. We also took part in the Banderas Bay Blast a month later, and enjoyed finish-



ing near the front of the fleet — not far behind *Profligate* and *Sea Level*, two fast cats we had no business being anywhere near.

For more than four months, we explored Mexico. We spent some time in the Sea of Cortez, sat out a Norther in La Paz, had family and friends visit in Puerto Vallarta, and enjoyed many weeks at Tenacatita Bay. Our final weeks were spent in the Puerto Vallarta area, getting prepped for the crossing and taking in several Puddle Jump seminars at the Vallarta YC.

We started our Pacific Puddle Jump on March 21, 2015, and along with everyone else, struggled trying to find the fabled tradewinds. We reported in on the SSB net each day, noted the weather others were having, and created a visual on our OpenCPN program on the laptop. Using GRIB files and the information from those around us, we managed to stay ahead of a huge high-pressure



# IN LATITUDES



PHOTOS COURTESY AUSSIE RULES



**A few of the many adventures of Dave and Rose in their Pacific crossing. Clockwise from lower right; The big cruiser get-together in Moorea; fresh fish for lunch and dinner; the clear blue waters of the South Pacific; Rose, suited up for anything; the couple at Musket Cove Resort in Fiji.**

system that would have left us bobbing for days. We made it to the Marquesas — an incredibly scenic landfall of lush greenery after huge blue skies and endless seas — in 28 days.

Friends had a much more difficult passage. First, the skipper tore muscles in his back and had to be flat on his back for six days. During this time the boat was hit by a 50-knot squall, with the crew unprepared to deal with it, resulting in their boom breaking in two places. Thanks to our DeLorme InReach's communications device, we kept in touch and encouraged them to join us in a lovely bay on Tahuata. When they got there, Dave, with the help of cordless tools and the support of many, fixed the boom by cutting off the jagged end. He relocated all the attachment points along the bottom of the boom, making it almost

as good as new. The only downside was they had to have a permanent reef in their in-mast furling system.

The loud cheers that went up from the many fellow cruisers around us as the boom was reattached reflected the community spirit of cruisers we have experienced all across the Pacific. If you need help, we'll be there; and if we can't help, we'll stay close and cheer you on. The compensation is always the same — food, friendship and a few beverages. In this case, it was a 1.75l bottle of tequila. But hey, extraordinary circumstances call for extraordinary celebrations. This fun-loving, supportive cruising

community watched out for one another, helped one another, and celebrated time and again, sourcing parts, tools, skills — and most importantly a willingness to join in. Hip hip, hooray! Our friends sailed all the way to Bundaberg, Australia with the jury rig, going just a bit slower than their normal top speed.

Alas, our trip across the Pacific went much too fast, as we only had a week or two to explore areas where we could easily have lost ourselves for many weeks. French Polynesia in particular was spectacular and unique, specifically the differences between the three island groups of the Marquesas, Tuamotus and the Societies. I feel as though we missed the most in the Tuamotus; there are so many atolls that it's really hard to see more than a few, especially as we only got a three-month visa, the most common duration the French give out. It would be very easy to spend years exploring these extremely remote islands and atolls. Numerous other islands had to be skipped completely or visited only briefly.

We have had a wonderful trip across the Pacific, arriving in Bundaberg on November 10, just shy of nine months after departing from Puerto Vallarta, and just 15 months after leaving Canada.

Our plan had always been to sell our boat once we got to Australia. Many Aussies told us that Catalina is well-respected in Oz as a solid, well-built boat. We were also told the market has gone a bit flat, but the smaller boat market was still doing all right.

As we landed in Bundaberg, which was a pleasant and painless process, we were immediately greeted by a friend we had made in Mexico. It turned out that his brother was looking for a boat in the Aussie Rules size, and we had to think on our feet to come up with a selling price. As we had bought the boat for a bargain

***Life tends to be more interesting when you get your food fresh from the source rather than from a supermarket. Fruit de mer — yum!***



AUSSIE RULES

# CHANGES

— she was a fixer-upper — we were able to ask less than what we thought the going rate might be, yet still take home a great profit. Over the next few weeks we worked out a deal in which everyone benefited. We had a buyer quickly, and he got a great deal as many other similar boats were for sale for much more than ours. But those boats are still for sale and ours sold!

So that's it for us and cruising. We've got the T-shirt and are moving to the Ayers Rock area in the middle of Australia, as far from the sea as you can get in Oz. Just kidding! We took all the cruising gear except the solar panels off *Aussie Rules* when we sold her, because we immediately turned around and bought a Catalina 400 Mk II in Sint Maarten in the Eastern Caribbean!

*Ohana* was built in 2000 but was only used five of the last 15 years, and thus became a neglected, fixer-upper. While she does have a new engine and headsail, she needs a pretty extensive refit — including new heads, a mainsail, cockpit canvas, some wiring and some basic plumbing. We're bringing lots of the goodies we had on *Aussie Rules*, and were glad to hear the Poobah/Wanderer tell us that Sint Maarten is not only duty-free but also has one of the best cruising boat chandleries in the world. .

Maybe we're dreaming, but we're hoping it will only be a couple of weeks before we can start seeing the various islands of the Eastern Caribbean. Dave puts things together as time allows. The Poobah/Wanderer will be arriving in St. Barth, only 15 miles from Sint Maarten, about the same time we're hoping to be able to get underway, and he's promised to give us a tour of the island.

The next time we come through the South Pacific, we will aim for a 5-7-year trip. We hope to start that in about five years' time.

— rose 12/20/2015

**The biggest shock Dave and Rose will experience in the Caribbean is how close boats have to anchor next to one another in St. Martin.**

## **El Gato — Catana 47 Annie Gardner and Eric Witte More Thoughts on the Med (Pt. Loma, San Diego)**

*[In last month's issue, Annie and Eric recounted buying their catamaran in Europe — and suddenly deciding to spend a summer cruising the Med before crossing the Atlantic to the Caribbean. The following are some of their thoughts and observations.]*

*Where are the Yanks?* "We never saw any American boats during our summer in the Med. If an American flag flew from a boat, it was a small boat, and it was owned by Turks who had registered the boat in Delaware to get tax breaks."

*New priorities:* "We watch the weather religiously, as Mother Nature now rules our lives. Right now she is gentle. Predict Wind and Navionics apps have become our best friends. When we don't have phone service/Internet for these apps, we keep our eyes open and our fingers crossed. Iridium satellite service will come into play eventually, but for now Europe and T Mobile are our sources for info."

*Not everyone is courteous:* "We returned to our boat at one place in Greece to find she was banging against the sea wall, protected only by her fenders. *El Gato's* anchor had been pulled free by a boat that had left. There was very little damage, but it was a scramble to get the anchor reset. Eric 'MacGyver' hung it from the bow of our dinghy *El Raton*, backed up, and let her go. The funny thing is, when we pulled up the anchor to reset it, there was a boat hook stuck to the chain. So now we have a spare boat hook, courtesy of the folks who jerked our anchor free."

*We've made mistakes, too!* "Villefranche, just east of Nice, is said to be the biggest natural harbor in the world and was once home to the US Sixth Fleet. It's in a very beautiful setting, too, but it's a very deep-water anchorage. Late in the afternoon we went for a hike in the hills above Villefranche, and when we looked down to see *El Gato*, she wasn't where we'd left her. Huh?! And just two days before in Antibes we'd bought a "better" anchor and more chain. The sandals came off and we flew down the



hill, backpacks bouncing on our backs, rushing to our dinghy to get to *El Gato* before something bad happened. We were so lucky, as she'd drifted between two large yachts rather than into either one of them. The only good thing that came of it is that Eric was impressed to discover how quickly I can run."

*Satisfied Catana owners.* "The wind topped out at 42 knots as we sailed past Sifnos, Greece. We were grateful that we had two reefs in the main and the small Solent up. The wind increases near the islands, and this time it blasted down on us. We were never overpowered going downwind, and our cat is so stable that the guests were comfy and happy. We feel really good about having bought our Catana 472."

*How good was it?* "Our Greek friends told us the best places to go in Sikinos, and after anchoring we found the bus to the top of the hill for dinner at the Manalis Winery. Owner George greeted us at the door of the restaurant run by his daughter. It was as good an experience as it gets. Not just the wonderful wines, but the location, the food, the

DRONE PHOTO



# IN LATITUDES



ALL PHOTOS COURTESY EL GATO

**Spread; Having a theme for a cruise is a brilliant idea. Annie and Eric chose Eat-Sail-Love and fly their flag with pride. Insets from bottom: Sharing the Mediterranean love for cooking and food. The view from above Villefranche when they saw 'El Gate' drift away. Annie hates blood — even fish blood.**

ambience, the decor — and the price was crazy inexpensive! We watched the sunset reflect off the water, and while later waiting for the bus, watched the Pleiades meteor shower in the company of Turks and Greeks from other boats."

*Having a theme is good.* "We hosted a dinner party for Luis and Teresa, the Argentinians anchored on the boat behind us. In the spirit of Eat Sail Love — our cruising theme — I decided to make moussaka. While I was buying the ingredients and waiting for the butcher, a restaurant owner came in and helped me shop for the items. Even the Greek ladies thought my creation was delicious — although maybe they were just being polite. By the way, nowhere have we met more people who were as gracious, hospitable and giving as in Greece. We wish we could bottle their spirit and spread it across the world."

*Understanding vegetarians.* "When I asked the butcher in Amorgos if he had lamb, he went into the freezer and

brought out a whole skinned lamb — eyeballs included — on a hook. He pointed while asking which part I wanted, then he took the cleaver and hacked off a leg. Eating that leg was the closest I've come to truly owning what it means to eat meat. I can relate to vegetarians much better now. But I'll still eat meat — the lamb was delicious — and octopus, thank you very much!"

*Getting philosophical.* "Eric had to go back to the States, leaving me alone on the boat in Greece. It didn't suck, but I missed my man fiercely, as this was the first time we'd been apart since we started this journey months ago. We knew that at some point we'd have to fly home individually for something unscheduled, which in this case was a death of a gem of a relative of Eric's. With his death came the realization that our generation is next. Nooooooo! On that note, we will live each day as

though it is a gift."

*Maybe topless, but bottomless?* "Arriving at one marina at 4 a.m. meant having to anchor outside the marina entrance until the office opened up. We woke up off a beautiful deserted beach, but by 10 a.m. the beach was packed with naked people. Like most Americans, Eric and I are a little shy when it comes to public nudity, but people are naked everywhere on beaches in the Med. I can sort of see topless, but bottomless? I later walked into a beach restaurant topless, not realizing I was the only one. Oops. I'm still learning the 'rules'."

*Speaking of rules.* "Shortly before crossing the Atlantic as part of the ARC+ fleet, we joined some other participants on our dock and got into a conversation about 'rules'. Hostess Tina from England said she, like me, hates rules. But she still had three:

Rule One: Don't drink her effing rum. Rule Two: Don't make her scared. Rule Three: Don't hurt her boat. I think these are good rules.

I used one rule throughout the summer: No one is allowed to leave the boat unless she is docked or at anchor, and they've told someone they are leaving. After going to some ARC first aid classes, I added another rule. No one is allowed to get hurt, as I learned that blood — even fish blood — makes me queasy. We have a complete medical kit and know some first aid from the seminars, but I don't want to have to use any of the stuff or knowledge."

*What a way to go!* "As we slowly traveled along the South of France looking for a new spot to anchor, we looked up and gasped — we suddenly realized that the Med is even more beautiful than we ever imagined. Add to that history surrounding almost every place and building, and we were in constant awe. Traveling by

**How could Annie and Eric cross the Atlantic without going for a camel ride first? That's Betsy Crowfoot, 'El Gato' Med crew, in blue.**



EL GATO

# CHANGES

boat is the bee's knees. No worries about hotel reservations, rental cars and such, and as long as the weather cooperates, we peacefully enjoyed each location with its new things to discover."

*Sardinia is expensive.* "At Phi Beach, beautiful Claudia greeted us at the dock with a big white book hoping to persuade us to buy into the roped off VIP area. We gently skirted her invitation by saying we would drink at the bar instead. Our four mojitos cost 60 euros. But they were delicious."

*The favorite?* "Everyone asks us which was our favorite island. When they do, Eric and I look at each other and smile. In fact, we could sit, smile, and not say a word as the memories of our time in the Med flood through our minds. Picking a favorite island would be rude, so we come up with examples of our many favorites."

Milos was awesome for the pirate caves and the Greeks we met. Bonifacio on Corsica took our breath away as we entered the narrow channel carved between cliffs and below the castle. Sardinia had great windsurfing, fish, and a friend waiting for us. Stromboli had a volcano that erupted every 15 minutes. We loved drinking wine on the back porch of a vineyard owner's home on Lipari. Ithaca was great because that's the setting for Homer's *Odyssey*.

Those are about 1/10 of the places we visited in the five months we spent cruising the Med. There was no favorite because they were all our favorites. Each island had its own character, whether it was Spanish, French, Italian or Greek. One thing I learned early on was to buy and enjoy what the island was famous for. The grocery stores were telling. Just walk down the aisles and see what items they had whole rows of. The hard part was then figuring out which of any particular item was the best."

*Not enough time.* "Why the rush-rush when we are supposedly 'cruising'?"

***While Eric and Annie had no favorite islands, stunning Bonifacio on the island of Corsica took their breath away.***

When you only have five months to see the Med, it's not nearly enough. Some people spend their whole lives cruising the Med, and we can see why. Each country has its own style, flavors, customs and landscapes. It was really hard for us to leave the Med, but rest assured that some day, with or without *El Gato*, we shall return."

— annie 12/15/2015

*Readers — Annie and Eric are now cruising the Eastern Caribbean. Her blog is terrific, and you can follow it at tradewindadventures.wordpress.com. It's also the way to contact the couple if you want to do a charter with them.*

## **Geja — Islander 36**

**Andrew Vik**

### **Eighth Summer Cruise In the Med (San Francisco)**

*[This is Part Two of Andrew Vik's report on his eighth annual cruise in the Med. Part One appeared last month.]*

It was great to get in two solid weeks of cruising along Montenegro's short coastline. While Croatia is inundated by tourists, by both land and sea, you can still get that off-the-beaten-path feeling in Montenegro. The marinas are never full and we had all three anchorages to ourselves. Berths with water and electricity cost between 30 and 50 euros per night, about 20% less than in Croatia.

Unlike our checkout procedure in Croatia, sailing out of the EU and into Montenegro couldn't have been smoother. But that's probably because our port of entry was the overly posh Porto Montenegro. Some rich Canadian guy has turned an old naval shipyard into the Adriatic Sea's most luxurious marina, positioning it as a hot spot for megayachts.

Upon arrival at the customs dock, I was whisked away by a pretty young marina employee in a golf cart to visit the onsite customs and police offices. I was even given a cold beverage. I was afraid that I was unknowingly going to have to pay a fortune for the hand-holding, but it was free. It sure made the 64-euro overnight charge seem far more reasonable. Overall, though, the place sticks out like a sore thumb in an otherwise poor country.

As you sail south in Montenegro beyond the Budva Riviera, things became less 'refined', leading us to make a number of Borat references. There



was more trash in the sea, and the water somehow lost the clarity for which the Adriatic is known. But, hey, 'refined' can be boring.

Yet if it had been up to my two buddies, a Swede and a Dane, we'd have spent their entire two-week stay in Budva, a very refined holiday destination. It's indeed a special place where the most fashionable local girls, along with tourists from Serbia, Ukraine and Russia, party the summer nights away. Their culture favors high heels and short dresses, so the nightly supermodel parade was just insane.

What's a typical party night like for the Geja gang? Being Scandinavian-blooded, we follow the Nordic protocol of pre-partying on board. Not that drinks in the Balkan countries cost anywhere near what they do up north – a mojito will only set you back up to seven euros; beers two to three euros. The pre-party is just a fun component of the night to sit



# IN LATITUDES



ALL PHOTOS COURTESY GEJA



**Scenes from a summer in the Adriatic. Clockwise from lower right; Reaching toward Perast, Montenegro; "Girls! Girls! We're showering!" Beautiful Dubrovnik. The food is delicious in the Adriatic. Kotor. 'Geja' crew Vilja from Finland. Beaches are crowded. The main down means the season is over.**

with your buddies and get your drink — usually vodka-based — on. At around 11 p.m. we'll paddle and/or walk to a nearby hot spot, and possibly hit a nightclub later. If new friends are curious enough to check out the boat, the Scandinavian concept of an after-party concept applies as well. In between nights such as those, I like to schedule what I call 'detox-stops' — remote anchorages with no shoreside party temptations. A long, peaceful night of sleep can be an elusive treat during a *Geja* voyage.

Checking back into Croatia from the south involves another stop in Cavtat. Oddly, the customs quay was empty, and several boats were just circling around when we arrived. Apparently the computers were down so nobody could check in. Nor were the awaiting boats allowed to even tie up. Eventually the

computers were fixed and it became our turn to Med-moor to the quay. Given the time, I'd come up with a plan to avoid the ridiculous 13-euro line-handling charge.

Since you're not allowed to step off a boat that isn't securely tied at Cavtat, it would seem you would have to pay for a line-handler. But I positioned a crewmember at the stern with a pre-looped line. With my other crew up front paying out the anchor chain, I backed toward the quay. Ignoring the line-handler on the shore, my stern crew success-

fully lassoed the bollard. With line and chain snug, I stepped ashore on my secure vessel and checked us into Croatia. I was lectured upon departure, but did avoid the fee I would have had to pay the previous time.

From Cavtat it's just an hour to Dubrovnik, one of Europe's most badass walled medieval towns. The marina is a 30-minute bus ride from the old town, and costs 100 euros during weekends — "just 70 euros" the rest of the time — so we just dropped the hook next to the old town port. It's a crappy anchorage where *Geja* rolls in even the calmest weather, but the location can't be beat. And there is no anchoring fee at Dubrovnik, a surprise in a country infamous for anchoring fees.

In all, I logged 600 miles this summer and was underway 37 out of the 48 days. I averaged 16 miles on my days underway. As for those fickle Mediterranean winds, we were only able to sail about 35% of the distance this summer, a new low. This figure had been as high as 59% in one previous summer, but it's usually in the 40s.

Of *Geja's* 30 different overnight stops, 13 were new to me. That's the luxury of sailing in Croatia — you simply can't run out of new places to explore, what with the countless islands and protected harbors. Even after eight summers.

That said, I've covered all of the highlights of both shores of the Adriatic at least twice by now, from Venice in the north down to Montenegro. Part of me misses the excitement of discovering new places, while another appreciates the minimal planning required to share some awesome cruising grounds with good friends. I have a great setup with a boatyard just a stone's throw from the airport in Split, Croatia. The English-speaking mechanics are intimately familiar with *Geja* by now, and there's always

***Being towed behind 'Geja' was fun, but it didn't do that much for her boat speed. Vik is proud to fly the American flag in the Med.***



GEJA

# CHANGES

some deferred maintenance for them to deal with in the off season at less than half of US boatyard rates.

Many cruisers hate Croatia, mostly due to the bureaucracy, anchoring charges, hordes of charter boats, and expensive marinas. In time I've gotten used to the rules, have learned which anchorages are free, and cherish the Fridays and Saturdays when all of the charter boats head back to port. Croatia has the most islands in close proximity of anywhere in the Med, so if geography defines the quality of a cruising venue, then this is the place to be. Plus, it attracts independent travelers from around the world, and is probably the safest, cleanest, and most convenient country in which to cruise. So it still suits me as the ideal place for a 'quick' six-week vacation sail.

— *andrew 12/15/2015*

## Cruise Notes:

"The outboard thieves of Mazatlan are alive and well," reports Jamie Sibley of the San Diego-based Chey Lee 36 ketch **Flying Cloud**. "In early January we had our Yamaha 8-hp taken in the middle of the night while at the Old Harbor at the south end of town. The thieves were brazen enough to board our boat and gather up the outboard gas tank as well. It's sad that there seems to be no stopping these guys, as it makes cruisers not want to visit Mazatlan."

The **Old Harbor-Stone Island** area of Mazatlan did have a number of outboard thefts a few years ago, so it's unfortunate that it seems to be starting up again. Mazatlan is well worth visiting, so it might be better to get a berth at one of the marinas at the north end of town where there is better security.

If you have something valuable stolen from your boat while cruising in Mexico, we'd love to hear about it so we can warn others about potential 'hot spots'.

"After meeting up with the Wanderer in La Cruz, we had a good trip around

**The Old Harbor is near the attractions of downtown Mazatlan, but over the years it has earned a reputation for poor security.**

Cabo Corrientes and down to Tenacatita Bay, where I'm serving yet another term as 'Mayor,'" write Robert Gleser and First Lady Virginia Gleser of the Alameda-based Freeport 41 **Harmony**. "On our way to Tenacatita, we got to see the impact that October's extremely powerful hurricane Patricia had on the area. From what we could tell, the worst hit spots were from Perulta, better known as Chamela, to Barra de Navidad. As of late December, the jungle and palm trees still looked battered, with lots of torn and fallen fronds. But new fronds were emerging from the barren trunks.

"As for Tenacatita Bay, a lot of work has been done and is being done, with a beautiful new *palapa* on the beach near the Tenacatita anchorage. The Blue Bay Hotel has many projects going on to rebuild and repair the damage, from new roof tiles to new *palapas* to smoothing the beach with big equipment."

For the record, the Glesers have been 'six and six' cruising since 2000.

What does the 'Mayor of Tenacatita Bay' do? We'll let John Rogers of the San Diego-based Deerfoot 62 **Moonshadow** explain. "Every Friday the 'Mayor' holds a dinghy raft-up potluck. By the time I got down from taking the accompanying photo of the group from the mast, there were more than 20 dinghies and about 50 people sharing food and stories and generally enjoying each other's company and the end of another fine day."

The 'Mayor's' Friday night raft-ups, and other cruiser group activities at Tenacatita, are among the strongest cruiser traditions in Mexico. Tenacatita Bay is about 15 miles north of Barra de Navidad and 90 miles south of P.V.

Is there a group of people any more deserving of love and help than children who, for whatever reason, don't have a parent or a family member they can live with and who cares for them? We don't think so. As a result, we'd like to give a special shout out to **Katrina Liana** of Marina Riviera Nayarit in La Cruz, and local cruisers, who on January 6 put on a special King's Day Party for the 25 children of Manos de Amor (Hands of Love) Orphanage. 'Kat', as she's best known, founded the event six years ago when she was an active cruiser. Now that she works for the marina — "I'm still a cruiser!" she insists — she continues to head up the terrific event, with the enthusiastic support of the marina.

The children were brought to the marina from the or-



phanage in Bucerias and given a free meal at the marina deli. Then they got to play with the marina's many 'boat kids', doing things like making crafts and painting one another's faces. Finally they were all given gifts in one of the 30 backpacks brought down from the States by cruisers Richard and Donna Pomeroy of the Astoria, Oregon-based Polaris 43 **Flying Carpet**.

As much as the children loved the gifts, what they really hungered for was the attention and love of other humans. As Doña de Mallorca remarked, "I've never been hugged so hard in my life."

*Latitude 38* salutes everyone who helped bring a little sunshine into the lives of these innocent kids, who have started life having being dealt such a bad hand. We know this is just one of many cruiser programs to help the less fortunate in Mexico, so we also salute all of you who help at other similar events.

Another of the other cruiser charity events in Mexico was the December



# IN LATITUDES



ALL PHOTOS COURTESY MOONSHADOW



Three shots from cruiser favorite, Tenacatita Bay, Mexico. The lower photo shows the dinghy raft-up beginning to form for the 'Mayor's Friday night gathering. Above left; When 'Moonshadow' came north three years ago, the 'Jungle Ride' was open. Right; Now cruisers are clearing it again.

**Riviera Nayarit Splash/Blast/Pirates for Pupils Spinnaker Run for Charity**, which is supported by Riviera Nayarit Tourism, Paradise Marina, Marina Riviera Nayarit, *Latitude 38*, the Punta Mita Yacht & Surf Club and P.V. Sails. The beneficiaries of the three-day event are the very young students of the Punta Mita area. Top finishers of 21 boats in the Ha-Ha-style racing was Fred Roswold and Judy Jensen's now-La Cruz-based Peterson 43 **Wings**. Having sailed their boat around the world for 18 years, they've got her dialed in.

"Since June I've had my catamaran up the Rio Dulce River in Guatemala, where I've had extensive work done on her," reports Scott Stolnitz of the Marina del Rey-based Switch 51 **Beach House**. "We later spent New Year's Eve with Peter and Laurie on their sistership **Zia**. While up the Rio Dulce I felt like we were in the

bottom of a toilet bowl. I don't mean to suggest that it's a bad place, but rather it is the bottom of the world in terms of getting out of there, as you've run out of downwind options and have to head east and upwind into the trades. It took a guy named Columbus and the crew of his galleon three months to finally get far enough east, which is why he named the last point Punta Gracias Adios.

"Anyway, my companion Nikki Woodrow and I will soon depart for either the Bay of Islands or Isla Providencia, then the San Blas Islands and the Panama Canal. We need to transit the Canal, not so I can head up to California

to finish my circumnavigation, but rather because Nikki and I have decided to sail across the Pacific to Australia again. It's going to be quite a season."

What's the best alternative to a sat-phone? Mike and Deanna Ruel of the East Coast-based Manta 42 **R Sea Kat** — who finally won a seemingly endless battle against relentless strong winds to get down the east coast of South Africa and around the Cape of Good Hope — are big believers in the **DeLorme InReach** two-way text messaging device. On the other hand, Eric Witte and Annie Gardner of the Pt. Loma-based Catana 472 **El Gato** are big believers in the **Iridium Go!** "Our service plan for \$125/month includes unlimited texting and emails, no matter where in the world we are. We used our phones and iPads and their app, and it was easy once we practiced."

Both the DeLorme and Iridium Go! are powered by Iridium, which means they should work anywhere in the world. Although we think nothing beats a sat-phone in an emergency, both devices are good alternatives — and/or backups — to satphones.

Doesn't **Debbie Rogers** look smashing in the photo below that shows her practicing yoga on her and her husband John's San Diego-based Deerfoot 62 **Moonshadow**? Naturally her bright blue top complements her blonde hair and is a vibrant contrast to the green background, but what really makes her look so smashing is that she radiates health and vitality. It's almost hard to believe that she's been happily married to John for 43 years, and is also a grandmother several times over. Those of us hoping we can look half as great as Debbie through some '30-seconds-a-day, every-third-day' routine are going to be disappointed, as she reports that it takes time and effort.

**Debbie Monnie Rogers knows that good health is its own reward. She also has the discipline to do yoga onboard almost every morning.**



MOONSHADOW

# CHANGES

"I do my routine the first thing in the morning almost every day we're at anchor," says Debbie. "I usually put on some mellow flute music to set the mood. It takes about an hour to finish the routine, but when I'm done, I'm limber and ready to start the day. If we're in a marina, I usually hear about a local yoga class and join in."

It's easier to do yoga, stretching and other exercise on bigger boats, of course, but many cruisers manage on smaller boats. If you have a daily or just frequent exercise routine for when you're on your boat, we'd love to hear about it.

The little big man! That's the thought that came to our mind when we saw the photo at right of two-year-old Taj Lau-ducci of the Sausalito-based Stevens 40 **Shawnigan**. Skateboarding Taj is a wild one, so it's fortunate for parents Christian and Josie that they have the help of two offspring — Nina, 12 and Ellamae, 7 — as well as pickup crew Emma (last name unknown).

Great Misexpectations. "We are in Mazatlán and met the skipper of a boat that had started the last Ha-Ha, but had to bail in Ensenada because of electrical problems," write multiple Ha-Ha vets



SHAWNIGAN

*Fearless Taj is an apple who hasn't fallen far from his father and grandfather's tree. Sisters Nina and Ellamae are almost as adventurous.*

Marina and Myron Eisenzimmer of the San Anselmo-based Swan 44 **Mykonos**. "The skipper said they were disappointed when they got to Turtle Bay because they found the village to be "so dirty". What was he expecting, a miniature San Diego?"

Since **Baja** is almost all desert, it's to be expected that the village of Turtle Bay, which has no paved roads, will be as dusty as all the other villages on Baja. However, it's also true that there is an unfortunate garbage problem in Turtle Bay, as is the case in too much of Mexico. The garbage situation has actually improved greatly in the tourist areas over the last 10 years, but there is still work to be done. That said, we should all remember that it was common practice to throw garbage out of cars in the US as late as in the 1960s.

"Judy and I are in Panama City, Panama, getting ready to transit the Canal," reports Bill 'Cover Boy' Lilly of the Newport Beach-based Lagoon 47 **Moontide**. "It looks as though I will have an (almost) all-female crew. The rumor down here is that the issue with the Kuna Indians on the beautiful San Blas Islands on the Caribbean side of Panama has been resolved. Even though the Kuna Yala — San Blas Islands — are supposed to be pretty much autonomous in the way Indian reservations are in the States, the Panamanian government reportedly put a stop to Kuna plans to charge between



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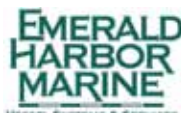
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\$1,500 and \$4,000 a month (!) in fees to anchor in the San Blas.

"In any event, after the San Blas we will probably head north toward Belize, the Yucatan, hopefully Cuba, Key West, and get north of Florida by hurricane season. If we don't, our insurance doubles. We're thinking about taking *Moontide* up the Potomac River to Washington, D.C. to do the 'Capitol thing' with a couple of my grandkids this summer, then head to the Eastern Caribbean in the fall. I figure I need to do New Year's at Foxy's in the British Virgins at least once in my life."

Because of the webcams at the Panama Canal, many of Bill and Judy's friends were able to watch them pass through the Miraflores Locks on January 19. It's always fun to watch friends pass through the locks, and you adjust the webcam angle over the Internet.

Thanks to Michael and Robin Stout of the Redondo Beach-based Aleutian 51 **Mermaid**, we have the latest information on the situation in the San Blas Islands.

"We were in the San Blas Islands more than a month before anybody ever came by to collect any fees from us, and they

were \$20/month per person, and \$20/month for the boat. It's true that the Guna Congreso, which is the Kuna Yala ruling body, was going to charge outrageous fees, but decided against it. The Kuna have been friendly and welcoming to us so far, and the San Blas are beautiful and fun. By the way, here's our daily routine: do a boat chore in the morning; go for a swim, island or dinghy adventure; lunch; then snorkel. Sometimes we even go for a sail. It's not a bad way to spend our days. We might even stay here for a year."

Actually, it's not uncommon for cruisers to spend a year or more in the San Blas Islands, which have frequently been described as looking "more like the South Pacific than the South Pacific."

Thanks to publicity given it by numerous self-appointed experts, **Playa del Amor**, aka **Hidden Beach**, became



MERMAID

*Robin and Michael enjoying snorkeling in the San Blas Islands. And why not, as the water is so clear and the sea life is so plentiful.*

an Internet sensation for the absurd title of 'the world's best remote beach'. Located just four miles from Punta Mita at the Marieta Islands near the mouth of Banderas Bay, it's also ridiculously been called 'the Galapagos of Mexico'. The result is that the place we and other cruisers had to ourselves just a few years ago is now overwhelmed with tourists brought out in all manner of charter boats from Puerto Vallarta, Nuevo Val-



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# CHANGES

larta and Punta Mita.

Hidden Beach truly is cool because it's inside a crater and you have to swim through a tunnel to get into it. In fact, you can't get in when the tide is really high or the surf is big because you bang your head on the top of the tunnel. But while the surrounding area is home to some tropical fish, rays and whales, it's not on the order of the Galapagos — or most places in the Caribbean. But that hasn't stopped the hordes. According to one official of the nature preserve, 4,000 people a day visit the beach during the high season, and 2,000 during the low season. And you thought Yosemite was being loved to death.

So many charterboat passengers want to get ashore that they sometimes have to wait as much as 90 minutes for their turn. While waiting, no music may be played and no alcoholic beverages may be consumed on the boats. And when you swim to the beach, you have to wear a bracelet that shows you've paid a fee, and an orange PFD. How can you free dive while wearing a PFD? You can't — which is the point. If this sounds heavy-handed, it is, but given the number of visitors it almost has to be. And if



RIVIERA NAYARIT TOURISM

*Playa del Amor really is a cool place, but only if it's just you and your lover. It's not so fun when you have to share it with hundreds of others.*

you see photos suggesting that it's just going to be you and your lover at Playa del Amor, rest assured that you have a better chance of being alone on a BART train at rush hour.

However, there is very good news for

owners of private yachts. After getting a permit in downtown Puerto Vallarta, you can anchor overnight at the Marietas up to four times a month. But don't wait too long, because plans are already being formulated to begin restricting access to islands on certain weekends if not weeks, simply to keep it from being overwhelmed.

The other somewhat discouraging news is that some organization, believed to be **Vallarta Adventures**, has placed a very large dolphin pen outside the anchorage at Punta Mita. We can only assume that tourists will be brought out to the pen in high-capacity boats so tourists can swim with the captive dolphins. Currently Vallarta Adventures has a swim-with-dolphins program in Nuevo Vallarta. Vallarta Adventures activities are very popular and highly-rated, we'd just prefer that they, as well as everyone else, stay out of the trapped-mammals business.

**UPDATE:** After three days and a major uproar from locals, the pen and mooring balls have now been removed.

We have to admit that we swam with dolphins in a pen during a **Big O** cruise

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of Cuba about 20 years ago. It was a terrific experience, but one we nonetheless have misgivings about.

Good friends Barry and Sylvia Stompe of the Sausalito-based Hughes 48 ketch **Iolani** report they've completed a 16-day doublehanded passage from French Polynesia to Hilo, Hawaii. The couple love delicious and nutritious food, so they've been enjoying the produce market at Hilo.

"Hilo has a lovely veggie market every day, with Thai and Hawaiian farmers selling great fruit and veggies," reports Sylvia. "So after more than two weeks at sea, we've been eating well. However, the fish prices are quite a shock after French Polynesia, where we paid \$2.50/pound for yellowfin tuna fresh off the boat. We're thinking the only fish we'll eat is that which we catch ourselves on our way up to Hawaii. We landed two dorado, which was nice. We also hooked a massive yellowfin, but after Barry played it for two hours, the fish got off. I'm not sure how we would have been able to land it, much less eat it all, so perhaps it's for the best that he got away."

We'll have a detailed report on the

*Iolani's* adventures in next month's *Changes*.

A **heart attack on the boat** in the marina at 4:30 a.m.? The Wanderer had been having a dream — he *thinks* it was a dream — in which he was having a difficult time breathing. When fully awake, he wasn't sure if he was having trouble breathing or not, although he wasn't having any other obvious heart issue symptoms. But at age 67, and having recently lost his dear, dear friend Philo Hayward to a heart problem, he decided not to take any chances. He popped a couple of children's aspirin, took a bit of Xanax, and told Doña they were going to 30-minute-distant San Javier Hospital in Nuevo Vallarta just to err way on the side of precaution.

They arrived at the immaculately clean **San Javier Hospital** at 5:30 a.m., and the Wanderer was immediately tended to by several staff members, one



**The Sausalito-based Hughes 48 'Iolani' in the turquoise Bora Bora lagoon. We can't think of a sweeter place to do laundry!**

of whom quickly hooked him up to a machine to check his blood pressure and pulse. Moments later he was taken to see a doctor, who immediately gained the Wanderer's confidence. Already this was the antithesis of too many US hospital experiences.

After going over the Wanderer's pretty clean medical history, he was taken to a modern and absolutely clean room with a bed where he was given an EKG by a combination of three very kind nurses.

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# CHANGES

They let the still sleepy Doña, who didn't seem very concerned, crash in the bed next to him. A few moments later the doctor went over the Wanderer's EKG — no problems — and discussed how to deal with the fact that both his blood pressure and blood sugar were a little elevated. The Wanderer knows how to fix that: go on a plant-based diet and cut out the crap food. He'd done it before, lost 40 pounds (way too much) in four months, and saw his blood-pressure and blood-sugar numbers plummet.

As far as the Wanderer is concerned, his was the Ritz Carlton of hospital experiences. He didn't see another patient in the whole place. It got even better when he was handed a bill for 2,700 pesos for everything — about \$162. What would such a visit have cost in the United States?

Naturally not all hospitals in Mexico are as good as San Javier, but there is usually at least one very good one in most larger tourist cities. Several others have shared their hospital experiences in Mexico:

"I was in La Paz in December and couldn't shake a dry cough that had persisted since the Ha-Ha," reports Douglas

Thorne of the Alameda-based Celestial 48 **Tamara Lee Ann**. "I decided to go to a clinic that the marina recommended, and they were able to get me an appointment with a doctor for later that day. He turned out to be a cardiologist. He arrived exactly on time and it appeared that I was his only patient that day. He spoke English pretty well, and proceeded to give me the long-form interview about my family medical history and so forth. He then gave me an exam that included an electrocardiogram, for which he personally did all the prep — shave the chest, attach the sensors, and so forth. It came out normal. He then typed out a prescription for three medicines for the cough, which I was able to fill in about two minutes at the pharmacy below his office. The cough was almost completely gone two days later. Total cost for the exam? About \$48 US"

"Our daughter gave birth to our grandson in Hermosillo, and her experience reflects that of the Wanderer," wrote **Lynn Cannon**. "Giving birth in Hermosillo was luxury compared to what it would have been in Phoenix — and at

one-quarter the price."

"Tamiko and Eli and I have been to the IMSS hospital in Mezcales twice now," writes Steve Willie of the La Cruz-based Vagabond 47 **Landfall**. "The public IMSS hospitals are for the masses and not as scrupulously clean as San Javier, but the one in Mezcales was as clean as most hospitals we've seen in the States. And an emergency room visit only costs \$30. The longest we had to wait to see a doctor was 15 minutes, and as far as we're concerned, the care was beyond excellent."

"When Mike had back surgery at the San Javier Hospital in Guadalajara, it was the best hospital experience ever," reports Shelley Rothery Ward of the La Paz-based Peterson 44 **Avatar**. "I was given clean sheets every day and told to sleep on the couch in the room for the week."

The bottom line? Stay healthy. But if you need medical care, don't fear treatment in Mexico, especially if you're on a budget. And when in doubt, get a second opinion.

It's the height of the winter cruising season, so we'd love to hear from you and get a few photos.



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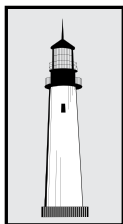
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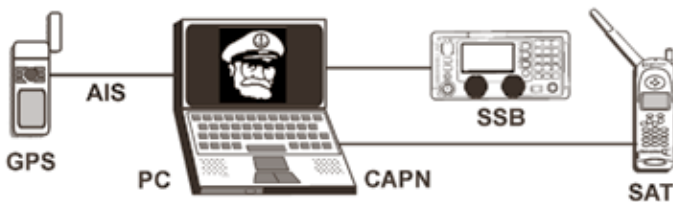
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**8-FT DEWITT DINGHY.** Richmond YC. \$400. In good condition. Yellow plastic hull. Mylar full-batten sail. White canvas mast/sail bag and board bag. **SOLD**



**24-FT C&C MIRAGE, 1980.** Alameda. \$6,495. *Escape Pod* is a sleek, fast, and solid yearling in coastal cruising. 15: Nissan Sailer by Glen Hansen. VHF, depth sounder, Porta-Potti. Roller furling, two jibs, whisker pole, symmetrical spinnaker, Lewmar ocean hatches. Running lights, Lifesling, anchor/rode. Shorepower. Propane stove. Sink. Cabin lights. Beautiful condition, well maintained. Super-dry boat. **SOLD**



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**8-MAN VIKING LIFERAFT.** Santa Cruz. \$2,750. 8-person Viking RescYou liferaft used in the 2015 Transpac. Certified to 2018 with deck cradle canister type. Never deployed. Contact (831) 423-5431 or kevin@skyhighway.com.

## 24 FEET & UNDER

**12-FT BARNSTABLE CAT BOAT.** 2007. Balboa Yacht Club, Newport Beach CA. \$9,995/obo. A fiberglass replica of the Beetle Cat, a popular class on the East Coast. Great little boat. More info at (949) 760-3852 or zillbb@cox.net.




**J 24, 1978, LAKE TAHOE.** \$6,500. Triad single-axle trailer, new standing rigging, new nonskid deck, new tip roll hull, 4-stroke 4hp Merc 2012. Contact (530) 307-8120 or rotaryrocks@gmail.com.

## 25 TO 28 FEET



**CATALINA 27, 1979.** Oakland Yacht Club, Alameda. \$8,500. Very cute, recently (beautifully) redone Catalina 27, with 6hp outboard, 95% + 110% jibs, fresh bottom paint and brightwork. Great Bay sailer. See website for more information! [www.patrickandvallerie.com](http://www.patrickandvallerie.com). Contact [Reconnaisant@kolasinski-law.com](mailto:Reconnaisant@kolasinski-law.com) or (209) 535-3104.

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**30-FT KNARR, 1961.** San Francisco West Harbor. \$42,500/obo. US 103 *Sophia* is a beautiful 1961 Borresson Knarr with a wooden hull. *Sophia* has been perfectly restored, including cabin top, cabin sides, toe rails, plywood/glass deck, keel bolts, garboards, cockpit seats and cockpit. She also has a new full cover, new aluminum rig and recent haulout. *Sophia* has won multiple season championships and is ready to race/sail. She is located in the S.F. West Harbor slip which can go with her subject to harbor regulations. Information at (510) 812-5939 or (415) 789-1903 or [dwntsr@aol.com](mailto:dwntsr@aol.com).



**33-FT CAPE DORY 330, 1986.** Built in East Hampton MA. Ko'olina Harbor, Honolulu, HI. \$50,000. 9 GT, length 33-ft. beam, 10.2; depth, 7.9. Fiberglass. Diesel 35hp, New sails, Ham & VHF radio, radar. Info at (808) 281-7852 or (808) 205-1884 or [milekav@msn.com](mailto:milekav@msn.com).



**27-FT CAL 2-27, 1976.** Stockton Sailing Club. \$7,500. Atomic 4 inboard, exceptional interior, lots of extras, new Garmin echo-map/Blue Chart coastal mapping, symmetrical and asymmetrical spinnakers, self-tacking jib, vang. Winner of 9 championships. More info at (209) 981-2449 or [kittygutierrez@comcast.net](mailto:kittygutierrez@comcast.net).



**30-FT CATALINA, 1983.** Alameda. \$18,000. Very clean, iconic Bay sailer, low hrs Universal diesel, roller furling. 2 reefers, 3-burner stove, flat screen with DVD player. Achilles dinghy with 6hp 4-stroke motor. Email for more photos [bdcutshall01@gmail.com](mailto:bdcutshall01@gmail.com) or call (530) 210-4045.



**ERICSON 30+, 1981.** Marina Green, San Francisco. \$18,000. Original owner. Universal 16hp diesel. Standing rigging replaced in December 2013. Lifelines and running rigging replaced in 1997. Harken self-furling jib installed in 1997. New sails in 1997. Marina Green slip included! Contact (650) 400-6898 or [Dfoley@ewingfoley.com](mailto:Dfoley@ewingfoley.com).

**32-FT CATALINA, 2000.** Santa Cruz Yacht Harbor, Slip C17. \$69,000. 386 hrs on Yanmar 27hp diesel. New prop and bottom paint. Factory installed Raytheon NavPod electronics, Schaefer roller furling jib and canvas dodger. Refrigeration. Well maintained. More info at (831) 818-7683 or [judithscollon@rocketmail.com](mailto:judithscollon@rocketmail.com).

**33-FT NONSUCH, 1989.** Grand Marina, Alameda. \$98,880. Queen of her fleet. True classic coastal cruiser, easy handling, fast and great livability. Low hrs, well maintained. Attention-getter wherever she goes. More info at <http://gypsyspirits.me>. Contact (530) 412-0144 or [cbellasail@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cbellasail@sbcglobal.net).

**27-FT CATALINA, 1977.** Berkeley Marina. \$6,000. *Windhorse*. Sailed on Bay last 12 years. Well kept up. Illness forces sale. Full-batten main, spinnaker, spare headsails, 9hp Evinrude. Dinette model. Contact [info@carpenterdesign.com](mailto:info@carpenterdesign.com) or (541) 885-5450.



**30-FT IRWIN, 1975.** Alameda. \$9,500. Universal diesel M3-20B, 270 hrs. 3 jibs, 2 spinnakers and main. Same owner since 12/77. Sailed on Bay and Delta. For more information: (510) 236-5394.

**YANKEE 30, 1971.** Brisbane Marina. Best Yankee 30 on the planet. Looks great, sails great, race winner. See website for details, pricing, and contact info. <http://doubleplay.website>.



**32-FT JIM TAYLOR RACE SAILBOAT.** 1998. Santa Barbara, CA. \$59,500/obo. *Danger Zone* is a Jim Taylor (Marblehead, MA)-designed 32-ft carbon fiber race boat. Carbon hull, deck, cockpit, Hall carbon mast and boom 1860+/- lbs. Custom carbon tiller/rudder/keel. 5 new North sails designed in 2014 by JB Braun-North Sails. *Danger Zone* won 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002 New England PHRF championships. Current PHRF rating 36. Totally restored and refurbished in 2013-2014. \$12,000+ Nexus instrumentation package w/GPS speed/VMG, etc. New VHF radio/GPS. Fast and fun-capable of beating maxis in the right hands. We have, you can too! Custom trailer and delivery anywhere negotiable. Located SBYC. See online at [www.danger-zone.net](http://www.danger-zone.net). Contact Steve at (617) 838-4648 or [info@americanglobal.org](mailto:info@americanglobal.org).



**ALERION EXPRESS 28, 2008.** San Rafael, CA. \$80,000. Beautiful condition with larger 2-cylinder Yanmar diesel engine. Full electronics. Shoal draft keel, trailer option. Dodger not included. More info at (415) 699-4290 or (415) 456-7650 or [pdccatalina320@gmail.com](mailto:pdccatalina320@gmail.com).



**30-FT WYLIECAT, 2004.** Richmond. \$48,000. 50% equity interest (1/2 expenses), 100% fun. Hull 16, Yanmar, Raymarine instruments, new wishbone '08. New bottom 2014. Shorthander's dream. Well maintained and cared for. Contact [tracyslottatude@gmail.com](mailto:tracyslottatude@gmail.com).

### 32 TO 35 FEET



**33-FT YORKTOWN, 1975.** Brickyard Cove. \$22,500. 1975/2007 Mexico veteran. Great Bay/liveboard boat. Exceptionally roomy and comfortable below. Diesel heat, 3-burner oven/stove. Isuzu 27hp. Many good sails and gear. Health forces sale. Information at (707) 495-3636 or [Barbaradhayes@aol.com](mailto:Barbaradhayes@aol.com).

**33-FT CAL, 1972.** Emery Cove Yacht Harbor. \$13,800. Modified stern Ykeg rudder. Tiller. Volvo diesel under 400 hrs. Harken Mk II. Newer rigging. Surveyed in December. Priced to sell. Buy it with a slip for extra discount. Contact (626) 410-5918 or [ngolfieart@gmail.com](mailto:ngolfieart@gmail.com).



### 29 TO 31 FEET

**30-FT CAPE DORY, 1982.** Marina San Carlos, MX. \$25,000. Upgraded rigging, gel batteries, full-batten main, Furlex, wheel, Lewmar ST30s, dodger, Autohelm, CQR, propane stove, solar panel, dinghy, EPIRB and more. Documented, custom trailer, US delivery possible. Contact (575) 758-8366 or [jmac@laplaza.org](mailto:jmac@laplaza.org).

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**33-FT CUSTOM STONE SLOOP, 1958.** Berkeley Marina. \$39,000/obo. *Little Packet*, 33-ft custom sloop, designed by Lester Stone in 1958 for Chris Jenks, commodore of the St. Francis YC. Unique design with comfortable sunken cockpit and dog house to tuck under. Varnished spars and trim. Self-tending jib makes her easy to sail. Current owner has sailed her since 1971 as far as Baja. She has always been well maintained. For more info contact dickwr8@gmail.com or (510) 654-7704 or (510) 604-7704.



**38-FT MORGAN 382, 1978.** Brisbane Marina. \$39,900. *Skylark* is both sea kindly and comfortable underway and owners lived aboard for 11 years. She has a large well protected cockpit and is rigged for doublehanding. Original Yanmar 3QM has just 500 hours. Second owners have lovingly cared for her the last 25 years but are leaving the area. An excellent Bay and offshore boat. For a full equipment list and photos contact (650) 722-4546 or bh.hackel@gmail.com.



**N/M 36 MODIFIED, 1999.** RYC. \$125,000/obo. *Quiver* is for sale. One of the best PHRF boats on the Bay. Antrim-modified, Nash-built and fully "Easomized" for fun fast sailing. For more info contact jdmccord@hotmail.com or (415) 246-2641.



**CATALINA 42, 2001.** Newport Beach, CA. \$174,500. Full Raymarine elec. Inverter, windlass with remote, DVD, dodger, new bottom paint, 56 Yanmar low hours. Roller furling. 2 cabin elect fridge. This boat is turnkey. Contact (714) 376-7688 or (949) 548-3874 or ginka\_62@yahoo.com.

**35-FT HUNTER 356, 2002.** Marina Bay, Richmond. \$64,000. 2002 *Cruising World's Boat of the Year* in class. Too many extras to list. Contact Ken for more info: (325) 347-2349 or cordero@wcc.net.



**HUNTER 37 CUTTER, 1982.** Guaymas, Sonora, MX. \$25,000. Cruise ready! Yanmar diesel, 93 gal fuel cap, 45 gal water, 2 mainsails, jib, genoa, staysail w/ roller furling, Monitor windvane, radar, solar and wind, SSB, 7 2-sp self-tailing winches, 2-sp manual windlass, autopilot, starter battery and two house banks only 2 yrs old. Dinghy w/outboard, fishing and scuba gear. This boat is loaded with lots more gear. Fuel tanks are full and she is eager to go! For more information contact quietpriority@yahoo.com.



**39-FT CAL, 1971.** San Diego Harbor, CA. \$12,000/obo. *Knot A Clew* just repowered, Perkins 4-108 diesel, new batteries, gauges, alternator, paint, tiller, fast. Signet instruments, Big Richie compasses. Oceanside slip. Ready for Newport to Ensenada, trophied last time. Contact: granahan@cox.net or (949) 280-6220.



**48-FT MAYFLOWER KETCH, 1985.** Puerta Vallarta MX. \$109,000. Sleek and graceful Mayflower ketch. Properly equipped for a crew of two, bluewater cruiser carries and flies up to five sails. Designed by George Stadel II, the *Oriana* has proven performance, good construction, and attention to detail. Ample captain's cabin, attractive, roomy salon, and fully-equipped galley, the boat is a comfortable liveaboard in any of the world's ports. Powered by the dependable Perkins 92M, under power the craft cruises comfortably at 7.5 knots. Equipment includes roller furling on all masts, self-tailing winches, 300-ft. chain anchor rode, three sturdy anchors, watermaker, and more. More information at [www.theoriana.com](http://www.theoriana.com). Contact (480) 447-7316 or info@theoriana.com.

**36 TO 39 FEET**



**36-FT PEARSON TRI-CABIN SLOOP, 1983.** Alameda. \$37,500. Beautiful classic boat, teak interior, Yanmar 3 GM runs well, interior forced-air cabin heater, hot/cold pressure water, 12V refridge/freezer, Robertson autopilot, Gianini canvas dodger. Contact [pbm23@hotmail.com](mailto:pbm23@hotmail.com) or (510) 366-4434.

**37-FT CSY CUTTER, 1978.** Discovery Bay. \$37,000. Two staterooms, two heads with showers. Perkins 4-108, runs strong. Large cockpit with bimini and cockpit table. Full-batten main. Huge refrigerator, freezer. Caribbean and Mexico vet. This boat truly sleeps six in comfort. Photos available on request. Call (530) 219-1566 or sailorboyone@gmail.com.

**CHEOY LEE CLIPPER 36, 1978.** Coyote Point Marina. \$35,000. A classic, well outfitted ketch in good condition. Dodger, diesel, radar, SSB, Navico Wheel-Pilot 5000, Sailomat steering system, 1200 Maxwell power windlass. More information on web at [www.zen-in.com/dragonlady/](http://www.zen-in.com/dragonlady/). Contact (650) 996-5087 or bill\_sails\_sfbay@yahoo.com.



**37-FT TAYANA PILOTHOUSE, 1981.** San Diego. \$79,000. A proven offshore cruiser. New bottom paint. Aluminum mast. No teak deck. Cruise-equipped/liveaboard-ready. Numerous upgrades. For detailed portfolio and photos go to website: <http://www.tayana37ph.com> and then contact [mail@tayana37ph.com](mailto:mail@tayana37ph.com).



**37-FT PACIFIC SEACRAFT, 1989.** Marina Bay, Richmond. \$118,000. A gorgeous boat with tons of recent upgrades - standing rigging, electronics & diesel. Sailed the PacCup in 2014 and the Ha-Ha in 2009. More information at [www.sailboatlistings.com/view/54134](http://www.sailboatlistings.com/view/54134). Call (925) 639-1185 or [svkierrie@gmail.com](mailto:svkierrie@gmail.com).

**39-FT BAVARIA, 1994.** Everett, WA. \$82,000. Opportunity. Selden custom cutter rig, radar, wind generator, solar panels, SSB, Hydro, raft, dinghy, Honda 4-stroke, EPIRB, 40hp Volvo 1380 hrs, dodger, cover, cushions, windlass, etc. Photos on website <http://1drv.ms/1spFYLQ>. Contact [gastonmartin@hotmail.com](mailto:gastonmartin@hotmail.com) or (509) 370-4222.



**40 TO 50 FEET**

**46-FT MORGAN 462 KETCH, 1980.** Mazatlan, MX. \$130,000. Extensively refurbished, teak interior, hull insulated, marble countertops, 2 Vittrifigo AC/DC reefers and freezer. New Raymarine MFD, autopilot, Spectra 200 T, solar, wind gen, Kubota genset, Honda 15 w/starter, 9.5-ft. Caribe, chaps, davits, new epoxy hull. 105 lb. CQR w/300-ft. of chain, 65lb. CQR w/200-ft. of chain, 2 stern anchors. Spares and much more. More information at [http://chapelsculpturestudio.com/pages/chapel\\_home.html](http://chapelsculpturestudio.com/pages/chapel_home.html). Contact (510) 593-4290 or [chapel48@gmail.com](mailto:chapel48@gmail.com).



**41-FT CT, 1976.** Vallejo. \$52,000/obo. Veteran cruiser. Owned by the same owner since 1976. It has many cruising extras. Sails, anchors, and ground tackle. Set of world charts. 75hp Volvo diesel. Contact [maspragg@aol.com](mailto:maspragg@aol.com) or (415) 726-3322.

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**41-FT ATKIN KETCH, 1962.** Santa Barbara Harbor. \$35,000. *Charity*. Built for the journey. A McNish winner. Knowledgeable second owner. 30 years of ownership. Lovingly maintained. Builder: Dean Stephens. Hull re-fastened with Monel fasteners. Please contact (805) 689-9214 or pride.barco@mindspring.com.



**42-FT BENETEAU 423, 2005.** San Pedro, CA. \$179,900. Two cabins, deep keel, classic rig. This Mexico veteran is completely outfitted and ready to go cruising. For info visit our website: <http://finisterraspecifications.blogspot.com>. Contact (949) 491-3521 or (949) 500-4364 or yatdesign@aol.com.



**44-FT KELLY PETERSON, 1977.** San Diego. \$110,000. Major refit 2012, new Yanmar 75hp, new fuel tanks, new rigging and chain plates, dodger, bimini, pedestal, super cold machine refrigeration, Force 10 three-burner stove with oven, deck and cabin Awlgrippped new nonskid, new electronics including Raymarine E127 chartplotter, digital color radar, Standard Horizon Matrix VHF, all new batteries and Kyocera solar panels. Too much to list. May consider small trade. More at <http://endlesssummersailing.tumblr.com/>. Please contact (949) 291-6115 or jerrygahan@yahoo.com.



**50-FT WHITING (NZ), 1981.** Opuia, NZ. \$185,000 (U.S.). U.S. documented vessel, bonded/imported to French Polynesia and New Zealand, allowed indefinite stays in all 3 countries. Solidly built in California for serious offshore sailing, this is a proven fast, powerful, and functional vessel conceived for efficient, safe offshore passages. The cold-molded, triple-planked wood hull complements interior cedar and mahogany beam laminations and fine yacht craftsmanship throughout. The open, well-ventilated layout is ideal for the tropics, and comfortably sleeps 7-9. Extensively cruised throughout the Pacific, with a major refit in 2008, she is in superb condition, fully equipped, and ready to cruise again. Electronics and inventory list available on request, or download detailed PDF at website: [www.shanachie.org](http://www.shanachie.org). Email: [kazoo@shanachie.org](mailto:kazoo@shanachie.org).



**47-FT CUSTOM CRUISER, 1983.** Gary Mull performance cruiser. Pittsburg, CA. \$250,000. Fast, strong, aluminum with beautiful Awlgrip finish. Loaded to cruise. Just returned from 6 months in Mexico. Very special boat. More information at [www.sailboatlistings.com/view/51161](http://www.sailboatlistings.com/view/51161). Contact ed.witts@gmail.com or call (925) 948-5613.

**46-FT CAL, 1974.** Rio Dulce. \$75,000. Custom interior, dodger, furling mainsail, new rigging, spinnaker, davits, Furuno radar, plotter, autopilot, solar panels, generator, watermaker, VacuFlush, bow thruster, refrigeration, windlass. 11.5-ft. RIB 15hp dinghy, epoxy bottom, 85hp Perkins. Contact (949) 548-1050 or bobonparadise@hotmail.com.

**42-FT PASSPORT, 1988.** Portland, OR. \$146,500/ask. Proven passagemaker. Very seaworthy, dry, comfortable. Moderate displacement, canoe stern, cutter rig. Magnificent teak interior with extraordinary storage. Lightly used, meticulously maintained, moored in freshwater last 10 years. More information and contact at: <http://gfdm.net/passport42forsale>.



**44-FT F&C, 1979.** Morro Bay, CA. \$110,000 possible partial trade. One of the most gorgeous sailing yachts ever built. Designed and built by German Frers, sistership to the late Roy Disney's famous *Shamrock*, possibly the only example of this fast and beautiful, go-anywhere, blue-water cruiser on the West Coast. Strong fiberglass hull and deck with teak deck overlay. Centerboard shoal draft 5'1": go to weather board-down 7'6". Interior finished in South American hardwoods, 2 staterooms, 2 heads, sleeps 6. Only a few hrs on rebuild Perkins 4-108, large sail inventory, upgraded electrical system, newer upholstery, stainless dorades, full dodger, much more. May consider partial trade for fiberglass mid-30s sailboat. Call (805) 235-4046 or tackorjibe@gmail.com.



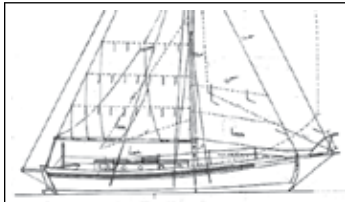
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**43-FT RON HOLLAND, 1986.** Marina Riviera Nayarit, MX. Aft cockpit, 2 staterooms, 2 heads, spacious, well equipped and well maintained for cruising. Singlehanded all over Pacific Mexico in comfort and now lying in a fantastic location. See website at [www.sanctuarycharters.com/sabbatical.php](http://www.sanctuarycharters.com/sabbatical.php). Info: [office@sanctuarycharters.com](mailto:office@sanctuarycharters.com).



**47-FT VAGABOND, 1981.** Newport Beach. \$65,000/obo. Project boat. Interior cosmetically overhauled beautifully. Needs electronics, mast, rigging on board. Ford Lehman 85hp needs work. Teak decks need attention. Hull in good condition. Call for details, photos: (949) 689-4978 or [lisa@bywaterbyland.com](mailto:lisa@bywaterbyland.com).



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**40-FT C&C, 1981.** Marina Bay Yacht Harbor. \$65,000. New Beta diesel professionally installed, bottom paint 10/2014, new hull paint, stanchions, lifelines, batteries. Autopilot, windlass, 10-sail inventory, spinnakers. Racer/cruiser, PHRF 93, dry boat. For info contact [garylfox@att.net](mailto:garylfox@att.net).



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**SPARKMAN & STEPHENS 44, 1970.** MX. \$99,500. Sparkman & Stephens design, #1930-C2. Built 1970 by Cantiere Benello in Italy. Striking beauty, classic lines, exceptionally seaworthy. Fully equipped for bluewater cruising. Please contact for info and pictures. (714) 369-7881 or philshlund@hotmail.com.



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**35-FT BENETEAU CATAMARAN, 1986.** Ensenada, MX. \$60,000/obo. Boat has two 17hp Yanmar diesel engines, two 20-gallon water tanks, two 20-gallon diesel tanks, two double berths and furling genoa sails. Call (928) 301-2189 or (928) 899-0401 or edbooty10@yahoo.com.



**40-FT CREALA, 1992.** Rio Dulce, Guatemala. \$110,000. Crealock-designed performance cruising cutter. Double-ender. Fin keel. Skeg hung rudder. Maintained and extensively cruised by one caring owner. Very good to new condition throughout. Aesthetic. Cruising equipped. Engine 1750 hrs. Email: tllsonds@yahoo.com.



**49-FT JEANNEAU SUN ODYSSEY.** 2007. Ventura Harbor Village Marina. \$335,400. Exceptional performance cruiser. Three-cabin configuration. Wood interior, stainless appliances. Full electronics, autopilot, bow thruster, full-batten mainsail/3 reef points, 150% roller furling genoa. More info at (805) 220-0705 or Jeanneau.perception@gmail.com.

## 51 FEET & OVER



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**33-FT PARTNERSHIP SEAWIND 1000.** 2003. San Diego. \$5,000. Seriously loaded with new gear. Complete photos, specs on website. Mexico if partners desire. Will also consider outright sale. Also setting up catamaran partnership in Key West, FL. More info and photos at <http://catamaranpartners.com>. Contact Don@catamaranpartners.com or (605) 646-3111.



**33-FT SEAWIND 1000, 1998.** Alameda. \$125,000. Boat returned from 4 years in Mexico. Has been surveyed and is in excellent condition. It has new motors, sails, carlvas, hull paint and thru hulls. (Photo is sistership.)



**44-FT CATALINA MORGAN, 2007.** Oak Harbor, WA. \$260,950. A real deck salon, light and airy with a settee you can sit at and enjoy the outdoors. Both forward and aft cabins have queen berths with head and showers. Just-serviced 75hp Yanmar with 870 hrs. Newer batteries and two 85-watt solar panels. Cruising spinnaker, power winches, hydronic heat. Raymarine L120 radar, chartplotter autopilot, bow thruster. New dodger and glass. Leisure Furl boom. May consider trade. Please contact (408) 666-3261 or jerryfsaia@aol.com.



**47-FT OLYMPIC ADVENTURE KETCH.** 1978. Marina Riviera Nayarit, La Cruz, MX. \$120,000. Ted Brewer design, large center cockpit, 2 staterooms, 2 heads, beautiful teak interior, great headroom, equipped for cruising. Dodger, lots of storage, Onan generator, AIS, radar, VHF, autopilot, windlass, EPIRB, refrigeration. 6-person life raft, many sails including asymmetrical. Avon inflatable dinghy, Nissan 8hp, extensive ground tackle, much more. More information at (322) 889-2694 or ri56415@gmail.com.



**68-FT DERECKTOR, 1971.** Richmond, CA. \$199,000. Fantastic fast aluminum pilothouse expedition yacht. 2011 refit including new Yanmar, mast, sails, refrigeration, electronics. Returned from doublehanded voyage across Pacific to Fiji. More info at [www.apolloduck.com/feature.phtml?id=267073](http://www.apolloduck.com/feature.phtml?id=267073). Contact (415) 663-8776 or lorcarosman@gmail.com.



**42-FT FONTAINE PAJOT - VENEZIA.** 1995. Bocas del Toro, Panama. \$180,000. Well equipped catamaran ready for world cruising. Please contact us for additional pictures and a complete equipment list. Email:sailsouthernbelle.com or (504) 655-6673.

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**36-FT MACGREGOR CATAMARAN.** 1977. Morgan Hill, CA. \$18,750. Stock everything. Tramps good, 3 sails. Original mast and boom. Aluminum dual axle trailer. 9.9 Mercury Bigfoot long shaft outboard. Can deliver. Offers considered. Info at (650) 773-6327 or orlovicr@yahoo.com.



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**30-FT BIRD BOAT, 1924.** San Francisco. \$7,000/obo. Classic SF Bird Boat, *Mavis* #4. Restored, 2 sets of sails including spinnaker, inboard Yanmar engine, marine radio, auto water pump, elegant interior. For more information contact (415) 260-2224 or rob.ingalls@comcast.net.

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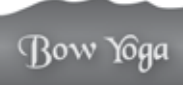
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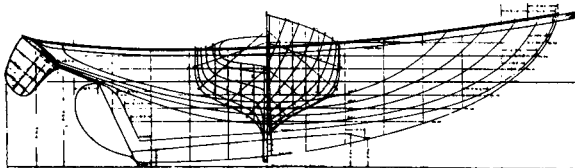
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