

*Latitude 38*

# Latitude 38

VOLUME 388 October 2009

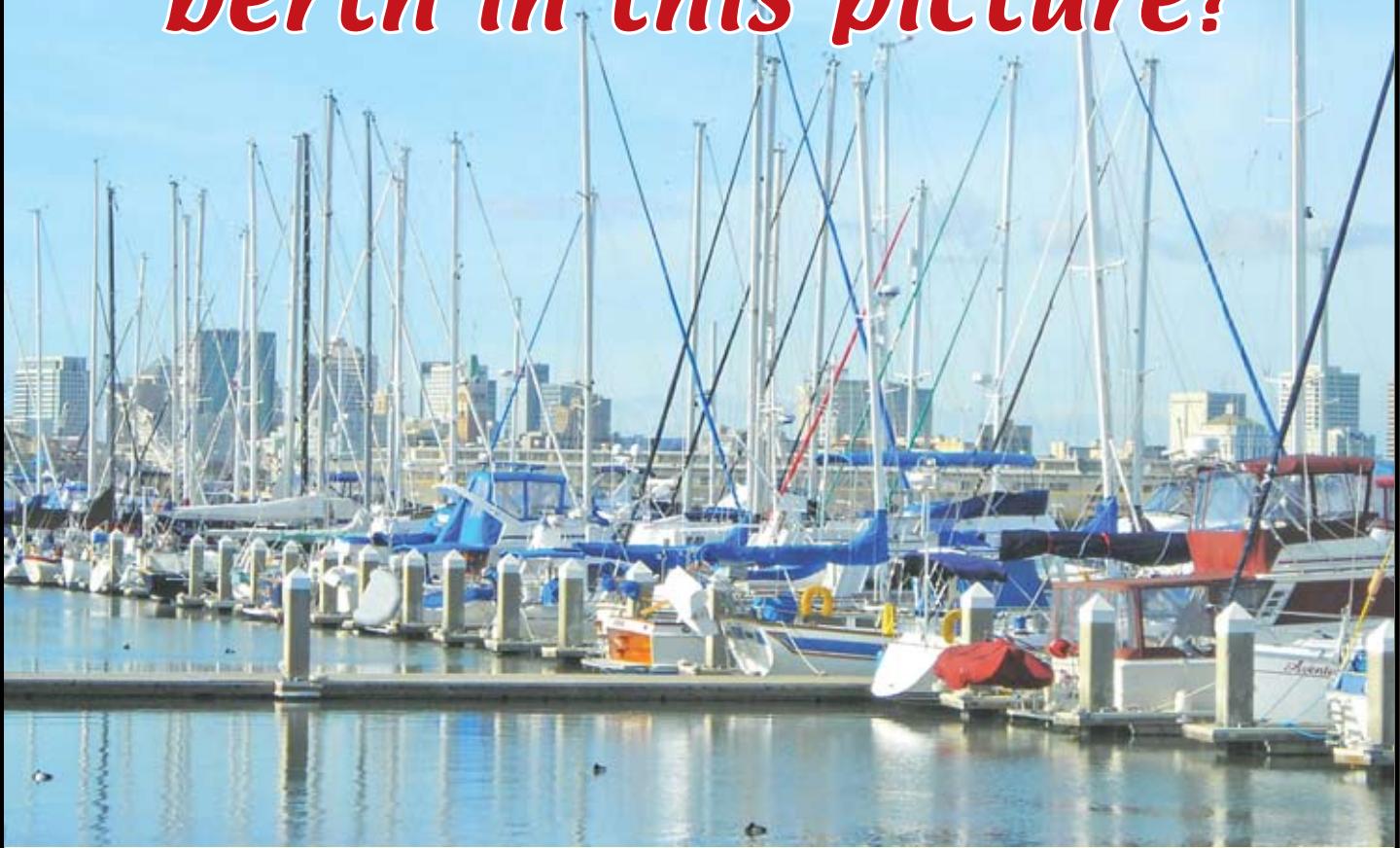
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OCTOBER 2009

VOLUME 388

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This year the class racing schedule consisted of a split season, and *Tackful*, Frank Lawler and Cathy Stieroff's Santana, placed first in the first half and second by one point in the second. *Tackful*'s Pineapple mainsail was built in 2000 and Pineapple class jib in 2001. More testament to the durability of good design and construction.

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Cover:

Rumor has it that BMW Oracle's monster trimaran has sailed at nearly 50 knots for an hour. Here, helmsman James Spithill can be seen 'going commando' about four stories high — he reportedly had the cage that would prevent him from falling to his death removed to show solidarity with his crew.

Photo: Gilles Martin-Raget / BMW ORACLE Racing

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*Latitude 38* welcomes editorial contributions in the form of stories, anecdotes, photographs—anything but poems, please; we gotta draw the line somewhere. Articles with the best chance at publication must 1) pertain to a West Coast or universal sailing audience, 2) be accompanied by a variety of pertinent, in-focus digital images (preferable) or color or black and white prints with identification of all boats, situations and people therein; and 3) be legible. These days, we prefer to receive both text and photos electronically, but if you send by mail, anything you want back must be accompanied by a 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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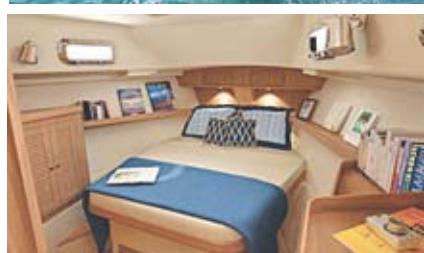


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Publisher/Exec. Editor .....	Richard Spindler .....	richard@latitude38.com .....	ext. 111
Associate Publisher.....	John Arndt.....	john@latitude38.com .....	ext. 108
Managing Editor.....	Andy Turpin .....	andy@latitude38.com.....	ext. 112
Editor .....	LaDonna Bubak .....	ladonna@latitude38.com.....	ext. 109
Racing Editor .....	Rob Grant .....	rob@latitude38.com.....	ext. 105
Contributing Editors .....	John Riise, Paul Kamen		
Advertising Sales .....	John Arndt .....	john@latitude38.com .....	ext. 108
Advertising Sales .....	Shawn Grassman .....	shawn@latitude38.com .....	ext. 107
General Manager .....	Colleen Levine .....	colleen@latitude38.com .....	ext. 102
Production/Web .....	Christine Weaver .....	chris@latitude38.com .....	ext. 103
Production/Photos .....	Annie Bates-Winship .....	annie@latitude38.com .....	ext. 106
Bookkeeping .....	Helen Nichols .....	helen@latitude38.com .....	ext. 101
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Other email .....	general@latitude38.com .....		

*Please address all correspondence by person or department name*  
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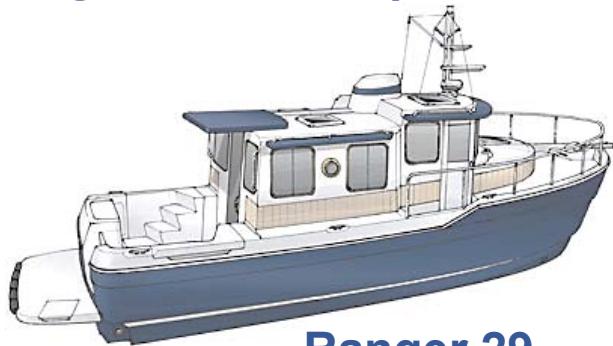
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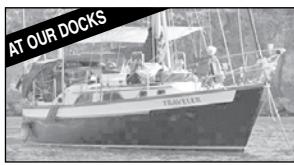
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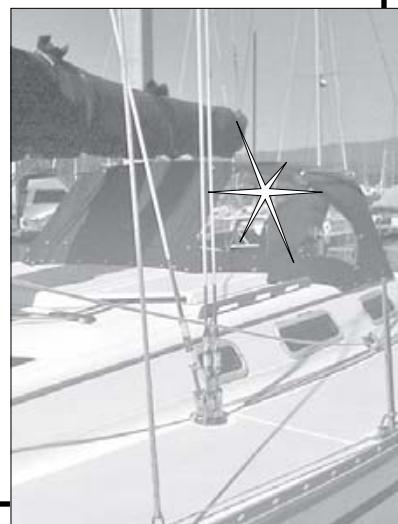
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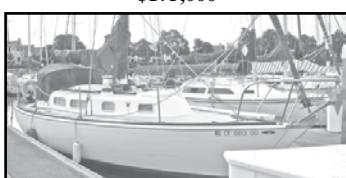
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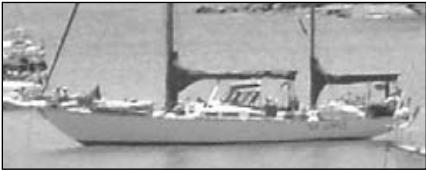
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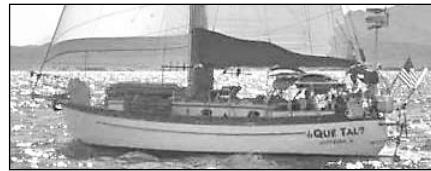
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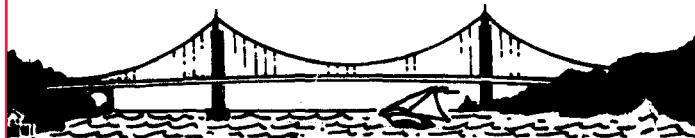
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## CALENDAR

### Non-Race

**Oct. 3** — 2nd Annual SailFest at Sausalito's Modern Sailing School, 1-5 p.m. Free sailboat rides, live music, food and a boat show. Info, (415) 331-8250.

**Oct. 3** — 10th Annual Cheoy Lee Rendezvous. All models welcome! Info, (415) 454-3234 or [brentsue@inreach.com](mailto:brentsue@inreach.com).

**Oct. 3** — Free Flare Demo at Sausalito YC, 9-11 a.m. Bring your expired flares! Reservations, (415) 332-7400 x114.

**Oct. 3** — Howl at the full moon on a Saturday night.

**Oct. 4-25** — Free sailing at Pier 40 every Sunday courtesy of BAADS. Info, (415) 281-0212 or [www.baads.org](http://www.baads.org).

**Oct. 7-28** — Wednesday Yachting Luncheon Series at St. Francis YC, 12-2 p.m., \$13.50. Enjoy lunch and a dynamic speaker every Wednesday. All YCs' members welcome. More info under the 'Events' tab at [www.stfyc.com](http://www.stfyc.com).

**Oct. 8** — Single sailors of all skill levels are invited to the Single Sailors Association monthly meeting at Ballena Bay YC, 7:30 p.m. Info, [www.singlesailors.org](http://www.singlesailors.org) or (510) 233-1064.

**Oct. 8** — 'Living on the Water on a Yacht' workshop at Tam High in Mill Valley from 6-9 p.m., \$35. Info, (415) 331-7095 or [www.livingonayacht.com](http://www.livingonayacht.com). Register at [www.marinlearn.com](http://www.marinlearn.com).

**Oct. 8** — *Saving the Bay: The Story of San Francisco Bay*, four one-hour episodes exploring the history of the Bay. Episodes 1 & 2 to air Oct. 8 on KQED, 8-10 p.m. Episodes 3 & 4 to air **Oct. 15**. Info, [www.kqed.org/savingthebay](http://www.kqed.org/savingthebay).

**Oct. 8-12** — 40th Annual United States Boat Show, a.k.a. the Annapolis Boat Show. Info, [www.usboat.com](http://www.usboat.com).

**Oct. 8-13** — Hey, sailor, it's Fleet Week, featuring the Blue Angels. Details can be found at [www.fleetweek.us](http://www.fleetweek.us).

**Oct. 10** — Get ready for the Pacific Cup with the first pre-race seminar at Berkeley YC, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Required for racers! \$35 pre-reg, \$40 at door. Info, [www.pacificcup.org](http://www.pacificcup.org).

**Oct. 10** — Martinez Marina Swap Meet, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. The last of the year. Info, (925) 313-0942.

**Oct. 10** — Chula Vista Marina's Swap Meet, 7 a.m.-1 p.m. Info, (619) 862-2835 or [www.chulavistamarina.com](http://www.chulavistamarina.com).

**Oct. 10** — Janna Cawrse Esarey will read from her hilarious book *Motion of the Ocean* at Book Passage in Corte Madera, 4 p.m. Info, [www.byjanna.com](http://www.byjanna.com).

**Oct. 10** — Triton One-Design & Albergs of SF Bay Fall Dinner at Quinn's Lighthouse in Oakland, 7:30 p.m. Info, <http://albergssfbay.memberlodge.com>.

**Oct. 10-11** — 17th Annual Northern California Women's Sailing Seminar at Island YC. Info, [www.iyc.org/wss.htm](http://www.iyc.org/wss.htm).

**Oct. 17** — First of three classes by USCGA Flotilla 17 on Yerba Buena: About Boating Safety. Also, How to Read a Nautical Chart (**10/24**), and GPS for Mariners (**11/7**). \$55 each or \$135 for all. Info, [FSO-PE@flotilla17.org](mailto:FSO-PE@flotilla17.org) or (415) 285-1100.

**Oct. 17** — SF Maritime Park's Sea Music Concert Series aboard *Balclutha* at Hyde St. Pier, 8-10 p.m. Featuring Robbie O'Connell. \$14 each. Info, (415) 561-6662, ext. 33.

**Oct. 17, 24, 31** — Sail aboard SF Maritime National Historic Park's scow schooner *Alma*. Learn the Bay's history on this 3-hour voyage, leaving Hyde St. Pier at 1 p.m. \$35 adult, \$20 kids 6 & up. Info, [www.nps.gov/safr](http://www.nps.gov/safr).

**Oct. 18** — Ha-Ha Welcome to San Diego Party at Downwind Marine, 12-4 p.m. Info, [www.baja-haha.com](http://www.baja-haha.com).

**Oct. 19** — Electrical Systems seminar for Singlehanded TransPac at KKMI's Boathouse in Pt. Richmond, 7:30-10 p.m. Pac Cup racers welcome! Info, [www.sfbaysss.org](http://www.sfbaysss.org).

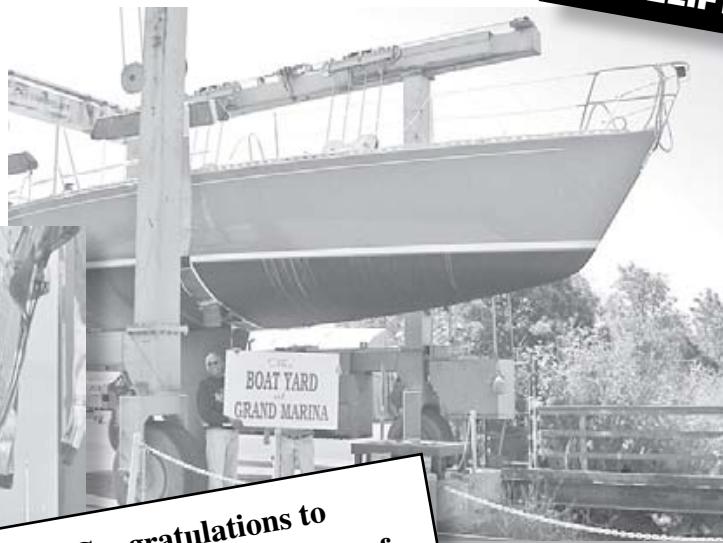
**Oct. 19** — Downwind Marine's Cruisers' Seminar Series kicks off with AIS: The Best Collision Avoidance System, by Steven Gloor at Downwind Marine at 7:30 p.m., \$3. More seminars at the same time and location. **10/20**: Sailing Downwind with the Proper Gear & Technique (Bruce Brown); **10/21**:

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## CALENDAR

Preparing for the Puddle Jump (Dick Markie); **10/22**: Solar Powered Battery Charging & Systems (Rick Cullen); **10/23**: Cruising Self Sufficiency (Paul Mitchell) & Cruising Woman's Round Table discussion (Susan Mitchell); **11/5**: AIS (Steven Gloor); **11/9**: Pressure Cooking for Cruisers (Steve Ford); **11/10**: Outfitting for Safety at Sea (Bruce Brown); **11/11**: Cruising on 12 Volts (Barry Kessler); **11/12**: Outboard Motor Needs for Cruising in Mexico (Tom Teevin). Info, [www.downwindmarine.com](http://www.downwindmarine.com).

**Oct. 20** — SailMail Marine Communication Seminar by Jim & Sue Corenman and Shea Weston at Pt. Loma Assembly Hall in San Diego, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. \$50/person or \$75/couple. Info, Downwind Marine at (619) 224-2733.

**Oct. 25** — Cal Sailing Club's free introductory sail at Berkeley Marina, 1-4 p.m. Info, [www.cal-sailing.org](http://www.cal-sailing.org).

**Oct. 25** — Ha-Ha Halloween Costume Party & BBQ in San Diego West Marine parking lot.

**Oct. 26** — Baja Ha-Ha 'Sweet Sixteen' Cruisers Rally starts from San Diego!

**Oct. 31** — Dress like a pirate on Halloween.

**Nov. 1** — Daylight Saving Time ends.

**Nov. 8** — Downwind Cruisers' Kick-Off Potluck BBQ at Downwind Marine in San Diego, noon-4 p.m. Info, [www.downwindmarine.com](http://www.downwindmarine.com).

**Jan. 4-Mar. 26** — Full-Time Sailmaking & Rigging Course at Northwest School of Wooden Boat Building in Port Hadlock, WA. Info, [www.nwboatschool.org](http://www.nwboatschool.org) or (360) 385-4948.

### Racing

**Oct. 2-3** — 46th Annual San Diego to Ensenada Yacht Race. Southwestern YC, [www.southwesternyc.org](http://www.southwesternyc.org).

**Oct. 2-4** — International Masters' Regatta, a J/105 regatta/reunion for seniors. StFYC, [www.stfyc.com](http://www.stfyc.com).

**Oct. 3** — South Bay YRA Summer #7. Contact Richard at [rjgreenawald@hotmail.com](mailto:rjgreenawald@hotmail.com).

**Oct. 3** — YRA-WBRA Southampton. Info, [www.yra.org](http://www.yra.org).

**Oct. 3** — Wallace Cup, a PHRF championship for East Bay clubs. OYC, [www.oaklandyachtclub.com](http://www.oaklandyachtclub.com).

**Oct. 3** — 6th Annual VNA & Hospice Regatta on Monterey Bay. MPYC, [www.mpyc.org](http://www.mpyc.org) or (831) 402-3181.

**Oct. 3** — Fall Race #2. SSC, [www.stocktonsc.org](http://www.stocktonsc.org).

**Oct. 3** — Kathryn Eavenson Regatta, for all-women crew and skippers. FLYC, [www.flyc.org](http://www.flyc.org) or (916) 635-3911.

**Oct. 3-4** — Islander 36 Nationals hosted by GGYC. Info, [www.islander36.org/09race.html](http://www.islander36.org/09race.html).

**Oct. 4** — El Toro Stampede. RYC, [www.eltororya.org](http://www.eltororya.org).

**Oct. 4** — Berkeley YC Chowder Series begins and continues every Sunday through March, except on Berkeley Midwinter weekends. BYC, [www.berkeleyyycc.org](http://www.berkeleyyycc.org).

**Oct. 4** — 29th Annual Women Skippers Regatta to benefit youth sailing. SYC, [www.syc.org](http://www.syc.org) or [race@syconline.org](mailto:race@syconline.org).

**Oct. 10-11** — SSS Vallejo 1-2, a mellow way to end the shorthanded season. Info, [www.sfbaysss.org](http://www.sfbaysss.org).

**Oct. 14-15** — IOD Team Races. SFYC, [www.sfyc.org](http://www.sfyc.org).

**Oct. 17** — YRA-HDA Yankee Cup & YRA-ODCA Champion of Champions. IYC, [www.yra.org](http://www.yra.org).

**Oct. 17** — YRA-WBRA Knox. Info, [www.yra.org](http://www.yra.org).

**Oct. 17** — South Bay Championship. SeqYC, [www.sequoiayc.org](http://www.sequoiayc.org).

**Oct. 17** — El Toro Corkscrew Slough Regatta. Sequoia YC, [www.eltororya.org](http://www.eltororya.org).

**Oct. 17** — Doublehanded Race. TYC, [www.tyc.org](http://www.tyc.org).

**Oct. 17** — Twin Island Race #3. SYC, [www.syc.org](http://www.syc.org).

**Oct. 18** — Singlehanded Race. TYC, [www.tyc.org](http://www.tyc.org).

**Oct. 17-18** — Jessica Cup, fleet racing for big woodies.

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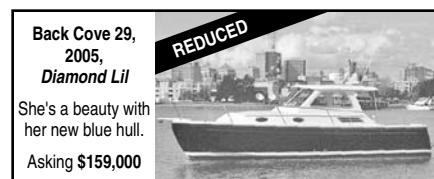


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40' Olson, '83, <i>Elka</i> .....	\$79,000
39' Carroll Marine CM 1200, '95**.....	\$82,500
39' Schumacher Custom, '96, <i>Recidivist</i> .....	\$149,000
38' Sydney, '00, <i>Howl</i> .....	SOLD
38' X-Yachts 382, '99, <i>X-TC</i> .....	SOLD
36' Jeanneau Sun Odyssey 36.2, '97**.....	\$89,900
36' J/109, '04, <i>Crazy Diamond</i> .....	Reduced! \$185,000



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29' MJM 29z, '07**.....	\$298,000
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27' Antrim 27, '98, <i>Luna</i> .....	Reduced! \$34,900
26' J/80, '01, <i>Lay Down Sally</i> .....	SOLD
26' Maple Bay, '92**.....	\$65,000
22' Aquapro Raider 665, '04.....	Reduced! \$34,900

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2002 Hunter 466	\$238,000
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2003 Jeanneau 45.2	\$269,500
1997 Beneteau 42.7	\$179,000
2000 Hunter 42	\$165,000
1986 Cheoy Lee 41	\$89,500
2008 Hunter 41 DS	\$228,500
2001 Hunter 410	\$139,950
2001 Catalina 380	\$116,900
2004 Hunter 386 LE	\$137,500
2004 Hunter 386 LE	\$136,900
1996 Hunter 375	\$89,900
1993 Hunter 375	\$71,900
1991 Hunter 37	\$69,950
1987 Catalina 36	\$54,500
1986 Freedom 36	\$69,900
2007 Hunter 36	\$149,995
2007 Hunter 36	\$149,500
2004 Hunter 36	\$103,000
1992 Solaris 36	\$89,990
1996 Bayliner 3485	\$49,995
1997 Catalina 34	\$79,500
1999 Hunter 340	\$83,500
1999 Hunter 310	\$44,995

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'09 Hunter 33

'09 Hunter 36



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# CALENDAR

StFYC, [www.stfyc.com](http://www.stfyc.com).

**Oct. 17-18** — Joe Logan (Mercuries) & Calvin Paige (Stars) Regattas. StFYC, [www.stfyc.com](http://www.stfyc.com).

**Oct. 18** — Lady Skippers Race. PresYC, [www.presidioyachtclub.org](http://www.presidioyachtclub.org).

**Oct. 24** — Ruth Gordon Schnapp Regatta, a fundraiser for Susan G. Komen for the Cure that requires a woman to be at the helm. GGYC, [www.ggyc.com](http://www.ggyc.com).

**Oct. 24-25** — Great Pumpkin Regatta, a Halloween tradition. RYC, [www.richmondydc.org](http://www.richmondydc.org).

**Oct. 24-25** — Fall Dinghy & Olympic Classes. StFYC, [www.stfyc.com](http://www.stfyc.com).

**Oct. 31** — YRA-OYRA Jr Waterhouse. RYC, [www.yra.org](http://www.yra.org).

**Oct. 31** — Red Rock Race. TYC, [www.tyc.org](http://www.tyc.org).

**Oct. 31-Nov. 7** — Dry Creek Vineyard Pro-Am Regatta on Virgin Gorda, hosted by Bitter End YC. Info, [www.beyc.com](http://www.beyc.com).

**October, 1979** — It Was Thirty Years Ago from the article "Phantom Gynecologist" by Sue Rowley:

"Hi, how ya'll?" Ted Turner greeted me in his disarming Andy Griffith drawl. His face was smeared with gooey white sunscreen and he looked like a little boy who had just finished a pie eating contest.

We were on our way out to the starting line of the Six Metre eliminations in a big power yacht towing Ted's boat *Ranger* and Tom Blackaller's *St. Francis VII*. Turner was subdued and philosophical that day, wanting to talk more about the crises in America and his dreams for the future than about sailing. Maybe because he wasn't doing so well.

"I don't really like sailing — never did," he claimed. I told him that was difficult to believe, coming from the recent winner of three major ocean events (Annapolis to Newport, Fastnet and SORC).

"My whole life is competition," he continued. "It's an 18-hour day of top-level, back-to-the-wall competition. I'm burned out. I don't have that killer instinct anymore. For a grown man to be screwing around with sailing boats when our nation faces the greatest crises in history . . . we oughta be working."

"Would you like it better if you were winning?" I asked.

"I'd like it somewhat better, but it wouldn't make that much difference. I've won at so many things in my life that it's disgusting! I've literally had the Midas touch. I have a beautiful wife that I love to pieces; I've got five healthy children; I'm worth over a hundred million dollars; I own baseball, basketball, and soccer teams; I have an eight-square-mile plantation with a mansion like Tara; I just bought a 1,200-acre island and am going to put a little beach house on it; I have a 500-acre farm near Atlanta; I own two private TV networks; I have three or four gorgeous girlfriends; I have everything and I'm only 40 years old. I couldn't list anything more that I want. Everywhere I go, people love me."

"Is that what happiness is for you?"

"No, what I want to do is set an example for common sense and dignity and brotherhood and humanity," he said with touching sincerity, and I began to think that Ted Turner has been misrepresented a bit.

He altered my preconceived image of him as the Muhammad Ali of sailing. I found him to be articulate instead of "mousy," considerate as opposed to "arrogant," independent rather than "opinionated." He has a style all his own, to be sure, but it is definitely a likeable one.

Perhaps he's mellowing. I hope not too much. Now he's off to play with 12 Metres and, hopefully, to defend the America's Cup. Will he really give up sailing? I wouldn't bet on it.

**Nov. 1** — Jack & Jill +1, the woman-skippered triplehanded

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- Mon 10/19 **AIS: The Best Collision Avoidance System** – Steven Gloor, Veteran Cruiser
- Tues 10/20 **Sailing Downwind with the Proper Gear and Technique** – Bruce Brown, Forespar & Johnson Marine
- Wed 10/21 **Preparing for the Puddle Jump/Ocean Passage** – Dick Markie, Dockmaster, Paradise Village Marina, Puerto Vallarta
- Thurs 10/22 **Solar Powered Battery Charging and Battery Systems** – Rick Cullen, President, Blue Sky Energy Inc.
- Fri 10/23 **Cruising Self-Sufficiency** – Paul Mitchell, Circumnavigator  
**Cruising Women's Round Table Discussion** – Susan Mitchell, Circumnavigator
- Tues 10/27 **Cruising Wisdom: Planning Provisions and Storage** – Rod and LeNan Thompson, Veteran Cruisers
- Thurs 10/29 To Be Announced
- Tues 11/3 To Be Announced
- Thurs 11/5 **AIS: The Best Collision Avoidance System** – Steven Gloor, Veteran Cruiser
- Mon 11/9 **Under Pressure! Pressure Cooking for Cruisers** – Captain Steve Ford
- Tues 11/10 **Offshore Safety: Gear You Need and How to Use It** – Bruce Brown, Switlik & Survival Technologies
- Wed 11/11 **Cruising on 12 Volt Batteries, Alternators, Invertors: Tips and Troubleshooting** – Barry Kessler, Xantrex & CEO, Altra Regulators
- Thurs 11/12 To Be Announced
- Fri 11/13 **Outboard Motor Needs for Cruising in Mexico** – Tom Teevin, Aquarius Yacht Services

### SPECIAL EVENTS

- Tues 10/20 **Sailmail Marine Communication Seminar**  
8:30am-4pm, Point Loma Assembly Hall, 3035 Talbot Street  
Intensive training on Internet email service for cruisers  
with Jim & Sue Corenman and Shea Weston,  
\$50/person or \$75/couple – includes lunch!  
Visit [www.sailmail.com/seminars](http://www.sailmail.com/seminars) to reserve space.
- Sun 11/8 **Downwind Cruisers' Kick-Off Potluck BBQ**  
12-4pm at Downwind Marine. Fun for all!  
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# CALENDAR

race on the Estuary. IYC, [www.iyc.org](http://www.iyc.org).

**Nov. 7-8** — Perry Cup for Meres. MPYC, [www.mpyc.org](http://www.mpyc.org).

**Nov. 17** — The Big Sail: Stanford vs. Cal in J/105s. More fun than football! StFYC, [www.stfyc.com](http://www.stfyc.com).

### Remaining Beer Can Regattas

**BALLENA BAY YC** — Friday Night Grillers: 10/2, 10/16, 10/30. Info, (510) 523-2292 or [race@bbyc.org](mailto:race@bbyc.org).

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

**COYOTE POINT YC** — Every Wednesday night through 10/28. Torin Knorr, (650) 863-2570 or [regatta@cpyc.com](mailto:regatta@cpyc.com).

**LAKE TAHOE WINDJAMMERS YC** — Every Wednesday night through 10/14. Mike Robinson, (530) 713-9080.

**SANTA CRUZ YC** — Wet Wednesdays, every Wednesday night during Daylight Saving Time. Larry Weaver, (831) 423-8111 or [lweaver@cruzio.com](mailto:lweaver@cruzio.com).

**SEQUOIA YC** — Every Wednesday night through 10/7. Rich Butts, (650) 576-3990 or [rcbutts@pacbell.net](mailto:rcbutts@pacbell.net).

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 either are free or don't cost much to attend. The Calendar is not meant to support commercial enterprises.

### October Weekend Tides

date/day	time/ht. LOW	time/ht. HIGH	time/ht. LOW	time/ht. HIGH
10/03Sat	0510/1.2	1138/5.7	1743/0.7	
	<b>HIGH</b>	<b>LOW</b>	<b>HIGH</b>	<b>LOW</b>
10/04Sun	0013/5.1	0540/1.5	1204/5.8	1818/0.3
10/10Sat	0616/4.3	1020/3.4	1624/5.7	2335/-0.1
10/11Sun	0724/4.5	1152/3.3	1740/5.5	
	<b>LOW</b>	<b>HIGH</b>	<b>LOW</b>	<b>HIGH</b>
10/17Sat	0450/1.2	1121/6.3	1737/-0.3	
	<b>HIGH</b>	<b>LOW</b>	<b>HIGH</b>	<b>LOW</b>
10/18Sun	0020/5.2	0530/1.7	1153/6.4	1820/-0.6
10/24Sat	0614/4.4	1041/3.5	1601/5.0	2313/0.5
10/25Sun	0712/4.4	1204/3.3	1707/4.7	
	<b>LOW</b>	<b>HIGH</b>	<b>LOW</b>	<b>HIGH</b>
10/31Sat	0351/1.6	1018/5.8	1645/0.3	2323/4.7

### October Weekend Currents

date/day	slack	max	slack	max
10/03Sat	0122	0404/3.4E	0738	1029/3.1F
	1327	1622/4.0E	2003	2258/3.4F
10/04Sun	0207	0443/3.3E	0808	1059/3.0F
	1355	1659/4.4E	2040	2337/3.5F
10/10Sat	0049	0354/3.1F	0735	0934/1.6E
	1230	1532/1.8F	1808	2149/4.2E
10/11Sun	0156	0503/3.0F	0838	1040/1.7E
	1358	1644/1.8F	1925	2255/4.1E
10/17Sat	0111	0351/3.5E	0716	1008/3.5F
	1301	1607/4.8E	1952	2255/4.2F
10/18Sun	0205	0437/3.2E	0757	1047/3.3F
	1338	1648/5.0E	2038	2342/4.1F
10/24Sat	0045	0353/2.7F	0721	0918/1.4E
	1249	1521/1.4F	1759	2126/3.4E
10/25Sun	0143	0454/2.5F	0816	1018/1.3E
	1359	1627/1.3F	1905	2223/3.1E
10/31Sat	0016	0248/2.8E	0616	0909/2.8F
	1205	1508/4.1E	1859	2155/3.3F
11/01Sun	0107	0232/2.7E	0552	0844/2.8F
	1136	1447/4.6E	1838	2137/3.6F

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## LETTERS

### ↑↓"MMS KILLED MY WIFE"

The following is an excerpt from a group email sent to me by Doug Nash of the Dana Point-based Spindrift 43 *Windcastle*, who is a veteran of the '04 Baja Ha-Ha. It's about the tragic death of his wife Silvie Fink at Epi Island, Vanuatu. She died 12 hours after taking MMS, a so-called alternative medicine prophylactic and remedy for malaria and many other diseases. It was sold to her by another cruising couple. The 76-year-old Nash and his wife Silvie, who was from Mexico, had been cruising the South Pacific for several years.

"My life during the past five weeks has been a nightmare, but I've been supported by many people in the cruising community here and abroad, plus all Silvie's friends and relatives back home in Mexico and in the States. The outpouring of grief has been overwhelming. But no one else can answer all the questions people have asked about what happened to her, so I must do that. Here is a summary:

"While in Port Vila, Silvie decided to purchase some MMS that she'd heard about from a cruising couple. The guy is from Belgium and his wife is from California. I was not happy about her wanting to try the stuff, but I didn't interfere because I knew nothing about it at the time. Besides, she was a grown and savvy woman with lots of experience with all kinds of good and bad medicines. She'd even done a little internet research on MMS over several weeks before trying it. Neither of us thought she would be in any danger from taking it. How dreadfully wrong we were!

"We left Port Vila on August 4, and sailed 90 miles north to Epi, which is another island in the Vanuatu group. We anchored at Lamen Bay the day after their annual canoe race festival. Having decided to stay an extra day at the nice anchorage, Sylvie decided to try MMS. Its proponents had told her that it would prevent malaria, which is prevalent in this part of the world.

"From almost the moment Silvie drank the mixture of MMS and lime juice — which she'd brewed up according to the instructions of Jim Humble, the principal proponent of the stuff — things went wrong. She became nauseated, and was soon both vomiting and suffering from diarrhea. But since the MMS literature emphasized that this was a normal reaction, she assumed it would pass. It didn't.

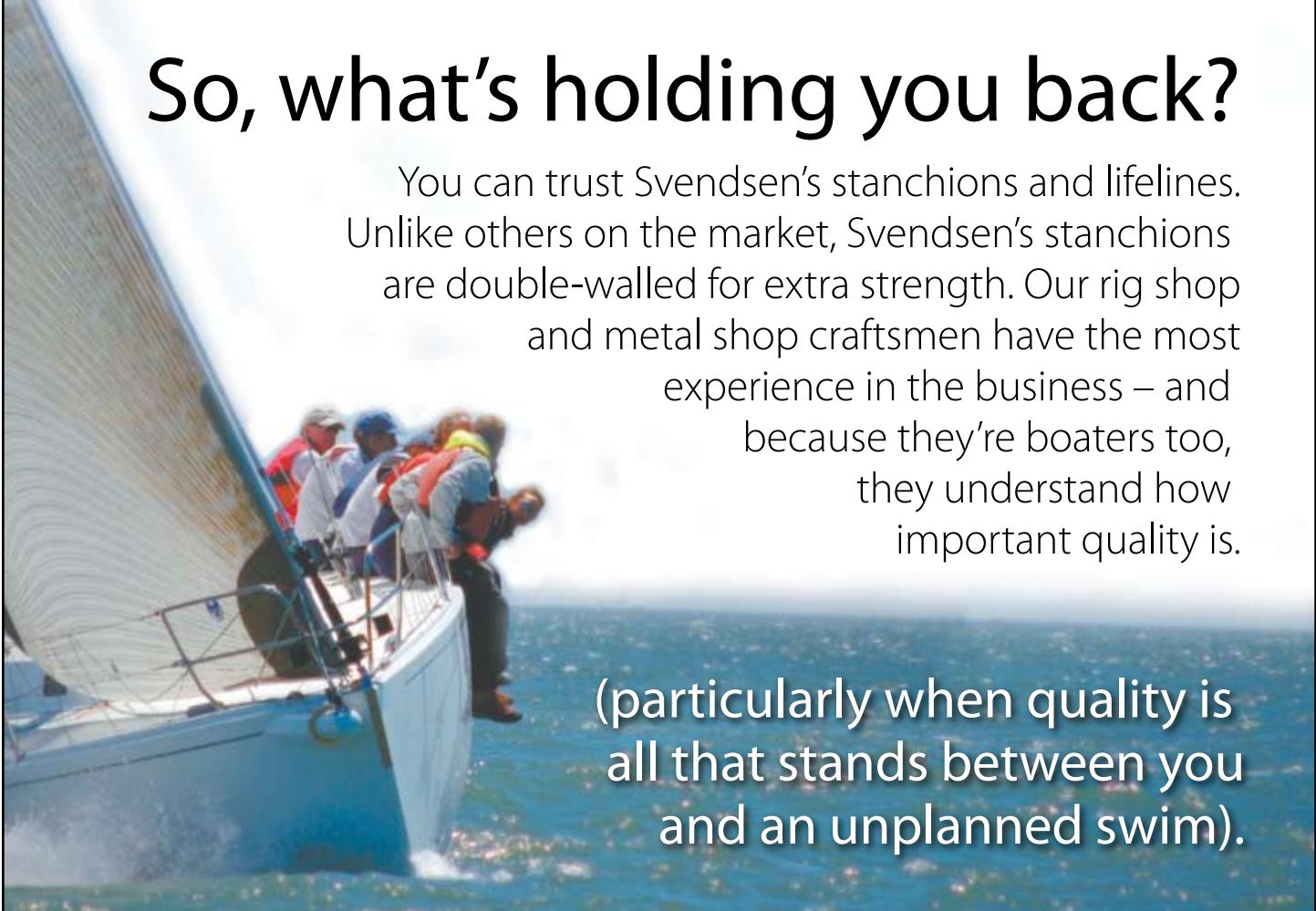
"It turned into a day of torture, with Silvie gradually getting worse, to the point of having severe abdominal pains, then urinary pains. I helped her all day, bathing her, comforting her and trying to get liquids into her. But she couldn't keep anything down. About the time it started to get dark, she began to feel faint. That's when I became fully alarmed. She fell into a coma while I was on the VHF calling for assistance.

"With her unresponsive, I put out another radio call, this time for immediate emergency care. Fellow cruisers rushed to our boat within minutes. For over an hour we administered CPR and oxygen. But neither they, nor an adrenalin shot administered by a physician from the village, were able to revive her. Silvie died aboard *Windcastle* around 9 p.m., just



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## LETTERS

12 hours after she'd taken that fatal drink of MMS. Her body was flown back to Port Vila the next day and put in the hospital morgue. I brought *Windcastle* to Port Vila the next day.

"Since then, there has been — because Sylvie hadn't died a natural death — a three-week-long police investigation involving Vanuatu criminal investigators. For one thing, it's illegal for anyone to promote or sell MMS as a medical remedy in Vanuatu. Australian joint command investigators, who aid in law enforcement in Vanuatu, also became involved. That led to a court order and, eventually, a senior pathologist's being flown from Melbourne to conduct a post mortem autopsy. That was two weeks ago. Then Silvie's son and daughter agreed that her body should be flown to New Zealand for cremation.

"Last week, I accompanied Sylvie's body to Auckland by plane. I was present for the cremation and arranged to have her ashes sent to her daughter Aretha in Mexico City. I'm now back on *Windcastle* in Port Vila, where I await the results of the autopsy from Australia's Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine in Melbourne. I'm also dealing with the need to secure our boat against the approaching cyclone season, which may mean having to sail her to another country.

"My heart has been absolutely crushed by the sudden loss of my dear wife Silvie. It's so shocking I can hardly believe it. I miss her immensely, and *Windcastle* is empty without her presence. But with all of her relatives and friends, Silvie, who brought so much joy and happiness into the world and to us, will live on forever in our hearts and minds. I've been told that the villagers at Epi, who had been so entertained by Silvie's dancing the night before she died, have built a shrine to honor her.

"As for MMS, I wish I'd done a better job of preventing Sylvie, who had become the love of my life, from messing with it. I know now that it's a dangerous, toxic chemical which, if ingested, can be lethal. MMS killed my wife, Silvie."

So ends Doug's letter.

John Nelson  
Crew on *Tres Estrellas*, 35-ft Horstman tri  
Cat Harbor

*Readers — We feel terrible for Doug's loss.*

We looked up MMS, which stands for Miracle Mineral Supplement — oh boy! — at a site called the Alternative Medicine Network. There we learned that the "miraculous" product, which is actually chlorine dioxide, and which needs to be "activated" by vinegar or lime juice, was accidentally "discovered" by Jim Humble. He's a gold miner rather than a chemist or physician, and supposedly stumbled upon it while prospecting for gold in South America. According to the literature, "the proof of the efficacy of this simple protocol was in successfully helping over 75,000 people in several African nations — including Uganda and Malawi — rid themselves, primarily of malaria, but also hepatitis, cancer, and AIDS." As we continued to read, we began laughing so hard we never got to the part that we're sure claimed that MMS isn't generally available because of the vast global conspiracy by the medical profession, big pharma, the American Cancer Society and others. If it weren't so terribly tragic, it would be hilarious.

We're not sure where the couple who sold Silvie the MMS are right now, or if some authority will charge them with something along the lines of wrongful death.

### ↑↑PUBLICITY STUNTS REFLECT POORLY ON SAILING

Your message about 13- and 15-year-old girls — Laura Dekker and Abby Sunderland — being too young to sail around the world is bang on. Or is it?



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## LETTERS

While it may seem reasonable to state that these young people are not old enough to take on these challenges, it overlooks the fact that in many places 14-year-olds can fire lethal weapons and 16-year-olds can drive and join the Armed Forces, where they are put into far more dangerous situations.

If these girls can pull off just getting to the starting line, they will have accomplished more than most 'world class' circumnavigators. If they can dream it, prepare for it, work their way up to it, and then get going, I say we should let them go. After all, this is what youth and adventure are all about. Risky? No doubt. But it's also risky for kids trying to live in most inner cities in North America.

A 17-year-old sailing around the world via the Southern Ocean in a \$250,000 boat? Youth dreams big and pushes the limits. And yes, some of them don't come home. But when they do, they inspire the youth of the world with their dreams and daring.

The idea of a 13-year-old who has lived her life on a boat, who has completed some pretty good passages, and who will have a ton of support along the way, sailing around the world singlehanded might seem crazy. But let's not forget that many other countries don't coddle their kids the way we do. Kids from other places are expected to fully pull their weight from a very early age. I applaud the Dutch for taking a serious but open-minded look at whether Miss Dekker has the skills and capacity to sail a boat around the world.

Is age what really matters? After all, one of California's finest, certainly over the age of majority, has recently demonstrated that age is no guarantee of competence, knowledge, skill or judgment — even for a trip across Clear Lake. And while on that note, thank you, *Latitude*, for the great work you did showcasing the Bismarck Dinius case to the world.

Wayne Bingham  
Atlante, Bris de Mer 34  
Victoria, Canada

Wayne — What in the world could you possibly mean when you write, "if these girls can pull off just getting to the starting line, they will have accomplished more than most 'world class' circumnavigators?" How could they accomplish something before they even started? Besides, there are any number of six-year-olds who could motor a boat to a starting line. What's the big deal about that?

It's correct that youth dream big and push limits. That's precisely why society tries to make sure that youth has some kind of adult supervision. God knows there's plenty of evidence of what happens to kids when there isn't enough supervision. You should also note that eight-year-olds are physically capable of taking drugs, driving motorcycles and having sex. But as adults, we realize they are not psychologically or emotionally ready to make intelligent decisions about engaging in such activities. Maybe they never will be, but at least we give them time to develop to the point where they can make a reasonable evaluation about what they're getting themselves into.

Let's also talk about specific cases, because the two in question are very different. First, there is the case of Laura Dekker, the 13-year-old from the Netherlands, who wanted to depart in September on a two-year solo circumnavigation. It came as a huge relief to Dekker's mother when the courts refused to let the girl go. Though she initially supported her daughter's bid, Mom finally admitted that she thought Dekker was too young for the trip and only said otherwise because the girl threatened to never speak to her again if she didn't. Mom stated what we thought would be the obvious: Dekker isn't mature enough. We'd also be willing to argue that she might not be physically strong

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## LETTERS

enough to handle some situations that would likely develop.

The case of 15-year-old Abby Sunderland is at least as extreme. While we wouldn't bet our boat on it, we wouldn't be surprised if she had the physical and emotional chops to do what her older brother Zac did. But the problem is that she wants to surpass him on two counts. Abby wants to do it while she's two years younger, which is pushing it a little, but she also wants to do a non-stop circumnavigation in six months via the Southern Ocean in an Open 40. This is a supremely greater challenge, sort of like the difference between climbing the highest peak on Catalina and climbing Mt. Everest. In the last Vendée Globe, which is essentially the same route that she's planning to take, only 12 of the 30 highly experienced and well-equipped sailors managed to complete a similar course. So in the case of Sunderland, we're talking either the monumental arrogance of youth or, more likely, a monumental ignorance of the dangers of the route. It strikes us as being like a novice surfer's wanting to catch her first wave at the Pipeline.

But it all comes down to risks and rewards, doesn't it? Since you acknowledge that 'some won't come home', we're curious about what kind of mortality rate you deem to be acceptable for female sailors in their early and mid-teens. And even if they do survive, there is no guarantee that they'll be the same when they come back. The great Ellen MacArthur, who was a very experienced ocean racer before she took off to set an around-the-world record, has never been the same person since. So even if these girls survive, and survive with their faculties intact, you still have to ask yourself what their lives are being risked for. A segment on Good Morning America? A minor book deal? In our opinion the risk/reward ratio has reached the point where these things are nothing but publicity stunts and, as such, reflect poorly on sailing in general.

### ↑↑NEREIDA STARTS NON-STOP CIRCUMNAVIGATION

While refueling this morning at St. Peter Port, Guernsey, I noticed a sailboat that appeared to have spent the night at the fuel dock. Her name was Nereida. As the dock was crowded, the surge significant, and the woman on deck apparently alone, I offered assistance casting off. When I asked if she was singlehanding, the woman said she was. She asked if we read *Latitude 38*. Since we're from San Francisco, we said that of course we do. Then she told us that she had been written about in *Latitude* several times.

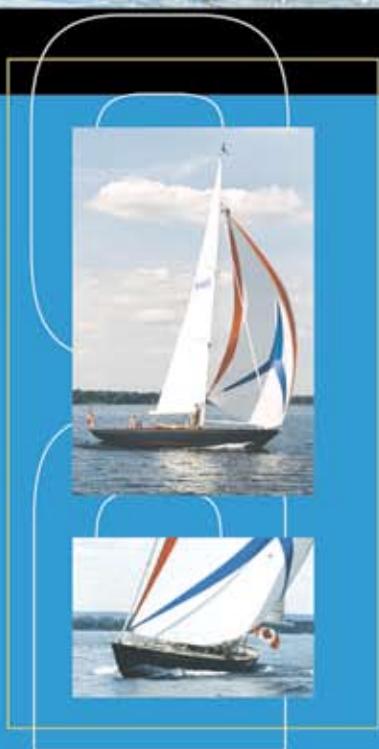
Now that we have internet access again, I've searched *Latitude* for Nereida references, found some, and am now confused. An article from June 30, 2008, has Nereida lost on the beach between Acapulco and Zihuatanejo. But an October 31, 2007, article had Nereida leaving Cocos-Keeling bound for South Africa. It's definitely the same boat and person — Jeanne Socrates. Both boat and person seemed undamaged in '09 when we saw them in the English Channel. How do you explain this?

Shirlee Smith & John Forbes  
Solstice, Sceptre 41  
San Francisco  
Baja Ha-Ha '07 / Currently cruising in Europe

Shirlee and John — The very simple explanation is that it's not the same Nereida. As reported in the August 2008 issue of *Latitude*, the original Nereida's autopilot failed, and drove her up on a beach just short of Zihua — and just 50 miles short of Socrates' completing a singlehanded circumnavigation. The boat was a total loss. Thanks to an insurance settlement, the irrepressible Jeanne was able to commission a new Nereida, this time a Najad 380 instead of a Najad 361. That's the one you



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## LETTERS

saw at St. Peter Port. But get this: Jeanne is planning to start

a second circumnavigation — this one non-stop — at the beginning of this month. (We're giving her credit for the first one.) Read more about it in Sightings.

And a tip of the Latitude hat to you, too. You folks have covered a lot of ground since the '07 Ha-Ha.

### ↑↓THE BAY BELONGS TO EVERYONE

Regarding Don Perillat's letter in the September issue, the boat on the cover of August's *Latitude* is a TP 52, not a Farr 40. It makes a difference to those of us who crew on the two Farr 40s on the Bay. It probably also makes a difference to the crews of the TP 52s as well, because we're all pretty decent people, and racers who pride ourselves on being good citizens.

While the Bay does indeed belong to all, it would be really good for non-racers to note that these boats are moving a lot faster than they might seem. So while it might appear that there is enough time to cross in front of a racing boat, there might not be, and therefore the crews of the two boats might be put in jeopardy. In addition, what are actually multiple boat lengths of clearance may seem to be mere feet to someone on a slower boat who is watching a fleet of 40- to 50-ft boats coming down at them at 15-20 knots.

It bears noting that what we're doing is pushing already fast boats as much as we possibly can. And sometimes things can go a little pear-shaped, either through a mechanical malfunction or boat handling error. While we do appreciate the attention, keeping a safe distance from an obvious race course is probably a good idea.

Nick Salvador  
Richmond

Nick — We enjoy racing and love shaving transoms as much as the next sailor. And we agree — for folks not used to racing, a boat coming at them at 15 knots may seem a lot closer than it actually is. Nonetheless, we think you've got everything backwards. Racing on the Bay is an exception to the normal use, which is why race organizers are required to get permits for races. People doing regular old sailing don't need a permit. So on some level, racers should always think of themselves as being the burdened vessel.

As for the notion that folks on non-racing boats should "keep a safe distance from an obvious race course," we find it ridiculous on two counts. First, race courses on the Bay are rarely obvious. For instance, sometimes Little Harding will be a rounding mark, and sometimes it won't. So how is anybody without a course sheet to know whether the fleet is going to sail right by, make a 90-degree rounding toward the Cityfront, or make an 180-degree turn and head back down the Bay? Second, there are many situations when racing boats sail upwind in the middle of the Bay to take advantage of an ebb and then hug the shore to sail downwind in the flood with their chutes up. Do you really think that folks on a six-knot boat headed from Mile Rock to South Beach Marina should have to



Jeanne Socrates has a new 'Nereida' — two feet longer than the old one, seen here in Hanalei.



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## LETTERS

sail around the north side of Alcatraz to 'keep a safe distance from an obvious race course'? Or to make sure a racing boat having a mechanical malfunction or boathandling error doesn't T-bone them and their crew?

For the record, when we ran the boat on the cover of the August issue, we identified it correctly as a TP 52.

### ↑↓WAS KANYE WEST DRIVING THE SAILBOAT?

Our crew of eight recently completed a day on the Bay. We anchored out in the Berkeley Circle and ran the 505 Worlds. Unfortunately, the day ended on a sour note.

During the 505 racing we felt completely safe. Despite being surrounded by 505s travelling at high speeds, we knew they were being sailed by some of the best small boat sailors around. Shortly after the last 505 finished, we were also delighted to see some boats practicing for the Big Boat Series. After one of the big boats headed downwind and popped their chute, they started coming our way. To my amazement, a boat similar to the TP 52s I've seen in your magazine headed right for us!

As this big boat came closer, there was no indication that they intended to obey the Rules of the Road, which requires that a boat sailing keep clear of a boat at anchor. Instead of staying clear, when the boat got to less than 20 yards of us, her crew began waving at us to move out of their way! It seemed the skipper made no attempt to avoid collision, and collide with us they did.

Could somebody please inform racers that the Bay belongs to all mariners, not just them?

This incident scared the hell out of me and my crew.

Scott Gordon  
W.L. Stewart, Grand Banks  
San Francisco

Scott — What you've described is not a case of bad manners, but what would seem to be incompetence or worse. We're curious what their explanation was for hitting your boat.

### ↑↓COURTESY AND COMMON SENSE ON THE BAY

Your responses to letters are usually right on, and I really appreciate your ability to admit when you were wrong. Some of us old farts who have been sailing for 50 years have trouble admitting we occasionally make mistakes.

In your response to Don Perillat in the September issue, you say that had you been him, "we would have held our course and speed to the bitter end" when sailing through a fleet of large boats racing on the Bay. Having raced and cruised on the Bay and many other locations, I don't think that this was good advice, and it is not consistent with other advice you have given.

In your response to Jordan, Kelly and Marnie in the same issue, regarding a problem of there not being enough room for two boats to exit the San Francisco Marina at the same time, you state: "We can think of countless situations when we voluntarily gave up our rights to prevent a potentially dangerous situation from developing." That is good advice and consistent with what you have written in the past.

When cruising on the Bay during a weekend, I watch out for racing boats and make every effort to stay out of their way. Although the racing vessels may not have any greater rights than I have, why get in the way of a fleet of boats that are competing against each other? I think that courtesy and common sense require that boats not racing make a reasonable effort to stay out of the racing fleets. When racing, I have sometimes yelled at a cruising boat: "We're racing!" Most boats



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## LETTERS

respond by tacking or taking appropriate action to allow us to hold our course.

P.S. Your thumbnail report on cruising to Southern Cal may have been more appropriate as a separate article, rather than a three-page response to a letter to the editor.

David Hammer  
Weaverville

*David — Like you, we're always happy to make an effort to stay well clear of racing fleets. After all, we know how much fun it is to try to get every bit of speed out of a boat, and therefore take pleasure in not interfering with other sailors having a good time.*

*But in the case of the Perillats, it's our understanding that they didn't sail into a racing fleet, but rather were surprised to find themselves being overtaken by such a fleet. Such situations happen all the time on the Bay. When they do, we still think holding course and speed is the best option, as it gives the skipper of the overtaking boat the easiest and best chance to avoid hitting them. As courtesy and common sense are a two-way street, we think it's incumbent upon the skippers of racing boats not to scare the hell out of daysailing boats they are overtaking.*

*As for the very long response to the inquiry about sailing in Southern California, we had intended for it to be the heart of a 2.5 page article. But when it comes to laying out a magazine, there are lots of variables that aren't decided until a day or two before we go to the printer, so we have to be flexible. Having been at this for over 32 years, we ask you to trust us that we did the best we could under the circumstances. But we'll try to do better in the future.*

### ↑↓TO HECK WITH FIVE YEARS, LET'S DO IT THIS YEAR!

We saw the letter about the Delta-based Westsail 32 *Bag End* being members of the 'Over 30 Club'. Dan and Nancy Chism were recently in the Seychelles, still cruising after 30 years of living and raising three kids aboard in Antioch. They left Antioch to start their cruise almost 20 years ago, and are currently on their way to South Africa.

We met the Chisms in the Chagos Archipelago in the middle of the Indian Ocean in April '08. At the time, we were on a friend's boat sailing from Malaysia to the Seychelles. It was Dan and Nancy who convinced us to make our dreams happen now rather than making a five- or 10-year plan. They said if we waited five or 10 years, it would never happen. We took their advice! So although we're just one year into our five-year plan, we're starting our shakedown sail right now and will be setting off for Mexico in November. Although this will not be our first sailing trip, it will be our first boat. In 30 years we hope to become members of the '30 Year Club' ourselves.

Kim & James Knoll  
*Doin' It  
Maui, HI*

*Kim and James — Congratulations! We hope to cross paths somewhere down the line. And thank you for the Chisms' email address. The last one we tried didn't seem to work.*

### ↑↓NOT ALL PETROCHEMICALS ARE EVIL

It sure looks like those fine people enjoying "harnessing the power of the wind" in your most recent *'Lectronic* are doing so thanks to the power of those nasty petro chemicals, what with that fiberglass boat and Dacron sails and all.

Brian Guck  
Planet Earth

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After more than four decades, Anderson's Boat Yard in Sausalito will be permanently closing its facilities at the end of November. Forty-two years ago I started this company with the intent of providing the Bay's best quality workmanship in the maritime industry at a fair price. My sons, Tom and Ron Jr., and grandson Tom Jr., came into the business and fine-tuned what that service meant to our clients over the past decade. Together we built the finest boat yard on the San Francisco Bay.

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Throughout the years we've weathered numerous storms – atmospheric, political and economic – but in the end it was none of the above that led to our closure. The owner of the land that Anderson's Boat Yard sits on simply inherited a new manager, who has other plans for the space we've occupied. We have been informed our lease will not be renewed under any circumstances. We are attempting to relocate to a new location in Sausalito: STAY TUNED!

My sons, grandson and I wish to thank all of our loyal customers who have become friends over the years, and to wish you well. Next month, I'll have a bit more to relate, but for now, please accept our sincere gratitude for the business and confidence you've placed with Anderson's Boat Yard since 1967.

sincerely,

  
Ron Anderson

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## LETTERS



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Emmett & Kathy Harty  
*Hinckley So'Wester 51 - REGULUS*

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Brian — We're not sure which boats or what 'Lectronic you're referring to, but your point is well taken. However, it's worth considering the astonishing durability of fiberglass boats and Dacron sails. Many of the fiberglass boats built 50 years ago in Southern California and other places are not just going strong, many of them are being cruised around the world. And most of them will probably be good for at least another 50 years. In addition, some cruisers are sailing around the world with Dacron sails that were built 30 years ago. All things considered, fiberglass boats and Dacron sails seem to be some of the most lasting uses of petrochemicals — wouldn't you agree?

### ↑↓IT'S A BIRD, IT'S A PLANE . . .

The photos you ran in the September 14 'Lectronic



CRAIG ALLENDER  
Has Piper started installing sailtrack on the exterior of their planes?

of the wreckage found on Muir Beach sure looks like the fuselage of a small Piper Arrow or similar small plane. Are you sure it was a wrecked boat?

Brian McGuire  
Oakland

Brian — Unless they've started to put boat cleats on the outside of airplanes, we're pretty sure it was a sailboat.

### ↑↓THE ADVENTURES OF CACTUS LADY AND NACHO

I bow to the Cactus Lady and her infinite wisdom regarding the SOS sent out by Liz Clark on *Swell* for funds to help repair her boat. I — like many other sailors — return to the grind to replenish the kitty, upgrade our boat, and for other reasons. As Nacho said, "I am the gatekeeper of my destiny, and I will have my day in the sun." But hell, if someone wants to play Santa Claus for other people, who am I to stand in their way? Joy to the world!

Jerry Methane  
Rosita, Hunter 46  
Mexico

Jerry — Pardon our ignorance, but who are Cactus Lady and Nacho?

### ↑↓I CAN PADDLE, STAND, WIGGLE AND FALL

First, regarding the Liz Clark controversy, it may have been a wee bit brash of her to make a request for money, but I'm shocked at some of the vehement responses. Some people just need to re-calibrate what it is they choose to get worked up about. If somebody doesn't agree with her request for money, just don't send her any, end of story.

As for Liz, I'd be happy to kick in to help refuel her dream, but perhaps she can offer some time aboard *Swell* to help offset expenses. I also dream about cruising the South Pacific, but regrettably don't know of anybody that I can crew for. By the way, I'm a physician — read: responsible community member and upstanding citizen. I'm also a novice sailor, having regularly sailed in ocean races out of the Morro Bay YC. But I yearn to break the coastal sailing bonds and experience sailing trips to exotic locales. Oh yeah, Liz would have to agree to teach me to surf as well. As of right now, I can just paddle, stand, wiggle and fall.



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## LETTERS

Actually, I don't think it would be a bad deal for her. She would get to keep on cruising in trade for a temporary boat buddy and some surfing lessons. Heck, I'd even submit to a thumbs up or thumbs down inspection by her parents, just so she wouldn't be inviting a total stranger aboard. So maybe the wise and omnipotent *Latitude 38* gods will ferry this offer to Liz.

Gary Hatch

Former owner of *Thalia*, 26-ft Privateer ketch  
Cayucos, CA

Gary — We know you mean well, but despite having graduated from medical school you're flunking Men and Women 101. If Liz wanted to run *Swell* as a charter boat, she could pack her Cal 40 with guys 52 weeks a year. You're not understanding what she's dedicating this phase of her life to. Offering to present yourself to her parents for inspection also proves you mean well, but that you're also clueless. Young women will make their own decisions about who they will spend 24/7 with, thank you.

But here's some good news. If you want to sail across the Pacific, you shouldn't have much trouble getting a bunk. You can meet people at the Ha-Ha Kick-Off Party in San Diego on October 25, in Cabo on November 6 at the end of the Ha-Ha, or at the Pacific Puddle Jump events: the PPJ Seminar at the San Diego West Marine on October 24 or the Kick-Off Party at Vallarta YC in Nuevo Vallarta on February 6. And don't forget to sign up on our online Crew List — as we went to press, there were no fewer than 150 skippers looking for long-distance crew. Check out the listings — and create your own profile — at [www.latitude38.com/crewlist/Crew.html](http://www.latitude38.com/crewlist/Crew.html).

### ↑↓QUIT YER WHININ'

I disagree with people who are whining about Liz Clark "begging" for money. I've enjoyed reading her many reports — keep 'em coming, Liz! — in *Latitude*. So when I learned that she was in need of funds to repair the problem with her keel, I just jumped right on PayPal and sent her some money. She did not ask or expect anything. I just wanted to help.

I did the same thing when I heard that Bismarck Dinius needed money, too. His was a different need, but a need nonetheless.

My donation was a modest \$100 to both Liz and Bismarck. It wasn't going to break the bank for me, or make them rich. I just care about both causes, so it seemed like the right thing to do. Besides, I don't smoke, drink coffee, or drink that much alcohol, so I could send them the money I might otherwise have used for those things.

I don't have a boat right now and don't sail that much either. But I chartered a monohull in the British Virgins four years ago. And this summer I'm going to Belize to charter a catamaran with my wife, daughter, brother, brother's girlfriend, nephew and ex-girlfriend over Thanksgiving. The wife, bless her, approved of the ex-girlfriend coming along. I still enjoy my limited time on the water and reading about people's sailing adventures.

Vance Sprock  
Cupertino

### ↑↓THE GOOD SAMARITAN HANDICAP RATING SYSTEM

I did the Ha-Ha last year with my little Gemini catamaran *Double Play!!*, and had a great time. We later cruised down as far as Manzanillo, then returned north to leave the boat on the hard at Puerto Vallarta. We'll fly back to the boat in January and head farther south.



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## LETTERS

While back in the States, I bought some new stuff for my boats, including a 44-lb Bruce anchor, 200 feet of chain, and three gallons of bottom paint. It's all top quality, but not exactly the kind of stuff I could bring on an airplane. Luckily, my friend Arjan Bok is doing the Ha-Ha this year with this homebuilt 43-ft cat *Rotkat*. Although Bok is anxious to show off his cat's speed, he has nevertheless offered to carry all my heavy stuff to Puerto Vallarta. So it sure would be nice if the Ha-Ha folks could adjust his handicap in return for his carrying the extra weight to help a fellow sailor.

Don Parker

*Double Play!!*, Gemina 105Mc  
Alameda

Don — It's great the way cruisers help other cruisers. We'll plug that info into the program that calculates the handicaps for each boat, so don't worry, he's covered.

### ↑↑HA-HA VETS SHOULD FLY THEIR FLAGS PROUDLY

I love the idea that the fireboat in San Diego, with all its hoses squirting, will be leading a parade of boats out to the Ha-Ha starting line this year. And that it's likely there will

be other spectator boats coming out to the starting area. I think Ha-Ha vets should fly their old burgees. We'll be there with our '07 flag flying!

Debbie Farmer  
*Oasis*, Mariner 48  
San Diego



*It won't be raining, but cruisers are advised to wear their foulies for the start of the Ha-Ha.*

Debbie — It should be something. We'll see you there.

### ↑↑"NO WAY WILL A PRETTY BITCH BEAT ME!"

For two years, I cruised with my dog Perra Bonita aboard my Gulfstar 41 *Someday*. But last year I left her home when I went cruising, and I missed her dearly.

Other than the cost of airfare back and forth, and finding a place to stow her travel house, I had no problems with her in Mexico. I obtained a 'Pet Passport' that shows all her shots. It was cursorily examined each time I returned to the U.S.

Perra Bonita is a 70-inch-long mutt who loves kids and who could outswim Mark Spitz. At Matanchen Bay, she swam nearly one mile from the boat to where I was on the shore. I think she was worried that I was spending too much money — or maybe getting too drunk to drive the dinghy home. I believe she was perfectly capable of running the dinghy, and not only that, could most likely have landed it in 3-ft surf.

Perra Bonita doesn't have a death wish, though. While exiting the river at Tenacatita Bay, big rollers — and I mean huge! — started to break just as we hit them with the dinghy. My dog was smart enough to bail. To restore her faith in my ability to negotiate waves, I made her wait until we were outside the surf line before I let her reboard. When she shook herself, she sprayed my hair and clothes.

Bill Nokes  
*Someday*, Gulfstar 41  
San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua

Bill — In a remarkable coincidence, Mark Spitz just dropped



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## LETTERS

by the office. He says that while he's not as young or as fit as he was when he won all those Olympic medals, there is no way he'll be beaten by a dog.

Sailing Trivia: What boat did Mark Spitz race in the TransPac, and in what year?

### ↑↑NEXT STOP: CHINA CAMP

I just read the September issue, and loved hearing about different places in the Bay I can visit with my boat. I used the information to spend a few nights at Angel Island with my brother from San Diego. By the way, Angel Island has a web cam that shows the dock and mooring field at Ayala Cove. It's a good way to see how crowded it is and if the sun is out at that time.



Clausen uses Angel Island's webcam to check out the moorings at Ayala Cove.

China Camp in the current *Latitude*, I'm planning on doing an overnight there over a long weekend.

Greg Clausen  
Wisdom, Santana 30  
Marin County

### ↑↑"IM APPALLED AT THE LACK OF EMPATHY"

On the evening of September 1, I received a phone call from an old sailing buddy who was obviously distressed. He called because he needed information on getting from Avalon to Long Beach with his Cal 34, and getting a berth there. My friend, who lives at Pearlblossom in the high desert, had just received an alarming call from his family that the gigantic Station Fire was threatening his community and home. He called me because, until I moved to Seattle last year, I'd kept my boat at Long Beach's Shoreline Marina.

My friend had asked the harbormaster at Avalon for a mooring, saying that he needed to get home as soon as possible. If he'd been assigned a mooring, he and his wife could have caught a ferry for the hour ride to Long Beach, where he could have picked up the car that I leave there. But the Avalon harbormaster told him the moorings weren't the property of Avalon, and he therefore couldn't give him permission to leave his boat. So my friend called me.

Ultimately, my friend and his wife took their boat to Long Beach, where they arrived at 9 p.m. The marine patrol told them that while slips were available, they had to wait until the office opened the next morning at 10 a.m. to get one. As a result, my friend and his wife sailed through the night and half the next day to get to Ventura, where they have a slip. It was hard and frustrating but they had no alternative. Fortunately, when they made it home, their house wasn't damaged.

I'm appalled at the lack of cooperation and lack of empathy displayed by the authorities at both Avalon and Long Beach! There wasn't anyone in the United States who didn't know that the biggest fire ever was burning in Southern California. I'm shocked that my friend didn't get more cooperation. Has the boating community gotten so callous as to not lend a hand to someone obviously in need?

Per Curtiss  
Aquavit, Freedom 44  
Seattle

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## LETTERS

Per — Let's make sure that we distinguish between the "boating community" — which invariably takes care of itself — and the law enforcement agencies in Avalon and Long Beach that run the moorings and slips in those respective places. Even so, something sounds a little funny. The Harbormaster's office in Avalon is the agency that rents out the moorings, so your friend must have misunderstood at least part of what he was told. It may have been that all the moorings were taken or reserved because it was just before Labor Day weekend, one of the busiest weekends of the year there. And trust us, officials at places like Avalon have been burned countless times by earnest people who "must have" a mooring because of one claimed emergency or another. Then, too, maybe the harbormaster did a little checking and found that your friend's home wasn't in immediate danger.

That the marine patrol in Long Beach wasn't more cooperative doesn't seem right, particularly if there were open berths. Of course, your friend could have anchored off one of the oil islands for the night, then gotten a slip at 10 a.m., and would have been able to get to his house six hours earlier than he did by going all the way to Ventura.

Had we been in your friend's Top Siders and been turned down by the harbormaster at Avalon, we either would have anchored our boat off Avalon, and been careful to let the people on other anchored boats know about our emergency, or we would have taken our boat to Newport Beach, knowing that the Sheriff's Office, which rents out the slips and moorings, is open 24 hours a day, and that they always have open slips or moorings.

### ↑↑BAIT FISH BUFFET

Last week three dolphins cruised through Pete's Harbor in Redwood City. Presumably they were there to take advantage of the full moon high tide and the bait fish buffet that comes



*First there are dolphins in the ocean, now they're in Pete's Harbor. Where next, Lake Tahoe?*

with it. I got in our dinghy to take photos. The dolphins were toying with us a bit, but then skedaddled when too many curious boaters came out to gawk.

Cynthia Shelton  
La Bonita, Lyndsey 30  
Redwood City

### ↑↑A WHALE OF A TAIL

On August 21, my son John and I departed Channel Islands Marina headed for Mariner's Basin in Mission Bay, San Diego, some 145 miles away. Staying inside the shipping lane, my San Juan 24 hit 7.8 knots sailing wing-on-wing, which is in excess of her theoretical hull speed. It was a glorious run in 20 knots, although having gybed in those winds once, I impressed upon my son the inadvisability of doing it again.

I was feeling good, as I'd just spent three delightful weeks in the Channel Islands with my fiancée. I'd proposed to her

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## LETTERS

at Coches Prietos, and she said yes! In addition, we'd stopped everywhere, visiting old friends and making new ones. When we got to Oxnard, my son showed up with the car and traded places with her.

We rocketed cross Santa Monica Bay, crossed the L.A./Long Beach shipping lanes at night with all lights on and the spotlight handy. Despite having no engine, we dodged eight container ships before we ran out of wind at the oil rigs off Huntington Beach. After we'd slatted for two hours, there was a sudden 25 knots from the southeast, meaning it was right on our nose. After it hit, NOAA was nice enough to issue a weather alert. Thanks.

Down to a storm jib and a reefed main in big and sloppy seas, John suddenly yelled, "Whale!" It was a broaching blue whale not more than 30 feet in front of us. Its spume hit the main of my boat. I didn't think I'd be able to miss what appeared to be an 80-ft long beast, and I know for sure that we sailed over its flukes. Running through my mind in a nanosecond were these thoughts: Where's the ditch kit? I need my belt knife to cut away the lashings on the kayak. Will there be time to get the paddles and my passport and driver's license from down below? Will there be time to get off a Mayday?

Miraculously, the whale didn't hit us with its flukes. "Camera!" I yelled to John. He grabbed the Canon from below, and got a photo of the whale's flukes back in the air a few seconds later. Then we saw the whale-watching boats come pouring out of Newport, packed with people who had paid \$50 each for a chance to take a photo of a whale from 200 yards away. John and I high-fived each other, for none of the people on those boats had the remotest chance of experiencing what we just had.

It was a hard sail the rest of the way to Mission Bay, but my boy is a trooper. He was born in Bequia, so he can hand, reef and steer, and has great reserves of fortitude. When I caught some sleep, I was comfortable with him at the helm — which is more than I can say when I'm with a lot of so-called sailors.

Like my old buddies Don Street and John Smith, I'm a sailor, so my boat doesn't have an engine.

William 'Billy Bones' Pringle  
Sea'Scape, San Juan 24  
Mission Bay

*Billy — Congratulations on your impending nuptials!*

*You sound like an experienced and intrepid sailor to us, so we're puzzled by why you would be concerned about gybing in 20 knots of wind. If you were doing 6 or 7 knots, the apparent wind would have been only 13 or 14 knots. Gybing in such conditions wouldn't concern us anywhere near as much as trying to dodge ships in Southern California without an engine. We admire your 'sail-only' attitude, but there are so many ships out there now.*

*Based on our experience and that of others, whales seem to have made a huge comeback from Alaska all the way down to mainland Mexico. This being the case, everyone sailing from California to Mexico should have a plan of action ready in the*

JOHN PRINGLE



*The fuzzy blue whale tail — it doesn't occur that way in nature, only when the shutter speed is too slow.*



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event of a collision with a whale.

### ↑↓BOY, YOU SAID A MOUTHFUL

In last month's *Changes* you ran a photo of just two tips of the sun showing over the horizon because the rest of it

had been blocked by the earth in a solar eclipse. When the earth, moon and sun are all aligned — which they had to be in this case — it's called syzygy.

Ken Schulze  
Williwaw, Hobie 33  
Santa Cruz

*Things may have to be syzygistic for this to occur, but we don't think that's the name for two tips of sunlight peeking over the horizon.*

*some name for just the two tips of the sun showing over the horizon.*

### ↑↓EVERYONE PAYS AS FEW TAXES AS POSSIBLE

The article about Bill Joy's 190-ft sailing yacht *Ethereal* was interesting — but I didn't like the photo showing the oversized surfboard flying a foreign flag. Having often cruised the ECW, I'm sick and tired of owners who are ashamed to have their national flag flying on their boats. And that goes for Tiger Woods and his big powerboat on Lake Worth, Florida, too.

I know foreign flags are flown to avoid taxes, but I believe that if you use the benefits and privileges of your country, you should fly that country's flag. Maybe we should make the owners of such boats turn in their passports. I bet many of these 'foreigners' wear American flag buttons on their suits at political rallies. And I'm writing this as a tree-hugging, bleeding-hearted liberal.

Jack Mooney  
*Utopia Too*, Westerly Centaur 26  
Hudson, Florida

Jack — There are several good reasons why all big yachts — which for a whole different set of good reasons are owned by corporations rather than individuals — are flagged outside of the United States, and these reasons have nothing to do with being "ashamed" of this country. First of all, flagging a vessel outside of the United States means that the corporation can have anyone be the master. Because of what many perceive to be archaic U.S. law, foreign citizens can't master a U.S.-flagged vessel in U.S. waters. Second, vessels flagged outside the United States do not need to provide USL&H Workman's Compensation, which means fewer hassles and lower insurance premiums. In addition, foreign-flagged vessels don't need to report payroll taxes for employees.

But let's not kid anyone, the main reason such vessels are flagged outside the United States is to save money on taxes. People might have differing opinions on the morality of taking steps to limit one's tax liability, but it's pretty clear that just about everyone does it. For some people, it's buying stuff over the internet from out-of-state sellers; for others, it's taking delivery of expensive jewelry or art at a second home in a no-sales-tax state, and for yet others, it's using the income tax code to their best advantage.

*It would be easier to get angry about it if passing out huge*



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## LETTERS

*tax breaks to favored friends wasn't so popular with cities, states and the federal government. Just the other day Berkeley — about as left-wing a place as there is in the universe — fell all over itself rushing to give mighty Bayer \$100 million in tax credits to keep and upgrade its facility in that city. The state of Michigan has given the most lucrative Hollywood studios tens of millions in tax credits to film in their state rather than California. And there is a whole host of states that 'steal' from neighboring states by having either no state sales tax or no state income tax.*

*Given such an uneven playing field for being assessed taxes, and the number of people in the higher levels of government who have been found to have outright cheated on their taxes, it's not hard to understand the reasoning by the people who own the corporations that own the big yachts.*

### ↑↓BOOZERS IN BAJA ARE A BORE

Can you tell me what the policy is on drinking in the Ha-Ha, both while offshore and at the stops along the way? I'm a moderate drinker, but I don't like being around people who drink to the point they make fools of themselves and endanger themselves and others.

Name Withheld By Request  
San Diego

N.W.B.R. — We're on the same page as you, because while we do enjoy a few cocktails a week, we detest irresponsible drinkers. Our recommendation for people in the Ha-Ha — and everybody else sailing — is to not drink at all while underway. We know some folks will have a glass of wine with dinner, but we think anything beyond that would compromise safety and therefore be foolish. While ashore, those who choose to drink need to do so responsibly, for not only are there more physical dangers in Mexico — potholes in sidewalks, rickety ladders up piers, and shorebreaks — but everyone in the Ha-Ha is also a representative of the United States and sailing. The general rule is that you should behave in public the way you would behave in front of your best friend's children.

Once everybody makes it to Cabo, of course, a little celebration is in order. That's why there's an annual gathering of a couple of hundred Ha-Ha folks at Squid Roe on Thursday night for group dancing and, for those who wish, cocktails. It's usually quite wholesome for the first couple of hours, but once the younger folks and locals take over, it sometimes gets a bit more adult. While the large security team at Squid Roe is pretty lenient, the police on the streets will not put up with noisy or obnoxious drunks. Misbehave in public, and six serious cops will jump out of the back of a white pick-up and unceremoniously take your butt to jail. Unlike cops in the States, they won't discuss the matter with you, they'll just haul you off. And Lord help you if you try to resist. We're pleased to say that, despite all the fun Ha-Ha folks have had in Cabo, we're not aware of any who have had so much fun that they were hauled off to jail.

For 15 years the Ha-Ha has been a sailing and social event, not a drinking event, and we're confident everyone will do their part this year to keep it that way.

### ↑↓"DOING MY PART FOR THE ECONOMY"

Having done the Ha-Ha last year as a hired gun, I was hoping to do it again this year with my new-to-me boat. Unfortunately, it looks as if I won't be able to blow the Ha-Ha staff's minds with my newest boat until next fall's Ha-Ha 17.

After having some issues with the owner of the boat I sailed aboard to Cabo, I shut down my yacht repair business and

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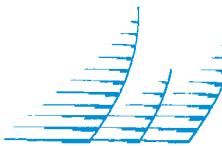
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## LETTERS

went into chartering. By doing this, I figured I could at least control who goes and stays on my boat. (By the way, I'm happy to report that the owner of the boat I did the Ha-Ha on and I have made amends and become good friends.)

Anyway, my new boat is *Cloudia*, a 1920 85-ft LOA Colin Archer design. She's currently at the Driscoll yard in Mission

Bay getting a refit. *Cloudia* is probably one of the last of the big wood hulls to be re-planked. I even had a hard time finding vertical grain planks — and I grew up in the Northwest where my family was in the lumber business. The problem in finding the wood is that the government won't let us harvest the good trees needed for this purpose anymore. But by buying a semi-truck and scrounging from Alaska all the way down to Eugene, I managed to get 7,000 board-feet of Alaskan yellow cedar to redo the entire hull one last time. You don't want to know what it cost for the wood or the fastenings, but I'm pretty sure that I'm stimulating the U.S. economy more than the government is.

My restoration was going to be the whole shebang — planks, deck, machinery — the works. But then I got a fright! The man who was going to plank the boat backed out at the last second. It turned out to be a blessing in disguise, because we decided to cold mold the hull instead of replanking it, and it's turning out much better all the way around.



*Timber! That's what's inside big wood boats.*

To all but the Colin Archer purists — who live in Norway — *Cloudia* will still look planked.

I sometimes complain about the refit's being an expensive pain, but I just love old wood boats because they have something that the newer ones lack. For instance, I have an Islander 34 that's a rocket ship. While she's a blast and all, *Cloudia* is just classier in my book. Believe it or not, she's faster, too. Yeah, my big Colin Archer really hauls ass. The trick is stopping her!

Work hard, sail free!

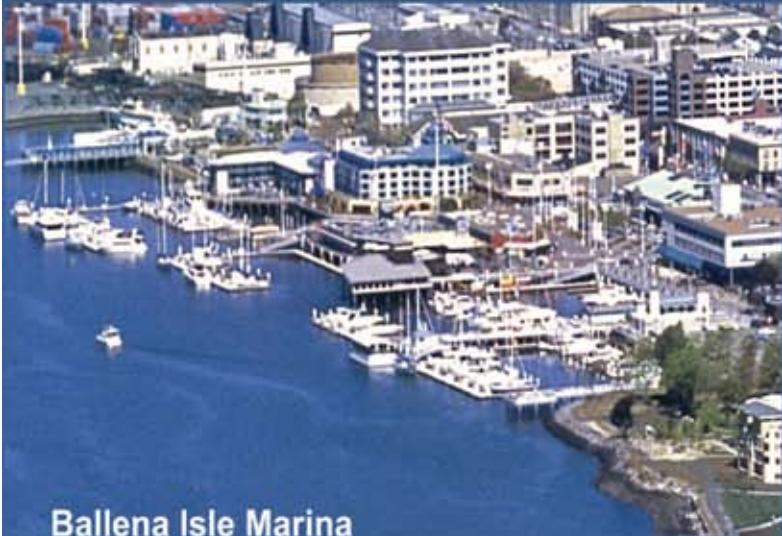
Captain Thaddeous Blanchard  
*Cloudia*, Colin Archer 85  
San Diego

Thaddeous — Your boat, which has more character than 25 fiberglass boats, would certainly be welcome in the next Ha-Ha. Good luck with the refit — and thanks for all that you're doing for the economy.

### ↑↑DROP OUT, BECOME A BILLIONAIRE

We think you made a mistake when you corrected George

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# LETTERS

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Backhus in his *Changes in Latitude*. He said Paul Allen's *Tatoosh*, which was anchored near Backhus' Deerfoot 62 *Moonshadow* at Taormina, Sicily, was 200 feet. You said she was actually 420 feet. Well, when we were anchored near her at Falmouth Harbor, Antigua, a few years ago, we understood her to be about 302 feet. By the way, she had a 40-ft powerboat and a 40-ft sailboat — both Hinckleys — on her sidedecks.

Barritt Neal & Renee Blaul  
Serendipity, Peterson 46  
San Diego

Barritt and Renee — Allen has had so many large motoryachts that we get confused. But you're right, *Tatoosh* is 302 feet, which makes her the 26th largest yacht in the world. We'd been thinking of Allen's newer yacht, the 413-foot *Octopus*, which is the 8th largest yacht in the world.

While doing research, we were surprised to learn that Larry Ellison is no longer the sole owner of the 453-ft *Rising Sun*, the sixth largest privately owned yacht in the world. According to Wikipedia, David Geffen, a brilliant businessman, is now listed as a co-owner.

For those keeping score, if you eliminate motoryachts owned by Arab heads of state, the biggest private motoryacht in the world is Russian Roman Abramovich's recently launched 548-ft *Eclipse*. *Rising Sun* is second and *Octopus* is third.

Kids, are you having trouble convincing your parents that you should drop out of college or university? Here's your best argument: Paul Allen dropped out of Washington State University and convinced Bill Gates to drop out of Harvard so they could start Microsoft. Larry Ellison dropped out of the University of Illinois and then the University of Chicago before living hand-to-mouth in Berkeley and starting Oracle. As for David Geffen, he dropped out of what was then called Santa Monica City College to take a job in the mailroom of the William Morris Agency, where he laid the groundwork for starting his fortune by representing rock 'n rollers.

## ↑↓ HURRICANE STATISTICS CAN BE MISLEADING

Just a quick note to point out that your coverage of Hurricane Bill's threat to St. Martin had some pretty basic historical errors. St Martin does not get hit by a hurricane every year. In fact, since the extreme Category 4 Hurricane Luis in '95, there have been only two: Lenny in '99 and Omar in '08. There's a big difference between a hurricane every few years and every year.

Bob Wise  
Paradise Connections Yacht Charters  
St. Martin, French West Indies

Bob — Our sincere apologies. What happened is that we ran that factually inaccurate claim by Mike Harker of the Manhattan Beach-based Hunter 49 *Wanderlust 3*, then corrected it in the next paragraph. But as a result of having to juggle the layout at the last minute, the corrected paragraph was mistakenly left out. We hate it when we do that!



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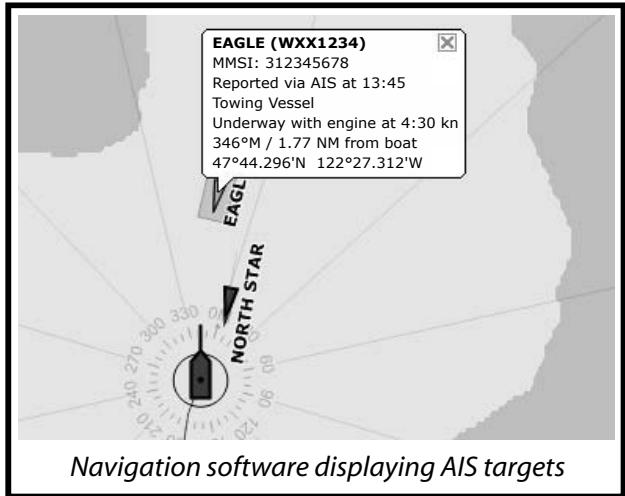


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## LETTERS

While St. Martin certainly does not get hit by a hurricane every year, it's gotten hit a little more frequently than you remember. We know this thanks to [www.HurricaneCity.com](http://www.HurricaneCity.com) — an extremely informative site with data based on detailed study of

multiple sources. The overall picture is that St. Martin has been hit, or at least brushed—meaning an eye within 60 miles — by a hurricane a total of 49 times in the last 139 years. That averages out to once every 2.8 years. But these statistics

can be very misleading because, for example, St. Martin wasn't hit or brushed in the 29 years between Faith in '66 and horrible Luis in '95. To prove the inconsistent nature of hurricane occurrences, St. Martin was hit just 10 days after Luis by Marilyn. Anyway, here's the hurricane history for St. Martin for the last 15 years:

— 1995, Hurricane Luis hit on September 5 with 140 mph winds and a barometric pressure as low as 27.65. Fourteen people were killed on the island or on boats, 1,000 were left homeless, and over 700 boats — most of them in Simpson Bay Lagoon — were destroyed. Indeed, debris from many of the boats destroyed by Luis still litter the lagoon.

— 1995, a week after Luis, Hurricane Marilyn brushed the island to the south and west with 105-mph winds. Most of the buildings in Grand Case were destroyed.

— 1999, Hurricane Jose hit on October 20 with 100-mph winds, but the damage was relatively minor because the hurricane was rapidly fizzling to just 70-mph winds when it got close.

— 1999, Hurricane Lenny, with 120-mph winds, parked between St. Martin and St. Barth for November 17 and 18, and severely punished both islands. Thirteen people were killed, and the south-facing beaches of St. Martin were devastated. Since the island had been hit or brushed by five hurricanes in just seven years, insurers either cancelled policies or greatly increased the premiums.

— 2000, Hurricane Debby hit north of St. Martin. Damage was light as there were only 75-mph winds and Debby was moving away to the WNW at an amazingly fast 21 mph.

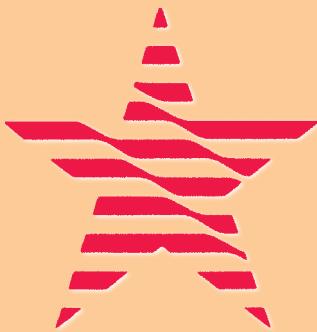
— 2008, Hurricane Omar, which had been heading right for the British Virgins, jogged to the east, and brushed St. Martin with 60-mph winds. The damage was not severe.

But that's the way it goes with hurricanes. None hits St. Martin in 29 years, then there are five in seven years, then none for another seven years. Try to make sense of that.

For what it's worth, we had our Ocean 71 Big O in the Caribbean from '86 to '96, and thank goodness she never got hit. There were two close calls, however, with Gilbert in '88 and Hugo in '89. Most people on the West Coast probably don't remember them, but they featured winds of 160 knots and 140 knots respectively, making them among the most powerful hurricanes ever to hit the Caribbean. We've had our Leopard 45 'ti Profligate in the British Virgins for the last three years, and she hasn't been hit — although Omar came very close last year. Please keep your fingers crossed for our cat and everyone else who has a boat in a hurricane zone.



False alarm. Boats have hid in the mangroves of St. Martin many more times than the island's been hit by hurricanes.



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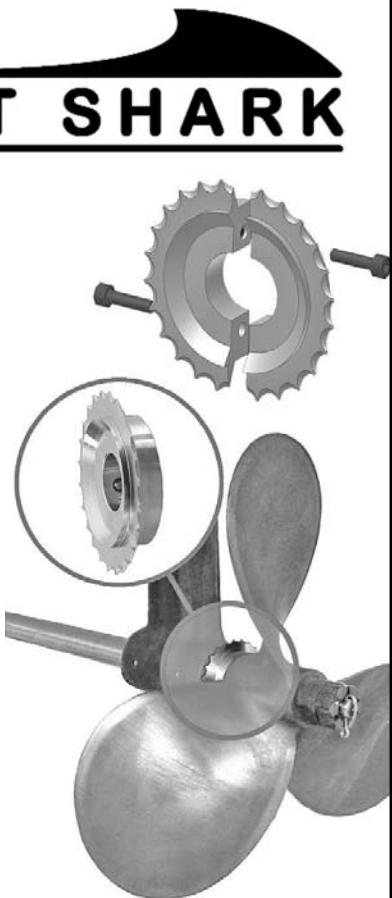
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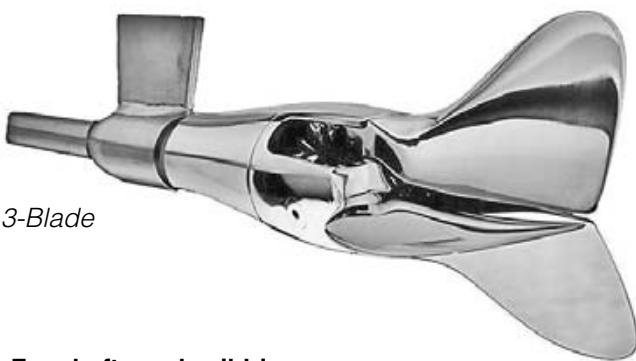
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#### ↑↓ANYONE DRIVING DOWN BAJA AFTER THE HA-HA?

I'll be sailing our Hunter 36 *Delight* in the Ha-Ha again this year. We had a great time when we did it in '07 — even though we had some big problems. As you might remember, once south of Turtle Bay we lost our engine, had to steer with the emergency tiller for 13 hours, and were taking on water at a little over a gallon per hour.

Anyway, I have a bit of a problem, and wonder if somebody might be willing to help me out. My wife is legally blind, so she won't be doing the Ha-Ha with us. But she and I will later cruise Cabo and the Sea of Cortez until we get tired of it. My problem is that I'd like to find a way to get my wife and dog to Cabo without having to rent a car and drive up to San Diego to get her. Is there anybody driving down to Cabo right after the Ha-Ha who would be willing to take them? Naturally, I'd be more than happy to help out with the cost of fuel. I can be reached at (916) 972-0706 or (916) 849-5961.

By the way, *Delight* is a very different boat now, as she sports 400 watts of solar power, a genset, a new steering system, and a new autopilot.

Al Miller  
*Delight*, Hunter 36  
Carmichael

#### ↑↓THE EVIDENCE IS IN AND IT POINTS TO PERDOCK

As a retired naval officer and sailboat owner, I have always believed that there was more than one person to blame in the accident on Clear Lake that claimed the life of Lynn Thornton. As a lifelong resident of the area, I know there is a good 'ol boy club up here. But please remember that while Deputy Perdock may have been at fault for the way he operated his powerboat, the folks on the sailboat were at fault, too. And sad to say, if you accept the helm, as Dinius did, by definition you are operating the boat. So both Perdock and Dinius should have been on trial. Not for manslaughter, but for reckless endangerment.

Skip Lethin  
Lake County

Skip — If you read Latitude regularly, you know that from the outset of our coverage we said there was shared responsibility for the accident — assuming that the sailboat's running lights were not on. We put Deputy Perdock at 80% responsible, Mark Weber, the owner of the sailboat at 19% responsible, and Bismarck Dinius, who happened to be at the helm, at 1% responsible.

But if you followed the recently concluded trial in Lake County, you know that there were five witnesses for the defense — including a retired police officer — who testified that the sailboat's running lights were indeed on. Even an eye-witness for the bumbling prosecution testified that the sailboat's running lights were on!

As a retired naval officer, surely you know that the burden to stay clear is on the overtaking vessel, that a safe speed must be observed by all vessels, and that when navigating against a background of lights, you never head for the lights and try to avoid other vessels by hoping to see their silhouettes. Perdock broke all of those rules. Based on the evidence, nobody on the sailboat did anything wrong, nor was there anything they could have done to avoid being hit. That's why the jury voted 12-0 to acquit Dinius on the charges of felony DUI resulting in death and DUI, and 11-1 on operating with a BAC over .08 (that charge was then dropped by the D.A.).

With all the evidence in, it seems clear to us that there is only one person responsible for the collision and the death of



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## LETTERS

Lynn Thornton, and that person is Chief Deputy Russell Perdock. We hope he is prosecuted. A lot of people are assuming that the accident was the result of Perdock being drunk, but there doesn't seem to be evidence to support such a belief. We think he was just getting his kicks by recklessly hauling ass through the black night — as he testified he'd done many times before — without being able to see because it was black out, he wasn't wearing his prescription glasses, and because the speed would have made his eyes water up. It was just an instance of really poor judgement.

### ↑↓TELL ME THERE'S A SPEED LIMIT ON CLEAR LAKE

I'm surprised that I haven't heard anything about it, but can you please assure me that, in the light of the death of Lynn Thornton, there is now a 5 mph speed limit on Clear Lake after dark?

Carl Chesney  
Ghoolie, Catalina 22  
Sacramento

Carl — An attempt was made a few months ago to establish a night time speed limit but it was quickly quashed by Lake County's powerboater-filled Clear Lake Advisory Committee. Regardless, the California Harbors and Navigation Code does require that all vessels "be prepared to stop within the space of half the distance of forward visibility." Just how much forward visibility does one have on a pitch black night? Not much.

By the way, having travelled from shore to our anchored-out boats well over 100 times this year — including in Mexico, the Caribbean and Catalina — we consider ourselves to be experts on operating sailboats and fast dinghies at night. We can report that on nights when the moon is full or close to it, visibility is actually pretty good. But on moonless nights, such as the night that Perdock rammed the boat Lynn Thornton was on, you're all but blind. No wonder two unlit pangas slammed into each other behind Profligate one night last December while we were anchored at Punta Mita.

The worst conditions of all are moonless nights when there are background lights — as was the case the night of the Perdock collision. The biggest problem with background lights on moonless nights is that you have no depth perception, making it all but impossible to know if the light you're looking at is 100 feet or 1,000 yards away. And Perdock's stated concept of avoiding boats by looking for their silhouettes against background lights is sheer lunacy.

For everyone headed south to Mexico this season, try hard to reach your anchorage or harbor while it's still light. If you must enter in the dark, proceed very slowly. We've entered the harbor at Santa Barbara countless times, but on a recent dark night, we felt that anything over two knots was still too fast to safely pick out the channel markers from the background lights reflected on the water.

### ↑↓"PEOPLE WANT TO HELP SO SUCK IT UP!"

The Gold Country YC celebrated Bismarck Dinius' victory after three long years of his having to fight charges that he was responsible for the death of Lynn Thornton in that terrible boating accident on Clear Lake. Our little yacht club here in the foothills of Nevada County on Scott's Flat Lake has been behind Dinius, who is one of our own, for what's been a long and hard road for him. He was welcomed to cheers of joy as he arrived at our most recent general meeting. We, along with much of the sailing community around the country, had been praying for him all during the ordeal. And we haven't forgotten about Lynn Thornton. Our prayers are with her family



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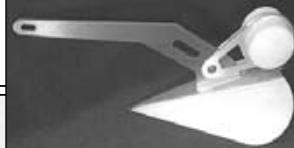
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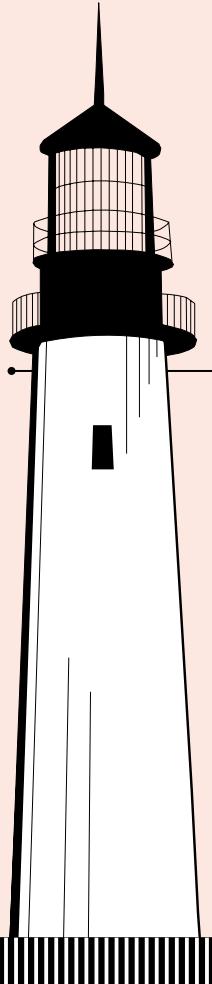


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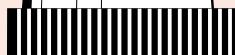
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## LETTERS

as well. We can't thank *Latitude* enough for your coverage of the story and support of Bismarck. We're sure it helped the outcome of this unbelievable injustice. Thank you! Thank you!

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up. You made me feel like family, and you were all there to  
lift me up when I was down. I am truly grateful."

"I owe a few special thank yous. One goes out to Bruce. He is the one who contacted *Latitude* and really got the story going. He also took me aside one day and really encouraged me to open a defense fund. He said, 'Look, there are a lot of people who want to help you and donate to your cause. People keep asking me where they can send money. Suck up your pride and open a fund. Everyone needs a hand now and then, and people want to help you. You are a wonderful human being.' That was some of the best advice I have ever received. The fund has helped immensely."

Joe Day, Commodore  
Gold Country YC  
*Daydreams*, Pearson 385  
Mental Floss, Catalina 22

*Joe — We're so happy for Bismarck. On the other hand, we're still livid that it took a jury to finally bring some sense to the case, and that Perdock still hasn't been charged.*

*By the way, Bismarck is a little off on how *Latitude* got involved. One morning about a year after Thornton was killed, the publisher rolled over in bed and said to Doña de Mallorca, "We wonder whatever happened in the case of the woman who got killed in the boating accident on Clear Lake?" So when we got into the office, we asked Editor LaDonna Bubak to call the D.A. in Lake County to find out what was going on. It turned out that he'd just then made the foolish decision to charge Dinius rather than Perdock for the wrongful death of Thornton.*

### ↑↓THE FLINTSTONES DAGGERBOARD SYSTEM

In the 'Triangulation' photo aboard *Proligate* in last month's *Sightings* section, I noticed that your cat's port daggerboard has what appears to be a hole in it a few inches down from the top. As I am building a Schionning Wilderness 1100, which is the little cousin to Jim and Kent Milski's Berkeley-based *Sea Level*, I have been pondering daggerboard system designs. Do you secure your boards in various positions via an athwartship pin through the board near deck level? I like the simplicity of that concept and was thinking of using it on my cat.

Brian Timpe  
Seattle



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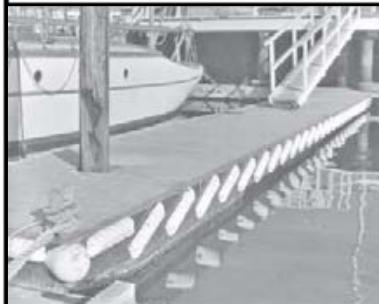
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## LETTERS

Brian — For reasons we prefer not to go into, we have what we call a 'Flintstones System', so named because it's about as sophisticated as everything was on that cartoon show. For better or worse, our daggerboards are limited to two positions: all the way up or all the way down. As it turns out, the only time we have the boards down is when we are beating or close reaching.

Our daggerboards are 14 feet long. Even though they are heavy, they have a certain amount of positive buoyancy. If not secured in the up or down position, the top nine feet float in the daggerboard case. When we want a board in the up position, it gets held in place — as you suggested — by a 1.5-inch dowel that runs athwartships at the deck level. It sounds stupid and looks a little silly, but it's worked out well. The dowel broke the only time we hit bottom with a daggerboard, allowing the daggerboard to pop up and avoid any damage beyond a scratch.

If we want to put the board in the down position, we have to lift it slightly to be able to slip the dowel pin out. It's a one-person job when we use the electric halyard winch. If we're in a hurry, two guys muscle the board one quarter inch up, and another member of the crew pulls the pin. Then we step on the top of the board to counteract the positive buoyancy and make it flush with the deck. At that point a person in the head pushes the pin through a hole in daggerboard case and the daggerboard, which secures it in the down position. To raise the board, someone has to step on it just right in order for another someone in the head to be able to pull the pin out. Once the board pops free, it has to be lifted to the full-up position, either with a halyard or by hand.

To date we've been happy with our ultra KISS system. Good luck with your cat and daggerboard system design.

### ↑↑JOLLY ROGER IS WORRIED ABOUT PIRATES

I'll be sailing from Guaymas, Mexico, to the Panama Canal in November of this year, and expect to take two months to reach the Canal, including a week or so in Costa Rica. I have a few questions about my route. First, can you suggest interesting ports that I should stop at? I have all the large ones plotted, but you may know a few that are small, inexpensive and interesting. Second, are there places that I should avoid because of known piracy or other factors such as very high mooring or fuel prices?

I'm then going to sail south from the Canal, and was told to avoid Colombia. What information do you have on ports in Venezuela and the Lesser Antilles? And last, I will need to put the boat on the hard out of the hurricane zone, and therefore need to know of a place south of Venezuela.

By the way, I did the Ha-Ha last year and had a really fun experience.

Roger Behnken  
 Jolly Roger, Bombay 44  
 Berkeley

Roger — Thanks for the kind words about the Ha-Ha. As for places to stop between Guaymas and the Canal, they are all pretty well-known, and as you near each place you'll be getting the most current info and recommendations from fellow cruisers. Puerto Madero, Mexico, is a place where some cruisers have had trouble with officials, so keep your ears open once you get in that area. Lots of cruisers rush past the islands off the north coast of Panama, but those who stop seem to really enjoy them. But you may be in too much of a hurry to do that. Berthing and moorings in Third World countries tend to be at least as expensive as in the States, so if you're on a budget, ask around for the best places to anchor. There are plenty. As



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## LETTERS

long as you take the normal precautions, you shouldn't have any problems with crime.

You confuse us when you say you're going to sail south of the Canal, but then seem to suggest that you'll be doing it on your way to Venezuela and the Lesser Antilles. If you sail south of Panama, you'll pass the Pacific coast of Colombia on your way to Ecuador. The Pacific coast of Colombia is not only remote, it's largely lawless. Some cruisers were attacked there a year or so ago while anchored out, and think they only survived because their shouts attracted the attention of another cruising boat that just happened to be nearby. This is not the safest place.

If, on the other hand, you're talking about the Caribbean coast of Colombia, you shouldn't have any problems at the San Blas Islands or Cartagena. The last time we were there, the coast between the two was a no-man's land. Lots of folks in the San Blas can give you the current info. A few years ago there were a number of violent incidents against cruisers — including some Ha-Ha vets — on the coast of Colombia between Cartagena and Cabo Velo. You should consult with the big cruising community at Cartagena before deciding whether to stop. We assume you're aware that the passage from Cartagena to Cabo Velo is frequently one of the nastiest upwind passages in the world of cruising, particularly between mid-December and June. And it's not very easy the rest of the year either, so make sure you gird up for it.

Lots of cruisers still go to Venezuela, but violent incidents have been on the rise, particularly in the eastern part of the country. There's no convenient place to put a boat on the hard for hurricane season that is south of Venezuela, so we'd recommend either a marina in the area of Puerto La Cruz, Venezuela, or at Trinidad. While Trinidad is north of Venezuela, it's still south of the hurricane zone.

No matter where you go, your greatest security risks will be while you're ashore. Nonetheless, we suggest that you always be vigilant along the coasts of Colombia and Venezuela.

### ↑↑WE'RE PRETTY SURE WE AGREE WITH YOU

In a recent *Lectronic* there was a piece about the Delta, with a photo of boats anchored in Middle Slough. The far boat looked like a Searunner trimaran, which is the kind of boat I own.

Having established a connection, I know you've run many Delta articles in the past, but here is how it works now. I go to [maps.google.com](http://maps.google.com) and drill down to see what I want to see. The point is, I want to orient myself on a map/chart, so I look for 'waypoints' — places that were mentioned in the article — on Google Maps. That's the way it works these days, not just for me, but for any internet-savvy person.

Name Withheld By Request  
Bay Area

**N.W.B.R.** — We're a little bit confused about what you're recommending, but we're enormous fans of Google Maps and Google Earth. In fact, some of our favorite 'sailing porn' is using Google Earth to revisit anchorages we've been to around the world.

Ever since Google Earth came out, we've recommended that cruisers heading to Mexico — and other places — print out a color aerial photo of each anchorage they might want to visit. Such aerial views are great safety aids in that they correct inaccurate 'chartlets' found in many cruising guides, and give a great overall idea of the lay of the land and possible dangers. So, of course, mariners should use Google Earth to help plan and enjoy their sailing adventures in the Delta and elsewhere.

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## LETTERS

### ↑↓YOU, TOO, CAN HAVE A 65-INCHER

My wife Mary and I are currently moored at Avalon, and have just finished watching a movie on the 65-inch screen inside our 40-ft boat. It sounds crazy, but we'd like to let everyone know how easy it is to have an actual theater in one's boat.

Mary and I rented our north Orange County home out in October of last year and moved aboard our Island Packet



*I scream, you scream, we all scream for a 65-inch screen — like the one rolled up here in the main salon of 'Island Time'.*

40 in Los Angeles Harbor. It's something that we'd been looking forward to doing for many years, and the time was right. There were only a couple of things that we missed from our shore-based life: the hot tub and the big screen TV. I couldn't really do much about the hot tub, but I figured we'd at least work on the TV.

When I spoke with Mary about upgrading our tiny 15-inch flat panel television for something larger — say 20-22 inches — she asked me, "Why don't you look at a projector?" Man, I love it when she says things like that! So, I embarked on the research mission from hell to find a projector we could use. Voila! I discovered the digital DVD projector system called Movietime from Optoma. Movietime is an "all in one" digital projector that has built-in speakers and a top-loading DVD player. It is a 'short throw' projector that is really meant to plop down on a coffee table, plug in, and project on a wall or screen. This thing can easily project a 100-inch or better high-quality picture on a wall.

Being thrifty, I found a used one on Amazon.com for about half the \$600-900 retail price. I placed the unit on the shelf above my starboard settee, and initially used a white sheet



*The Optoma Movietime may look weird but it works great.*

hung on the port side just to get an idea of how big a screen I would need. I found the projected image to be 64-65 inches wide, and about 35 inches high. After a quick shop around on the internet, I was able to locate a couple of screen dealers with really reasonable prices. I ordered a manual 50-x 67-inch screen for less than \$100. I mounted the screen with quick-release hooks to two padeyes located above and to either side of the port settee. With the screen up, you have to look twice to even notice that it is there, because the white housing blends in with the background. Thanks to the quick release hooks, I can take it down in about five seconds and stow it in the aft stateroom.

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## LETTERS



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You have got to see this thing to believe it! We now do the Netflix thing, and watch movies nearly every night. Our 'boat theater' has blown away just about everyone who has visited us — it's really funny. From sports to movies to concerts, the viewing is just great.

As I kept the little flat screen mounted on the starboard bulkhead for 'morning coffee' television, I had to buy a digital converter. But I found that I was able to hook a pair of cables from the back of the converter to the input at the rear of our Movietime, allowing us to project the digital broadcasts with the projector!

Mike & Mary Kelley  
*Island Time*, Island Packet 40  
Los Angeles Harbor

Readers — Please, let's not have any smart ass remarks about Mary being a 'screen size queen'. What are the Kelleys'

*favorite movies?*  
*"Captain Ron is probably our favorite, so it's what we usually put on when we demonstrate the set-up to friends,"*

*'Captain Ron', the secular patron saint of sailors, as seen on 'Island Time's big screen.'*

says Mike. His other favorites are Black Hawk Down and Meat Loaf Live With the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. Mary's favorites are Sex in the City, True Blood and Metallica S&M.

### ↑↓DON'T BOTHER US, WE'RE BUSY BEING FRIENDLY

As I was scanning the July *Changes*, the reference on page 135 to The Nature Conservancy jumped out at me — because I'm now working for that organization in Nevada.

The caption on the photo spread that said TNC "kicked out" cruisers struck me as making us seem, well, unfriendly. But that's something that the TNC is definitely not. In fact, TNC is so successful at finding "solutions that benefit people and nature" because we are non-confrontational and we work with everyone to protect critical habitat for biodiversity. And as far as there being "all kinds of rules . . .", one of our biggest challenges is how to allow people to enjoy fragile habitats without unduly impacting them. In fact, I was impressed that the crew of *Cocokai* got to stay at Palmyra for four whole days! I guess that doesn't seem very long to bluewater cruisers.

To learn more about why Palmyra is so special, go to [www.nature.org/wherewework/asiapacific/palmyra](http://www.nature.org/wherewework/asiapacific/palmyra). There readers will learn that if TNC had not purchased the Palmyra Atoll in '00, it might be home to a nuclear waste dump or a casino by now.

Anne Thomas  
Raven, CM1200  
Gardnerville, Nevada

Anne — We don't like to disagree with you, but if The Nature Conservancy came across as being "unfriendly" for kicking the *Cocokai* crew out after "four whole days," we think it's because The Nature Conservancy was unfriendly. If they owned the only



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## LETTERS

water hole in a massive desert, we shudder to think how few drops they would allot each parched traveller who came by.

Maybe four whole days would seem like a long time to the billionaires who are the core supporters of The Nature Conservancy, and who often travel to Nature Conservancy sites by private jet or megayacht. But it's not to sailors to who make big sacrifices to arrive at such remote places in such an eco-friendly fashion. As anyone who has crossed an ocean can attest, it takes at least 24 hours to recover from an ocean passage and 24 hours

to prepare for the next leg — which would have left the Cocokai crew with a pitifully short two days at Palmyra to relax and have a peek around. Geez, thanks a lot.

As we recall, Cocokai burned only 15 gallons of

diesel on their three-week, 3,000-mile trip from the Galapagos to the Marquesas. That's about one quarter of what self-proclaimed ocean-loving mini-megayacht owners burn using one generator for one day while tied to the dock. And a fraction of what they use in a single hour while underway. So we think The Nature Conservancy should not only welcome visiting sailors with a week's stay at Palmyra, but should also honor them with an exhibit celebrating what a small footprint they've left in getting there.

Yes, we understand the need to protect critical habitats and for such places not to be overrun by crowds, but we don't think respectful cruisers staying a week would pose any danger to Palmyra. As for the contention that remote Palmyra might have become a casino had the Conservancy not bought it, come on — that was about as much in the cards as our becoming the next black President of the United States.

### ↑↑HE SEEMS LIKE SUCH A NICE MAN

My wife and I have just spent the past two months in the river/estuary of Playa del Sol, El Salvador, aboard our boat *Freedom*. It's a beautiful, peaceful place to pass the days, explore, do boat projects, and enjoy the cruising lifestyle. During this time, we've come to know the people and politics of the small community quite well.

The May edition of *Latitude* featured a letter titled "44 Days in an El Salvador Jail," that was written by a man named Alfred. The man painted a colorful picture of his experiences here, and described how a local man named Santos allegedly assaulted him, broke his arm, and threatened him with a pistol. As a result of the dispute, Alfred claims to have spent 44 days in an El Salvadoran jail.

Alfred writes an entertaining article, and while we must admit that we weren't around when the alleged incidents occurred, there are clearly holes in what he presented as facts. In the two months that we've spent here, we've learned that Alfred changed his story many times. For example, I read court documents that said his left arm was broken, but at a later hearing, his right arm was in a cast. Furthermore, Alfred never presented an X-ray of his broken arm, proof of the injury, or even evidence that he'd visited a doctor.



COURTESY COCOKAI

**How could The Nature Conservancy staff at Palmyra give sweet little Coco the boot after just four days?**

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## LETTERS

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Alfred sued Santos for \$15,000 to settle the case, far more than any medical care or legal fees would justify. The suit that had been dragging on well over a year just came to a close in mid-July, and Santos was given two options: 1) Sign a confession and pay Alfred \$3,000 U.S., or 2) go to jail for six years, with his mother being incarcerated, too.

There was no jury or any semblance of a legal process in the case. It was a confess-and-pay-or-go-directly-to-jail choice. It's a shame what an American cruiser might do to replenish his cruising funds.

Santos signed the confession, and will have to struggle greatly to make the payments to Alfred over the next six months. It's a real tragedy, because the Santos we know is an honest, kind, humble, hard-working family man, who only wants only to provide for his wife and young son.

Santos provides moorings and marine services to cruisers. We got exceptional service from him at a very reasonable price. We've spent enough significant time with Santos and his family to know that the charges again him are false and that he's been wronged by this whole episode. Santos is a good man, and we support him.

Robert & Keli Parker  
Freedom, Downeaster 38  
San Pedro, CA

*Robert and Keli — To put a little perspective on things, it should be noted that while cruisers have had few problems in El Salvador, the country has one of the highest crime and murder rates in the Americas. It's a country where gangs and extortion are rampant. According to National Public Radio, almost all small businesses in the cities have to pay daily la renta to gangs. Some bus drivers even say they get hit up more than once per route. So we're not talking New Zealand or Switzerland.*

*Like you, we weren't on the scene during the Santos-Alfred troubles. As such, we think it's impossible to know for sure who is guilty of what. But our two-letter response to your claim that you've gotten to know Santos well enough to know he has been wronged is: O.J. The prisons are full of charming people who have committed heinous crimes that their friends and relatives can't fathom.*

*We're particularly puzzled by your assertion that Alfred somehow got in a dispute with Santos "to replenish his cruising kitty." His case might be the one-in-a-million exception to the rule, but generally speaking, foreign visitors — particularly those on "yachts" in extremely poor countries — get the short end of the stick from local authorities and judges. After all, what kind of leverage could Alfred, a budget cruiser, possibly have had against a citizen of El Salvador in El Salvador? Particularly after Alfred had already spent 44 days in a Salvadoran jail?*

*We're never going to know for sure, but if we had to give odds, it would be that Santos and his mama might not be as angelic as you think. And for what it's worth, remember that Santos and Alfred started out as great friends, too.*

*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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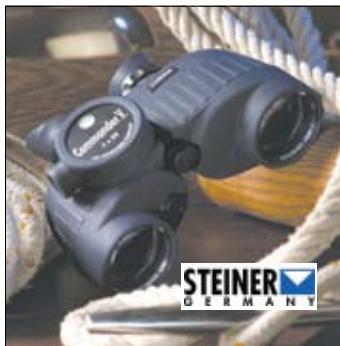
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## LOOSE LIPS

Driving taxpayers to drink cheap rum.

The following are first three paragraphs of a story by Tom Hamburger and Peter Wallsten that appeared in the August 2 *Los Angeles Times*. While the connection between sailing and rum is somewhat tenuous, we thought the story was so outrageous, but so typical, that we couldn't resist.

"Yo ho ho and a bottle of rum.

"With little fanfare, a deal is moving forward to provide billions of tax dollars and tax breaks to an unlikely beneficiary — the giant British liquor producer that makes Captain Morgan rum.

"Under the agreement, Diageo in London will receive tax credits and other benefits worth \$2.7 billion over 30 years, including the \$165 million cost of on the island of St. Croix in the Virgin Islands, a U.S. territory." So ends the *Times* excerpt.

A couple of interesting facts:

- Diageo is the largest distilled spirits maker in the world.
- The \$2.7 billion that Diageo will receive in benefits can also be expressed as \$2,700 million.
- The agreement will result in the creation of 40 to 70 jobs in St. Croix — but will also result in the loss of up to 300 jobs in Puerto Rico.
- According to the article, the deal has attracted "little opposition in Congress or elsewhere," except for a few representatives of Puerto Rican interests.
- Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.), chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee — which means he oversees tax policy and therefore has the "highest perch in the House" — cited his long-time support of the rum tax, and refuses to intervene in the massive giveaway.
- Also in the September 2 *L.A. Times*, there was an article reporting that the same Charles Rangel failed to report \$600,000 in income, is delinquent on taxes for two parcels in New Jersey, failed to report the sale of a \$1.3 million brownstone, and is illegally occupying four rent-controlled units in New York City. He'd previously admitted to have paid no taxes on \$75,000 worth of income on a condo in the Dominican Republic.

• If you're a taxpayer, you shouldn't be sailing and drinking rum — especially Captain Morgan rum — at the same time. But given the way the government pisses away taxpayer resources, we'd sort of understand if you did.

Can you hear me now?

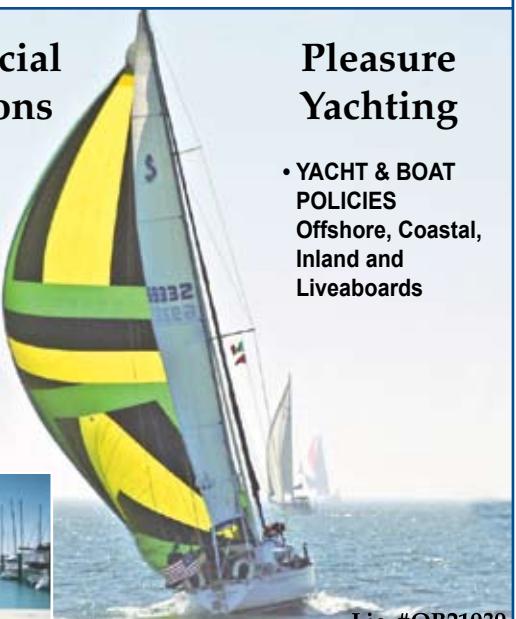
Visitors to the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park can now use their cell phones for a free audio tour of the park's features. With 28 topics ranging from 'Danger and Adventure on the High Seas' to 'Swimmers in San Francisco Bay', visitors can pick and choose which episodes to listen to. If you don't like surprises, you can even listen to the entire tour from the comfort of your salon — go to [www.nps.gov/safr/planyourvisit/cellphonenaudiotours.htm](http://www.nps.gov/safr/planyourvisit/cellphonenaudiotours.htm) for the list of topics and their corresponding tour number, then call (415) 294-6754.

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# SIGHTINGS

## how young is too young?

It's funny how a world record can lie dormant for years, then suddenly challengers seem to appear from all quarters. That's what's been going on lately in the realm of teenage circumnavigating. In August, we brought you news of 17-year-old Southern California singlehander Zac Sunderland's historic homecoming, which earned him the crown for 'youngest around' by any route. Then last month we reported on British solo sailor Mike Perham stealing Zac's thunder by completing his lap at a younger age. But even as the young Brit arrived at England's Lizard Peninsula, younger contenders seemed to be nipping at his heels.



Laura Dekker

**Laura Dekker, 13.**

her shakedown cruise any day now, then set off on her nonstop, unassisted attempt, east-about via the Southern Ocean, as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, within days of Zac's arrival, his younger sister Abby, who turns 16 this month, gave credence to the rumor that she intends to attempt a solo rounding, and do so nonstop and unassisted. The family has already purchased a water-ballasted Class 40 sloop for the campaign. With plans to depart next month, she hopes to complete her trip — and set a new record — next April. We should clarify that both Zac and Mike Perham made stops and avoided Cape Horn by transiting the Panama Canal.

As if Jessica and Abby's intentions weren't controversial enough, a 13-year-old Dutch girl named Laura Dekker made headlines around the world when her solo ambitions became known. But a Dutch court has put the kibosh on her plans, at least for now.

What's Mike Perham's reaction to all these female upstarts? If he's nervous, it doesn't show. Within days of his return, which was heralded by great media fanfare, he announced a plan to join a team of Brits in reenacting Captain William Bligh's epic 4,000-mile voyage in an open whaleboat. History buffs will remember that the *Bounty* mutineers set Bligh and 18 loyalist crew members adrift with a sextant and a pocket watch, but no charts or compass. Some people apparently just need a mission.

But with Jessica and Abby's departures still imminent, debate rages on the question: "How young is too young?" In a lengthy verdict, the Dutch court ruled that such a voyage would be too challenging, both mentally and physically — and Laura had intended to go around the easy way, west-about through the tropics via the Panama and Suez Canals. On this one, we have to side with the court. Thirteen? You've gotta be kidding. Even though Laura was born on a boat and has spinach in her veins, we have to wonder: Was all this more about her father's aspirations, or his daughter's.

And what about Abby Sunderland? We don't get it. About a year ago, her parents explained that they hadn't wanted Zac to go the Southern Ocean route because it was too dangerous. Did it suddenly become less dangerous? As far as we can tell, those latitudes are becoming increasingly more dangerous, with loose sea ice more prevalent than ever. Bergie bits aside, though, what is it about a background of sailing in California coastal waters that would prepare a barely-16-year-old

## waiting with

California State Parks officials had promised to announce which state parks would be closed due to budget cuts by mid-September, but then said that the process was more complicated than they'd initially thought, postponing the decision. That's left state park employees wondering if theirs will be among the 100 parks on the chopping block.

While the staff at Angel Island State Park holds their collective breath for the announcement, they're focused on "providing the highest level of service



**Abby Sunderland, 16.**

continued on outside column of next sightings page

## bated breath

possible," says Superintendent Dave Matthews. But in an effort to offload unused assets, the park's 56-ft 1956 Marinet landing craft will be offered up for auction on December 9. If you'd like to take a look at it, contact Gerald O'Reilly at (415) 435-1748.

In the meantime, don't let the beautiful fall weather go by without visiting your favorite state park while you still can — 25 Bay Area parks are vulnerable, including China Camp and Angel Island.

— ladonna

## too young — cont'd

to singlehand a 40-footer in 50-ft waves and hurricane-force winds? And do Abby and Jessica really have the mechanical skills to repair all the systems that will inevitably break during a nonstop attempt? Don't get us wrong, Abby seems like a lovely girl and we wish her the best of luck. We just don't want to see her teenage fantasy morph into a horrible tragedy.

When our old friend Harry Heckel, Jr. completed the first of two solo circumnavigations at the age of 78, we thought he got a raw deal from the folks at the *Guinness Book of World Records*. They refused to acknowledge it, stating that they didn't want to 'encourage such behavior'. Now that the focus is on the younger end of the spectrum, we're starting to see the wisdom in such an attitude.

— andy

**"Can I play too?"** — When this five-and-a-half-year-old heard that Abby and Laura were planning to solo circumnavigate, she started brushing up on her nav skills. "I want that record!" she was heard to snarl.



LATITUDE / LADONNA

# SIGHTINGS

## the wrath of jimena

During the last 10 years, the waters off the Pacific Coast of Mexico and the Sea of Cortez have been roiled by 82 tropical storms (sustained winds of 34 to 63 knots) and 69 hurricanes (sustained winds in excess of 64 knots). That's a lot of big blows. As a general rule, they tend to form down by the Mexico-Guatemala border, then head northwest to their death partway to Hawaii. Unlike hurricanes in the Atlantic/Caribbean, Eastern Pacific hurricanes and tropical storms generally head away from land and population centers.

There are exceptions, however. During the summer, almost all cruising in Mexico takes place in the Sea of Cortez. Over the last 10 years, cruisers in the Sea have been threatened by five hurricanes or their tropical storm remnants: *Juliette* ('01), *Ignacio* and *Marty* ('03), *John* ('06), and *Norbert* ('08). Early last month, Hurricane (and later

continued on outside column of next sightings page

## sequoia yc's

On 09/09/09, Sequoia YC hosted the 4th Annual Give Something Back fundraiser benefiting the Peninsula Youth Sailing Foundation, the Marine Science Institute, and both girls' and boys' Mariner and Sea Scout programs.

This special race was started four years ago by club member Ted Hannig, who decided he didn't want gifts on his birthday. He'd always found the boating community helpful, particularly in his own youth, so he wanted to give back instead. With help from the generous members of the Sequoia YC, this hugely successful event



PHOTOS J. INNIS KIRKLAND

## hannig cup

has raised \$75,000 — \$25,000 raised this year alone.

But this is no ordinary beer can race. Instead of beating the competition around the buoys, boats compete to raise the most money. The boat generating the most donations takes possession of the Hannig Cup, and its skipper receives a special perpetual trophy *cum* time capsule.

The fundraising came at the right moment for the PYSF team aboard *L2O* — they tore their spinnaker that night!

— kris butler



**Beer Cans for a Cause —** The annual Hannig Cup beer can race raised \$25,000 for junior sailing programs. The money couldn't have come at a better time for the Peninsula Youth Sailing Foundation — they tore their kite that night (upper left)! For info on sponsoring or racing in next year's Hannig Cup, contact Kris Butler at (650) 868-8862.

## jimena — cont'd

Tropical Storm) *Jimena* paid a visit to Baja and the Sea of Cortez. The one-time Category 4 hurricane (winds from 114 to 135 knots) did lots of damage but surprisingly little of it was to cruising interests.

After following the curve of the coast of mainland Mexico several hundred miles offshore, *Jimena* was forecast to hit both Cabo San Lucas and La Paz, the two biggest population and boating centers in Baja. Luckily for both places, *Jimena* drifted farther to the west, leaving those two cities all but unscathed.

The eye of *Jimena*, still packing hurricane-force winds, came ashore at remote Mag Bay on the Pacific Coast, about 150 miles northwest of Cabo. The villages of San Carlos on Mag Bay, and Mateo Lopez on the inland waterway, were severely damaged, as were the mid-peninsula towns of Constitución and Insurgentes. Other coastal villages, such as Abreojos and Ascunción, were said to have been hit hard.

As *Jimena* continued on, cruisers at cruising centers to the north had reason for optimism. Not only had it lost a lot of its power over land, but it was also forecast to abruptly turn due west, which would have taken it back out over the open ocean. The thing is, you just can't trust hurricanes or hurricane forecasts. Instead of turning due west, *Jimena* headed due east, 180° off her projected course. Here's what happened in the various cruiser centers:

**Puerto Escondido/Loreto** — According to Dave Wallace of the Redwood City-based Amel Maramu Air Ops, the eye of then-Tropical Storm *Jimena* passed within 50 miles of the nearly enclosed anchorage. It blew about 55 knots for a number of hours, with a reported gust of 89 knots. Over the years, Singlar's 170 mooring balls have been criticized by some cruisers as being inadequate. Yet not a one of them failed in the storm, while a number of boats' mooring lines to the buoys did fail. The sailboat *Saltshaker* broke loose, but her skipper, aided by the crew of a motor vessel, was able to grab another buoy. The sailboat *Neka* chafed through her mooring line, and drifted into the mangroves. The Singlar staff put her back on a mooring. *Waverly*'s mooring line chafed through and, like *Wanderlust* and *Spirit*, which were on their own hooks, went ashore. Out in the Waiting Room, two boats went ashore. Wallace wants to emphasize that no attended boats went ashore. However, all the boats that did were refloated by the Singlar staff and other cruisers. The 14 boats on the hard at Singlar all stayed up.

**Concepción Bay** — Having survived Hurricane *Juliette* at Santa Barbara Cove in Concepción Bay years before, Bill Yeargean and Jean Strain of the Honolulu-based Irwin 37 *Mita Kuuluu* returned for *Jimena*. Also riding it out there were the sailing vessels *Tequila Mockingbird* and *Rocinante*, and the motor vessels *Topaz* and *Oso Negro*. Reporting that they were just 30 miles from the eye, Bill and Jean said they had 75-knot winds with 15-second gusts of 100 knots over six hours. Rain was driven right through their dodger, and they couldn't hear each other from three feet away. At the height of the fury, *Mita Kuuluu* dragged her anchors but, thanks to the full power of a 50-hp Perkins, Bill and Jean were able to get her hooks to grab again.

**Santa Rosalia** — About 20 cruising boats scrambled to find spots at the relatively new marina, and each used every line they could find to tie to the pilings. Alex and Sue Hasenclever of the Kelly-Peterson 44 *Maitairoa* reported "nine hours of wind gusting to 90 knots." With her husband Dean working in Seattle, Toast Conger and her three young daughters aboard the Lagoon 380 *Don Quixote* tied up their boat in the marina, then took shelter in the Singlar building. According to Toast, the wind wasn't the problem. "We mostly had 40 and 50 knots, with only an hour of 60 knots. The real problem was that it blew like that from 3 p.m. until 11 p.m. It seemed like it was never going to stop." Succeeding levels of the building leaked so badly that Toast and her daughters ultimately had to take shelter in a tile-walled bathroom.

After *Jimena* surprised everyone by heading in the direction of San Carlos/Guaymas, the sense of relief at Santa Rosalia was short-lived,

continued on outside column of next sightings page

# SIGHTINGS

## jimena — cont'd

because forecasts called for it to double back on them. Fortunately, it fizzled out in the Sea first. While all the Santa Rosalia boats survived in good shape, the small, old marina was destroyed, and the town suffered extensive damage from flash flooding. Cars were overturned, homes and stores destroyed, and one on-duty policeman was carried to his death by a wall of water and mud. For mariners, the big problem became the five cars, various household appliances and other debris that blocked the entrance of the marina.

**Puerto Don Juan, Bahia de Los Angeles** — Jake and Sharon Howard of the Seattle-based Hunter Legend 45 *Jake* report that theirs was one of 21 boats that took shelter at nearly-enclosed Puerto Don Juan in Bahia de Los Angeles. The storm was supposed to come within 50 miles of them, then head due west. But it "faked left and went right." After a five-minute cloudburst in the middle of the night, they awoke to sunny skies. "To us," the couple wrote, "it proved once again that this is the best place to be during the height of the Mexican hurricane season. Not only is it the safest, but it has great cruising, too."

**San Carlos/Guaymas** — Although not originally predicted to get so close, the eye, depending to whom you talk, either came within 40 miles or passed right over the two towns. In any event, the boating center was hit by 40-50 knots of wind for 20 hours. No boats in the water at Marina San Carlos or Marina Real were damaged, but 20 boats on private moorings went up on the beach. These were mostly good-quality cruising boats, all of which had been unattended when they went ashore. All but three were pulled off in relatively short order.

San Carlos is the center of sailboat dry storage in Mexico, with close to 500 boats on the hard between Marina Seca and Marina Real. The big threat to them was not the wind, but the rain that fell in biblical amounts. More than 27 inches fell in 24 hours, supposedly twice as much as has ever fallen in a 24-hour period in Mexico. Marina Seca, the bigger of the storage yards, became a massive flood plain. Nonetheless, only two boats went over: the DownEast 38 *Barnacle* and the Passport 45 *Plumas*. Thanks to the thick cushion of mud, neither boat was damaged. All boats on the hard in Guaymas stayed up.

The flood damage that hit the city, roads and homes of the area was worse, yet cruisers had nothing but raves about the response on the part of the government, utilities, businesses and individuals. By all accounts, Kiki Grossman and her staff did a miraculous job clearing mud from Marina Seca, refencing the yard and getting it back on its feet. And Grossman raved about the utility providers and the hard work of her employees. She even put the workers' wives on the payroll so their husbands could work as many hours a day as possible.

Remember the looting hordes in the wake of *Katrina* in New Orleans? "There are marauding bands of Mexicans everywhere," blogged one cruiser in San Carlos, "and they are helping everyone who needs it!"

We think the lessons of *Jimena* are as follows:

- You can't trust hurricane forecasts. Don Anderson was singled out as having better forecasts than others, but people complained that even his projections were way off.

- Unattended boats have a much greater chance to go ashore. Everyone must remember, however, that *Jimena* had lost a lot of her punch by the time she reached boating interests. It's one thing to stay on your boat in 60 knots of wind, it's another if it's blowing 120 knots and the force of the wind is four times greater.

- The farther north you are in the Sea, the less likely it is that you'll get hit; and if you do get hit, chances are you won't get hit as hard.

- Flash floods and flooding can be killers in Baja.

And lastly, in this time of danger, everyone banded together to prepare, endure and recover from the storm. It was humanity at its best. Nearly every cruiser who wrote to us struggled to find words to sufficiently express their praise for the Mexican government, the businesses, and the private citizens of Mexico for all their help.

— rs

## cruisers psych up

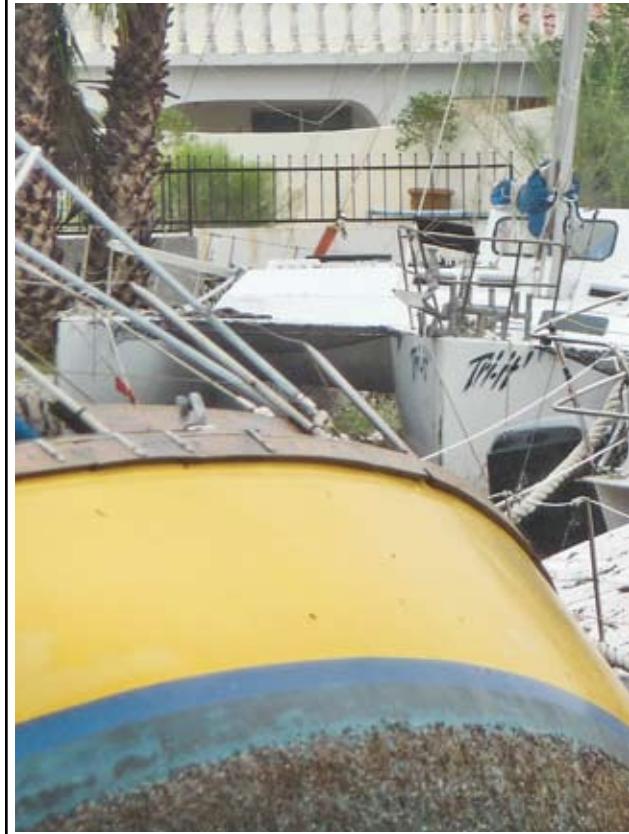
Ahhh, Polynesia . . . Just saying that word, we can practically feel the warm caress of the trade winds.

Although the prime weather window for jumping off from the Americas to the South Pacific is still five months away, there's already a lot of buzz within the cruising community about this year's Pacific Puddle Jump. For the uninitiated, that's the name we coined long ago for the annual migration of westbound cruisers.

As most readers know, *Latitude* ex-



PHOTOS COURTESY GEMINI



# SIGHTINGS

## for the puddle jump

pends a lot of ink and effort on behalf of sailors who make this 3,000-mile open water passage, because completing it is a major accomplishment within the realm of world cruising. On the front end this year, we'll host our annual Puddle Jump Kickoff Party on February 6 at the Vallarta YC located in Nuevo Vallarta's Paradise Village Resort. We'll also be doing some 'outreach' to more southerly members of this year's fleet, thanks to friends at

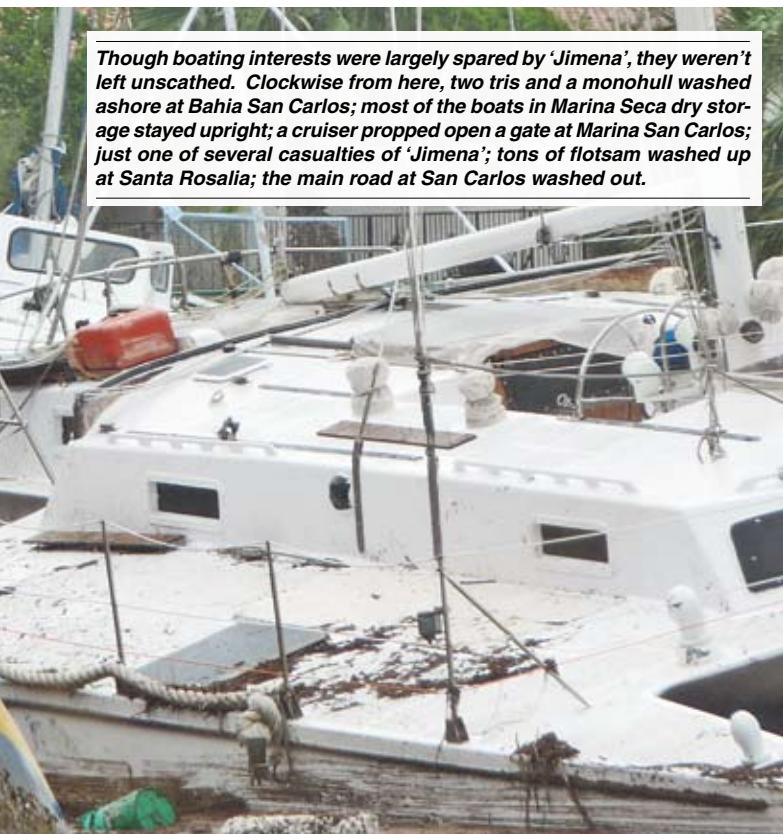
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## coincidence or crackdown?

Safety inspections by the Coast Guard are a way of life on San Francisco Bay. Long contested by the Fourth Amendment crowd, such searches have been upheld in court since the inception of the Revenue Cutter Service (which later became the Coast Guard) in 1790 by an act of the first Congress. Most Bay Area boaters comply patiently, if not happily, with these intrusions on our time on the water, and look at them as a necessary evil.

Longtime readers will no doubt recall the bad old days of 'Zero Intelligence/Zero Tolerance' more than a decade ago when *Latitude* campaigned against stepped-up boardings of recreational vessels. The publisher was later told by Sector San Francisco then-Commander

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**Though boating interests were largely spared by 'Jimena', they weren't left unscathed. Clockwise from here, two tris and a monohull washed ashore at Bahia San Carlos; most of the boats in Marina Seca dry storage stayed upright; a cruiser propped open a gate at Marina San Carlos; just one of several casualties of 'Jimena'; tons of flotsam washed up at Santa Rosalia; the main road at San Carlos washed out.**

PHOTOS COURTESY ESTRELLA

COURTESY HOBO

COURTESY PURA VIDA

# SIGHTINGS

## coincidence — cont'd

Capt. Larry Hall that his ravings had singlehandedly changed that policy. True or not, since that time, we've rarely received a complaint against the Coast Guard. More often than not, we get letter after letter commending them for assisting mariners in need.

So imagine our concern when, in a period of just a couple days, we received no fewer than three less-than-sterling reviews of recent Coast Guard interactions, all of which involved the racing community. The first, and most disturbing, episode occurred on August 25 during a Sausalito YC Beer Can race. After the start of the race, PRO Jeff Zarwell says he realized he'd forgotten to bring the 'anchor yanker' for the marks. He was operating the safety boat for the race, so he radioed the signal boat that he was returning to Schoonmaker Point Marina to pick it up — a trip that should have taken 10 minutes.

Zarwell reports that as soon as he entered Richardson Bay, a RIB from the Coast Guard vessel *Pike* began trailing him. Shortly before arriving at the marina, a 'mayday' was called on the race channel, VHF 71. According to Zarwell, neither he nor the signal boat received any other information, just the 'mayday'. "When I waved the RIB over and told them I'd received a mayday, they said 'We didn't hear

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## puddle jump

the Panama YC (dates TBA). Officially registered fleet members (see [www.pacificpuddlejump.com](http://www.pacificpuddlejump.com)) will be profiled in the magazine. And thanks to our friends at the Tahiti YC, they'll likely be offered a special exemption from having to pay the normal entrance bond — a savings of roughly \$1,500 per person. You must register, however, before February 20.

On the back end, we're working with Tahiti Tourisme and other partners to co-host another Tahiti-Moorea Sailing Rendezvous on June 18-20 — a free three-day gathering to celebrate the fleet's successful crossing, while introducing members to Tahitian culture through traditional sports, music, dance and cuisine.

In addition, we'll be hosting three upcoming Puddle Jump seminars: 1) At the San Diego West Marine (1250 Rosecrans)

***While few Puddle Jump boats are this elegant, they all reach the same dramatic Polynesian landfalls.***



## — cont'd

on Saturday, October 24 (5 p.m.), the day before the Ha-Ha Kickoff Party; 2) At the Seattle Boat Show in January ( specifics TBA); 3) At Oakland's Strictly Sail Pacific show in April (again, TBA).

In Puerto Vallarta, a wide variety of worthwhile seminars is being scheduled at both the Vallarta YC ([www.vallartayachtclub.org](http://www.vallartayachtclub.org)) and Marina Riviera Nayarit ([www.marinarivieranayarit.com](http://www.marinarivieranayarit.com)).

Finally, every potential Puddle Jumper should check out the 'PacificPuddle-Jump' group site at *Yahoo.com* (under the 'Groups' menu), which contains a wealth of useful info related to making the crossing. Be aware also that most Puddle Jump articles published in *Latitude* can be downloaded for free at [www.pacificpuddlejump.com](http://www.pacificpuddlejump.com). See you out there!

— andy



## coincidence — cont'd

it," Zarwell recalls. "I then had to explain that it came over the race channel and why a racer might think he'd have a chance of nearby boats hearing him on that channel. One of the men asked for my cell phone number — which I had to repeat five times before he finally wrote it down — and then I was told to continue to the dock."

Once there, Zarwell reports that he received a call from the officer aboard *Pike*, and once again had to explain the situation: A racer had called a mayday, and that, as the safety boat, he should go find out what had happened. "I was told that as soon as the safety inspection was complete, I could go check on my boats." He says this whole interaction took about 10 minutes, not including the time it took to conduct the inspection (he passed). "It's unbelievable that they let a safety inspection take precedence over a mayday call!"

What no one knew — not Zarwell, not the signal boat, not the Coast Guard — was that, while all this was going down, a flawless man-overboard rescue had been performed just outside Richardson Bay. In the midst of a spectacular spinnaker blow-out, a crewmember aboard Dale Flaming's J/133 *J/Hawk* fell overboard, only to be rescued within moments by the crew of Charles James' J/105 *Roxanne*. Zarwell reports that the crewmember was not wearing a PFD, and was inappropriately dressed, so he already showed signs of hypothermia after just a few minutes in the Bay. Other than that, he was unhurt. Zarwell fired off an irate letter of complaint to the Coast Guard — cc'ing *Latitude* — shortly after the incident.

Fast forward to Labor Day, three days before the Rolex Big Boat Series was to commence. Brent Vaughan was out practicing for the event with his full crew aboard his St. Francis YC-based J/105 *Jabberwocky*. "We were sailing to weather, hiking within the J/105 rules, on a port tack about 500 yards off Golden Gate YC," Vaughan recalls. "A Coast Guard RIB came tearing out of Gashouse Cove and passed behind us. I thought they were saying hi so I waved. Instead, they came up next to us and said that my crew had to get inside the lifelines. I must have looked dense because I really didn't understand. They told me no one could have their legs hanging outboard!"

Vaughan says he told the men on the RIB that he and his crew were practicing for a race. "Where's your patrol boat?" they asked. It was truly bizarre. I asked them what they were talking about, and they said, 'You have to have a patrol boat if you're practicing.' I told them that I was pretty sure that California state law does not require me to buy a powerboat before I can sail my sailboat."

At this point Vaughan says things started to get contentious. "I was about two comments away from them boarding us so I just told my crew to pull in their legs and we'd practice on the other side of the Bay. I'd paid for Olympic silver medalist Jeff Madrigali to come up early for practice and I didn't want to waste three hours going down

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PHOTOS TIM SELL

*In this amazing sequence, 'Roxanne' can be seen coming to the rescue.*

# SIGHTINGS

## coincidence — cont'd

their checklist. In the end, they said the rule was a state statute so they wouldn't cite us, but that they'd be happy to call the sheriff, and they won't be as understanding as us.' Like I said, truly bizarre."

Then came a report that a BBS race committee boat was boarded for a safety inspection — not only during the middle of a race, but in the middle of the race course. One person onboard told us that the Coast Guard vessel *Tern* stayed on station in the middle of the course, forcing racers to go around them. Perhaps not a big deal normally but, combined with these other incidents, a potential red flag.

"There's no mandate to crack down on sailing vessels or the racing community," insists Sector San Francisco Public Affairs Officer LTJG Jeremy Pichette. "If there's some disconnect between the Coast Guard and the boating public, that's something we'd like to address. We take complaints very seriously. Our top priority is to ensure the safety of our crews and the boating public."

Lt. Pichette reports that an internal investigation of Zarwell's complaint was completed at the end of last month. "It was found that all Coast Guard personnel abided by training and instructions," he said. "The boarding occurred north of the race location, so Mr. Zarwell's safety boat was not near the scene of the crew overboard." He noted that the officer aboard *Pike* relayed the mayday to Search and Rescue who then gained contact with Roxanne. "They were told no other Coast Guard assistance was needed."

It's worth noting that no complaints were filed in the other cases, and Lt. Pichette confirmed that the crew of *Jabberwocky* were not violating any laws. "That rule only applies to powerboats," he said.

So how can the "disconnect" that Lt. Pichette mentioned — if there even is one — be fixed? "Maybe they should put together a panel with members of the boating community," suggests Jeff Zarwell. "It doesn't seem that they know who it is they're supposedly serving."

If such a group were to form, one point of discussion would be how to avoid the inspection of race committee boats during active racing. A reasonable solution would be annual inspections that would exempt them from further boardings. That simple change would have prevented two of these incidents.

Whatever the solution, it's clear that the Coast Guard is willing to play ball — the boating community just has to step up to the plate.

— ladonna

## the birth of a new nereida

In the wee hours of June, 19, 2008, British solo circumnavigator Jeanne Socrates slept as her Najad 361 *Nereida* veered toward the shore of Playa Michigan, situated between Acapulco and Zihuatanejo. Socrates had left Zihua 15 months earlier on a west-about circumnavigation via the Panama Canal, and was just 60 miles from crossing her outbound track when her autopilot failed and *Nereida* was lost on that desolate Mexican beach.

Jeanne spent days recovering what she could from the wreck, giving much of it to local fishermen, and sending the rest to San Francisco aboard another cruiser's boat. There she stored the gear in a friend's garage as she began the process of finding a new boat to call home.

Socrates, a veteran of the '06 Singlehanded TransPac, had signed up for the '08 running of the race, but she didn't let the loss of *Nereida*, just a month before the start, stop her from joining her old friends at the finish line. It was a

continued on outside column of next sightings page

## baja ha-ha draws

Much to the surprise of the Baja Ha-Ha Rally Committee, the number of paid entries for the 'Sweet Sixteen' Ha-Ha blew by the old record of 183 boats to a total of 191 boats. Who would have thought?

There will be some new twists to this year's pre-rally activities. A consortium of San Diego port staffers, business people and Harbor Police have been working to make the fleet's visit more fun and more high-profile than ever.

On the way out to the October 26 start, Ha-Ha boats will parade past the tip of Shelter Island at 10 a.m., where a San Diego fire boat will salute them with a cloud of spray, while local print and TV news outlets record the procession — your

*Spread, Jeanne Socrates aboard her new 'Nereida'. She oversaw nearly every aspect of her build, making dozens of small changes and several larger ones, such as changing her sail plan to a cutter. Inset, the original 'Nereida' as she lay dying on a forlorn Mexican beach.*



## record numbers

chance to get on the evening news. The head of Baja tourism has been invited to attend and officially start the parade with a blast from the special starter's shotgun used during the 1988 America's Cup held in San Diego.

While we're gratified that so many boats decided to enter, our primary concern is that everyone make it to Cabo safely. For this reason, we want to emphasize how important it is for all skippers and crew to make sure that the boat and all the crew are ready to sail offshore. It starts with personal issues. Everybody needs to understand the importance of not going overboard, getting hit in the head by the

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## *nereida* — cont'd

bittersweet reunion, to be sure, but one that brought Jeanne a sense of closure — especially when, shortly before the race's final party, she learned that her insurance company, Lloyds of London, had honored her claim in full.

Instead of continuing to scour used boat ads on the internet, Socrates contacted Najad Yachts in Sweden and began an eight-month process of having a new boat built to her exacting specifications. Having sailed the first *Nereida* thousands of miles with her late husband George, and then tens of thousand on her own, Jeanne was intimately familiar with the changes she wanted made.

The new *Nereida* was launched this past April, and Jeanne spent the summer commissioning the boat and otherwise prepping it for her next goal: A singlehanded, nonstop circumnavigation via the Great Capes. If she completes the trip, which she expects to take six or seven months, she says she'll be the oldest woman do have done so — but she's not saying exactly how old that is. "Let's just say that I'm in my 60s," she noted. "I don't believe a woman over 60 has ever

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PHOTOS COURTESY NEREIDA

# SIGHTINGS

## **nereida — cont'd**

done it. Sir Robin Knox-Johnston commented that, if I succeed, I'll be the nineteenth Brit ever to have done so solo, nonstop."

Early last month, Socrates set sail from Guernsey on a 12-day shakedown cruise to the Canary Islands. When we caught up with her, she was just a week or so away from her anticipated departure date. "There are still items to fix in place so they won't move around in the expected big seas — or if we should broach or invert — but I hope to be ready to get underway by the beginning of October," Jeanne said, "so as to be in the area of Cape Horn around mid-January."

Socrates also hopes to raise money for a charity close to her heart: Marie Curie Cancer Care. "Too many people I know have suffered from cancer, and it has denied them the chance to enjoy what they'd looked forward to, often after a hard-working life," she said. "Some friends are still struggling to overcome it. Marie Curie Cancer Care enables terminally ill people to spend their final days at home, with the family supported by dedicated nurses provided free of charge."

## **ha-ha**

boom or spinnaker pole, or losing one's fingers in a block. Then there are boat safety issues, such as everyone's knowing the importance of keeping a good watch and knowing how to reef. And knowing how to deal with emergencies, such as fire, water coming into the boat from an unknown source, losing the rudder, or having the mast come down.

We don't want to frighten anyone, because these things have rarely or never happened in the previous 15 Ha-Ha's but, in order to be safe, you must have knowledge and be vigilant. Besides, the more you know, the more relaxed you'll be and the more fun you'll have.

*'Sweet Sixteen' promises to be the biggest Ha-Ha if all 191 entries show up to the starting line.*



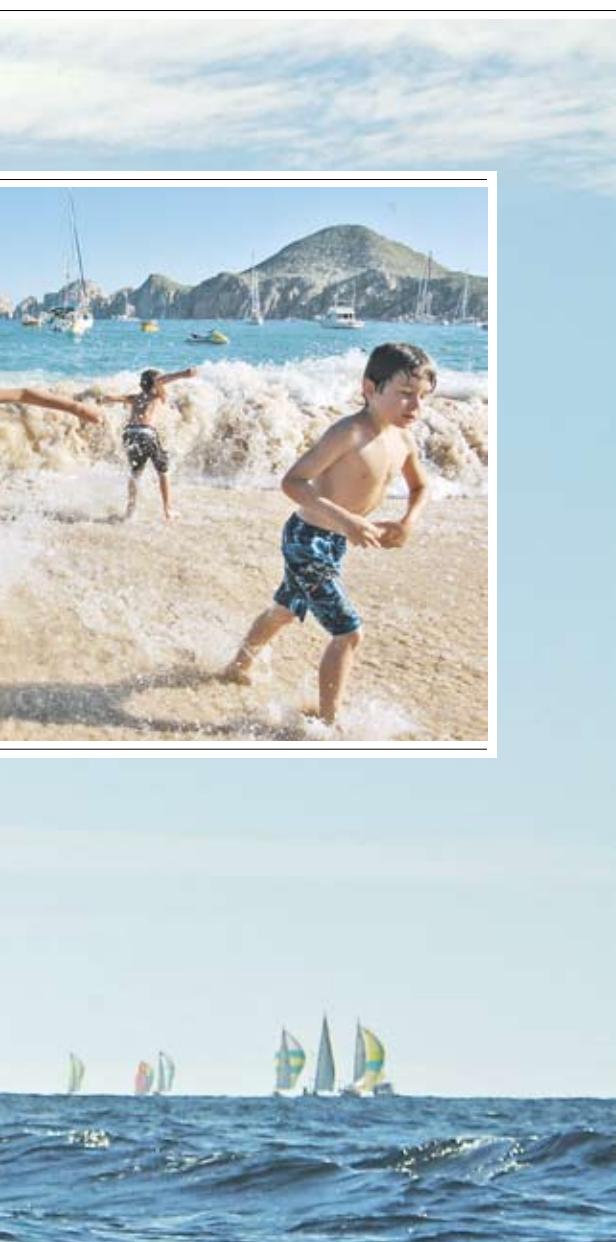
PHOTOS LATITUDE / LADONNA

## — cont'd

Speaking of safety, the Mexican Navy wants all fleet members to know they have recently expanded their Search and Rescue fleet dramatically, with new helicopters and U.S. Coast Guard-style runabouts, based out of Ensenada, that are capable of 50 knots. Their personnel have been trained by the USCG, and all speak English.

As you'll read in our second installment of profiles, this year's fleet has some very interesting characters, and some very accomplished offshore sailors. We look forward to meeting them all — in fact, we can hardly wait for the Ha-Ha to begin.

— andy



## nereida — cont'd

We'll publish Jeanne's updates periodically, but in the meantime, you can track her progress — as well as donate to her charity — at [www.svnereida.com](http://www.svnereida.com).

— ladonna

## shake rattle and roll — remembering the quake of '89

No one who experienced the 1989 earthquake in Northern California will never forget where they were or what they were doing in the early evening hours of October 17. Though the 6.9 tremor was not nearly as powerful as the Great Earthquake of 1906 (estimated to have been a Richter magnitude 7.8), the Loma Prieta quake will always be the 'Big One' of our time.

To refresh your memory: shortly after 5 p.m. on October 17, the San Andreas fault slipped in an area 10 miles northeast of Santa Cruz. The



LATITUDE / JR

*The marina fire as seen from the Marin Headlands.*

actual epicenter was in Forest of Nisene Marks State Park, but the quake soon took on the name of nearby Loma Prieta Peak. The main tremor lasted for 10-15 seconds and, according to varying reports, was felt as far away as San Diego to the south, Southern Oregon to the north, and Western Nevada. When the final numbers were tallied, 63 people had been killed, more than 3,700 injured, and upwards of 10,000 left homeless. Some 12,000 homes and 2,600 businesses were damaged or destroyed. Forty buildings collapsed outright. Most of the fatalities occurred when the top deck of the double-decker Nimitz Freeway in the East Bay collapsed onto the bottom deck, crushing scores of cars. The most concentrated damage occurred in the Marina District of San Francisco, where we all learned about a thing called 'liquefaction', in which landfill over marshy areas amplifies the shaking — and the destruction. The quake caused an estimated \$6 billion (\$10 billion in today's dollars) in property damage, becoming one of the most expensive natural disasters in U.S. history at the time.

Although we 'covered' the boating aspect of the quake in our November issue that year, the reality is that, back then, and for months to come, sailing didn't matter. All that mattered was making sure loved ones were okay, you had someplace warm and dry to sleep, and that you could put your life back together.

But that was then. On this, the 20th anniversary of Loma Prieta, we asked readers (via *'Lectronic Latitude*) to remember where they were and what happened that day — but only if it related to boating. The stories we got were so great we wonder why we didn't ask the same thing years ago. From one couple who completed a 21,000 mile circumnavigation of the Pacific that day when they sailed under the Gate to the sailor who helped ferry people to the East Bay, all the stories were riveting.

Instead of editing them down to fit our space limitations, we've posted the best ones on our website at [www.latitude38.com/features/lomaprieta.html](http://www.latitude38.com/features/lomaprieta.html).

— jr

# ROLEX BIG BOAT SERIES



When it was announced at last year's awards ceremony that the '09 Rolex Big Boat Series would function as the US IRC Nationals, we were hopeful it would turn out to be one of the biggest and best in recent memory. That was, of course, before the bottom dropped out of the economy. All of a sudden we were left wondering just how many boats would actually make it.

Thankfully, the developing strength of the West Coast IRC fleet meant that the 45th anniversary of the regatta — held September 10-13 — showed you can't keep the West Coast's premier event down. Although the fleet of 95 boats — 29 in four IRC divisions and 66 in seven one-design divisions — was about

*Jim Mitchell's IRC A-winning R/P 52 'Vincitore' also took home the 2009 US IRC national title.*

16 shy of last year's total, the quality was high, and the mass sufficient to produce both great racing and spectating.

Along with their typically excellent race management and parties, hosts St. Francis YC and Rolex broke new ground on the spectator side of things, adding features like live race tracking for the IRC divisions with mark-by-mark updates that included corrected times.

Coinciding with the 20th anniversary of the passing of the still-admired Tom Blackaller, this year's event kicked off with an open mic tribute to the two-time Star world champion, America's Cup campaigner and one of the most colorful

in the pantheon of Bay Area sailing characters.

After an awesome opening two days, with breeze into the low 20s and sunshine, the one thing no one had any control over — the weather — produced a somewhat anti-climactic coda to the regatta. Frontal activity rolled in Friday night, bringing with it thunderstorms and lightning and killing any chance of consistent breeze, or sun, for that matter, on the final two days. Although two races were held on both the Cityfront and North courses on Saturday in a relatively steady breeze that never got above 10 knots, Sunday was a different story. The regatta ended with a bang for the four IRC divisions as well as the

## — HANGIN' TOUGH IN '09



J/120s and 1D35s — actually three bangs to be exact, when a huge hole that marooned the only fleet to start — IRC A — at the southeast corner of Alcatraz as it made its way down the first run, and racing for all the fleets on this course was abandoned. The North Course boats were able to sail a final, shortened race that cemented the winners in the Express 37, J/105, Beneteau 36.7, Cal 40 and Melges 32 classes, though it produced no changes in winners.

That meant no final day Bay tour and boat parade in front of the club, much to the chagrin of just about everyone we talked to. Also absent, due to fog outside the Gate on Friday, was a race to Pt. Bonita for the bigger boats.

Yet these aren't the kinds of things that'll keep people from coming back, and, if nothing else, the locals could finally have the pleasure of telling the out-of-towners a line they don't often get to use — "It's never like this here. . . ."

### IRC A

Although it featured four TP 52s — probably the most together for a regatta in California since the class began almost a decade ago — IRC A went to the only purpose-designed IRC boat, Jim Mitchell's R/P 52 *Vincitore*. Mitchell was back this year to improve on last year's runner up spot with a new team including Chris Dickson on the wheels, and Norman Davant on tactics.

"We talked about last year's regatta all year long," said Mitchell, a native of Chicago living in Switzerland. "We had a motto this year, super-fine in 2009."

After coming out of the blocks strong with a pair of bullets, *Vincitore*'s lead evaporated in races four and five on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning respectively. A pair of fourths in those two races dropped them into a tie with Tom Akin and Mark Jones' TP 52 *Flash*, which scored a 1-1 in the same two races. Helmed by Jeff Thorpe with Paul Cayard calling tactics for the first two days and navigator Artie Means filling in for Cayard — who had a previous MedCup commitment — for the second two, *Flash* wound up scoring a third to

# ROLEX BIG BOAT SERIES



The 'Vincitore' brain trust — from left, Chris Dickson, Jim Mitchell, Norman Davant, Rodney Keenan and Colin Booth put it all together against a competitive fleet of TP 52s to take IRC A.

Vincitore's second in what would prove to be the final race.

When Sunday's race was abandoned with *Flash* leading on corrected time as the fleet parked at the southeast corner of Alcatraz, the regatta win — and 2009 IRC National title — went to Mitchell's electric-blue speedster.

Although the racing was generally tight — four of the five boats were often within boatlengths of each other on the first beats of the races — Dickson said he felt *Vincitore* had a speed edge sufficient to overcome its higher rating.

"We were definitely the quickest boat downwind in both the light and the heavy," he said. "In light air, I think we were quickest upwind, but in the breeze, *Samba Pa Ti* and *Flash* were a bit quicker."

For Mitchell, the win, which came with the St. Francis Perpetual Trophy, was especially gratifying as his father Jim Sr. — who introduced him to the sport — was there to see it happen.

"This is a very emotional win for me," the younger Mitchell said. "At the end of racing, when I looked at my dad, who was out on the chase boat, we both had a tear in our eye. The speech I gave on the first day was that we have a passion for sailing, a passion for friends and family, and we will let the results speak for themselves."

That they did. If Mitchell's crew, which also included David Blanchfield, Colin Booth, Mike Buckley, Hayden Goodrick, Martin Hannon, Nathan Hislop, Rodney Keenan, Dallas Kilponen, Simon Mino-prio, Brent Ruhne, Chris Skinner and Jack Toliver made any mistakes, we missed them. According to Mitchell their effort wasn't a two-shot deal.

"We are bringing *Vincitore* back again next year," he promised.

fort. "We were here in '97 and '98, and we got two second places that year. We were here two years ago and got killed by everyone."

The IOR design used her relatively prodigious waterline to break away from the rest of the 10-boat pack at the start line and never looked back, sailing in clean air the entire time and giving her afterguard — comprised of San Diegans Will Stout and Chuck Skewes — any lane they wanted.

The duo took full advantage, and with the help of the generally non-planing conditions and some crisp boathandling from the 22-person crew — got the big boat around the course fast enough to reel off six-straight bullets. But Stout felt their size did carry some limitation.

"On the starting line, we're really not that manoeuvrable," he said.

## IRC B

IRC B was hands down the wackiest division of all. Featuring everything from a pair of Farr 36s to the division winner, and biggest boat in the regatta, Kjeld Hestehave's San Diego-based Tanton 73 *Velos*, IRC B was a mish-mash of displacement and planing boats pretty much covered the last three rating rules and the last four decades. The scratch boat was Chris Welsh's IRC-optimized Spencer 65 *Ragtime*, but it was all *Velos*, all weekend.

"This win is 12 years in the making," he said of winning the City of San Francisco Trophy and culminating in a four-time Rolex Big Boat Series ef-

*Inset, from left — Kjeld Hestehave, Chuck Skewes and Will Stout, seen here with what would be a fitting Rolex for the biggest boat this year; Spread — Hestehave's Tanton 73 'Velos' dwarfed IRC B, spare the scratch boat, Chris Welsh's Spencer 65 'Ragtime' (not pictured).*

LATITUDE/ROB



LATITUDE/ROB



PETER LYONS/www.lyonsimaging.com

# — HANGIN' TOUGH IN '09

LATITUDE/ROB



Hestehave is also an avid Etchells sailor and *Velos'* main sported an Etchells insignia on the head.

"It was a little too big to measure in," he cracked.

Dale Williams' brand-new Kieran 44 *Wasabi* was the best of the rest, fending off Sy Kleinman's strong-finishing Schumacher 54 *Swiftsure II* to take second on a countback.

## IRC C

Dan Woolery's Pt. Richmond-based King 40 *Soozal* won what was probably one of the two toughest divisions in the regatta. In doing so, *Soozal* took the Richard Rheem Perpetual and also wrapped-up the SF Bay IRC season championship. Featuring two previous division winners in Brad Copper's Tripp



*'Soozal'* took IRC C; Inset — Tacitician Robbie Haines, left, and owner/driver Dan Woolery.

43 TNT and John Siegel's Wylie 42 *Scorpio* — neither of which cracked the top three this year — the eight-boat IRC C was tight, with one of the closest rating spreads and some of the most similar boats. With Robbie Haines calling the shots and rockstar crew that included Hogan Beatie, Matt Siddens, Chris Lewis, Scott Easom, Gary Sadamori, Pete McCormick, Rob Moore and Greg Felton, Woolery sailed the boat to yet another division win in a successful year, which included wins at Key West Race Week and the Pineapple Cup to name a few.

"I'm pleased with the win, but even more so because it capped a successful year-long effort," Woolery said. "The most important part of the formula was selecting the right mix of people that fit the sailing style that I am accustomed to. Knowing that we would ultimately end up sailing in the Bay for the summer, we wanted a crew that was local to our area, had plenty of racing experience and most importantly, had the personalities that befit our program. I am a low-key guy, and love to sail with knowledgeable, low-key people. This was paramount as we were to spend the entire year sailing together, and didn't want to go through any crew changes if at all possible. We were also fortunate to have backups that fit these criteria as well if someone was unable to make a regatta."

Winning the IRC Nationals was the goal for the *Soozal* program this year, and while Woolery certainly put together the kind of effort required to do that, he was philosophical about the outcome.

"We had a very satisfying year — a fairy tale year of remaining on top in the 40-foot range against the boats we sailed against on the East Coast in the Grand Prix events, and the IRC boats we raced against here on the West Coast. Sure, it would have been a nice honor to have emerged at the top of the Nationals, but considering the type of boats racing in Division A, and the venue, we're very proud of what we accomplished, and feel we sailed as hard as we could have. We still believe we've had the experience of sailing on one of the fastest IRC 40-footers out there."

The runner-up spot in the division went to the only east coast entry, James Bishop's J/44 *Gold Digger*. Tim Fuller

Gerry Sheridan, left, and tactician James Mullarney put *Tupelo Honey* in all the right spots, namely first in every race in IRC D.



LATITUDE/ROB

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# ROLEX BIG BOAT SERIES

LATITUDE/LADONNA



'Chance's Barry Lewis couldn't be happier with the namesake of what turned out to be his good luck charm — a Mr. Magoo sticker on the bowsprit.'

— who you may remember won his division aboard his other boat, the turboed 1D35 *Relentless*, in this year's TransPac — took third with his J/122 *Resolute*.

## IRC D

Gerry Sheridan's San Francisco-based Elan 40 *Tupelo Honey* used the occasion of this year's RBBS to bookend its three-straight runner-up finishes since a division win in 2005.

With straight bullets, Sheridan and his tactician — and fellow Irishman — James Mullaney scored an emphatic win, finishing six-points clear of Timothy Ballard's San Rafael-based Beneteau

Sheridan said. "We really wanted it this year. We trained for it and the crew is outstanding. Every single one of them deserved to be on the crew."

In addition to Sheridan and Mullaney, the *Tupelo Honey* crew included Fabrizio Natale, Bill Nielsen, Jamie Platto, Mike Reed, Adam Simmonds, Arne Vandebroucke, Bart von Zastrow and Kevin Wilkinson.

Third in the six-boat division went Frank Morrow's IMX 38 *Hawkeye*.



The 'Good Timin' gang racked up yet another title at the RBBS in the J/105 division.

40.7 *Inspired Environments* to take the Keefe-Kilborn Perpetual. But Sheridan said that it looked easier on paper than it was on the water.

"*Inspired Environments* sailed really well and pushed us the entire time,"

## J/120

The J/120s can always be counted on to provide one of the closest contests at RBBS, and this year was no exception for the eight-boat fleet. Defending champion Barry Lewis and his gang on *Chance* got



John Wimer's team on 'Desdemona' turned it up this year, finishing second to 'Chance.'

pushed hard around the course by John Wimer's *Desdemona*. In what's become standard operating procedure for the class at the Big Boat Series, the regatta wasn't decided until the final run of the final race of the series.

"Going into the sixth race on Saturday we were one point behind *Desdemona*," Lewis said. "We led the entire race with *Desdemona* in second. Our tactician, Doug Nugent, said, 'We need to put a boat between us,' so we held back and sat on *Desdemona* which allowed Steve Madeira's *Mr. Magoo* to pass them. It blew up in our face because *Magoo* passed us too! Around the final weather mark we had *Desdemona* on our tail with *Magoo* five or six boatlengths in front of us. But *Magoo* twisted their kite, and we ended up bow to bow for the last 100 yards before we nosed them out by no more than 10 feet."

When Sunday's final race was cancelled, Nugent's call looked pretty good as the *Chance* crew — which also included Scott Kozinchik, Blaine Pedlow, Matt Gingo, Michael Redmond, Amy Guarneri, Aaron Elder, Mark Ruppert, Bryan Murdock and David Krausz — won on a countback.

"Of course we didn't know that Sunday's race would be cancelled," Lewis

# — HANGIN' TOUGH IN '09



LESLIE RICHTER/www.ROCKSKIPPER.COM

This year we decided to get our bad race out of the way on Thursday. Other than that, we had all firsts and seconds. We were determined that it wasn't going to stop us from sailing really hard, as it was quite close with the top couple boats sailing fast the entire regatta and *Desdemona* sailing better than they have in Big Boat Series in very long time."

## J/105

Chris Perkins has been sailing his J/105 *Good Timin'* in Big Boat Series since '00; in that time, he and his core crew of Dave Wilson, Pete Scott, Tom and Melissa Purdy, Jon Perkins and Darren Ward have won their division at least five times. But Perkins isn't keeping count.

"It's not that important to us," Perkins said. "We look forward to each and every regatta. Big Boat Series is so special because it's home for us, and the biggest regatta on the Bay for the 105s."

Even so, Perkins said it wasn't until about a month before the regatta that he decided to sail. He hadn't sailed the boat all year, due in large part to the fact he's been working in San Diego as CFO for BMW Oracle Racing.

"The crew said, 'Hey, how come we're not sailing this year?'" Perkins said. "We decided to do it, then I realized the winches hadn't turned since April, we didn't have a bottom on the boat, etc."

After hurriedly preparing the boat, the *Good Timin'* crew put their experience to work for them, suffered no breakdowns,

said. "But that was a great call by Doug — we've never not raced on a Sunday and it came as a surprise."

Four boats led the division at various points during the regatta, and *Chance*'s win came despite restarting after being called over early in the second race.

"We had a real hard time climbing back through the fleet," Lewis said. "Normally for us, it's a 'bad Saturday' event.

and sailed a consistent series without a single bullet, to finish four points clear of Bruce Stone's *Arbitrage*.

"Bruce had his boat going phenomenally fast," Perkins said. "It was clear he had the best speed of any boat. We were happy with our speed, and we just hung out, didn't try to win any races, bang any corners or 'ring the bell.'"

"Big Boat Series is different from the normal class events," Perkins said. "Instead of staying in relatively confined racing area, you're out there traversing the Bay and making some do-or-die decisions."

Stone scored three bullets, a second and two sixths, but Thursday's second race proved to be his undoing, as a 15th in the 25-boat fleet put him behind the eight ball. The leader after day one, Jeff Litfin and John Case's *Mojo* also sailed a consistent series to finish three points behind *Arbitrage*. Howard Bentley's *Swoosh* found some previously untapped speed to notch a bullet in the series and slide into fourth when Tim Russell's *Aquavit* slipped up in the fluky and shortened Sunday race on the North Course and scored a 22nd, which dropped them from a tie for second to fifth.

## 1D35

The 1D35 was the other one-design class whose regatta was cut short by Sunday's weather. Like the J/120s, the competition within the seven-boat fleet was close. Like the 120s, the regatta produced a repeat winner. Five boats scored

*Philippe Kahn's Melges 32 'Pegasus' pulverized the Bay during Friday afternoon's breezier race.*



SHARON GREEN/www.ULTIMATESAILING.COM

# ROLEX BIG BOAT SERIES



LATITUDE/ANDY

**Tactician Rick Schudt and owner/driver Gary Boell had 'Diabalita' atop the podium in the ID35s for the second consecutive time.**

at least one bullet, and only two points separated second through fourth places after a three-way tie for first was broken in race five. Despite a 30% penalty for a Cityfront short-tacking infraction, Gary Boell's Richmond-based *Diabalita* held on for a win, to finish four points clear of the regatta's only Japanese entry — a crowd favorite — Masakazu Toyama's chartered *Ebb Tide*.

Despite the tight racing, the most intense moment of the regatta for Boell came at around 10 a.m. Saturday morning, when he realized they'd wrapped a spinnaker sheet around their prop on the lee side of Alcatraz, shortly before the start of race five.

"I had to strip down to my red boxers with white hearts on them, and do four dives under the boat to clear it," Boell said.

Backing up Boell were tactician Rick Schudt, Goeff Love, Chris Loughran, Cyril Guaraud, Randall Landache, Ellen Hoke, and Tone Chin, all of whom are Category 1 — non-pro — sailors, who with the exception of Love, were returning from the boat's '08 win.

The *Ebb Tide* crew — back for its third attempt in the fleet — included two former America's Cup campaigners and sailed well, but they suffered at times from a lack of local knowledge. At the awards ceremony the team received a prolonged ovation from the crowd — and showed why, when they presented Boell with a bottle of premium sake that they'd brought for the division winner.

## Beneteau 36.7

The Beneteau 36.7s fielded a one-design division for the second year in a



LATITUDE/ANDY

### **Crowd favorites, the Japanese entry 'Ebb Tide.'**

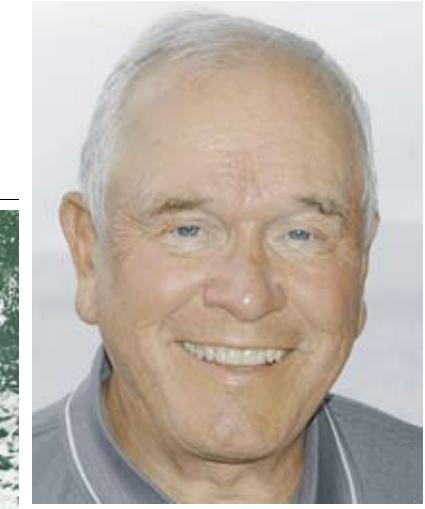
row. Before sliding to second by the end of the regatta, Aaron Kennedy's *Ay Caliente!* jumped out to an early lead in this competitive six-boat group, which saw last year's winner, Ed Durbin's *Mistral*, finish third, and last year's runner-up, Pat Patterson's *Bellingham*, Washington-

based *Summer and Smoke* finish five points clear of *Ay Caliente!*.

"Three different boats took first in the first three races," said Patterson, who dedicated the win to his wife Leeanne and their 30-year anniversary, which coincided with the event. "It was all spread out — anything could have happened. We clawed our way to second last year. This year we got lucky."

The *Summer and Smoke* Crew, which included the Bay Area's Bill Colombo on tactics and Victor Beltran navigating,

**Bill LeRoy, inset, and his Cal 40 'Gone With Wind' were gone with the division's title after a 2-1-1-2-1-1-1.**



LATITUDE/ROB



ROLEX/DANIEL FORESIER

# — HANGIN' TOUGH IN '09

Dave and Brock Steffen, Terry Tavelli, Gabe Murphy, Erik Smitt, Keith Rarick, and Mike Spencer-Smith, sailed well enough to score a 3-3-1-1-2-1.

"Our win was all about our great crew," Patterson said. "They're mostly from Bellingham YC... and most came last year also. Our MVP was 18-year-old Brock Steffen from Bellingham. He launched every kite perfectly, without a single problem."

## Express 37

If the competition among the Express 37s seemed a little heated it was because the nine-boat division was sailing for one of the most coveted trophies in Bay Area racing. No, not the Rolex that awaited the class winner for the second consecutive year. We're talking about the vaunted Timex Cup! With its origins in the days of the class' perpetual snubbing of the fancier timepiece — despite being its longest-running one-design class — the Timex Cup Perpetual, a dime-store watch mounted haphazardly with duct tape on an irregularly-shaped piece of plywood, has become the class talisman.

Kame Richards won both the Timex Cup and a Rolex this year aboard *Golden*

LATITUDE/LADONNA



**Rolex? What Rolex?** Kame Richards and Bill Bridge's 'Golden Moon' took home both the Express 37 class's coveted 'Timex Cup' Perpetual, and a fancy watch for a consistent, winning performance.

*Moon*. Backed up by tactician Scot Owens, Richards, boat partner Bill Bridge and the rest of the "Moonies" — Tom Paulling, Jamal Berkeley, Brad Jeffry, Todd Hedin, Mike Mannix, Andrew Hura, David Liebenberg, Lynn Davis and Aimee Daniel — got out of the blocks strong on Thursday, scoring a pair of bullets.

"One of the hardest things for me to control is my stress level," Richards said. "So it was refreshing to have various crew members remind us we don't have to win every race. With two wins on day one, we were sitting pretty. But on day two, we got a second and a third and were feeling fragile, until someone reminded us we still had a very comfortable lead."

Relaxed and groovin', the Moonies sailed to a very consistent 3-2-3-3-3 in the next three days to fend off Mick Schlens' Southern California-based *Blade Runner*, which followed its opening 5-6 with a 1-1-2-1-2 to get within two points of *Golden Moon*.

"The best part of the whole thing is the people who own the boats and people who crew on the boats," said Richards, who won his division for the third time in the last seven years. "What makes a one design strong is not how new it is; that's not it. There's a special glue, a societal kind of glue. Ron Moore once said, 'The boat chooses you,' and I wonder if that's not what the Express 37 has done to us."

LEANNIE PATTERSON



**Pat Patterson** and his Bellingham, Washington-based 'Summer and Smoke' team came down to raid the Beneteau 36.7 division title.

## Cal 40

Perhaps the coolest thing at this year's Rolex Big Boat Series was the advent of the Cal 40 one design division. And as good as it was to see six examples of the classic Bill Lapworth design racing against each other on the Bay, it was even better to see how well-kept they are. The true peach among this cherry fleet was Bill LeRoy's *Gone With the Wind*, which handily won the division with five bullets and a pair of seconds. LeRoy, who came to the boat following the break from sailing after successfully campaigning an

SC 50 by the same name, put together an effort as impressive as the restoration of the boat.

"I was talking with Stan Honey, and I asked him if there were any Cal 40s around," LeRoy said. "We started discussing the design and the more we talked, the more apparent it became that it was exactly what I wanted in a boat. It doesn't have any bad habits and it has a safe and secure cockpit for taking my grandchildren sailing."

He found a boat last year and began a restoration that went, "way over budget," and culminated in a beautiful boat, a Big Boat Series win, and big plans for next year.

"We're going to ship the boat to the East Coast to do both the Bermuda Race and some cruising," he said. And when he does, he'll doubtless get the same reaction he said he's gotten here at home.



# ROLEX BIG BOAT SERIES

SHARON GREEN/WWW.ULTIMATESAILING.COM



"When you tell people you have a Cal 40, they light up and say, 'Ohhh.'"

The battle for second went to Steve Waterloo's *Shaman*, which pulled away from Rodney Pimentel's *Azure* in the final races of the regatta.

## Melges 32

The Melges 32s were sailing for their U.S. National Championships; unfortunately you wouldn't know it, given that only five entries showed for the regatta. With the class' World Championships beginning in Sardinia a week-and-a-half later, the deck was stacked against the class' chance of matching last year's total of nine entries that included two European teams.

But the lack of entries didn't translate into ho-hum racing. Mill Valley's Don Jesberg and his all-corinthian team on *Viva* — which had won the seven-boat North Americans held earlier in the week at Sausalito YC — battled with Andy Lovell and Burton Benrud's Louisiana-based *Rougarou*.

*Rougarou* finished strong, posting a pair of bullets on Saturday to pull away and finish three points clear of *Viva*. Stephen Pugh's Sausalito-based *Taboo* rounded out the top-three, another three points behind *Viva*.

**W**ith 45 years under its belt, the '09 Rolex Big Boat Series proved the regatta can hold its own no matter what's

*Andy Costello's Pt. Richmond-based J/125 'Double Trouble' screams downwind.*

happening in the greater economic context. It also proved that IRC can do the same, and while there are some areas that could use improvement, many people — whether they like the rule or not — agree that it's working better than anything that preceded it.

Count IRC D winner Gerry Sheridan among them:

"I think IRC is saving big boat racing around the world," he said. "It's giving a new sense of purpose to racing and serious big boat campaigns. Handicap racing is never perfect, but this is close to perfect."

Newly-crowned National Champion Mitchell agreed:

"I like it, and not because we won," he said. "With IRC, your boat's not obsolete every year. I didn't design it as a stripped-out boat; it has a proper galley, cherry-wood floors, benches in the cockpit for when I take my dad and friends sailing, plus it's comfortable for distance races."

Yet another division winner, Dan Woolery, pointed out that despite the success he's had with *Soozal*, there are still some areas in the administration of the rule — which in the 45- to 50-ft range begins to favor lighter displacement, more power, and planing hull forms — that need work.

"Most of the sailing venues around the

U.S. typically feature less breeze than the planing conditions we get here in Northern California," Woolery said. "The planing versus non-planing attributes of the 50-plus footers become an issue for the equity in IRC. When racing in all kinds of wind conditions over this past year against the typical IRC boat — the racer/cruiser, the medium displacement boat with legitimate headroom, a real head, a galley, berths, water tanks and so on — we had many occasions where places were determined by just a few, or 20 to 30 seconds — which is pretty close after two hours of racing. The results of this year's Big Boat Series show that all of the TP 52's, even the last-placed boat, corrected out ahead of anyone in our fleet. To make a good rating rule even better, there should be some accommodation to level the playing field, if combining all these types of boats together into an overall regatta format is the goal."

With so many great stories to tell, and not enough space, we were forced to make a difficult decision: run more awesome photos, or a blue box with tiny type inside, that essentially duplicates the body of the story? We chose the former, and hope you're happy. But if you want to see the full results, video and images from the '09 Rolex Big Boat Series, all you have to do is visit: [www.big-boat-series.com](http://www.big-boat-series.com).

**latitude/rg**

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**SHARON GREEN PHOTO**

# REBIRTH OF EROS —

If you own a boat, you've undoubtedly got a project list. Because, as every sailor knows, doing maintenance and installing upgrades are inescapable aspects of boat ownership. Some of us, however, become embroiled in bigger projects than others. Take, for example, Bill and Grace Bodle, who, for the last 18 years, have been involved with a stem-to-



TOM BRICHTA

*Wearing a full suit of sails, the newly completed 'Eros' glides effortlessly across the Bay during a recent shakedown cruise.*

stern refit of *Eros*, a 103-ft (LOD) staysail schooner. With a mind-numbing list of rebuilds and upgrades now complete, they'll head out the Gate this month so that this 70-year-old thoroughbred can stretch her legs once again out on the open ocean.

To non-sailing observers *Eros'* acres of gleaming varnish, perfectly laid teak decks and the exquisite joinery of her cabinetry might simply appear to be cohesive elements of a floating museum piece. But fellow sailors have a deeper appreciation. From personal experience, they can imagine the endless hours of planning and meticulous handiwork — not to mention the money — that must have gone into this spectacular rebirth.

Experiencing this 1939 classic gliding

across the Bay with the easy motion of a bird in flight transports you to an era when hand-crafting fine yachts was truly an art. Indeed, at the end of a recent shakedown cruise, one enraptured guest thanked Grace profusely, saying with utmost sincerity, "Thank you so much.

That sail was practically a religious experience."

Fine old boats with polished brass, flawless brightwork and traditional lines have that effect on some sailors. Bill and Grace succumbed to such old-school enticements way back in 1967, when they fell under the spell of their first big schooner, a 72-ft Gloucesterman named *Nordlys*, whose design was reminiscent of the famous Canadian yacht *Bluenose*. Then only 33 and 27 respectively, they took delivery of her at the St. Francis YC docks, and soon took off out the Golden Gate, bound for the sunny Caribbean.

By the time they got to Puerto Rico, though, their engine had quit, their sails were wearing out, and they were running out of cash. That's when they were introduced to the fledgling charter industry in the nearby Virgin Islands. *Nordlys* was soon one of the queens of the fleet. Long before futuristic megayachts ruled the roost in the international charter trade, elegant schooners were in high demand by well-heeled vacationers.

At the end of the first season, they crossed to the Med for the summer, establishing a pattern that they'd follow season after season. After chartering *Nordlys* for three years — including five transatlantic crossings — they bought a 98-ft schooner in Greece that they renamed *Grace*. Nine transatlantics later,

they upgraded to a 117-ft schooner of a similar Alfred Mylne design, named *Panda*. Both boats were built of Burma teak by Camper and Nicholson.

By this time they'd built a devoted clientele who were eager to sail in different waters, so Bill and Grace set off on a three-year circumnavigation, doing charters along the way. In '82 they brought *Panda* to the Bay for a refit, then eventually took off again for the Caribbean. Their chartering days ended, however, when, in '84, *Panda* burned before their eyes in a

Martinique harbor. "After that," says Bill wistfully, "we came back to the Bay Area and swallowed the anchor."

Not long after their return, a friend encouraged Bill to take a look at Stone Boat Yard in Alameda, which was then for sale. He resisted the idea at first, but when he started poking around the historic yard with its vintage machinery, he was, as he puts it, "smitten," and bought the place.

This is where *Eros* comes into the picture. Then called *Fair Saree*, she was

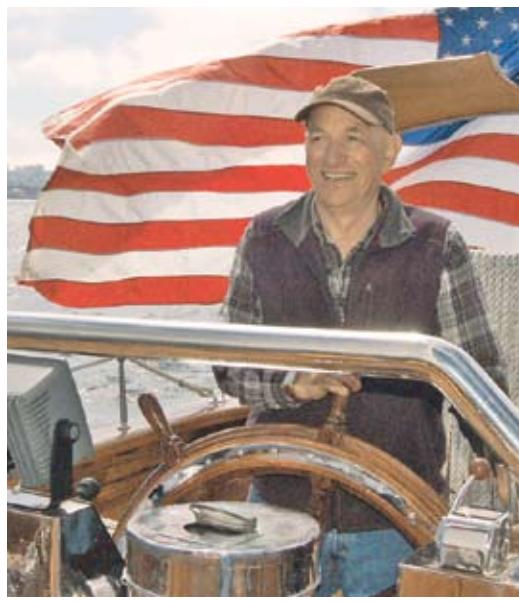


TOM BRICHTA

# AN 18-YEAR RE-FIT

eventually berthed at the yard, because her then-owner, Lucy Bancroft, was a distant relative of Bill's. In 1991 she sold the aging schooner to a German businessman named Christian Thesenfitz. Before taking a single voyage aboard her, he contracted with Stone Boat Yard to restore her to "as new" condition. From the beginning it was obvious that this would be no simple undertaking. But before we delve into the blow-by-blow account

**Right:** Cap'n Bill is one happy guy now that all the heavy lifting is done. **Below:** From stem to stern 'Eros' is a work of art.



of the refit, let's travel back to the late 1930s when this graceful schooner was built.

Back then, as Bill explains, it was normal practice in proper British society for rich and powerful people to own large, prestigious yachts. So it was fitting that after a wealthy American named Henry Von Berg married an English lord's daughter, he commissioned a renowned yard at the mouth of the Thames to build him a showpiece. Her designer was a prominent Scotsman named William McMeek.

Von Berg's attempt to score points with his in-laws — the White family



# REBIRTH OF EROS —

— backfired dramatically, however, at the boat's formal christening. The story is that Lord White was renowned for his prized hounds, so Von Berg chose a name for his new yacht that he thought would surely honor both the family and his father-in-law's passion. When the drapery was pulled off the transom, the name was revealed: *White Bitch*.

Little did the American know, that it was considered exceedingly bad form to name a yacht after either one's family name or avocation. A second christening branded her with the name that she bore when launched, *Jeanry* (a safe amalgam of the multinational couple's first names: Jean and Henry.)



ZAC TURPIN

***She was originally rigged as a "knockabout" schooner, meaning she had no bowsprit. But Bill wanted a broader foretriangle.***

Unfortunately, Von Berg's bad luck didn't end with the naming incident. On the very first day of her first local cruise, *Jeanry* had no sooner anchored at the Isle of Wight when a British naval launch approached. An officer sternly gave Von Berg the incontestable news that the Navy was taking the vessel, then and there, for the war effort.

During the war years she served as a coastal patrol boat, and brought troops home to safety during the evacuation of Dunkirk. Meanwhile, Von Berg went back to the U.S., enlisted, and became a B24 fighter pilot. He died a hero over Germany like so many other brave young men.

After *Jeanry* was returned to the White family in 1945, they soon sold her to a wealthy Greek named Stavros Niarchos, who named her *Eros* after the Greek god of love and passion. In the '50s he built the first supertankers, which soon made him a billionaire and earned him the nickname the Golden Greek. If boats could talk, we're sure *Eros* would have plenty of wild tales to tell about the Niarchos years. He was, after all, a billionaire contemporary — and business rival — of Aristotle Onassis, the flamboyant second husband of Jackie Kennedy.

When Bay Area socialite Lucy Bancroft bought *Eros*, she renamed her *Fair Saree*, and brought her back home to the Bay Area. The fine old schooner was 52 years old when Lucy sold her to the German, Thesenfitz, in 1991. She had plenty of miles beneath her keel, although she'd never been around the world.

To understand the task of putting this vintage beauty into 'as new' condition, it's important to understand the way she is structured. She was built using "composite construction," which in the 1930s meant steel frames, floor beams and backing plates overlaid with Burma teak, and attached with Admiralty bronze fastenings. The British owned Burma back then, of course, and thus controlled the sole source of one of the only woods, if not the only wood, that is impervious to worms and does not rot. A fascinating side note is that after British ships brought these prized teak logs to England, they were weighted down and sunk to the bottom of rivers to age for up to 40 years! So it's believed that *Eros'* original teak is over 100 years old.

In any case, after a thorough survey, it was determined that the boat's most challenging problem was substantial corrosion between the steel frames and the planking. And the only way to get at it was by gutting the interior, removing every plank, re-

LATITUDE / ANDY



***A consummate hostess, Grace is looking forward to doing a bit of charter work again. That accidental profession was good to her.***

conditioning the steel and putting the whole puzzle back together again.

Thesenfitz wanted the job done, so Bill soon had 30 men focused solely on the refit. Just removing the interior walls, cabinetry and furnishings was a colossal job, not to mention labeling every piece and finding a place to store it.

Once that was done, with the planking still on, the exposed steelwork was sandblasted, then triple epoxy coated. Next, 20,000 bronze fastenings had to be removed so the 3-inch-thick planks — which were in remarkably good condition after a half century of wear — could

***Today, the refurbished main salon is almost identical to the way it was when this grand schooner was launched in 1939.***



TOM BRICHTA

# AN 18-YEAR RE-FIT

be removed piece by piece. On average, each plank is 38 feet long and weighs roughly 300 lbs, requiring at least four strong men to lift it into place. Needless to say, the higher up the hull they went, the more tedious the process became.

The work was slow, but was progressing well, when, after about a year the regular installment payments stopped coming from Germany. At that point the decks were still off, but the ribs had all been refurbished and about half of the planking was back on.

With 30 men on the refit team, Bill was more than a little concerned, and it wasn't long before he was on a plane to Hamburg to meet with Thesenfitz and find out what was up.

**A**ccording to Bill, when he visited the German at his lovely estate, the two men initially shared small talk and a bottle of Dom Perignon. But when pressed about the unpaid bill, which had grown to roughly \$300,000, Thesenfitz told Bill he was tapped out, and simply couldn't continue the project. Not long after the meeting he flew out to the Bay with his surveyor, complimented the excellent work and signed the boat over to Bill. (They later learned Thesenfitz had been involved with some questionable dealings in Eastern Europe after the Berlin Wall came down, which eventually landed him in jail.)

"Grace was furious," Bill recalls. "She wanted nothing to do with it, and was convinced I'd somehow orchestrated the whole thing."

Taking possession of the old schooner was anything but a coup. In her disassembled condition she was virtually worthless, as it would clearly take a small fortune and countless man-hours to finish putting her back together again. Plus, she was taking up a huge section of

the boatyard.

"The whole thing became an embarrassment," admits Bill. "I was the one who'd taken her apart, and

I knew that if I didn't put her back together again, I would be the one who had ruined her." He was determined not to let that happen. But the 30-man

crew was immediately reduced to two, and when the yard got busy, even they were pulled away to work on more urgent projects.

Five years later, in 1997, *Fair Saree* had been completely replanked and caulked, so she could finally be put back in the water, where additional work continued slowly.

At some point afterward, Bill and Grace decided to sell Stone Boat Yard, find a new home for *Eros* and finish her off as a retirement project.

In 2000 they found a buyer and used the money to develop a dilapidated stretch of waterfront on Richmond's Santa Fe Channel, across from KKMI. The

ZAC TURPIN

**Called butterfly hatches due to their look when opened, each section can be lifted independently, with a choice of height adjustments.**

happy memories.

Niarchos undoubtedly kept the boat well maintained, but there were a few things he did to her that Bill detested, such as installing a sunken cockpit aft, and an "ugly" oversized deck house that blocked the helmsman's view.

So when the decks were put back together, these pieces were eliminated.

In their place, Bill and a small crew installed an elegant deck-level cockpit and dining table, and a smaller house that melds perfectly with the other deck features. These and two sets of classic butterfly hatches were put together with old-style mortise and tenon construction, and not a single fastening. Some of the wood for these elements was salvaged, but a lot of it came from a serendipitous deal Bill made

years ago to buy an entire container full of Burma teak.

When he knew her in Greece, Bill always thought *Eros* could use a bit more canvas, so he extended her mainmast by 20 feet, which created a bigger slot for a fisherman to be flown above the main stays'l. He also added a 17-ft bowsprit, where there had been none before.

Although you'd never know it, many of the bronze winches are now powered — Bill claims three people can run the whole boat in a pinch.

When we toured the hull two years



***The new deckhouse and hatches were all put together without a single metal fastening. New gratings were made to match the originals.***

Sugar Dock — so named because C&H Sugar vessels used to berth there — became the ol' schooner's new home.

Lying beneath massive fabric-covered arches that resembled Conestoga wagons from a distance, the long-disassembled classic slowly became whole again. Bill and Grace chose to rename her *Eros* because they had often come across her in the Med during the Niarchos years, an era that still brings back



# REBIRTH OF EROS

ago there wasn't a stick of cabinetry or a single wall section below decks, other than the four watertight bulkheads. Today, though, there are four elegant double cabins, each with a private head, and one even has a Jacuzzi. The main salon is said to be exactly the same as when Von Berg first stepped aboard 70 years ago — except for the piano. Grace sewed all the cushion coverings and other fabric accessories herself.

Accommodations for six crew are found forward of a thoroughly modern galley, which Grace designed. In their early days of chartering, she attended a Cordon Bleu cooking school in the south of France and still loves to whip up exquisite dishes for dinner guests. And yes, the boat also has a washer-dryer these days.

"She's actually got most of the modern electrical stuff now," Bill confides, you just don't see most of it.

In addition to her 350hp Detroit diesel, she has a bow thruster — which

LATITUDE / ANDY



**There's plenty of load on the primary winches when sailing in 20 knots on the Central Bay. But most winches now have a powered option.**

is a godsend when docking — and two modern generators for auxiliary power.

Bill reinstalled the helm in its original position, aft, and it can now be bypassed in order to use an autopilot that

is controlled from the helm with a discreet joystick. An integrated chart plotter is also part of the helm station now, complete with AIS.

**W**hy does *Eros* need such state-of-the-art equipment? Because now that they've finally got her all together, Grace and Bill plan to do a bit of voyaging. Where? When they tell us that they really don't know, we believe them, but for now she'll most likely remain on the West Coast. "We'll probably do some chartering too," says Grace. And why not. They've certainly got the boat for it.

It's nice to think that 42 years after heading out the Gate with their first big schooner, this salty couple will soon be slicing through the wavetops again, and creating new memories to replace those that have faded. We just hope that between *Eros'* stints of traveling she'll continue to call the Bay Area home.

— latitude/andy

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# IDIOT'S GUIDE

**D**espite several advances in offshore voice communications such as satphones, marine single sideband (SSB) isn't going away anytime soon. That's because SSB, unlike satphones, allows an unlimited number of people to listen to a transmission at the same time.

As such, SSB is the only way to go for the various regional cruising nets,

*For cruisers in California and Mexico, you'll almost exclusively use just five of them:  
4A, 4B, 4C, 8A and 8B.*

such as the Baja, Sonrisa, Chubasco and Southbound. It means that when Don Anderson of *Summer Passage*, for example, transmits his latest weather forecast, anyone who wants to can listen at the same time. When someone has a question about the forecast, everyone can hear the question and Don's response.

Marine SSB is also perfect for cruising events such as the Baja Ha-Ha, the Caribbean 1500 and the Atlantic Rally for Cruisers. "While the Ha-Ha doesn't require SSB radio," advises the Grand Poobah, "most boats do have them. They're good for safety — but fun, too. The folks with SSBs are able to actively participate in all the roll calls, weather and fishing reports, and other fleet news. Over a period of nearly two weeks, personalities develop over the radio, and an even greater sense of community is established."

In racing events such as the TransPac, Pacific Cup, and Singlehanded TransPac, it offers more than just straight communication. "Thanks to marine SSB, our 1700 hour reports and discussions maintain the racing camaraderie and fun," notes Jack McGuire, KG6CJN, communications chairman of the '08 Pacific Cup race.

Although not the subject of this article, the other significant benefit of SSBs is that, when used with a Pactor modem and SailMail, they allow for the transmission and reception of short emails while offshore.

## Licensing

You don't need to pass a Ham radio operator's test to use a marine SSB. All that's required is a valid Ship Station license and a lifetime Restricted Radiotelephone Operator's permit. No testing required! The Ship Station license is good for 10 years and is non-transferable. If you're good at dealing with online government forms, you can apply for a license at <http://wireless.fcc.gov>. If you're not so

good at it, or don't want to take the time, my lovely wife Suzie will be happy to help for a fee: (714) 549-5000.

How does Ham (amateur radio) differ from SSB? If you're new to long distance marine radio, I suggest not even worrying about it. Although I run the Radio School

and some of the income comes from teaching students how to use Ham radio

and pass the test, I generally discourage new SSB operators from taking that step right away. Get the no-test license for SSB radio, become familiar with the procedures and protocols, and use it for a few months. If you find that you're one of the very few cruisers who talks on the radio so much that SSB frequencies aren't adequate, then look into Ham radio. Or if you're going to the South Pacific, where there's lots more traffic on ship-to-ship channels, you might consider eventually moving up to Ham status. But generally speaking, it's really only for serious radio buffs.

By the way, there is nothing to prevent folks with SSB radios from listening on Ham frequencies, and indeed, there are some helpful Ham-only weather broadcasts. If you're worried that you might accidentally stumble onto a Ham-only frequency, start transmitting, and really piss off the 'radio police', fear not. SSB radios that are capable of working Ham frequencies come 'locked' from the fac-

## How Far On What Bands?

A marine SSB system operates on a marine radio spectrum called shortwave, medium frequency and high frequency — 2 MHz-26 MHz. This radio spectrum is shared with hundreds of other radio users including shortwave broadcasts, Ham radio, FEMA, the American Red Cross and long-range aircraft.

Radio signals within the SSB shortwave spectrum refract off the ionosphere and come back to earth hundreds or thousands of miles away without the need for communication satellites and/or ground stations. Each marine SSB radio frequency band has a very predictable skywave bounce bulls-eye. If you choose a band that's too high, your signal will skip over the other station. If you choose a frequency that's too low, your signal won't go far enough to reach.

The following is a good guide for choosing the band of frequencies that will target your first skywave bounce:

2 MHz .....	200-400 miles
4 MHz .....	400-600 miles
6 MHz .....	600-1,200 miles
8 MHz .....	800-1,600 miles
12 MHz .....	1,200-2,400 miles
16 MHz .....	1,600-3,200 miles
22 MHz .....	2,200-4,000 miles plus
26 MHz .....	unpredictable during our solar cycle minimum

*Pop Quiz #1: You are in San Francisco and you want to talk with your buddy who's on his boat 1,200 miles away in Cabo San Lucas. Which band on marine*



*In the realm of cruising, an SSB radio is a lifeline, an email gateway, and a hub of friendly conversation, like an old-fashioned party line.*

tory. Some can only be unlocked using software, while others can be unlocked by simply pressing three keys at the same time. In cases of genuine emergencies, Ham frequencies can be used even by people who don't have a license.

SSB might you choose?

*Answer:* Because 4, 6, and 8 MHz would likely fall short on the first radio signal bounce, 12 MHz and 16 MHz would likely be your best choices.

**T**he thing that usually drives new SSB operators nuts — and I know that it

still irritates the Ha-Ha's Grand Poobah — is that SSB radio frequency/channels are so different from VHF, FM, television and almost every other kind of channel. On VHF, for example, channel 72 is channel 72. On television, channel 7 is channel 7. What could be more simple?

Certainly not SSB radio. Get this: while 4146 is always 4146 on SSB, it's also known as 4A, and sometimes the designator 4-1. In addition, depending on the individual radio, it's often channel 35 or channel 77, and could also be some other channel. That's right, depending on what radio you bought and when, and who might have customized the user channels, channel 35 and channel 77 may or may not be 4146 and vice versa. And, of course, it might also be channel 63 or 147 — or a bunch of other channels.

The best way to get to 4146 is to just tune to 4146. The problem is that you may have to do a lot of knob turning, which can be annoying. In order to eliminate unnecessary wrist injuries from knob turning, some manufacturers 'channelized' the more popular frequencies. That is, they assigned specific channels to specific frequencies. For example, the Icom SSB radios of several years ago assigned channel 35 to frequency 4146 (aka 4A and 4-1). Unfortunately, in later radios, they decided to assign channel 77 to 4146 (aka 4A and 4-1). In addition, some retailers created custom 'user channel' packages, which gave yet another channel designation to 4146.

How did it all come to this? SSB operators used to have to spin the frequency knob like crazy to find anyone because there are more than 1,000 SSB frequencies — only a very few of which will ultimately be of interest to you. (More on that later.) As a result, most modern marine SSB transceivers — a fancy name for a combined transmitter and receiver in one black box — have nearly 700 pre-stored duplex channels (specific frequencies designated as channels for easier access). After all, what's easier: dialing through 1,000+ frequencies or 700 channels?

Nonetheless, you could spin your SSB dial all day long and you'd probably still hear nothing — except for WLO, the excellent radiotelephone station located in Mobile, Alabama. If you want to pick up something, look for on-the-hour weather and traffic reports on the following International Telecommunications Union (ITU) three- and four-digit designators: 405, 417, 805, 824, 830, 1209, 1212, 1226, 1607, 1624, 1641, 1807, 2237

and 2503. If you punch in 1607 on the hour, you'll get traffic lists and weather broadcasts from powerful WLO. The U.S. Coast Guard also broadcasts voice weather reports on ITU channels 424, 601, 816, 1205, and 1625.

**B**ecause SSB radios are more complicated than VHF radios, you might initially have a little trouble punching in the three- and four-digit ITU channels and/or the actual frequencies.

Icom America, Furuno, and SEA are the last remaining SSB manufacturers, and of the three, Icom is the undisputed leader when it comes to equipping recreational vessels with marine SSB gear. To help North American sailors more easily call up relevant ship-to-ship, Coast Guard, weather facsimile, Ham and marine telephone stations, Icom has pre-programmed 160 "favorite channels" — channels 1 through 160 — into a memory circuit titled 'User Channels'.

If you have an Icom 802 and tune

to Channel 77, you'll find that you'll be on frequency 4146 (aka 4A). And if you tune to Channel 118 on an 802, you'll find yourself on frequency 3968, which is home to the Sonrisa Net at 7 a.m. Pacific Time in the winter. It will even show 'Sonrisa Net' on your screen, even though the Sonrisa Net only uses that frequency a few hours each day.

Your radio will no doubt also have a toggle for 'channel/frequency'. As you move it, the display will switch back and forth from, say frequency 4146 to Channel 77 — assuming, of course, that 77 has been assigned to 4146 on your particular radio.

Most Icom marine SSBs may be tuned off of a memorized channel, to hear a weather report on a frequency that has recently moved. Press the 'CL' button — the channel knob now goes into frequency changing — and turn the knob in tiny steps. You may need to do a lot of knob twirling to get to some of the new weather nets. Be sure to push 'CL' again to get out of this mode.

Take this opportunity to run all the user channels on your radio, and make

## Latitude 38's Easy Guide to Mexico Nets Baja California & Mainland Mexico

### Daylight Savings Time Schedule (Summer)

UTC (GMT)	PDT W. Coast US	MDT Cabo, LAP	CDT PVR, ACA	Latest ICOM Channel	Freq kHz Pri / Sec	Upper/ Lower Sideband	Net Name
0:30	17:30	18:30	19:30	*** Marine SSB Nets ***	92 6224	USB	Southbound Net
14:00	7:00	8:00	9:00	105 8122/8116	USB	Amigo Net	
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	95 6516	USB	Bluewater Net	
				*** Listen-Only Ham Nets ***			
14:30	7:30	8:30	9:30	149 7192	LSB	Chubasco Net*	
15:00	8:00	9:00	10:00	141 7233.5	LSB	Baja Net	
19:00	12:00	13:00	14:00	156 14340	USB	Mañana Net*	
19:00	12:00	13:00	14:00	151 14300	USB	Pacific Seafarer Net	
14:00	7:00	8:00	9:00	135 3968	LSB	Sonrisa Net	

\* NOTE: Net warm-up and coordination sessions frequently begin prior to the published net opening time.

### Standard Time Schedule (Winter)

UTC (GMT)	PDT W. Coast US	MDT Cabo, LAP	CDT PVR, ACA	Latest ICOM Channel	Freq kHz Pri / Sec	Upper/ Lower Sideband	Net Name
0:30	16:30	17:30	18:30	*** Marine SSB Nets ***	92 6224	USB	Southbound Net
14:00	6:00	7:00	8:00	105 8122/8116	USB	Amigo Net	
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	95 6516	USB	Bluewater Net	
				*** Listen-Only Ham Nets ***			
15:30	7:30	8:30	9:30	149 7192	LSB	Chubasco Net*	
16:00	8:00	9:00	10:00	141 7233.5	LSB	Baja Net	
19:00	11:00	12:00	13:00	156 14340	USB	Manana Net*	
19:00	11:00	12:00	13:00	151 14300	USB	Pacific Seafarer Net	
15:00	7:00	8:00	9:00	135 3968	LSB	Sonrisa Net	

\* NOTE: Net warm-up and coordination sessions frequently begin prior to the published net opening time.

Time adapted from Dockside Radio: [www.docksideradio.com](http://www.docksideradio.com)

# IDIOT'S GUIDE

a list of what frequencies/stations they refer to. As mentioned, if you have a newer Icom 802, it's very likely, but not certain, that you have the same channel/frequency combinations as owners of other new Icom 802s. But if you have an older Icom model, or perhaps had a custom user channel package installed into your 802, I'd recommend that you have an authorized Icom dealer come down and give you the most recent user channel package. He'll just plug his

San Francisco, New Orleans, Miami and Norfolk.

Warning! Remember, different bands have different ranges. If you make an emergency call on 2182 when you're halfway between Mexico and the Marquesas, it's very unlikely anyone will hear you. If you check the earlier chart, you'll see that you'd actually want to transmit on 12,290 (12S) where the range would be 1,200 to 2,400 miles.

*Radio signals within the SSB shortwave spectrum refract off the ionosphere and come back to earth hundreds to thousands of miles away without the need for communication satellites and/or ground stations.*

computer into the front of your radio and download the new stuff. It shouldn't take more than 15 minutes, and will sync you with the majority of other SSB radios.

If you look at the sidebar, you'll see *Latitude 38*'s favorite SSB channels that will help you better understand that each channel has a specific purpose. You'll notice there aren't 700 of them. That's because you can use only 33 primary channels. And for cruisers in California and Mexico, you'll almost certainly use just five of them: 4A, 4B, 4C, 8A and 8B. That's not many, but you'll rarely have trouble finding an open channel. (There are an additional 49 secondary channel/frequencies on the 4 MHz and 8 MHz bands that you can use if they aren't being used at the time, but if you're just starting out, you don't need that additional confusion.)

The main thing to do is play with your user channels/frequency combinations so you become familiar with them. It won't take long. If you find that your channels are out of sync with most other folks' SSBs, you might want to change yours to match theirs. Depending on how technical you are, you may or may not need assistance.

## Calling For Help Over The SSB

There are six Coast Guard Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) channels/frequencies: 2182, the distress channel; 4125 (4S); 6215 (6S); 8291 (8S), 12,290 (12S); 16,420 (16S). The Coast Guard and other international rescue agencies monitor them 24 hours a day. U.S. Coast Guard monitors out of Hawaii, Guam, Alaska,

## Checking Your SSB Reception And Transmission

As a new user, even if you get some meaningful reception as you dial around the channels, you'll probably still wonder if your SSB is working as it should. One way to find out is by trying to pick up the time signals at 10 and 15 MHz and WWV, which provide a continuous signal for a ready reference. If you're still at the dock and plugged in, you may find that turning off the shorepower battery charger will make a huge difference in your reception. Ditto for refrigeration, fluorescent lights and inverters.

If you're not sure that you're transmitting, you can tell a lot by looking at the LCD display on the face of your radio. First, push the 'TUNE' button, at which point the radio should briefly transmit a low power signal to tune the automatic antenna coupler. Do this on any 6 MHz channel as long as there is no traffic on it. The word 'TUNE' should flash a couple times on the LCD screen, and then stay up on the screen when the radio cycles back to receive. Still see the word 'TUNE'?

This is good. However, if the word 'THRU' comes up, or 'HI SWR', you've got problems. It's probably time to bring in a NMEA-qualified marine SSB specialist to find out what's wrong between your radio and your tuner.

Assuming you do get 'TUNE', it's

time to pick up the mic and try a short transmission. After doublechecking that the frequency is clear, key the mic, and speak directly into it saying "FOOOOUUUUR." The mic should be touching your lips when you do this. If the following things happen, it suggests that your transmission is good and powerful:

- 1) The LCD bar graph goes full scale.
- 2) Your cabin lights dim slightly.
- 3) The instrument indicator lamps glow.
- 4) The bilge alarm squeaks.
- 5) The house battery drops about half a volt.

It's perfectly normal for instrument panel lights to glow and bilge alarms to squeak when a powerful 100 watts are coming out of your SSB. But be sure to doublecheck that the LCD transmit indicator shoots across the screen when you say a very loud "FOOOOUUUUR."

A potentially more dangerous way to test the transmit power output is with a small fluorescent tube at night. Ask your first mate to hold the glass tube against the insulated backstay antenna or the big white whip. *Caution! Be sure they don't touch the backstay with their fingers or other parts of their body, as this could result in a nasty burn or worse.* Say the magic word ("FOOOOUUUUR") once again, and the tube should instantly light up. The glass must actually be touching the radiating antenna or antenna lead-in single wire for this to happen.

If the cabin lights dim, the head flushes, numerous bilge alarms go off, and the fluorescent tube lights up, chances are excellent that you're putting out 100

watts. But are they clear watts? Only a radio test with another SSB user can determine that, so ask someone else in the marina to dial in a common ship-to-ship channel, such as 6224, and run your radio check. This will be a good test for a nice, clean signal.

If your test partner reports that your sound was garbled, and you've just added a new email modem to your rig, temporarily disconnect the wire going from the back of your SSB to the computer. If your voice is now clear, these additional wires are the problem. Your local marine electronics specialist

carries snap-on filter chokes, which may resolve the garbled voice problem.

A good test for the range of your radio is with me! I'm happy to offer *Latitude* readers free, on-the-air radio checks on an appropriate SSB frequency that will agree with the approximate range between your station and mine here in the Newport Beach area. If your boat is in the Bay Area, we will likely use 8 MHz. If you are local, we'll go with 4 MHz, and if you're down in Cabo, we'll probably choose 12 MHz. Call me at (714) 549-5000 on weekdays and we'll find a nice quiet channel for our radio check.

Another great way to test your marine SSB transmit-and-receive capability is with weather guru Don Anderson on his marine SSB Amigo Net. He begins at 1415 hours Zulu (UTC) on 8.122.0 MHz, upper sideband. If you have the latest frequency load from Icom America, it's already stored in memory as channel 105. If you don't find it in memory, you will need to break out the instruction book and learn how to program a new frequency into your user-programmable

## SSB in an Emergency

Marine SSB has been allocated hundreds of international channels, some of which are closely guarded by the U.S. Coast Guard and worldwide rescue agencies. They are prepared to act immediately on any received *mayday* or call for medical assistance. The Coast Guard maintains 24/7 distress radio guards on the following frequency bands:

2.182 MHz.....	0-400 miles
4.125 MHz.....	400-800 miles
6.215 MHz.....	600-1200 miles
8.291 MHz.....	800-1600 miles
12.290 MHz.....	1200-2400 miles
16.420 MHz.....	1600-3200 miles

frequency 'bin'. It's not hard, but if you've never done it before, it can be a mystery. You might want to call in a marine electronics tech familiar with marine SSB equipment. Try Don Melcher of HF Radio On Board (Alameda) at (510) 814-8888; Shea Weston of Offshore Outfitters (San Diego) at (619) 225-5690; Steve Helms of Marine Radio Consultants (San Diego) at (619) 276-5530; Ron Romaine of KKMI (Richmond) at *ron@kkmi.com*. Or me.

I've got two final tips.

First, if you sent your Icom 802 to the factory to get the 'clipping' problem fixed, you'll note that there are two places to plug in the antenna. One is for the DSC antenna, the other for your SSB antenna. Unfortunately, they are not clearly labeled, and a number of people have plugged their SSB antenna into the wrong port. As a result, transmit and receive range are minimal. You'll see an antenna tuner error if plugged into the wrong jack. Set it up temporarily and test it with time signals.

Second, to avoid violating FCC rules, Icom is very conservative regarding output power and how wide the signals are. I think they're too conservative. If you get that voice compression software unlocked, your radio transmissions will boom out with a commanding signal like Voice of America. The software upload is available only from authorized Icom dealers. They can come aboard and plug it into your radio, as well as the most recent 'user channel' update. It usually takes just 15 minutes.

— gordon west

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# THE GREAT SCHOONER RACE

Sixteen schooners in two divisions turned out August 29 for the San Francisco YC's Great Schooner Race. With participation up 40% over last year and some of the Bay's most notable schooners — some old, some new — in attendance, the Great Schooner Race was exactly that. The after-sail party featured live music and a cameo appearance by *Latitude 38* Managing Editor "Banjo Andy" Turpin, and perhaps the best of all, an artfully managed raft-up of all the boats on proud display.

Don't be tempted into thinking this was some kind of boat parade, a 'concours d'museum pieces.' Many, if not all, of these boats are actively sailed and, on that day, sailed hard. With breeze into the low 20s, the pursuit race saw the Marconi division do a Bay tour — Yellow Bluff-Cityfront-Blossom-Southampton Shoal-Marker#4-finish at the club — while the gaffers did all but the Yellow Bluff leg.

Bob Vespa's Edson Schock-designed *Scorpio* beat all comers in the Marconi division. At 42 feet on deck, the boat has been around since it was christened for a movie director — a silent movie director — in 1927. Vespa purchased *Scorpio* in 1994 during a standstill in an ongoing restoration; it would be 10 more years before she sailed again. He credits the boat with getting him to retire from the faculty of City College of San Francisco, where he taught commercial photography from 1971 to 1996.

"This was about the fourth boat race I've ever entered," Vespa said.

"So I worked the decks, and deferred the strategy to a seasoned crew."

His decision to let Dave Rempe, Bill Vespa, Mark Lindlaw and Justin Ward take care of the strategy paid off.

"It seemed we'd never catch *Tillicum I*, who stayed ahead of the pack forever," Vespa said. "It was seesaw from Blossom Rock to Southampton Shoal, with *Scorpio* staying barely ahead of the last of the pack on the downwind side. *Tillicum* decided to sail higher into the falling wind and, I believe, got into some of Angel Island's wind shadow, and dropping in with us.

"We approached Southampton in a tight pack. After rounding it, we dropped to the back of the pack and headed a bit more to weather, but when we were about even with the last of them, the wind all but died.

"Though we were all ghosting along at a barely navigable speed, we began inching ahead of the pack as the breeze backed a bit to the south, and they fell into our wind shadow. At that point, we could see *Elizabeth Muir* joining the pack, and then *Santana* — but they both came to the same halt about the time we began to see the whitecaps forming up ahead. We threw up a small fisherman in anticipation of moderate winds to the finish, rounded Marker #4, and dropped the genoa jib in favor of a yankee jib and fore-staysail for the beat up Raccoon Strait."

Jeff Hawkins' *Jakatan* — the newest boat in the fleet — beat six other gaffers.



LATITUDE/ROB



LATITUDE/ROB



LATITUDE/ROB

— GETS EVEN BETTER



Clockwise from above — 'Elizabeth Muir' with a bone in her teeth as she reaches across the Slot; who says only plastic-boat racers get to wear matching crew gear; Raccoon Strait was a pretty busy place as the fleet compressed before their finish; 'Gaslight' rumbles along in the Central Bay.



LATITUDE/ROB



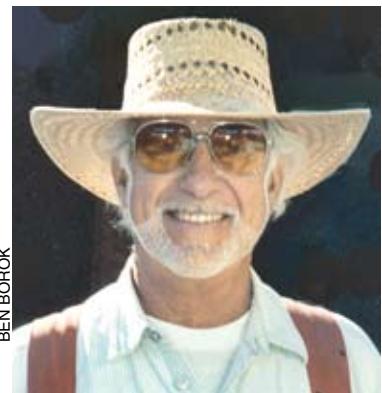
# THE GREAT SCHOONER RACE



JAKATAN



LATITUDE/ROB



BEN BOROK

*From left — Jeff Hawkins; a study in contrast as Hawkins' green-hulled 'Jakatan' — the new boat with the older style of rig — and 'Scorpio' — the older boat with the newer rig style — cross tacks in Raccoon Strait; Bob Vespa.*

Hawkins sailed his two-year-old, Bob Perry-designed boat to a solid win. Built by Jespersen Boat Builders in Sidney, B.C., the Sausalito-based *Jakatan* is the product of not only a talented builder and designer, but also an owner who's designed some notable things himself.

Hawkins was one of the co-founders of Palm — as in, the Palm Pilot — yet the man who designs electronic gadgets

went to great lengths to keep them out of the cockpit of his 40-footer, limiting his displays to only a speedo, autopilot control and depth sounder.

"I'd wanted to own a gaff-rigged schooner for many years," Hawkins said. "But I wanted one with modern accommodations, that I could sail singlehanded. I would

like to race the boat more; this was a great way to gently get back into it as I hadn't raced since I was in college."

Sailing with Hawkins were wife Janet Strauss, Dennis Boyle, Peggy Burke, Ken Feehan, and Ed Colligan.

"We all had a blast," Hawkins said. "The raft-up at the club after the race was the best. The schooners are beautiful and each has an interesting history. I would encourage anyone to visit the boats after next year's race."

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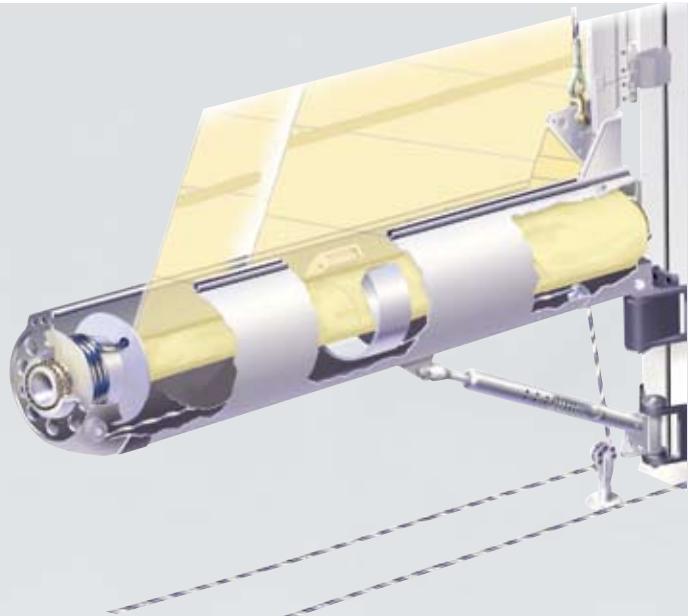
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# BAJA HA-HA PROFILES, PT II

**O**ne of the differences between veteran cruisers and first-timers is that newcomers actually think they'll complete all the tasks on their 'to do' lists before the date they've set for leaving town. Veteran cruisers know better.

That's why we're often told that the best thing about the annual Baja Ha-Ha rally is its concrete starting date, when, ready or not, even inveterate procrastinators are inspired to stow their fix-it lists, set their sails, and head south.

As you've undoubtedly heard, there are other good things about the Ha-Ha too, such as making friends with like-minded adventurers, communing with Mother Nature, and having a rare opportunity to reinvent yourself, if only during a brief getaway from the workaday world.

As reported in *Sightings*, this year's fleet has grown to record proportions, and as you'll read here, its 600+ participants have a wide variety of motivations for sailing south of the border this season.

Here then, is installment two of our profiles on the Baja Ha-Ha Class of 2009. (*Boats are listed in the order in which they signed up.*)

## **Echo — Islander Freeport 41**

**Michael Bereznai, Beaverton, OR**

*Noteworthy:* Michael eventually hopes to get to Borneo, the Philippines and

## **Chrokeva — CT54 The Pitts family, San Diego**

Mark and Jackie point out that one of the most unusual things about their entry is that their 18-year-old daughter Amanda is actually excited about being on a boat with her parents for an extended period of time.

Doing the Ha-Ha is a huge step for each of them, as none has previously sailed more than 100 miles north or south of their San Diego homeport.

After the rally they plan to saunter down to Panama, then cruise the Caribbean and beyond. "For the most part," says Mark, "we plan to just do whatever feels right. We have no plans to head back to the US anytime soon."



**The 'Pitt crew' borrows a pose from 'Titanic'.**

"most part," says Mark, "we plan to just do whatever feels right. We have no plans to head back to the US anytime soon."

Indonesia for scuba diving.

## **En Fuego III — J/44**

**Bill & Hillary Cook, Quincy, CA**

*Quote:* "You can see by all the nuts and bolts that this is a working boat!"

## **Jesse's Girl — Morgan 440**

**Jesse & Shanna Hibdon, Alameda**

*Noteworthy:* In order to embrace the cruising life this couple sold not only their house, but also Shanna's lingerie shop!

## **Sceptre — J/130**

**Bob Musor, Alameda**

*Quote:* "I have raced all over the world, but also enjoy cruising. I'm looking forward to a nice cruise down the Baja Coast with old friends, and I'm also looking forward to making lots of new friends."

## **No Name — Catalina 30**

**Bob Bahlman & Margie Hewes  
Sausalito**

*Noteworthy:* After the rally, Bob and Margie will head up to the Sea of Cortez for some kiteboarding.

## **Dragon's Toy — Island Packet 37**

**Tom Kohrs, Freeport, CA**

*Noteworthy:* After doing two previous

Ha-Has, Tom plans to do the Pacific Puddle Jump in the spring.

## **Wayward Wind —**

**Alberg Odyssey 30**

**John & Geri Conser  
Newport Beach**

*Noteworthy:* John is a well-known catamaran designer/builder and Geri is a longtime marine photographer.

## **Qualchan — Whitby 42**

**The Pond family  
Redondo Beach**

*Noteworthy:* Margaret & Todd, aka Mom and Dad, are thrilled to be introducing their kids — Natalie, 16, Charlee, 8, and Luke, 7 — to the cruising lifestyle.

## **Southwind — Islander 36**

**Jean Gregory, Oceanside**

*Quote:* "After meeting and listening to so many Ha-Ha'ers relate their adventures doing the HaHa, I can't



*If you see a steer's head bearing down on you, you'll know that you are about to be passed by the highly experienced 'Seabird' crew.*

wait to experience it for myself and have my own tales to tell."

## **Stella Blue — C&C Landfall 38**

**Wally Bryant, San Francisco**

*Noteworthy:* This boat was a derelict in 2001. Wally has spent the last eight years rebuilding it — "new rig, new engine, every nut, bolt, wire and hose."

## **Campbell's Sloop — Catalina 34**

**Susan & Don Campbell, Dana Point**

*Noteworthy:* This boat is hull #1 of the Catalina 34 line; Don will be the only male among Cap'n Susan's otherwise all-girl crew.

## **Sea Dream — Jomar 55**

**Ron Brimlow & David Dodrill  
Long Beach**

*Noteworthy:* Ron and David both began sailing in the '60s, but on different coasts.

## **Allymar — Ingrid 38**

**Ken Gosling, Winchester Bay, OR**

*Quote:* "Allymar is finally getting to

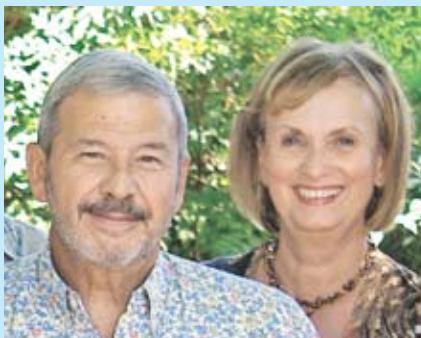
# — HEADIN' SOUTH OF THE BORDER

## **Seabird — Swan 51**

### **Lou & Marge Freeman, San Diego**

Lou has done three Singlehanded TransPacs and two Ha-Has with this boat, and if we're not mistaken, he's used that same red kite on all of them. Why the steer's head? This boat was called *Longhorn* under previous owners, who took her on an 8-year circumnavigation.

Lou convinced Marge to come along last year, and she had so much fun she's back for more — as are last year's crew, Phil and Joann MacFarlane. Rounding out this year's roster will be Synthia Petroka, who, like Phil and Lou is an SSS TransPac vet. Will that fact make *Seabird* a contender for class champion? Time will tell.



**Lou and Marge — and their big red chute  
— are back again for more Ha-Ha fun.**

father-son team, as *Joya* has life-sized, bare-breasted mermaids painted on both sides of her bow.

## **Scott Free — Gulfstar 44**

### **Scott & Monica Stoner, Seattle, WA**

*Quote:* "We plan to cruise in the Sea of Cortez until the Dow hits 14,000!"

## **Eupsychia — Cal 36**

### **David Addleman, Monterey**

*Quote:* "After a career in engineering, where details, planning and control were paramount, I enjoy the uncertainty of sailing."

## **Jabiroo — Island Packet 35**

### **John & Janice Limb, Dover, OR**

*Noteworthy:* John claims that he's had to replace almost every system on this boat since buying her 11 years ago.

## **Monitor — 55-ft Monk trawler**

### **John Wilson, Coos Bay, OR**

*Noteworthy:* According to John, "*Monitor* is a one-of-a-kind boat — one of Ed Monk, Sr.'s very first pleasure boats."

## **Old Moon — Hylas 49**

### **John & Mary-Ann Cogan, Ventura**

*Quote:* "We're slipping & sliding south to the land without a plan."

## **Raindancer — West Indies 38**

### **Daniel Eastman Federal Way, WA**

*Noteworthy:* Now retired, Daniel used to make his living as a locomotive engineer — that's a Ha-Ha first.

## **Harrier — Finn Flyer 31**

### **Ken & Lou Roper, Los Angeles**

*Noteworthy:* A retired brigadier general, Ken has done more Singlehanded

TransPacs than we can count. He'll have crew on the Ha-Ha, though: his daughter Lou.

## **Passage II — Hunter 410**

### **Jim Cassidy & Lucy Lowe Channel Islands**

*Noteworthy:* Jim and Lucy bought their first boat in 1988 and have sailed it almost every weekend, more often than not to the Channel Islands.

## **Sapphire — Hunter 30**

### **Luke McDonald & Megan Buechler Portland, OR**

*Noteworthy:* Luke: "We started sailing two-and-a-half years ago after an exciting dinner conversation about how we'd both like to sail around the world if we won the lottery." They didn't win a million, but managed to cut the docklines anyway.

## **Mahalo — Cal 40**

### **Holly Scott, Long Beach**

*Noteworthy:* Now an official cruising consultant for West Marine, Holly began her sailing career when she was three months old; she first took the helm at age three and got her first boat at 10.

## **Escapade — Catana 52 cat**

### **Greg Dorland & Debra Macrorie Newport, OR**

*Quote:* "We've learned to be flexible in our planning, but we'll possibly end up

## **Liberty — Nicholson 35**

### **The Strattan-Candille family Redwood City**

"We're doing the Ha-Ha," explains Seth,



**"Enough of academia, let's go cruising!"**

"because we're sick and tired of preparing to do the Ha-Ha." He and Sophie spent every weekend and every penny they had fixing up *Liberty* while they were graduate students at Stanford medical school. This cruise is their graduation present to themselves. (Both now have PhDs.)

Their 4-year-old crewman Casey will be in charge of beach sports on the way to Cabo.

do what she was designed for nearly 40 years ago. May the same be true for the captain and crew this year."

## **Tiger Beetle — N/M 45 IOR Robert Macfarlane, San Francisco**

*Noteworthy:* Although this is Rob's first Ha-Ha, he's no stranger to offshore sailing, having made five crossings to Hawaii.

## **Aquadesiac — Tayana V-42 Douglas Simms, Alameda**

*Quote:* "As a young boy I always looked west when I was daydreaming. This journey is the culmination of those dreams."

## **Prevailing Wind — Beneteau Oceanis 400 Peter Wragg & Natalie Pearl San Diego**

*Noteworthy:* An Australian native, Peter's early sailing career took him across the notorious Bass Strait and Tasman Sea.

## **Joya — Dreadnought 32 Steve & Garrett Pruitt, Brookings, OR**

*Noteworthy:* You can easily find this

# BAJA HA-HA PROFILES, PT II

## **Little Lara — Pacific Seacraft 24**

### **Jay & Peggy Bowden, Santa Barbara**

Jay and Peggy tell us "Little Lara may not be the most expensive boat, she may not even be the largest



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convined the Rally Committee to bend the '27-ft minimum' rule. After the Ha-Ha, they'll cruise until spring, then "re-evaluate."

in the Caribbean, or Southeast Asia."

## **Adios — Columbia 43**

### **Craig Shaw & Tiffany Lidy Portland, OR**

Quote: Craig: "I'm really looking for-

boat, nor the fastest boat, but she is the happiest boat."

We were glad to hear that, but 760 miles can be a long way in a 24-footer. Jay and Peggy seem to know what they're getting into, however. In fact they

ward to skippering *Adios* down the Baja with the kite up under the full moon! And with the best first mate on the planet, I'll have the biggest smile in the fleet!"

## **Prufrock — Santa Cruz 52**

### **Jim & Diana Freeland Ko Olina, HI**

**Noteworthy:** The Frelands have crewed on two previous Ha-Has aboard the three-masted schooner *Millenium Falcon*. This time that boat's owners will crew aboard *Prufrock*.

## **Albatross — Seamaster 46**

### **Douglas Schneeman & JoDean Bifoss Marina del Rey**

**Quote:** Doug: "This is hull number one. That's a good thing, right? My advice is: Never

buy the first of anything. Let 'em work the bugs out first."

## **Bequia — Gulfstar 50**

### **Richard & David Coleman**

## **Richmond**

**Quote:** "We've sailed the coast before, but it's been lonely. This sounds like a lot of fun!"

## **Espirito Santi — Atlantic 57**

### **Santiago Becerra, San Diego**

**Quote:** "I'm ecstatic. I'm beside myself. I can already feel the warm breeze, hot sun, clear blue water — not to mention the cold beers and fish tacos. Mexico here I come!"

## **Aventura — Hunter 41**

### **John Rollins, San Francisco**

**Quote:** "Let's see what adventure each day brings."

## **Bluebird — Custom Trimaran 28**

### **John Taylor, Lakewood, WA**

**Noteworthy:** Built by John, *Bluebird's* unusual design and features make her a unique entry — and at age 88, her captain is one of the oldest and most experienced sailors ever to do the Ha-Ha.

## **Gypsy Blue — Beneteau 463**

### **'Whitey' & Maxine White**

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# — HEADIN' SOUTH OF THE BORDER

## San Francisco

**Quote:** Maxine "My first date with Whitey was sailing on San Francisco Bay on his Ericson 35. Our second date was spent varnishing."

## Done Dealing — Beneteau 47

### Jay & Gail Bryan, Lake Tahoe

**Noteeworthy:** Jay once made a trip from Crescent City, CA, to Dutch Harbor, in Alaska's Aleutian Islands.

## Tapestry — Command 10 tri Richard Pearsall, Ventura

**Quote:** "We're going to be dead a long time, so go cruising now!"

## Sea Villa — Islander 37 Jim Morgan, Sausalito

**Quote:** "Sailing is truly an elemental experience that I enjoy immensely. I also very much appreciate the camaraderie of the sailing community. This seems like an excellent opportunity to combine the two."

## Music — Beneteau 40 Rick Gio, Pt. Richmond

**Noteeworthy:** Having begun his sail-

ing career in 1969, Rick already has lots of offshore sailing under his belt, including a sail from S.F. to Tahiti.

## Osprey — Elan Impression 434

### Jerry Whitfield Anacortes, WA

**Noteeworthy:** Jerry's crew will be his daughter and son-in-law: Clair and Grant Burwash.

## Paikea Mist — Beneteau 50 Michael & Gloria Hanssmann Vancouver, BC

**Noteeworthy:** Gloria met Michael in a college sailing class, where he was the instructor.

## Chardonnay — Catalina 30 David Elkin, Richmond

**Quote:** "This isn't just another sail around the Bay!"

## Odysseus — Maxi 97

### William & Christy Hogarty, Pleasanton

When we asked William for a quotable quote, he replied, "Let's party." And believe us, this guy knows how to party in style, as evidenced by the Jacuzzi on his aft deck.



## Mangareva — Dallimore 40 Mark & Gail Strong, Pollock Pines

**Noteeworthy:** Mark and Gail met their

A veteran of two previous Ha-Has, his boats are always among the most impressive in the fleet: the Dynamique 80 *Leda* in 1998, and the N/M Able 94 *Marishiten* in 2001.

Apart from William's wife Christy, Odysseus' crew has yet to be announced. But we assume by the accompanying photo, that some junior sailors will be on the roster.

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# BAJA HA-HA PROFILES, PT II

## MoJo's Folly — Gemini 105Mc Cat John & Marie Orr, Napa

If boats could talk, this one would probably tell us she's thrilled that John and Marie bought her 18 months ago, as she spent her first few years in Stockton as a "dust collector" — a sad fate for any boat let alone one built for performance cruising like this one.



*Marie raises her glass to the start of their long-anticipated cruise.*

right MoJo and good friends to accomplish a life long dream." After the rally they'll head up into the Sea of Cortez and play it by ear on an open-ended itinerary.

Dutch crew, Nico and Elyn, a few years ago in The Netherlands, as they own a similar European-built boat.

### **Jammin' — Freeport 41**

now 13, and son Keegan now 11, they're finally getting around to it.

## **Capaz — Perry 48 The Baker family, Seattle, WA**

## **James & Max Wilson Los Angeles**

*Quote:* James: "I can tell by the way *Jammin'* dances on her bow lines that she's ready to get out of Dodge!"

## **Mariah — Seawind 1000 cat Gary Rufener, San Diego**

*Noteworthy:* Like many of this year's participants, Gary plans to moor *Mariah* in La Paz for the season, then bash home in the spring.

## **Ohana — Sceptre 41 McKenzie-Palaske family Missoula, MT**

*Noteworthy:* When Charlie and Beth got married, their pre-nup mandated that they would eventually go cruising with their family. With daughter Marina

now 13, and son Keegan now 11, they're finally getting around to it.

*Noteworthy:* Brad and PJ (dad and mom) will be "boat schooling" their sons Bryce, 11, and Austin, 8. One of the kids' tasks will be to produce a newspaper about their travels called the *Capaz Chronicle*.

## **Slow M Ocean — CHB 45 PH Trawler Errol & Norene Phillips, Scappoose, OR**

*Noteworthy:* Errol and Norene started powerboating nearly 40 years ago.

## **Sagittaire — Brewer 47 Michael & Diane Quiriconi Seattle, WA**

*Quote:* "Like Moitessier, we want to watch the sun set on the open sea, to inhale its breath, to let our land-bound cares evaporate before the immensity of the sea and sky, and to feel our joy soaring so high that nothing can disturb it."

## **IO — Davidson 44**

### **R. & B. Kuschel, San Francisco**

*Noteworthy:* This boat was designed by Laurie Davidson, of New Zealand A-Cup fame, and her first owner was



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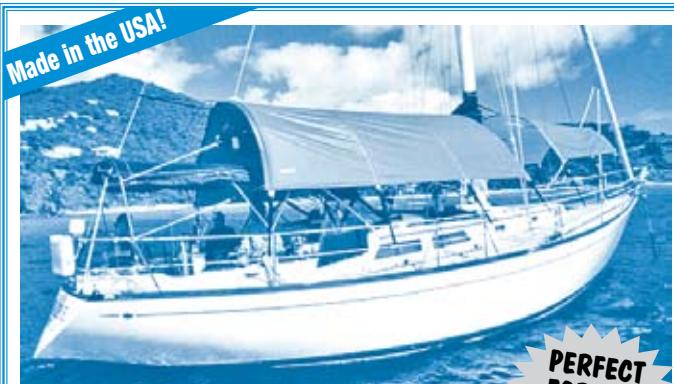
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renowned Kiwi racer Neville Crichton.

**Julia Morgan —  
Morgan Out Island 41  
Thomas Christensen, Long Beach**

*Noteeworthy:* Thomas' experience should serve as a lesson to others: He had planned to cruise long-term. But after spending five years preparing this boat, he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, which means staying close to home for chemo treatments every two weeks. His doc, however, gave him a six-week reprieve to do the Ha-Ha.

**Talion — Gulfstar 50  
Patsy Verhoeven  
La Paz, Mexico**

*Quote:* "I'm going to sail all the way for the third time!"

**Sabbatical — Valiant 40  
Phil Kumpis & Laurie Lipman  
Hermosa Beach**

*Noteeworthy:* The previous owners set out to circumnavigate, but got only as far as Tahiti due to health issues. Phil hopes to finish the trip for them.

**Eagle — Cal 35 Mk III  
Phileta Riley &  
Dorothy Tharsing  
Bandon, OR**

*Noteeworthy:* They just bought *Eagle* on August 5, and have been in a mad dash since then to get her ready for the October start.

**Lillia del Mar —  
Catalina 400  
Mark Slemmons  
San Francisco**

*Noteeworthy:* Mark began sailing in El Toros at age 8. He bought this boat, his fourth, just nine months ago.

**Alobar —  
Island Packet 350**

**Joel Ungar, Santa Barbara**

*Quote:* "Viva la Baja Ha-Ha, viva Mexico, y vamanos amigos."

**Albatross — Island Packet 32**

**The Foley family, Clear Lake Shores, TX**

"Our plan," says Lisa, "is to sail home to Texas, but if



**William, Tracy and Patricia are heading off again.**

the cruising bug infects our sons — Teagan, 9, and Mick, 7 — and Captain Kevin can handle homeschooling, who knows?"

Both Kevin and Lisa have been sailing since they were pre-teens.

**Stepping Stone — Maple Leaf 42**

**The Anderson family, Newport, OR**

*Noteeworthy:* Elias and Sarah say they've been dreaming of sailing around

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# BAJA HA-HA PROFILES, PT II

## SOMF — Island Trader 46 Jerry Wilhite, Stockton

*Quote:* "This was my dream 25 years ago, but life and family buried it deep. Then five years ago it started to creep back into my dreams, and now here I am."

Some kids on Jerry's dock think SOMF looks like



*Meet the 'SOMF' crew. Pirates? Naaah, we don't think so.*

a pirate ship, but after seeing his shipmates' photo, we doubt that there's a buccaneer among them. What does SOMF stand for? That's a question you'll have to ask Jerry himself.

the world since they were kids. Now they're finally on their way — with their daughters, Kimberly, 16, and Savona, 5, along as crew.

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## Tsunamita — Hunter 356 Kim & John Hartnett- Edwards San Diego

*Noteworthy:* Kim and John both learned to sail in college, but this will be their first big offshore cruise.

## Kells — Swan 44 Mk II Jack Kavanaugh, Sausalito

*Noteworthy:* Jack started sailing in '65. He's owned this 1976 Swan for 24 years.

## Gitana — Cal 39 Pat & Diane Mitchell South Lake Tahoe

*Quote:* "After heading out the Golden Gate, we plan to turn left, check it all out slowly, and we may or may not come back!"

## Nautilus — Passport 40 Steven Ingham & Kristen Dean Centralia, WA

*Noteworthy:* During the '80s Steven

sailed the Caribbean for six years on a previous boat. He rode out Hurricane Hugo at Puerto Rico's Culebra Island, where dozens of boats were driven ashore.

## Tabu — Farr 44 Sheri & Rich Crowe, Newport Beach

*Noteworthy:* The fact that Sheri and Rich are sailing up from La Paz to do this year's Ha-Ha is impressive. But last year they sailed all the way up from Ecuador to do the '08 rally.

## Bliss — Columbia 45 Scott Brown & Lanie Peterson Helena, MT

*Quote:* "Bitchin'! We can't wait to get started on this trip of a lifetime, and we're excited to make new friends and party!"

## Lorien — Islander Bahama 30 Ed Ammerman & Gina Sarbo San Francisco

*Quote:* "Between my husband, a retired appliance repairman who was a diesel mechanic in the service, and myself,

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an ER nurse with 26 years experience at a trauma center, we are set to fix things or people that get 'broke'."

## Wave Goodbye — Hunter 44 Dan Redding, San Diego

*Noteworthy:* Dan bought this boat new in 2005 and did the '06 Ha-Ha as his first offshore shakedown cruise.

## Saint Mary II — Catalina 34 Mk II Thomas Madden, Newport Beach

*Noteworthy:* This boat is named after Thomas' great uncle's fishing boat, which was the only vessel in an Irish fleet to survive a famous disaster at sea.

## Rachel S — Cape George 40 Patrick Orleman, Waldron, WA

*Quote:* "My first boat was a wash tub in the pond next to my parents house."

## Wizard — Choate 41 Obie & Mike Ciesiel, Portland, OR

*Noteworthy:* A prominent Portland businessman raced this boat for years. Some recent guests have sworn his ghost is still aboard!

### Simple Pleasures — Freedom 36

**Bernard Slabeck, Alameda**

*Quote:* "I'll be leaving for good, for the second time!"



*Bernard rides his masthead, safe from whale attacks.*

Believe it or not his boat struck two different whales in two completely different areas of Mexico last year. They both swam away unharmed, but the second blow caused Bernard to bring his 36-footer home to Alameda for some keel repairs.

### Coral Rose — Aloha 34

**John Aldous, Beaverton, OR**

*Quote:* "I live aboard Coral Rose, and I love the lifestyle it provides me."

### Blue Lightning — New York 36 Michael Riley, Seattle, WA

*Noteworthy:* John says he decided to do the Ha-Ha because he was "very cold!" He first read about it in an old *Latitude* that someone had left in his marina's laundry.

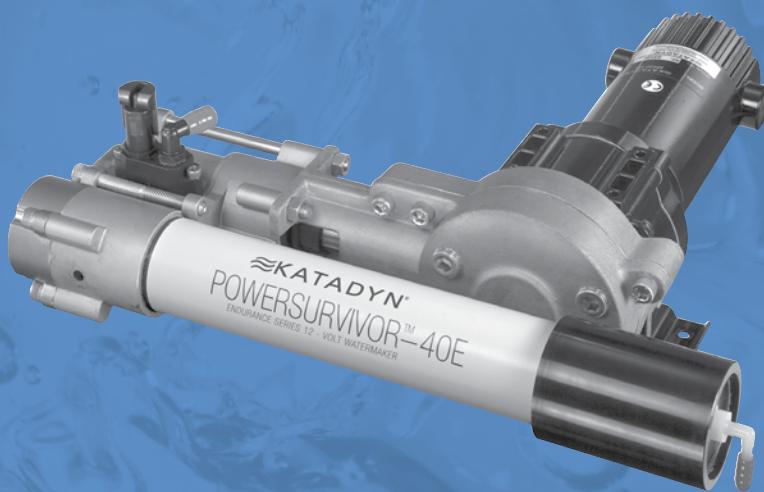
### Blue Swan — Ta Chiao 41 Robert Johnston, San Pedro

*Quote:* "Sounds like a great time! This will be the first of many new adventures."

### J World — J/120 Wayne Zittel, SF/PV

*Noteworthy:* This entry is part of an instructional program. Her crew is made up of sailors with varying levels of experience, "from rookie cruisers to seasoned salts."

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# BAJA HA-HA PROFILES, PT II

## Companera — Farr 44 Paul Eichen & Susan Flieder Sausalito

**Noteworthy:** Paul and Susan convinced their Aussie friends, Annie and Bob, into join them on this cruise to the Cape.

## Distant Drum — Beneteau 51 Harry Hazzard, San Diego

**Noteworthy:** This boat has done three previous Ha-Has. Not long after the '07 event, she survived a direct hit by lightning in San Blas.

## Crescendo — Challenger 50 ketch Bob & Alice Phillips, Olympia, WA

**Noteworthy:** Having cruised to Alaska and back three times, Bob and Alice are ready for a change of climate.

## Puma — 52-ft power cat Del Urban, Homer, AK

**Noteworthy:** Like most Alaskans, Del is obviously a do-it-yourselfer. He designed and built this power cat using composite (wood/epoxy) construction.

## Willful Simplicity — Catalina 27 Steve & Charlotte Baker, Sausalito

"When we decided that there were more reasons why we must do the Ha-Ha than reasons why we couldn't, we were finally moved into action," explains Steve.



"Lookout Mexico, here we come."

That's impressive since Charlotte began sailing just a year ago. Steve, however, has been pulling strings and grinding winches for nearly two decades, so he undoubtedly set her on the 'fast track' to cruising.

Their 27-footer seems aptly named: "The most interesting thing about this boat is its simplicity," says Steve. "It has taught us to live simply and love it."

## Ludwig — Catalina 42 David Lott, Long Beach

**Noteworthy:** Dave says that doing the Ha-Ha has been on his 'bucket list'. But the most interesting thing about his entry is that, to join him on this cruise, he recruited a friend whom he's known since he was seven years old.

## Symphony — Hans Christian 38T Thomas Spencer & Magi Sarvimiaki Channel Islands

**Noteworthy:** Doing the Ha-Ha is actually Plan B for Thomas and Magi, as they'd originally intended to sail straight to Hawaii, but after making a boatload of new sailing friends, we'll bet they'll be glad that serendipity intervened.

We'll take a breather here, before our fingers fall off from too much pecking on the keyboard. But, believe it or not, you still haven't been introduced to the entire Ha-Ha XVI fleet. Look for a final installment in the November issue, then a complete recap report in December.

— latitude/andy

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## A RECORD-BREAKING RALLY

As you may have read in Sightings, more boats are entered in this year's rally than ever before.

Along with the increased numbers, the event will have some exciting new features. For the first time ever, fleet members will parade past the western tip of Shelter Island at 10 a.m. October 26, on their way out to the 11 a.m. start. A fireboat will salute them with a shower of spray, and a variety of TV and print reporters will be on hand to capture the excitement.

If you're new to the event, let us explain that the Ha-Ha is a 750-mile cruisers' rally from San Diego to Cabo San Lucas, with stops along the way at Turtle Bay and Bahia Santa Maria.

You'll find frequent updates on this year's event, in addition to all sorts of other hot sailing topics at Latitude's three-times-weekly news portal, 'Lectronic Latitude (found at [www.latitude38.com](http://www.latitude38.com).)

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**HITCHING A RIDE SOUTH**

This year's Mexico-Only Crew List Party and Baja Ha-Ha Reunion on September 9 served its purpose by linking dozens of potential crew members with skippers in need of additional watch-standers.

If you missed that shindig and would really like to spend some quality time south of the border, you might still be able to find a ride via our online Crew List at [www.latitude38.com](http://www.latitude38.com), which is constantly updated.

## IS THE PACIFIC PUDDLE JUMP IN YOUR FUTURE?

For many cruisers, the next logical step after cruising Mexican waters for a season or more is to hang a right and head west into the Pacific.

We call that annual springtime migration the Pacific Puddle Jump, and report on it heavily in the pages of *Latitude 38*. Making that 3,000-mile passage is one of the most thrilling accomplishments in the realm of sailing. Learn more about the spring 2010 crossing at [www.pacificpuddlejump.com](http://www.pacificpuddlejump.com).

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## IMPORTANT DATES

- Oct 18 — Ha-Ha Welcome to San Diego Party, Downwind Marine, 12-4 pm. Ha-Ha entrants only.
- Oct 24 — Informational Meeting about the Pacific Puddle Jump, West Marine, San Diego, 5 pm.
- Oct 25, 9 am — Final deadline for all crew and skipper waivers, West Marine, S.D.
- Oct 25, 11 am — Skipper's meeting, West Marine, S.D. Skippers only please.
- Oct 25, 1 pm — Ha-Ha Halloween Costume Party and Barbecue, West Marine, S.D.
- Oct 26, 10 am — Pre-Start boat parade past Shelter Island
- Oct 26, 11 am — Start of Leg 1
- Oct 31, 8 am — Start of Leg 2
- Nov 4, 7 am — Start of Leg 3
- Nov 6 — Cabo Beach Party
- Nov 7 — Awards presentations hosted by the Cabo Marina

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PLEASE NOTE: There is no phone number for the Baja Ha-Ha Rally Committee.  
Please don't call Latitude 38 with questions. The Ha-Ha is a separate operation.



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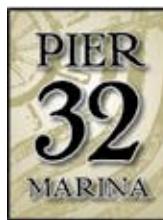
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# MAX EBB

"Finally!" our skipper cheered before the echoes of the gun had faded. "Postponement over! Let's get this race going!"

We'd been waiting two hours for the wind to stabilize. It had never been flat calm, but it was not the steady sea breeze the Race Committee wanted. Evidently they thought it was worth the wait.

All hands on our boat felt otherwise. They were from Southern California, in town for a major regatta, and I'd been recruited as a source of local knowledge. Fortunately, I was able to bring Lee Helm along with me. She's a naval architecture grad student at the university, and although I have a few more decades' experience racing on the Bay than she does, Lee seems to be able to make more sense out of the instruments, the polaris and her custom tide charts. As long as she can pass me secret tips during the race, I can fake it pretty well.

"Wait a sec," said Lee, examining the RC boat through binoculars. "They've got the gun up for another shot."

The end of a postponement is signaled by one gun, and a postponement is signaled by two. When the second gun fired, we couldn't understand why they would postpone a race that was already postponed. Then there was a third gun.

"Code flags N over A," Lee sighed. "All races abandoned for the day."

"Darn," muttered the skipper. "I thought we'd finally have a chance to see what we could do against this fleet in light air."

"Clearly a decision driven by bar revenue," said the owner, who doesn't drive or even trim sails during the races, but loves to organize the campaign and write the checks. "The bar makes more money for the club if they get us back to the harbor early."

"Either that or someone on the RC boat has opera tickets," groused another crew. "You'd think, what with having a whole navy out here to set marks and signal courses, they could at least give us a short course in the wind we've had all morning instead of making us wait around for the seabreeze that we all know will fill in as soon as we're back at the dock."

"Down south we race in wind lighter than this all the time," said the owner.

"We could have spent the last two hours racing."

"Yeah, since when is an RC so afraid of a wind shift that they have to cancel a whole day of sailing?" asked another crew. "I started racing on Long Island Sound, and back there we'd call this a good stiff sailing breeze."

"Before you all go off half-cocked on this," said the mainsail trimmer, trying to calm us down, "consider that one of the purposes of the regatta is to come up with an overall winner. And because they have the different divisions sailing different courses and starting at different times, their method of selecting the overall winner only works if the wind is steady."

"Well, we're sure not in it for the overall win," the owner reminded us as he stepped from the back of the cockpit to the top of the companionway ladder. "We just want to race. We came all the way up from SoCal, and they've wasted a perfectly good day of sailing. I'm going below to break out lunch. Who had the one with no mayo?"

"No tomatoes on mine," said Lee.

"They're all no tomatoes," the owner called back from the cabin. "Keeps the bread from getting soggy."

"But how can they possibly have an overall winner if the divisions are sailing different courses?" I asked.

"It's, like, in the sailing instructions, under scoring," said Lee. "What they do is take the corrected time of the winner of each division, divide by the course distance to get the corrected speed, and see who is sailing the fastest, averaged over all the races sailed."

"Sounds fair enough, if the conditions are steady."

"Except for one big thing they got wrong," Lee noted. "The finish is upwind of the start, and the big boats usually sail a course with more laps than the small boats. Especially for a series sailed in mostly flood tide, that makes a diff."

"How big?"

"Okay, we can totally figure it out. If the course is W-L-W-L-W — or two-and-a-half sausages — for the big class, that's three upwind and two downwind legs." She produced a small cell phone in a plastic bag from her PFD pocket and switched it into calcula-

$$\sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \left( T_i - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n T_j \right)^2}{n-1}}$$

*The formula for Sample Standard Deviation. T is corrected time and n is the number of finishers in the division.*



tor mode. "Let's say they go seven knots upwind and tack through 70 degrees. That's a VMG of 5.7 knots, subtract a knot for flood current and VMG upwind is 4.7. Downwind, let's be conservative and say 8.5 knots VMG plus the current, for 9.5 knots down the course. Average speed for the five legs is then . . . 6.62 knots. But if they sail the shorter course, just one-and-a-half times around, they get a higher ratio of windward to leeward because of the upwind finish. Then the average speed around the course is . . . 6.3 knots."

"Pretty close, if you ask me," I ventured.

"No way! That's, like, a five percent rating advantage. Ginormous compared to typical finish margins in a top-end fleet."

"What about when the course is three-and-a-half laps versus two-and-a-half?"

# — A NUMBERS GAME

*Things may have turned out differently for 'Soozal' at last month's Rolex Big Boat Series if organizers had used Lee Helm's calculations.*



consistent seconds and thirds," said the trimmer. "I think a comparative low-point system would be better."

"Except that some divisions are larger than others," said the skipper, "and a low-point finish is much more difficult to earn in a big division. You could do a kind of proportional low-point. Or add up corrected time margins."

"That still leaves the problem of some classes being more competitive than others," said Lee. "But, like, there is a way to take that into account."

"I can't think how," I said.

"There are tons of different statistical criteria to measure how tight the results are. I mean, if we assume that a competitive fleet will have more tightly bunched finishes, then all you have to do is take the standard deviation of the corrected time finishes, and see how big the winning margin is over the average time, in terms of standard deviations. The division winner who beats their class average by the greatest number of standard deviations is the overall winner. That automatically corrects for the variations in the size of the divisions and for how tight the racing is in each division."

"You lost me when you got to deviation," said the foredeck crew, scooping up a handful of cookies. "Are we talking compass cards all of a sudden?"

"It's just the square root of the sum of the squares of the differences from the mean divided by the number of points minus one," Lee explained through a mouthful of tuna sandwich. "My calculator even has a button for it."

"Just so we know what you're talking about, can you explain how you would calculate it without the button?" asked the skipper.

"Okay, first take all the corrected finish times, Add them up and divide by the number of boats to get the average corrected finish time."

"We got that part."

"For each boat, subtract to find the difference between that boat's finish time and the average finish time, and square that number."

"I'm already confused," said the foredeck crew. "Some of those time differences will be positive and some will be negative, depending on which you subtract

asked the trimmer. "The effect should be a lot less."

Lee ran her calculations again, and determined that the error was down to about two percent for the courses with more legs.

"How much is two percent in PHRF?" asked the foredeck crew.

"About 12 seconds per mile for you time-on-distance folks," Lee said, "More when the wind is up and the speed difference between upwind and downwind is bigger."

"A two percent skew in favor of the big class," said the trimmer, "doesn't seem like that big of an error compared to the difference in wind and tide if conditions aren't steady. The small class start is, what, 50 minutes after the big boats?"

"I guess they have to have an overall winner, and I guess they're going to do it their way," said the skipper as he pushed

the button to start the engine. "Mainsail down any time," he ordered, and most of the crew jumped into position to flake the main while Lee and I took charge of the bags of sandwiches and snacks that the owner was passing up the hatch.

**M**ax, how would you determine the overall winner for an event like this?" asked the mainsail trimmer once the sail was down and flaked.

"It's a tough problem," I allowed, "but there are ways that don't constrain the options of the RC like the method they used. I'd probably just do something simple like give it to the boat with the greatest number of firsts in its division. That way each division could be in completely different conditions and everything would be fine."

"But then a boat with, for example, one lucky first place and five finishes in the tank would beat out a boat with

# MAX EBB

from which, and whether the boat was ahead or behind the average."

"No, that doesn't matter," explained Lee, "because all the time differences are squared and come out positive anyway."

"Got it."

"Now add up all those squares of time differences, divide by the number of boats

minus one, and take the square root of that. The answer is called the standard deviation, and for a normal distribution of values, about 95% of the values fall within plus-or-minus two standard deviations of the average."

"Ah, but in this case you have a complete sample set," the owner called up

*Overall winner by the Lee Helm criterion*

corrected finish times	Class A			Class B			Class C			Class D			
	H	M	S	minutes	H	M	S	minutes	H	M	S	minutes	
2 29 56	149.93	2 31 15	151.25	1 48 23	108.38	1 52 56	112.93	1 54 27	114.45	1 57 3	117.05	1 58 59	118.98
2 30 26	150.43	2 35 6	155.10	1 49 26	109.43	1 52 20	112.33	1 52 24	112.40	1 58 26	120.43	2 0 39	120.65
2 30 39	150.66	2 39 38	159.63	1 52 45	112.75	1 59 36	119.80	2 2 7	122.12				
2 32 16	152.27	2 41 42	161.70	1 54 13	114.22								
2 34 29	154.48	2 42 49	162.82	1 59	119.80								
		2 50 40	170.67										
		2 52 39	172.65										
		2 53 18	173.30										
average corrected time			151.55	163.01			113.90	117.42			117.42		
winning margin over average			1.62	11.76			5.52	4.48			4.48		
standard deviation			1.86	7.75			4.73	3.20			3.20		
winning margin / standard deviation			0.87	1.52			1.17	1.40			1.40		

*Lee's Criterion for calculating an overall winner, using the first race of last month's Rolex Big Boat Series as an example. The tightest competition was in Division A, but the Division B winner takes it with a much larger margin over the average, despite the more dispersed finishes. In Divisions C and D, sailing a shorter course, the D winner gets more credit for a win in the tighter fleet, putting them ahead of the C boat, despite a slower corrected time.*

from the cabin. "So there's no need for Bessel's correction. You should divide by N, not N-1."

"For sure, we have all the finish data," argued Lee, "but it's a statistical sampling of speed potential. So I think the

sample standard deviation, using N-1, is more accurate than the uncorrected value."

Lee and the owner debated this point for some time, each volley less comprehensible than the last, but neither could convince the other. Eventually they gave up and finished their sandwiches.

## T

hat evening at the awards banquet, we saw the results of the overall winner selection method. Sure enough, a boat in the big class had taken it.

"After all, they did spend the most money," noted the owner.

— max ebb



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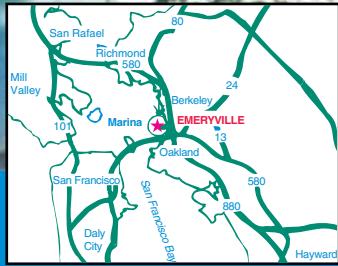
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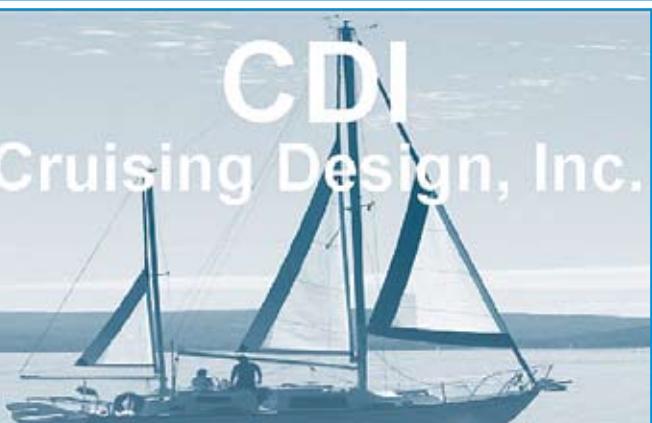
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# THE RACING

*Whew! The end of August and the month of September were jam packed with racing on the Bay. Between the **Folkboat Internationals**, the **Windjammers' Race**, **SAP 505 World Championships**, and **Jazz Cup** there was plenty to keep any kind of sailor busy. But we better not forget the **Melges 32 North Americans**, the **29er US Nationals**, a record-matching **Leukemia Cup**, the **J/24 Western Regionals**, **St. Francis 18-ft Skiff Regatta**, **Ronstan Bridge to Bridge race**, **Catalina 30 Nationals** and, oh yeah, The Great Schooner Race and the the Rolex Big Boat Series, which you'll find on pages 108-110, and 88-96 respectively. Yeah, it was busy. As always, we've done our best to bring you the scoop on all these events. Enjoy!*

## **Folkboat Internationals**

The Folkboat Internationals are held biennially on the Bay, and the boat's strong and loyal following, plus the fact that more than 5,000 have been built, means that the racing is competitive.

With a bullet in the final race, '07 winner Dave Wilson from San Francisco, held off a consistent performance from another Bay Area sailor, Eric Kaiser — who had counted nothing lower than a third in the seven-race, one-throwout series — to take the title.

Sailing with his father Don, and for the first two days, Mark Van Crienke, who was spelled by Tom Urbania for the final two, Wilson's final bullet was one of three that propelled him to a two-point win at the Corinthian YC-hosted regatta September 15-19. Following the Bay Area sailors were a pair of Danes — Per Jørgensen and Per Buch — and a German man Christoph Nielsen.

Nielsen was the only foreign skipper who didn't take advantage of the local

The fleet hit many of the Central Bay venues for the racing — sailing on the Circle one day, the Cityfront another and Knox on two different days.

"In the seven races, we had five different winners," said Class President Brock de Lappe.

The boat — *Windansea* — has been in the Wilson family since 1981, when it was brought over for exactly such an event. Don Wilson is a three-time season champion.

But the Wilson father/son winning combo wasn't the only one on the course. Tom Reed, Sr., a seven-time season champion, was sailing for his son, Tom Reed, Jr.

Kaiser's father, Chuck, is also a seven-time season champion. When you see all these fraternal connections that come with some serious credentials, it's easy to see why Wilson was a bit surprised by his win.

"We didn't think it was really going to happen," Wilson said. "We weren't really anticipating that we'd be winning. We went over to Sweden for the Gold Cup last year, and the Germans won, while we were 19th. Eric's been really consistent this whole year, so we feel lucky to have pulled it out."

"When it comes to consistency," Kaiser said, "I look to what my dad used to say: 'Racing sailboats is a series of routines practiced and mastered.' I certainly haven't mastered them yet, but I continue to strive towards that goal. Ironically, it was something

Dave Wilson said that has really stuck in my head, and that's being obsessive about balancing the helm, both up and downwind. That has taken my sailing to a higher level this past year. But if you look closely, Dave has the upper hand when it comes to consistency."



PETER LYONS/WWW.LYONSMAGING.COM



**Dave Wilson, left, just barely edged out Eric Kaiser for the top spot at the '09 Folkboat Internationals September 14-19.**

fleet's pooling of loaner boats; he shipped his own Folkboat — they just fit inside a standard 40-ft shipping container — over for the event. Nielsen was in position to notch the Folkboat equivalent of a Grand Slam, having already won the Swedish National Championship, Kiel Week and the class' Gold Cup.

Like Wilson, Kaiser — who actively sails his boat *Josephine* on the Bay — built his crew around two guys sailing for two days each, and one pivotal player.

"The team I put together started with the one guy I knew would never stop trying, Sean Svendsen," Kaiser said. That guy is intense and I loved it. Mike Peterson, also a Knarr season champion, understood how to keep both Sean and I under control. I guess we both have a tendency to get a little heated in the moment. He really did an outstanding job the first two days of the regatta. The last two I had my regular crew, Kurt Hemmingsen."

**FOLKBOAT INTERNATIONALS (9/15-19; 7r/1t)**  
— 1) #106, **David Wilson**, USA, 12; 2) #122, **Eric Kaiser**, USA, 14; 3) #871, **Per Jørgensen**, DEN, 24; 4) #926, **Per Buch**, DEN, 27; 5) #658, **Christoph Nielsen**, GER, 32. (19 boats )

Complete results at [www.cyc.org](http://www.cyc.org)

## **Windjammers**

Labor Day Weekend featured the Windjammers Race from the Bay down the coast to Santa Cruz. Conditions



**Corinthian YC hosted Folkboat sailors from around Northern Europe and San Francisco Bay. The one day spent sailing on the Circle, shown above, produced five successfully recovered MOBs.**

were plenty breezy — boats were seeing upwards of 35 knots below Año Nuevo. But the big north-northwesterly shut off late in the afternoon, giving way to an easterly that trapped much of the 37-boat fleet in little breeze.

Bill Turpin's R/P 78 *Akela* tore down the coast in only 6h, 10m, 35s, but was pipped at the post for overall honors by Shepard Kett's SC 50 *Octavia* by a mere 6.5 minutes. Kevin Flanigan and Greg Nelsen's Fox 44 *Ocelot* corrected out to third overall, a little less than 12.5 minutes behind *Akela*.

#### **WINDJAMMERS (9/4)**

PHRO1A — 1) **Octavia**, SC 50, Shepard Kett; 2) **Akela**, R/P 78, Bill Turpin; 3) **Ocelot**, Custom Fox 44, Kevin Flanigan. (13 boats)

PHRO1 — 1) **Heartbeat**, Wylie 46, Lou

PETER LYONS/www.lyonsimaging.com

Piambanco; 2) **Timber Wolf**, Farr 38, David Hodges; 3) **Made Easy**, Beneteau 42, Jim Peterson. (10 boats)

PHRO2 — 1) **Evening Star**, Cal 40, Walter Smith; 2) **No Ka Oi**, Gibsea 42, Phil Mumma; 3) **Galaxsea**, Nauticat 43, Daniel Willey. (5 boats)

MORA — 1) **Always Friday**, Antrim 27, John

**Shepard Kett's 'Octavia' heads out the Gate on the way to an overall win in the Windjammers.**

Liebenberg; 2) **Saffron**, SC 27, Charlie Abraham; 3) **Patience**, SC 27, Christopher Luhn. (4 boats)

CLASS B (MOTOR ALLOWED) — 1) **Absolute** 5, Santana 35, Keith MacBeth; 2) **Pegasus**, J/35, Marc Sykes. (4 boats/2 ret.)

OVERALL — 1) **Octavia**; 2) **Akela**; 3) **Ocelot**; 4) **Roller Coaster**, SC 50, Jack Gordon; 5) **Heartbeat**; 6) **Delicate Balance**, Andrews 56, Team DB; 7) **Morpheus**, Schumacher 50, Jim Gregory; 8) **Ragtime**, Spencer 65, Chris Welsh; 9) **Twisted**, Farr 40, Tony Pohl/Mike DeVries; 10) **Timber Wolf**. (37 boats)

Complete results at: [www.windjammersrace.org](http://www.windjammersrace.org)

#### **SAP 505 Worlds**

With fluid boathandling and blinding all-around boatspeed, Newport Beach's Mike Martin and Jeff Nelson won the 2009 SAP 505 World Championship with a dominant performance on the Berkeley Circle August 23-29.

Hosted by the St. Francis YC, the regatta came to the Bay for the first time since 1981.

A 46-second victory in the final race meant that, over the nine-race, two-throwout series, the Martin and Nelson counted only one finish that wasn't a bullet against the 97 other boats in the fleet — a second. Cashing in their throwouts on a mast broken in the Circle mud, and a tough race in the fluky, light air conditions that descended over the Bay during the middle of the regatta, the duo shrugged off the bad breaks and came up big in the clutch to hold off Santa Cruz' hard-charging Mike Holt and Carl Smit.

From the word "go" it was really a two-boat regatta between Martin/Nelson and Holt/Smit, and both teams quickly distanced themselves from the pack, which included Aussie Chris Nicholson — an Olympian, JJ Giltinan winner and



# THE RACING

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**A taste of the '09 SAP 505 Worlds:** clockwise from top left — reaching legs and bright kites, favorites of sailing photographers everywhere, are still an essential part of the 505 class; a perfect illustration of why the 505 crew is said to "drive the boat"; in gate start, everyone ducks the "pathfinder" instead of using a normal line, the result is that there's rarely a general recall; this was a common scene throughout the week; Jeff Nelson, left, and Mike Martin; you can see why the 505 is a favorite class of cordage manufacturers; Martin and Nelson bomb downwind; these guys weren't special, and estimated 45 rigs came down during the course of the week; Michael and Mark Lazzaro's boat, the oldest in the fleet, was later recovered.

Volvo Ocean Race veteran — and American Olympians Nick Adamson and Steve Bourdow.

"There was a bit of nervousness at the start," Martin said afterward. "But in the end . . . ."

In the end, after the breeze had built from 12 knots to past 20 in the 3 1/2-lap,

hour-and-a-half-long race, Martin and Nelson were in their element, seemingly invincible, as they notched their sixth bullet — with a 10-year-old spare rig.

Michael and Mark Lazzaro's difficult week — they finished only three races, which was more than three other teams and equal to quite a few others — ended

when their number 5281, the oldest boat in the fleet, sank in 10 feet of water near the leeward gate. They were rescued from the 62-degree water and the boat was later recovered.

Back at the Crissy Field boat yard after the six-mile upwind sail from the race course, Martin and Nelson were

# SHEET



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greeted with enthusiastic laughs, smiles and hugs by their sailing buddy, Howie Hamlin of Long Beach, and Paul Cayard, Hamlin's substitute crew for the week, who wound up seventh overall.

Martin was Hamlin's crew when they won the 505 Worlds 10 years ago, and Hamlin noted, "Nobody has ever won the 505 Worlds as a crew and then as a skipper. It's well-deserved. He's worked for it a long time. He loves breeze. He always has."

Cayard said that, at 50, "it was a lot

of fun" handling spinnakers and hanging out on a trapeze in his boyhood waters, returning to his roots from a long career of sailing America's Cups, Whitbread/Volvo round-the-world races and other big boat ventures.

"I woke up this morning and realized I wouldn't be waking up again to go sailing in a 505," Cayard said, wistfully. "Small boat sailing is what I gave up doing to do what I do 99% of the time now."

Holt/Smit dogged Martin/Nelson into the Gate "rabbit" starting sequence that

developed into an odd sort of match race. Butl Martin broke free while running the line on port tack against the starboard tack fleet waiting to cross behind the Gate boat following the rabbit, who was Findel/Tellen.

"We were able to get away just enough to tack to starboard," Martin said. "When we tacked, we were perfectly lined up with a good clear lane, and we were off."

"We knew it was going to be tough today," Smit said. "We needed them

# THE RACING

to make a mistake. They didn't make any."

"We gave it a shot but he was faster," Holt added. "We tried to go for him at the start . . . did everything in our power."

With everything from a VIP mini-megayacht for paying spectators, as many as two helicopters flying overhead, and sponsorship from software company SAP — whose founder, Hasso Plattner, has probably spent more time sailing his 505 than his MaxZ86 *Morning Glory* in the last couple years — the atmosphere at the '09 SAP 505 Worlds was anything but that of your typical dinghy regatta.

With an estimated 45 rigs broken in the three days of truly testing conditions on the Circle, plus more than a handful of rudders — particularly those with tapered blades — that broke due to the forces they were subjected to, it wasn't even a typical 505 Worlds. Not only were the conditions trying — at times the breeze easily scratched 30-plus knots — but after sailing a pair of races for a total of nearly four hours, the fleet had to sail what was effectively a triple-weather leg just to get back to the launching area at Crissy Field.

## 2009 SAP 505 WORLDS (8/23-29)

PHRO1A — 1) Mike Martin/Jeff Nelson, USA 8 points; 2) Mike Holt/Carl Smit, USA, 16; 3) Chris Nicholson/Casey Smith, AUS, 26; 4) Jens Findel/Johannes Tellen, GER, 36; 5) Dalton Bergen/Fritz Lanzinger, USA 38; 6) Nick Adamson/Steve Bourdow, USA, 38; 7) Howie Hamlin/Ian Mitchell/Paul Cayard, USA, 44; 8) Tyler Moore/Geoff Ewenson, USA, 63; 9) Ryan Cox/Stuart Park, USA, 63; 10) Ian Pinnell/Carl Gibbon, GBR, 66. (98 boats)

*The South Beach and Benicia YC's 100-plus boat Jazz Cup was pleasant and reachy.*

Complete results at: [www.sfyyc.org](http://www.sfyyc.org)

## Jazz Cup

The South Beach and Benicia YC's Jazz Cup drew over 100 boats for the downwinder between the two clubs September 5. Using the 20-knot breeze and 1.5-knot flood to its advantage, Roger Barnett's ProSail 40 *Tuki* took the overall honors in the 27-miler — finishing in just over two hours and correcting out over Ross Stein's F-24 *Origami* by almost 5.5 minutes.

The first monohull on corrected time was Tim Russell's *Wylie Wabbit Weckless*, which corrected to third overall. Six erstwhile finishers were DSQ'd for not rounding a new mark near the finish, "Bales."

The Jazz Cup itself, which can only be won by a member of either host club went to Simon James' Ranger 26 *Star Ranger*.

## JAZZ CUP (9/05)

NON-SPIN — 1) **Krissy**, Ericson 35-3, Allen Cooper; 2) **Flight Risk**, Catalina 38, Daniel Gaudy; 3) **Crazy Diamond**, Liga & Soren Hoy. (7 boats)



CATALINA 30 — 1) **Goose**, M&L Kastrop; 2) **Starkite**, Laurie Miller; 3) **Huge**, Bill Woodruff. (5 boats)

PHRF ≥ 160 — 1) **Star Ranger**, Ranger 26, Simon James/Tim n/a; 2) **Synergizer**, Ericson 28, Larry Weinhoff; 3) **Don Wan**, Santana 28, Don Kunster. (7 boats)

PHRF 130-159 — 1) **Arcadia**, Modernized Santana 27, Gordie Nash; 2) **Crews Nest**, Catalina 34, Ray Irvine; 3) **Sea Spirit**, Catalina 34, Laurence Baskin. (13 boats)

SF BAY 30 — 1) **Takeoff**, Laser 28, Joan Byrne; 2) **Gammon**, Tartan 10, Jeffrey Hutter, 11; 3) **Lazy Lightning**, Tartan 10, Tim McDonald. (5 boats)

PHRF 100-129 — 1) **Weckless**, Wylie Wabbit, Tim Russel; 2) **Mon Desir**, Jeanneau SF, Jerry Nassoiy; 3) **Bluefin**, Santana 35, Noble Griswold. (13 boats)

EXPRESS 27 — 1) **Desperado**, Mike Bruzzone; 2) **Wile E Coyote**, Dan Pruzan; 3) **Tule Fog**, Steve Carroll. (5 boats)

SPORTBOATS (PHRF ≥ 90) — 1) **Flight Risk**, T650, Ben Landon; 2) **Hoot**, Olson 30, Andrew Macfie; 3) **Boracic**, Open 5.70, Michael Gough. (3 boats)

SPORTBOATS (PHRF ≤ 89) — 1) **Jet Stream**, JS 9000, Dan Alvarez; 2) **Word**, Mumm 30, Bill Erkelens; 3) **Kika**, Flying





**The Sausalito YC-hosted Melges 32 North Americans turned out a small fleet of seven boats with competition as tight as you see here. Don Jesberg, inset, and his all-Corinthian crew — the only one at the regatta — came out on top after a hard-fought series.**

Tiger, Marc Pinckney. (9 boats)

PHRF < 99 — 1) **Yucca**, 8 Metre, Hank Easom; 2) **Bullet**, Express 37, Michael Maloney; 3) **Savoir Faire**, Beneteau First 42, Paul Osborn. (16 boats) CORSAIR 24 — 1) **Origami**, Ross Stein; 2) **Flash**, Brett Nelson, 8; 3) **Wings**, William Cook. (7 boats)

MULTIHULLS — 1) **Tuki**, Prosail 40, Roger Barnett; 2) **Lanikai**, Cruising, John Brady; 3) **Wa-hoo!**, Dolphin 460, Gary Thompson. (6 boats)

OVERALL — 1) **Tuki**; 2) **Origami**; 3) **Flash**; 4) **Weckless**; 5) **Flight Risk**; 6) **Jet Stream**; 7) **Acadia**; 7) **Word**; 8) **Star Ranger**; 9) **Lanikai**; 10) **Hoot**. (103 boats)

Complete results: [www.southbeachyc.org](http://www.southbeachyc.org)

#### **Melges 32 North Americans**

The 2009 Melges 32 North Americans was hosted by Sausalito YC September 6-8. Despite being the only boat without at least one pro aboard, *Viva* — sailed by Mill Valley's Don Jesberg and an



all-corinthian crew — ended up atop the seven-boat fleet after the eight-race, one-throwout series. Jesberg was joined by Zarko Draganic, Andrew Holdsworth, Thomas Iseler, Eric Baumhoff, Steve Marsh, Jeff Wayne and Kristin Loewenthal.

While the fleet wasn't large, it was stacked with talented, big programs like Jim Swartz's USA-007 *Q*, John Kilroy Jr.'s *Samba Pa Ti* and Stephen Pugh's *Taboo*. What the Rolex Big Boat Series — which

functioned as the class' national championship — didn't get for weather later in the week, the North Americans got in spades with breeze in the 20s, and sunshine.

#### **29er US Nationals**

Northern California sailors Max Fraser and David Liebenberg gave the 25-boat fleet that gathered at St. Francis YC September 18-20 for the 29er US Nationals a severe spanking. The duo finished the regatta with a 20-point cushion over runners-up Sterling and Hans Henken

— the top youth team — in the eight-race, one-throwout series. After dropping a sixth, Fraser and Liebenberg counted all bullets and a fourth, and were one of only six boats in the 25-team field to not take at least one letter score.

The source of all those letter scores was breeze that scratched the mid-20s with a ripping ebb that turned the Cityfront into a field of moguls. The top women's team honors went to Julia Paxton and Nina Malingri who finished fifth, just three points behind third place JP Barnes and the American 49er crew from Qingdao, Chris Rast — themselves only a point ahead of Northern Californians Finn and Alek Nilsen.

#### **Leukemia Cup**

The 2009 Leukemia Cup hosted by the San Francisco YC produced a lot more than winners in the 10 one-design and six handicap divisions. We're happy to report that, as we went to press, the regatta's fundraising figures were up to \$650,000 in only its fourth year — matching last year's record haul thanks in part to an anonymous \$250,000 donation.

There was a keynote address the night of September 19 by the country's former V.P. Al Gore, that we heard was very upbeat. Over 100 boats showed for the big boat classes, with the one-design racing run on Saturday by St. Francis YC and the handicap racing by San Francisco YC on Sunday. Seventy-two Optimists also came out for two days, hosted by SFYC,



**Max Fraser and David Liebenberg took the 25-boat fleet at the 29er US Nationals to school — scoring all bullets and a sixth to take the title by 20 points.**

which also counted as the class's Pacific Coast Championships.

Because the regatta happened late in our editorial cycle, we were unable to do

# THE RACING

a comprehensive report in this month's issue. Look in the November issue for more on this fantastic event, the people who make it happen and the people who support it. For results please see [www.sfyc.org](http://www.sfyc.org).

## J/24 Western Regionals

The 2009 J/24 Western Regional Championship — a feeder event for the J/24 Nationals the following weekend — was hosted by the exceptionally hospitable Berkeley YC on September 19-20. A practice race on Friday evening allowed visiting teams to orient themselves to local conditions before the racing kicked off.

Seventeen teams from across the country raced seven relatively short courses on the Circle under the support of PRO Jeff Zarwell. Conditions on Saturday started off light with just eight knots of breeze but filled in later to 16 knots. Sunday saw a similar start — just five knots for the first race — but ended with a romping 22 knots for the last race of the series.

Keith Wittemore's Seattle-based *Tundra Rose* took overall honors but the racing was as tight as one would expect in a fleet such as this. *Tundra Rose*, Ed Walker's Richmond-based *Small Flying Patio Furniture*, and Scott Milne's Seattle-based *Tremendous Slouch* all nailed bullets — 4, 2 and 1, respectively. By winning, Wittemore has qualified for the 2010 World Championship in Malmö,



*Scenes from the J/24 Western Regionals, held on the Bay September 19-20. A tune-up event for the Nationals the following weekend, the regatta was won by Seattle's Keith Whittemore.*

Sweden, next August.

## J/24 WESTERN REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP (TYC, 9/19-20, 7r/0t)

— 1) **Tundra Rose**, Keith Wittemore, Seattle, 16; 2) **WIP**, Mark Hillman, Annapolis, 23; 3) 3

**Big Dogs**, Pat Toole, Santa Barbara, 26; 4) **Small Flying Patio Furniture**, Ed Walker, Richmond, 37; 5) **TMC Racing**, Michael Whitfield, Berkeley YC, 39. (17 boats)

Complete results at [www.j24westernregionals.com](http://www.j24westernregionals.com)

## THE BOX SCORES

### BVBC MONDAY NIGHT MADNESS (nothing posted for September)

### BENICIA YC THURSDAY NIGHTS (9/10)

A FLEET — 1) **Bay Loon**, Grant Harless; 2) **Enigma**, Randall Lesley; 3) **Bluefin**, Noble Griswold. (3 boats)

B FLEET — 1) **Stolen Moments**, Deborah Lyons; 2) **Too Tuff**, Tom Hughes; 3) **Warwhoop**, Chuck Hooper. (3 boats)

C FLEET — 1) **Yippee!**, John and Johanna Wright; 2) **Alte Liebe**, Jerry Martin; 3) **Katie Bay**-b, Mike Munn. (5 boats)

CORSAIR — 1) **Gaijin**, Pete Adams; 2) **Flash**, Brett Nelson. (2 boat)

Complete results: [www.beniciayachtclub.com](http://www.beniciayachtclub.com)

### CORINTHIAN YC FRIDAY NIGHT SERIES (8/28) J/105 — 1) **Donkey Jack**, Rolf Kaiser. (1 boats)

SPINNAKER 3 — 1) **Wuda Shuda**, Soverel 26 OB, Craig Page; 2) **Can O' Whoopass**, Cal 20, Richard vonEhrenkrook; 3) **Vague Unrest**, Rhodes 19, Phil Simon. (6 boats)

NON-SPINNAKER 3 — 1) **Fantasea Islander**,

Islander 28, Kevin Reilly; 2) **Road Runner**, Ranger 23, Sherri Wilkinson. (2 boats)

NON-SPINNAKER 1 — no boats

SPINNAKER 2 — 1) **Tiburon**, SC 37, Steve Stroub. (22 boats, 1 finisher)

NON-SPINNAKER 2 — no boats

Complete results: [www.cyc.org](http://www.cyc.org)

### GOLDEN GATE YC FRIDAY NIGHT SERIES (8/28)

1) **Polperro**, Folkboat, Peter Jeal; 2) **Snavu**, Canadian Sail, Maurice Quillen; 3) **Rambler**, Cal 20, Mike Farrell. (7 boats)

Complete results: [www.ggyyc.org](http://www.ggyyc.org)

### IYC SUMMER TWILIGHT SERIES (8/28) DIVISION A (PHRF 0-150) — 1) **Twisted**, Farr 40, Mike DeVries/Tony Pohl 2) **Syzygy**, Wabbit, Simone Winer; 3) **Uno**, Wyliecat 30, Steve Wonder. (6 boats)

168 RATERS — 1) **Phantom**, J/24, John Guilloff; 2) **Bandito**, Merit 25, George Gurrola; 3) **Be-witched**, Merit 25, Laraine Salmon. (5 boats)

DIVISION D (PHRF > 150) — 1) **Dumbo**, Catalina 22, David Torrisi; 2) **Wuvulu**, Islander 30, John



### 18-ft Skiff International Regatta

While it's a tradition to dunk the regatta winners in some classes, at the eighth annual 18-ft Skiff International International Regatta hosted by St. Francis Yacht Club August 31 to September 8, the winners were the only ones who didn't get dunked.



Long Beach's Howie Hamlin and his crew Paul Allen and Matt Noble won it the hard way on the final day of the regatta, by coming from behind in the 10th final race to finish one point ahead of Australian John Winning. But mostly they did it by keeping their Harken-sponsored skiff right-side-up as everyone around them was doing tumbling acts in the toughest conditions of the five-day event.

When it's blowing a solid 20- to 25-knots with gusts to 28, sailing an 18-footer is a high-wire act in a hurricane, and capsizing is part of the game. But

Hamlin's team remained the only one of 13 that never flipped, certainly a factor in achieving his fifth win in this regatta.

Hamlin came into the day with a one-point lead, but Winning had two advantages: an edge in the event of a tie by virtue of having won more races, plus a one-point edge on the second discard that would take effect after the ninth race.

So Hamlin almost needed to win both races because Winning likely wouldn't be far behind in either. Hamlin's was the first boat on the course, checking currents as well as wind directions, and he

## THE BOX SCORES

New; 3) **Dominatrix**, Tartan 30, Heidi Schmidt. (7 boats)

NON-SPINNAKER — 1) **N/N**, Hobie 18, Mike Berndt; 2) **Svenska**, Peterson 34, Fred Minning; 3) **Fun Zone**, Santana 22. (5 boats)  
Complete results: [www.iyc.org](http://www.iyc.org)

#### MPYC SUNSET SERIES (9/16)

PHRF A — 1) **Calphurnia**, Duncan; 2) **Bustin' Loose**, Pulford. (2 boats)

PHRF B — 1) **Tickle**, Carder; 2) **Tekeela**, pulford; 3) **Morpheus**, Sirigley. (3 boats)

SHIELDS — 1) **October**, Jackson; 2) **Harriet**, Stratton; 3) **Yankee**, Furney (3 boats)  
Complete results: [www.mpyc.org](http://www.mpyc.org).

#### VALLEJO YC WEDNESDAY NIGHTS (7/14)

A FLEET — 1) **X-TA-C**, Olson 29, Sweitzer; 2) **Tutto Bene**, Beneteau 38S5, Vetter; 3) **Summer & Smoke**, Beneteau Frist 36.7, Orr (3 boats)

B FLEET — 1) **Somehwere In Time**, Schock 35, Ochs; 2) **Ay Chihuahua**, Ultimate 20, Gonzales/Mendez; 3) **Sea Wolfe**, Hunter 376, Spinetti. (4 boats)  
Complete results: [www.vyc.org](http://www.vyc.org)

#### SAUSALITO YC SUNSET SERIES (9/25)

J/105 — 1) **Streaker**, Ron Anderson; 2) **Jose Cuervo**, Sam Hock; 3) **Roxanne**, Charles James. (5 boats)

DIVISION A — 1) **Gammon**, Tartan 10, Jeff Hutter; 2) **Lynx**, Wyliecat 30, Steve Overton; J **Hawk**, J/133, Dale Flaming. (8 boats)

DIVISION C — 1) **Venture**, Jeanneau 49, Michael Chobotov; 2) **Quicksilver**, C&C 39, Carl Robinette; 3) **True North**, Baltic 42, Jeff Dunnvant; 4) **French Kiss**, Beneteau 350, Dave Borton. (10 boats)

DIVISION D — 1) **Tackful**, Santana 22, Lawler/Stershoff; 2) **Serendipity**, Cal 29, Phil Hyndman; 3) **Roeboat**, Catalina 30, Rod Decker. (7 boats)  
Complete results at: [www.syconline.org](http://www.syconline.org)

**ST. FRANCIS YC:**  
CABRINHA THURSDAY NIGHT KITEBOARDING SERIES (9/17, 9/24)

OVERALL — 1) Stefaans Viljoen, 5 points; 2) Jeff Kafka, 5; 3) Geoff Headington, 5. (52 kites)

MASTER — 1) John Gomes, 15 points; 2) Eric Geleynse, 21; 3) Marcelo Segura, 24. (11 kites)  
GRAND MASTER — 1) Bob Smith, 26 points;

Bret Herscher, 30. (6 kites)

FRIDAY NIGHT WINDSURFING SERIES (9/11)  
SEASON STANDINGS — 1) Eric Christianson, 17 points; 2) Steve Bodner, 20; 3) Al Mirel, 25; 4) David Wells, 44; 5) Chris Radkowski, 47. (13 boards)

SVENDSEN'S THURSDAY NIGHT SERIES TISC CUMULATIVE, FINAL 2009

VANGUARD 15 — 1) Jim Barkow/Katie Shuman, 269 points; 2) Andrew Watters/Maddy Eustis, 261; 3) Ken Turnbull/Rebecca Beard, 259; 4) Phillip Laby/Amy Guarnieri, 238; 5) Matthew Sessions/Avery Patton, 223. (40 boats)  
Complete results at: [www.vanguard15.org](http://www.vanguard15.org)

LASER — 1) Marc Jux, 166 points; 2) Mark Halman, 158; 3) Mike Bishop, 148; 4) Ryan Nelson, 142; 5) Steve Orosz, 127. (24 boats)  
Complete results at: [www.tilaserfleet.org](http://www.tilaserfleet.org)

# THE RACING

led by 30 seconds at the first mark near the Golden Gate Bridge, with Winning's Yandoo in third.

For awhile Hamlin appeared to be running away, but Winning was flying away from everyone else into second place, and as the fleet approached the leeward mark Hamlin's lead vanished.

"They got a puff behind us and sagged down underneath us," Hamlin said. "There was really nothing we could do."

Hamlin slipped to third and soon regained second, but all he could do was to chase Yandoo around for the next two laps, cutting a one-minute gap to 20 seconds while Winning tenaciously covered. The finishing order put the Australian ahead by a point, requiring that Hamlin not only beat Winning in the last race but put one boat between them. But at that point there weren't many boats left. Only seven started, and only three of those finished — Hamlin, Trevor Barnabas and Winning, in that order.

On shore Hamlin said, "I've got to go over and thank Trevor," which he did.

Otherwise, all he could do was sail his own race as most of the others flipped



The 18-ft skiffs sailors turned into impromptu aerialists when this wake from commercial traffic swept the race course at the 18-ft Skiff International Regatta. Kiteboarders, check. Formula boards, check. 18-ft Skiffs, check. Ragtime!, check. Wait . . . Ragtime! Chris Welsh's down-for-any-race-anywhere program took on this year's Bridge to Bridge race, and had probably the driest ride out there.

out of contention. For Winning that came when Yandoo lost it while bearing away during the set at the last windward



mark.

"We were quicker than him downhill," Winning said, "but it was probably just too fresh for us. It was a couple of sensational rides."

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RICH ROBERTS

"That's why we do it," Hamlin said. "It's always tough here . . . the ultimate in skiff sailing. You wake up in the morning stoked, like going to war."

"Like turning on a switch," Allen said.

"The fact that we went through the whole week without flipping is incredible," Noble said.

On the final downwind run before finishing upwind that was all that was on their minds. With all the competition far behind, Allen over trimmed the spinnaker to slow the boat down and maximize stability.

So how does one avoid flipping an 18-ft Skiff when it's nuking?

"Mostly hard work," Hamlin said. "Any one of us could make it flip by doing the wrong thing. I've been doing it 12 years, and these guys grew up here sailing in big breeze. They don't freak out, and we have good coordination and choreography and confidence in one another."

#### Ronstan Bridge-to-Bridge

For the second year in a row, an 18-footer won the Ronstan Bridge to Bridge race September 3. John Winning's *Yando* edged out his son Herman's *Appliances Online* by 38 seconds after sailing the 7.5 mile course that starts just outside the Golden Gate Bridge and finishes just off the west side of Yerba

Buena Island in 19m, 54s.

The race was a counter for the 18-footers' International Regatta at St. Francis YC, which wrapped the following day. So not only were the 18-footers racing the kiteboarders, windsurfers and a newcomer to the event — Chris Welsh's Spencer 65 *Ragtime*, which finished 16th overall — they were also racing each other in the midst of the 59-strong fleet of boats and boards.

It was a tough one for the kiters — only seven of the 30 starters finished. As the fleet passed Pier 39 and made the turn for the finish, they ran out of breeze. After seeing pressure in the mid-twenties at the start, by the time the sailors reached the finish, the breeze had dropped to about five knots.

#### Catalina 30 Nationals

South Beach YC hosted the Catalina 30 Nationals September 19-20, with 21 boats showing up in three divisions — seven in the spinnaker division, five in the jib and main division, and nine in the cruising division. Although the results are provisional pending protests, at

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# THE RACING

this point Jack McDermott's *Adventure* took the spinnaker division, John Ford's *Avalon* the jib and main division, and Dan Courter's *Ross' Dream* the cruising division. Over the weekend, with 21 boats in three divisions showing up — seven in the spinnaker division, five in the jib and main division, and nine in the cruising division.

"Friday's first race was a near-wash with little wind and a very strong ebb frustrating just about every boat in the competition, with most taking DNF's and motoring back to the committee hoping for better conditions in the second race of the day," said South Beach YC's Jack Ford. "The out-of-towners, girded for our storied heavy weather, came away from the first race scratching their heads, 'Just like home, except for that damn current,' said one So Cal skipper. The second race was greeted by 7- to 8-knots of wind and everyone finished in time for a great BBQ and free beer, compliments of Kame Richards of Pineapple Sails."

The flotilla of Catalinas headed for the start-finish line just off #10 near the end of Treasure Island on Saturday



*The Optimists sailed their PCCs at SFYC as part of the Leukemia Cup September 19-20.*

morning, with race two sending the fleet sailing as far to windward as #7 before turning back to #9 for some downwind rolling, then an even longer course for

race three.

"Both Saturday races were a great introduction to our out-of-town friends for Sunday's 'E-Ticket' primer in stuff like 'The Cone', 'Cityfront Frolics', 'Anita Rock' and our local favorite, the downwind flood tide 'drag race' past Alcatraz," Ford said.

"The courses varied on Sunday, but the spinnaker and main and jib divisions took the full tour from a start near number 10 through a walloping flood down to #16. Then, they were off on a real sled ride downwind to #9 near what's left of the Berkeley Pier. The final upwind leg from #9 to the finish was the usual rollercoaster through the barges and the heavy, confused chop of a new ebb banging into the old flood."

In the end, Jack McDermott's *Adventure* took the spinnaker division, John Ford's *Avalon* the jib-and-main division, and Dan Courter's *Ross' Dream* the cruising division.

## Olson 25 Nationals

San Francisco Bay dished up its usual

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blustery conditions on August 8 and 9 for the Olson 25 Nationals, in conjunction with the J/24 District Championships. On Saturday, winds were into the mid-20s, and in the high teens on Sunday, giving the five entered boats an ideal setting for close competition.

A look at the score-board makes it clear that Mark Simpson's *Shadowfax* dominated the series, but tight, boat-for-boat racing was closer than the point breakdowns would imply. In the six-race series, *Shadowfax* took bullets in all but the first race, where she scored a third behind Falk Meissen's *Sharks on Bluegrass* and Steve Smith's *Synchronicity*. "We got all our mistakes out of the way in the first race," said one crewmember.

Meissen's *Bluegrass* team had not pre-

*Catalina 30s gathered for the class' National Championships, hosted by South Beach YC.*

viously sailed in the ODCA this year, but had a great regatta, demonstrating polished crew work which earned them the second place slot by a broad margin.

#### OLSON 25 NATIONALS

1) *Shadowfax*, Mark Simpson, 8 points; 2) *Sharks on Bluegrass*, Falk Meissen, 13; 3) *Balin*, Dan Coleman, 23; *Vivace*, Frank Van Kirks, 23; *Synchronicity*, Steve Smith, 26. (5 boats)

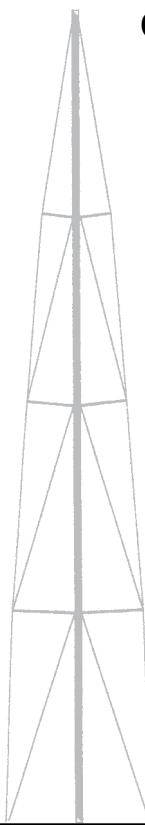


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# WORLD

With reports this month on **Hints For Overcoming the Recession Blues**, and a special report by members of the Latitude clan on **Family Cruising in the Southern Leewards**.

## Itching for a Family Get Away? Scrimp, Save and Be Creative

As we were editing the following piece — about a first-time family sailing vacation — we were reminded of the wonderful trips we took with our own kids when they were young. At the time, those ambitious excursions always seemed like hard-to-rationalize splurges. But looking back now, they gave us some of the best shared memories our family ever had.

In this economy, though, it probably seems tougher than ever to justify taking an exotic getaway, even when you know that doing so is just the therapy you and your family need for the workaday woes of modern living. Here are a few tips that might make a difference.

If money's tight, but you'd really love to get away, try using the technique that your grandparents probably employed in the days before loose credit: carefully analyze where your money goes and find ways to save a buck here and a buck there for the special things you want — like sailing vacations. Forego dinners out for a few months, bring a sack lunch to work and forbid yourself from buying any new clothes. Instead, put the money you save in the charter vacation piggy bank. If you're in the habit if grabbing a latte on your way to work, do the math and you'll see that you could save enough in six month for airfare to

*Our kids and their cousins still talk about our 'all-guy' cruise we took — a dozen years ago — exploring Desolation Sound.*

Belize, Mexico or British Columbia, just by dusting off your Mr. Coffee machine and brewing your own cup of java.

For travelers on a budget, the next logical step is to pick a charter destina-



tion closer to home, such as those mentioned above. And, of course, consider chartering during the low or 'shoulder' seasons when rates are substantially lower.

You might also take a tip from some Europeans we've encountered, who packed their boat to max capacity with bodies in every berth, including the salon. You won't have a lot of privacy, but if it makes the trip doable, who cares?

If you're a capable skipper with ample bareboating experience, you might take a cue from a couple we know. They often recruit friends who are eager to learn about sailing, but are too inexperienced to rent a boat on their own. Everybody shares food expenses, but the skipper and his wife pay a lesser share of the charter rental fee because they're taking all the responsibility for the boat and planning the trip. The arrangement is always explained up front and no one ever has a problem with it.

Another family we know sat down with their kids and made an agreement that instead of buying mountains of Christmas gifts, they'd spend their money on a holiday sailing trip in the tropics.

In these challenging times you often have to think outside the box to turn vacation dreams into reality, but where there's a will, there's a way.

— *latitude/andy*

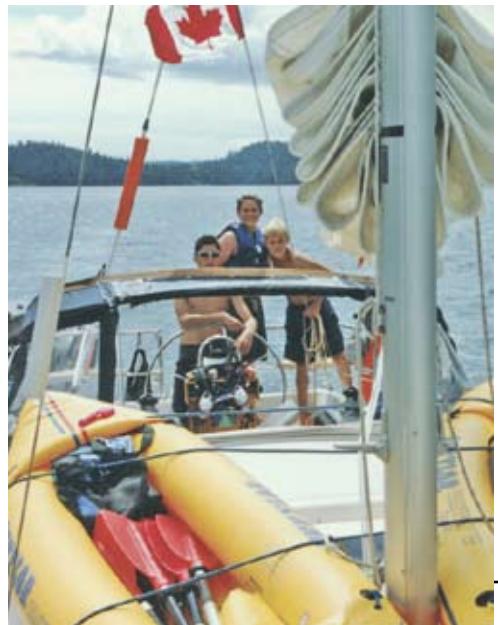


PATRICK SOMERS

## A Much-Anticipated Cruise to the Southern Windwards

I have been flirting with the idea of doing a bareboat charter in warm, tropical waters for many years. I've called bareboat yacht brokers the way some people call chat lines. I've promised my daughters that their patience with me and cold water sailing in the San Francisco Bay would someday be rewarded with warm, sublime, turquoise waters — somewhere. And I've convinced our good friends from Bozeman, Montana — Scott, Lori and their daughter Scout — that their money would be well-spent if they joined us.

We finally decided on an ambitious 250-mile, 10-island itinerary in the Caribbean's Windward Antilles that included St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Once we locked in a reser-



LATITUDE/ANDY

# OF CHARTERING



**Spread:** Living the high life in the Caribbean, and building memories that will last a lifetime.  
**Inset:** First-time snorkelers are dazzled

vation on a four-cabin catamaran from The Moorings, we were good to go.

As our vacation dates approached I found myself becoming a bit concerned. I am an experienced monohull sailor and I'd studied the Sailor's Guide and navigation charts for the area thoroughly, but I'd never sailed a catamaran. Add to that a weather forecast calling for an Atlantic Wave to dominate the period of our vacation, with high winds and rain: "Wind NNE 19 freshening 30." We might be in for vacation disaster, I remember thinking, but we were committed.

Some might say that exotic adventure vacations would be better left undone, never embarked upon in the midst of a depressed world economy, but I decided I'd rather spend my hard-earned cash than lose it in some mutual fund!

Fast forward to Marigot Bay, St. Lu-

cia. What a beautiful place to begin. A narrow and intimate inlet with turquoise water, as promised, surrounded by steep volcanic cliffs and a rainforest canopy. Crimson Flamboyant trees contrasted by the deep green of the jungle, and the requisite palms that stood sentry over a strip of white, coral-sand beach.

As the island's forefathers learned, Marigot Bay is a great place to hide an entire fleet of British warships while trying to escape detection by the French fleet. And today, it's a great place to rendezvous with old friends before setting sail on an island cruise.

At the charter base in Marigot, we all enjoyed Alex's chart and boat briefings. Our two wide-eyed daughters thrilled at the promises of wildlife that they'd likely encounter such as porpoise, sea turtles and possibly humpback whales.

My first mate, Laura, and I were more attentive to the cautions of Montezuma Shoal when approaching Mustique, the "keel eaters" around Petit St. Vincent, mooring fees, customs issues and the current feud between two restaurateurs on the island of Mayreau.

Despite a dismal forecast, we had a beautiful morning on Day One, and an auspicious beginning to our cruise. Plus, it was Father's Day. We set off on a short, 12-mile beam reach to Jalousie Bay, which lies beneath Gros and Petit Piton. Both are tooth-shaped, vertical volcanic spires that cast long shadows over the deep azure water of the bay. Thanks to the economic slowdown, we had the place to ourselves.

Before going ashore, we were greeted by two green sea turtles which delighted the girls — none of whom had traveled to the tropics before.

Staff from the Jalousie Bay Plantation Hotel met us at their dinghy dock and treated us as if we were honored guests at their fabulous resort, offering dinghy security, a fine restaurant on the beach, and implied use of their pool and volleyball court, plus a courtesy shuttle up the hill to begin our ascent of Petit Piton.

That ambitious climb was definitely a memorable experience. As my daughter Madeline later wrote, "There was something magical about Petit Piton. Maybe it was the fact that it is shaped like a shark tooth, or just the fact that it was surrounded by thick, green, lush jungle."

After climbing about 2,000 feet, the trek became increasingly more challenging. As Madeline recalls, "Not long after the first rock course, a second, more dangerous climb unfolded. Even if you'd never been scared of heights before, you would be scared here. The view was beautiful but also breathtakingly scary!"

The next day was to be our biggest sailing day: 65 miles from St Lucia to Bequia in the Grenadines. With easterly trade winds of 20 to 25 knots, and seas that grew to more than 8 feet, the fabled reach across the channel was more 'close' than 'broad' and more pounding

# WORLD

than exhilarating. In fact, a few of us discovered the intended use of the heavy nylon line that stretched from post to post on the davits — the barf line!

Once in the lee of St Vincent, everything calmed down, and we could again marvel at the dramatic western coastline, picking out spots such as Wallilabou Bay where the *Pirates of the Caribbean* films were shot.

Admiralty Bay, on Bequia, was the welcome anchorage at the end of that long sail. It had been a challenging trip, but the rough spots were all but forgotten after a refreshing swim, cocktails with dinner and a beautiful sunset.

We all enjoyed exploring ashore, but Sumner, aka Scout, had a particularly memorable experience. She later wrote:

"The day we arrived at Bequia, I knew that this was the island for me. From our cat I could see white sand beaches, colorful buildings and small clothing stalls with wild swirls of sarongs and batiks fluttering in the wind. I was instantly in love with this island that was so apparently full of vibrant, slightly chaotic culture that was so unlike anything I had ever experienced."

"Once ashore, I soon found myself wandering into an open-air vegetable and fruit market that was full of people wearing beanies, with smiles that spread from ear to ear. A large man began telling me why I should buy his fruit. 'Do you see my teeth? Do you know how I keep dem so nice and white?' He smiled, showing off a row of pearly whites. 'My teeth are clean because I eat de fruit, all de time I eat de fruit.' Then to my sur-

**The vibrant colors of nature in the tropics capture the imaginations of local residents, who often paint their shops in bright pastel hues.**

ALL PHOTOS PATRICK SOMERS & LAURA FORBES



prise, he popped a giant piece of juicy mango into my mouth. This happened repeatedly with other fruit vendors throughout the market until I had met everyone and knew them by name.

"Unfortunately, my name is uncommon and was hard for them to pronounce, so they all decided to call me Queenie. I have to admit, I do like that name."

With customs and immigration, plus last-minute provisioning attended to in Bequia, we felt ready for the next adventure.

Leaving Admiralty Bay toward West Cay, we took our time and sailed as close to shore as possible as the intriguing Moonhole architectural experiment is tucked in behind this isthmus. Windowless housing structures protruding out of the rock or using the rock as structure, it's not for everybody, but very cool nonetheless.

Rounding that point and taking a heading to the southeast, you can begin to see the archipelago of islands that

**"We be havin' some fun now!" Cat chartering in the southern Caribbean. Is there really anything not to like about it? Inset: A new friend.**

make up the bounty of the Grenadines. Chris Doyle's *Sailor's Guide to the Windward Islands*, respectfully known as 'the bible', cautions one to take some time to make correct IDs of rocks and islands, as depth perception may be impaired, and incorrectly naming an island could obviously lead to trouble.

Winds were up to 20+ knots with relatively big seas as we set an easterly course for Mustique. There again, we had our pick of mooring balls as we settled into Britannia Bay. It felt very good to be there. I think we all shared a long moment of simple contentment.

Harbor patrollers Slick and Chrissy went out of their way to show off their new Harbor Patrol Zodiac and make us feel welcome. Neither trying to sell anything nor gather a tip, they kept returning to our vessel, *Southern Blue*. It wasn't hard to see that they were clearly enchanted by 'the babes' aboard our



# OF CHARTERING

boat — our wives, who, although twenty years their senior, still have curves in the right places and abundant beauty.

What I love about sail-

of it. I will spare you the who's who of seasonal palace owners there, but in a way it doesn't matter. What matters is how well it appears to function. The Mustique Corporation uses a business model to run the island as if it were a



ing vacations is simply this, control. Control of your food supply, control of your gear (having to unpack just one time), control of your transportation mode, sleeping arrangements (an ocean-view room every night), and to some degree, control of your security. The water is

your castle moat. Plus, of course, the freedom of choice — just pick a heading and go. I love that.

It is also about turning back the clock. Schedules that quickly become ruled by the rising and setting sun. Teaching your kids and reminding yourself about limited resources such as water, food, petrol and, of course, beer. Sharing a small space, boat safety, navigation and seamanship. Best of all, though — and the antidote to our fast-paced home life — is the simplicity. There are few decisions to be made. You might say it's akin to the Club Med recipe, but different because each day's plan is prescribed by us, for us.

The mystique of Mustique: (I'm sure I'm the first to come up with that catchy phrase.) At some point in our pickup-truck tour of the island, Scott christened Mustique "perfectville." Distinct from all the West Indies that I have come to know, this place has got it together! It's pristine, yet charming; well ordered and still relaxed. The thread, of course, is money and lots

country. The BOD as parliament, CEO as king, CFO as the minister of the treasury, and, of course, all the lords, ladies and landed gentry have seats on the Board. I get it, corporations actually are the new monarchy. The Corporation, however, is allegedly merciless when it comes to misbehavior of a misdemeanor variety or worse. You will be thrown off the island and not welcomed back.

On a recommendation, we dined the first night at Firefly, then enjoyed a dark and windy walk home, getting lost enough that the jungle around us grew ominously in my 11-year-old's mind. The threatening shadows and the jungle noises contrasted with the fact that only 10 minutes ago she had been seated in an elegant restaurant.

More in line with our budget and quite enjoyable, with an equally dramatic top-of-the-hill view, was Lucy's barbecue, where we ate the next day. It also offered outdoor patio dancing.

We sailed off the mooring at Mustique by simply raising the main while still tied to the mooring, after everything had been made ready to get underway.

A quick note to

all you catamaran virgins: If you're a cat-curious monohuller (like I was) who is considering stepping over to the 'dark side' via a bareboat charter, I can tell you that although we had our challenges, we found the cat easier to handle than a similar-sized monohull, especially when motoring, due to the cat's twin screws. By jockeying the throttles, you can hover in place, despite the wind, while your crew fusses about trying to pick up a mooring ball or set an anchor. With one engine in reverse and one in forward, you can spin on a dime.

Cats are also much more stable platforms, of course. I found it to be not only easier to handle, but also more comfortable. The kids loved the trampoline, and somehow we got used to their being out there in 8-foot seas and 23 knots of wind.

Cats are vastly superior if you plan to transport gear, scuba or otherwise. That said, the sailing is not as sexy or as much fun. And, in my humble opinion, most cats are not as beautiful to view at anchor or when underway.

Horseshoe Reef and the Tobago Cays National Park beckoned us, but we first made a stop at The Moorings' facility in Canouan for room service (a change of linens and refill of our water tanks). This was quite a convenience.

The plan was to push just a little south to Petit St Vincent and Petit Martinique, then lolligag northward with, theoretically, a better sense of where to spend time. In this part of the Grenadines interisland distances are short, and inviting anchorages are plentiful. Our plan served us well.

Our one regret was being blown out of the Tobago Cays. On the southbound leg

*For newcomers to these latitudes, the cultural exchanges while shopping were part of the fun.*



# WORLD OF CHARTERING

we arrived in the evening, again enjoying the option of many different moorings. We found our spot, moored up in the midst of frothy skies and seas and made plans for a thorough diving investigation of Horseshoe Reef the following day. Unfortunately, it blew hard all night with no sign of abating in the morning. So we retreated, and found wind protection at Salt Whistle Bay on Mayreau, another lovely Island and anchorage. That was it, though, for us and the Cays, as conditions were about the same three days later on the northbound leg.

During our exploration of the Grenadines we had many more adventures, including an ascent of Gros Piton before returning our vessel to the charter base.

Our voyage was topped off by a return to Jalousie Bay Plantation Hotel to luxuriate and celebrate our time together, this time as a mere landlubbers.

Oddly, I was envious of the sailboats at anchor in Jalousie Bay as I eyed them from the resort beach. They were probably just beginning their bareboat voyage — or perhaps were in the second year of



PATRICK SOMERS

*"Pirates ye be warned!" For the 'Southern Blue' crew, it was a thrill to sail in waters where actual pirates once had roamed.*

a circumnavigation. Having just sampled a bit of short-term cruising myself, that thought gave me something to dream about for future adventuring.

— patrick somers

## Ten Things Not to Miss — From a Kid's Perspective

- Definitely, the snorkeling: it's amazing
- Jump off the boat doing cool tricks: good photos
- Collect lots of shells: very pretty
- Pick coconuts. It's a lot of fun climbing up the trees: great views
- Try to crack open a coconut by yourself: bragging rights
- Buy Caribbean clothes: cool duds
- Play charades every night: you'll go to bed with happy, fun thoughts
- Learn how to 'drive' the dinghy: a whole lot of fun
- Skinny dip at night: great fun
- Don't fight with siblings because you will be embarrassed later and also get into a bad mood: always be happy in the Caribbean
- One for good luck: Have a flabbergasting adventure!

— natalie somers

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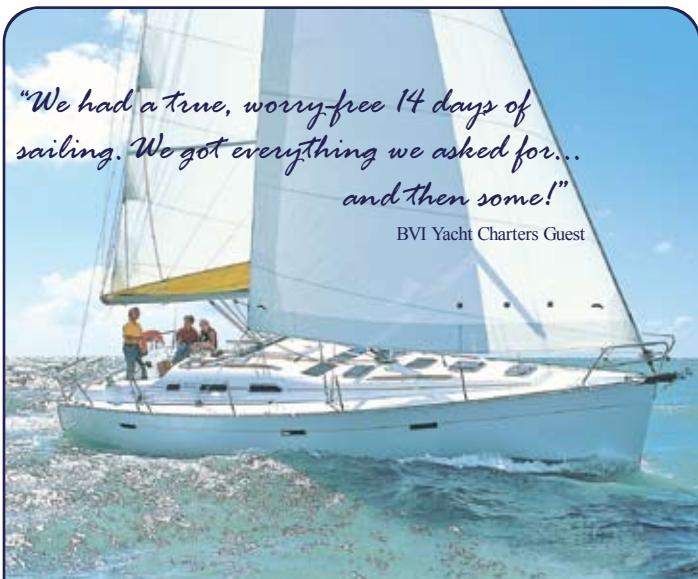
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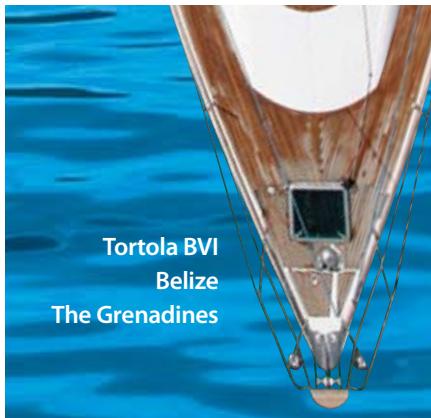
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# CHANGES

With reports this month from the traditional Polynesian cat **Manu Rere** at Makemo in the Tuamotus; a long report from **Geja** on cruising Italy, Slovenia and Croatia; a long report from **Toucan Tango** on buying a cat in Malaysia and cruising to the Med via India; from the **Blue Water Cruising Club** luau at Catalina; and a full helping of **Cruise Notes**.

## Manu Rere — 38-ft Catamaran

**Glenn Tieman**

**Makemo Atoll, Tuamotus  
(Oxnard)**

I stayed at Makemo Atoll in the Tuamotus for five weeks. In retrospect, it was preferable to spend the month-long Bastille Day celebrations there than

at the more crowded and more expensive Papeete, the capital of French Polynesia. At Makemo there were sporting contests during the day, and competition between two traditional *heiwa* dance groups at night. Each group made their own music. Their instruments were mostly a variety of elaborate drums and hollowed ringing logs. I really enjoyed it. The famously sexy Tahitian dancers were, of course, also a pleasure to see. Even their costumes were beautiful. When the celebrations wound down and I prepared to depart, a small cut in my finger became viciously infected. It required antibiotics — free from the dispensary — and a couple more weeks to heal. My traditional Polynesian voyaging cat has no mechanical advantages, so I couldn't sail with a messed up hand.

Once I finally raised the hook, I sailed 20 miles across the lagoon to anchor near the other pass. The coral patches were so brilliantly colorful on the way over that they were easy to avoid. Since I was then away from town, I was able

**'Ontong Java' in Polynesia. If she looks like a yacht you might like to own, contact Hans at [wgowest@yahoo.com](mailto:wgowest@yahoo.com).**



**Glenn, looking shady.**

to stock up on coconuts — which are a regular part of my diet now — without having to worry about ownership issues. I then rode the ebb tide out the pass and set sail for Tahiti.

After sailing past several atolls the first day, then through a stretch of open ocean, I hove to for the night while still 25 miles short of the narrow passage between the last of the Tuamotus. The current has long been known for being strong and unpredictable in the so-called 'Dangerous Archipelago'. I would have to for most of the other nights on the passage to Tahiti as the weather was so stormy. After this, I was happy to see beautiful Tahiti come into sight, and to anchor in the quiet shelter of the headland and breakwater at the small town of Tautira.

After several pleasant days at Tautira, I sailed for Papeete, expecting it to be a pleasant and scenic daysail. Instead, I would learn firsthand about the *maramu* winds, which accelerated around the island. At first I dropped all sail to await the passage of what I took to be a squall. But when I analyzed the wind direction, it appeared to be blowing me toward the nearby shoals. So I hoisted a storm sail — which laces on the main mast — for the first time ever. Powered by this tiny sail, I made my way behind Venus Point, off Papeete, and into the lee of the island the next day. I was glad to drop the anchor again.

The way I see it, Papeete is for buying things you can't find elsewhere in French Polynesia. It serves that function well. Every day for a week, I hiked into town to discover where things were and to buy food, propane, boat parts and finally a French language textbook. I also did

take time to visit some beaches on the way.

My sail from Tahiti to nearby Moorea was also stormy, with the wind coming in too strong after a long morning calm. It reminded me of Hawaii. While at Moorea, I met Hans Klaar on his one-of-a-kind 73-ft traditional voyaging double canoe *Ontong Java*. Hans was one of the first Westerners to use crab claw sails — such as I have



ALL PHOTOS BY ANDREW VIK

on *Manu Rere*. He used them on his Wharram catamaran and is using them on his current boat — which is probably the only yacht more radically stone age than mine. Although Hans does use a 5-hp outboard engine on his cat, she was built on Polynesian lines from big planks cut from two trees in West Africa. The gaps between the planks are sealed with strips of rubber tacked over the planks.

There are some people on Moorea who appreciate Polynesian vessels such as my *Manu Rere*, and they kept me entertained with dives, tours and meals. When I later returned to Papeete, I got an email from Hans saying he was at Moorea, had one too many girls aboard, and hoped I could take one. The women were beauties, too. Unfortunately, I'd already cleared out of the country, so I was moving on to Huahine and Bora Bora, my last stops in French Polynesia. Despite its drawbacks, Bora Bora looks like the Matterhorn jutting out of the sea and mist. While in Bora Bora, I again crossed



# IN LATITUDES



**Great times in the Med. Spread; beautiful Ist, Croatia. Top, left to right. Andrew near a bridge at one of the smaller canals in Venice. A strange ultra-modern, Russian-owned motoryacht, said to have cost about \$300 million. Croatian girls just wanna have fun. And lovely but quiet Piran, Slovenia.**

paths with *Ontong Java*. I've already met up with the crews of several other Wharram traditional catamarans.

From Bora Bora, I have a 1,500-mile passage to Wallis Island and possibly Samoa. Then I'll sail north through Tuvalu before the start of the South Pacific tropical cyclone season.

—glenn 09/01/09

## Geja — Islander 36

**Andrew Vik**

### **Another Summer In The Med (San Francisco)**

I can't believe that my second summer of Mediterranean cruising aboard *Geja*, the '76 Islander 36 that I first learned about in a September '06 *'Lectronic Latitude*, has come to an end. I covered some 1,500 amazing miles in the Adriatic Sea, visiting Italy, Slovenia and Croatia.

As of my last update in the August issue, I'd reached Venice, far north

in the Adriatic. I splurged and stayed six nights in the Sant'Elena Marina, a scenic 30-minute walk from St. Mark's Square. The highlight of my first ever trip to Venice was zipping through the myriad of canals, both large and small, on *Geja*'s nine-foot Zodiac tender. I even made several passes under the famous Rio Alto Bridge in the Grand Canal. The first day wasn't so smooth, however, as crewmember Lars and I managed to get busted for entering a forbidden military zone, and collided with a gondola full of tourists. Who knew that one must pass a gondola starboard-to-starboard instead of the normal port to port? By day two, however, we were navigating harmoniously with the gondolas, sometimes becoming stuck in huge gondola traffic jams to the sound of accordion music and singing gondoliers.

Before leaving the Venice La-

goon, we spent a night tied outside Trattoria da Lazarini in the town of Burano. This town is the colorful little cousin of Venice, where the beautifully painted buildings are reminiscent of Mexico's most colorful villages. At sunset we experienced the wild-est hailstorm that this San Franciscan has ever seen. One-inch diameter hail pelted *Geja* for 20 minutes, with thunder and lightning crackling just overhead. By the time I had set out the cocktail glasses to harvest the ice, the hailstorm ended. Mariners definitely must keep an eye on the weather when cruising the Med — even in the middle of summer.

Leaving through one of three exits from the Venice Lagoon, we observed the massive and controversial construction project intended to seal the lagoon from the Adriatic Sea. Unlike the rest of the relatively tide-less Med, the northern Adriatic has a tidal range of three feet, and it can be reinforced by strong southerly surges in the winter. Venice itself now floods more often than

**Despite some language barriers, Andrew made many friends, including lovely Tamara, the second runner up in Austria's 'Next Top Model'.**



# CHANGES

ever. Many yacht harbors in the region already have built their own flood control gates to deal with the surge.

Italy's nearest coastal neighbor to the east is Slovenia, the only E.U. member



**From Ibiza, Spain, to Zrce, Croatia, Med**

**girls love to party.**

member from the former country of Yugoslavia. The highlight of its 20-mile coastline is the wonderful harbor town of Piran, where the architecture and winding streets reminded me that this entire region was under Venetian rule for hundreds of years. But Piran is a quiet town with little nightlife, and

even the neighboring party town of Portoroz had little to offer at the height of peak season. When young Slovenians want serious summer fun, they head south to Croatia, which was the next and final country of my journey for the summer.

Croatia is not part of the European Union, and the check-in procedure, though not horribly inefficient, still requires stops at multiple agencies and purchase of a 200-euro cruising permit that's good for a year. (The Italians, on the other hand, couldn't be bothered that a U.S.-flagged boat entered their waters from a non-E.U. country). Once checked in, we had great sailing down the Istria Peninsula, stopping in Porec and Rovinj before reaching Pula, site of an amazing First Century Roman coliseum. It's said to be the best preserved Roman coliseum in the world. Boats may anchor just in front of the coliseum, providing a back-drop possible only in the Med.

Nordic friends Henriikka and Johanna joined me in Pula, and we continued

**The spectacular view of Hvar, Croatia, from the castle above the town. The eastern Adriatic couldn't be more different from the western.**

to have great sailing among the islands of Croatia's Kvarner Gulf. The gulf is known for its tricky weather and sudden storms. In fact, it's where you find Senj Bora, which is the Croatian version of The Slot on San Francisco Bay. The waters between the islands of Rab and Krk are subject to offshore winds that tend to funnel strongly from the mainland town of Senj at the northern end of the Velebit mountain range. These winds have completely stripped the nearby islands of vegetation, and in winter often blow in excess of hurricane force. For us, the wind gradually built to about 30 knots, with stronger gusts. It was a wild but safe beam reach, particularly after Henriikka climbed on top of the house and reefed the main.

As nice as an all-female crew can be, we split up for the next two weeks. I left the girls at Riviera-like Opatija, which is a posh resort town that was developed in the 19th century for Austrian aristocrats. As for myself, I was joined by wingmen Ville and Sven. We sailed south to the island of Pag in the notorious Santa-Ana-like *bora* winds. We made several great stops on the way, and even transited a centuries-old canal, the 20-foot wide Osor Canal. It was dug by Liburnian tribes prior to the Roman settlement! But our two weeks revolved around the island of Pag and Zrce, its 24-hour party beach. It's Croatia's answer to Ibiza.

When we got to Zrce, we couldn't believe our eyes, as there were thousands of young people filling several open-air nightclubs on the beach. Papaya, one of them, attracts top DJ's from around the world. The parties at the clubs start in the afternoon, with beach-clad hotties dancing and splashing in the pools while sipping supersized cocktails from one-liter carafes. Come sunset, everybody heads home to eat and rest, returning again at 1 a.m. to start to party.

As more and more Italians made their usual August migration across the Adriatic, Zrce became more a sausage fest, somehow attracting more Italian males than females. It was time for a bit of detox anyway, so with new crew Maggie and Lukas, I set sail for calmer shores. As we arrived in obscure Olib, a local port official caught our lines. He didn't just ask how long we planned to stay, but asked it in English with



a perfect New York accent! Islands like Olib and Susak have strong ties to the U.S., as folks have been migrating back and forth for more than a century. Some even have an Americanized Croatian dialect. Vacationing American families dominated tiny Olib, so it's there I heard the most English all summer.

Heading farther south among the outer Croatian islands, we visited Kornati National Park, which is a dense archipelago that's been deforested over the years by Venetians, shepherds and fire. The starkness was in great contrast to Croatia's typically forested islands, but the lack of trees and brush made for excellent hiking and vistas. With aft winds, we had a blast broad-reaching a zig-zag course, using the numerous islands as a slalom course, while chicken-jibing between the outer and inner waters.

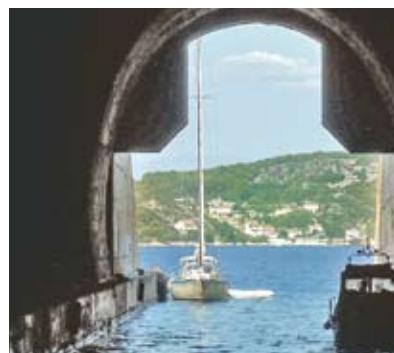
We continued south to the mainland party town of Vodice, where we caught some late-season action at high-profile clubs Hacienda and Aurora. Croatian



# IN LATITUDES



ALL PHOTOS COURTESY GEJA



*From lower left: Five gals for every Vik in the dinghy. Italian summer hail. The coliseum at Pula. Lovely crew Maggie channels Hollywood. Andrew with the girl band Eni. The falls at Krka National Park. Delicious fresh fruits and veggies. Outside a sub pen. 'Geja' tied up at the fortress at Sibenik.*

girls never ceased to impress me and my crews with their amazing good looks. The girls on the Dalmatian Coast are tall and lean, and they love to flaunt their figures with short skirts and high heels.

After an exhausting weekend at the clubs, new crewmember Alex and I took *Geja* 10 miles up the Krka River into the fresh waters of Skradin, gateway to the Krka National Park. The Krka River cascades down countless waterfalls on its way to the Adriatic. The park is a great — but crowded — place to spend a day soaking in fresh water.

My final crew of the season were Anja and Melissa of San Francisco. Ten of our friends got so jealous that they chartered a 51-ft Elan, which was a bit of a slow boat. We buddy-boated for the week through the now familiar-to-me waters near Split, and I showed them my favorites spots, such as Hvar Town and the

Blue Cave. We experienced mostly ideal early-September weather, with breezy afternoons and calm nights. The water temperature was still near 80 degrees.

In all, I spent about 80 days actively cruising during my second summer in the Med, and made 60 stops. My crew — I had 16 different people over the summer — and I spent about 34 nights at anchor, 25 in marinas (blame Italy), 11 on town quays, and 10 other nights 'creatively' moored. We sailed half of the 1,500 miles, and put another 200 hours on the engine.

Despite being 33 years old and having suffered the wear-and-tear of being sailed two-thirds of the way around the world, *Geja* performed

flawlessly. The Islander 36s are so nice to sail, as they are steady, well-behaved and have a light helm. And unlike 'modern' boats with flat bottoms, they don't pound when sailing upwind. *Geja*'s Yanmar diesel is solid, her sails are more than decent, and she has all the coastal cruising equipment one needs — such as refrigeration to keep the beer cold. *Geja* proved to be a popular boat in every port, with countless people inquiring about her San Francisco hailing port.

I'm now back in Split near *Geja*'s winter home, where I'm spending a final week anchored for free just in front of the 'Riva' of this lively student town — which happens to be on UNESCO's World Heritage list. Live bands perform for me nightly on the promenade, and there is still plenty of nightlife despite the premature end to summer weather. How can I go wrong in a town where even the local tourist brochure describes the "fine lookin' ladies" of Split as having "amazing height and ample bosom?" I'll be hauling out in a couple of days. It will be sad, but with all the recent crappy weather, the water temperature dropped from 80 to 70 in just one week.

For those who might want to cruise here, most Italians speak only Italian, while Croatians and Slovenians speak great English. It makes the Italian experience more exotic, but getting things done in Italy can be very frustrating. The main mechanic in my winter boatyard in Croatia speaks both English and German at a very technical level. The low

*'Geja' anchored at Zavratnica, Croatia. It sort of looks like the Sea of Cortez, but with twisting fjords. The water temp was 80 degrees.*



*Smashing Melissa, one of Vik's 16 crew.*

GEJA

# CHANGES

winter rates and English proficiency make Croatia a much better place to have work done — and meet girls. Although



Vik's new friend Marija at Solaris Beach.

I wouldn't accuse either of being very punctual!

What are my plans for next summer? Well, Greece is just down the road, isn't it? I hadn't planned on making a habit of these extended summer vacations in the Med, but I love the cruising over here so much! And I've yet to tire

of the cruising experience — at least as long as the weather is good. Last night's thunderstorm, while I was on the hook, was intense. This morning I had to pump six inches of water out of the dinghy. But yes, I'm certainly thinking of coming back next summer.

The thing I enjoy most about cruising is sharing the experience with my international assortment of friends and acquaintances, while exploring a continent where people truly know how to enjoy life.

— andrew 09/15/09

## Toucan Tango — Catana 47 Cat Marvin and Ruth Stark Malaysia to Turkey (Folsom)

When I was 59, my wife Ruth and I did the '97 Ha-Ha with our F-31 trimaran *Noor*. When we got to Cabo, Ruth said, "If we're going to do this again, you'd better

**A young girl from one of the hill tribes in Thailand. Doctors are mystified at why she complains of a chronic sore throat.**



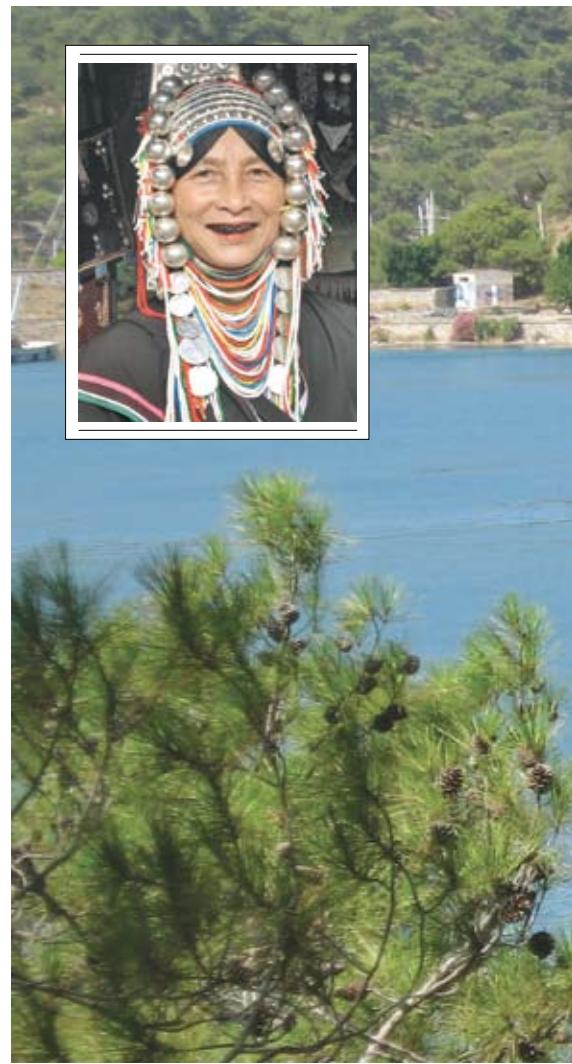
get a bigger boat." So three months later we bought a used Catana 44 in France, and christened her *Chesapeake*. During the next six years, we would sail her 25,000 miles to San Francisco Bay, where we sold her in '04. So *Latitude*, a fine magazine, is partly responsible for our laid back lifestyle. By the way, I'm glad to see that the magazine and the publisher still have the same attitude.

In '08, at age 71, with my new titanium hip, Ruth and I decided to make one more sailing trip. So last year we flew from Sacramento to the island of Langkawi, Malaysia, where we bought *Toucan Tango*, an '01 Catana 47, which is one of the best cruising catamarans made. She has a 200-liter fridge, a 100-liter freezer, a washing machine, watermaker and king-sized beds. The eight bimini-mounted 75-watt solar plates handle all the power requirements on a daily basis. We run an engine or generator only if we're on a long passage and are using lights, the autopilot and navigation equipment. With her daggerboards down, she sails really well to windward — at least for a catamaran.

We spent our first six months — meaning the summer of '08 — cruising Malaysia and Thailand. Summer is the wet season, so there was lots of rain. Squalls tested our ground tackle and anchor a couple of times with winds to 40 knots. The Northeast monsoon winds started kicking in around December, at which time the weather became drier, so we set off on the 1,500-mile passage across the Andaman Sea to India. It was great sailing, with mostly light winds and smooth seas. We even flew the spinnaker for a couple days. We had a maximum of 22 knots of wind until we rounded the tip of Sri Lanka. Based on poor reports from other cruisers, we did not stop at

Sri Lanka.

When you turn the corner at the tip of Sri Lanka to head 240 miles to the southern tip of India, you pass through the Gulf of Mannar, during which time you'd better damn well be hanging on! Most boats that passed through there encountered headwinds to 35 knots and ugly seas. We spent one day and two nights with triple-reefed everything. We could not sit at either steering station without getting a fire hose shower from every second wave. We huddled in the cockpit behind the cabin, clutching the remote control for the autopilot. *Toucan Tango* bashed, smashed, crashed, twist-



ed and torqued through the mess. But boats sure are tougher than humans. A smaller Leopard catamaran lost her entire bow tramp during the maelstrom.

When you reach the southwest tip of India, you have it made. We had smooth sailing the rest of the way into Cochin. Our clearance was handled at Willingdon Island next to the Taj Malabar Hotel, after which we were directed to anchor in the river near Bolgatty Island. Water was available at the island for a small fee by jerry can, and we could get Wifi — but at a high fee.

The Indian people were friendly, and the women wear beautiful saris. The Indians have a way of moving their head sideways back and forth when you ask a question, such that you don't know if their answer is yes or no. If you ask the tuk-tuk driver, "Do you know where Kingfisher Airline office is?", all you get is a wobbling head, no matter how many times you ask. It can mean yes or no. If you get into the wholesale district of the

# IN LATITUDES



PHOTOS COURTESY TOUCAN TANGO

**Spread;** 'Toucan Tango', the Catana 47 the Starks bought in Malaysia last year. **Inset:** An older Thai woman, Ruth and Marvin.

city, you will see men carrying sacks of produce, rice, bananas or concrete that are heavy enough to stagger an ox.

Eating out was unbelievably cheap. Ruth and I had lunch at a nice air-conditioned restaurant and the total bill came to 85 rupees — which is about \$1.70 U.S. The next day I had a 10-course lunch, all I could eat, for \$1.60 U.S. There are no Wal-Marts or super stores in this part of India, and all shops are very small and very basic. In one, for example, we found an old bicycle wheel used as a tool to make rope from coconut husks. When you buy some *paratha*, which is a delicious local flat bread, it comes wrapped in old newspaper. You can buy handmade hoes or shovels made of all steel that will last a lifetime. It jars my teeth just thinking about them!

When we were at Bolgatty Island, there were about 20 other sailboats

anchored out. They flew the flags of the UK, the U.S., Australia, South Africa, Germany, Holland, France, Canada and several other countries. Many were part of the Vasco de Gama Rally that takes the fleet from Thailand to Turkey. Most are doing an around-the-world trip.

In this part of India, it was pleasant and comfortable in the countryside, where people live in simple harmony with nature. Most have running water or wells, and even electricity and television. The name of the state is Kerala, which literally means the land of coconuts. And there are plenty of coconuts, bananas, mangoes, papayas and everything else that grows. However, Cochin harbor/river, where we anchored, is no garden spot. And Cochin itself is crowded, chaotic and dirty.

One of the main seaports of India, Cochin is

home to 600,000 people. The traffic is unbelievable, with countless buses rocketing around at full speed while spewing diesel fumes. There are lots of other vehicles, and each one has a horn. And I mean a really loud horn, a horn that is sounded incessantly. If, for example, there is a small traffic jam, everyone who is stuck in it lays on their horn until everyone starts moving. Then they go back to intermittent honking.

The three-wheeled tuk-tuks all have horns, and some are driven by absolute wild men. They drive on both sides of the road, think nothing of bouncing over the sidewalk, and won't give an inch. But you can ride across town for \$1 or less. The tuk-tuks reluctantly shared the streets with large busses, trucks, small cars, motorbikes, push carts with huge loads, and finally, pedestrians fearing for their lives. We only crossed the street where there was a divider. Even then, we'd wait and look carefully before dashing across traffic to the safety of the other side. You can usually get through a few motorbikes, and maybe a tuk-tuk or two, but don't try bluffing anything bigger. It is so dusty and dirty that we usually had to take a shower as soon as we got back to the boat.

After a month in Cochin, in February we headed another 1,500 miles west across the Indian Ocean to Salalah, Oman. The northeast tradewinds blew from the west for two days, then from the northwest at 10-15 knots for most of the

**The famous cantilever fishing nets of Cochin. The nets extend 60 feet into the river, and are counterbalanced by heavy rocks for lifting.**



SHEENA RONSON



**Morning tuk-tuk traffic was light.**

# CHANGES

rest of the trip, dying down to very little wind near Salalah. Checking into Oman is easy, and all done at the commercial port while one's boat is at anchor. There is good shopping and provisioning in Oman, although no alcohol or pork. Oman has oil, so it's neither poor nor backward. We rented a car at the port

and looked around for a few days.

The 600-mile stretch of ocean from Salalah to Aden is considered Pirate Alley, and is where Somali pirates have captured several ships and ransomed their crews and contents. The coalition forces, made up of several nations, now have 20 warships patrolling this area.

Some have helicopters. They have established a two-day, 5-mile wide transit corridor about 60 miles offshore. Ships are requested to transit this area in convoys, and to move at a speed of at least 10 knots. We cruise at six knots, so we sailed. We talked to the warships two or three times on VHF, and had two helicopter flyovers. We also had the spinnaker up the last day and were making five knots when a helicopter asked if we couldn't go any faster. At one time a ship just eight miles from our position reported being attacked by pirates. Two hours later, he reported that he had successfully repelled the pirates with high pressure fire hoses by motoring at flank speed. Repelling AK-47 rifles and rocket launchers with fire hoses?

*Sana'a, Yemen has a different look and feel from most capital cities. While there, the Starks stayed in a hotel that predates Jesus.*



TOUCAN TANGO

After arriving safe in Aden, we anchored in the bay for almost a month in order to tour inland. This was an important place to set our anchor well because it blew a lot. The highlight of the stay was a three-day trip up into the mountains to the ancient Yemen capital city of Sana'a. What a spectacular city full of friendly people! There are narrow streets with shops selling local handicrafts and clothes, and numerous restaurants and food stalls. We stayed in a 2,000-year-old hotel that had small wooden doors and uneven walls. The new Lulu's shopping mall in Aden has everything — except, once again, alcohol and pork — that you might need for provisioning, and at a fair price. We really got hooked on the delicious baklava, which is a pastry made with honey and pistachios. Everywhere we went, the people were friendly. Seeing we were Americans, many would say, "Obama OK."

We headed for the Red Sea in early March. As we rounded the straits of Bab Al Mandeb — Gate of Tears — the wind picked up to 35 knots. We triple-reefed both sails, and made a solid 10 -12 knots flying downwind. Yahoo! We had planned to anchor in a bay in southern Eritrea, but we passed it, as we were sailing so fast that we wanted to keep going. The wind slowly dropped, and so the next night we anchored in a very nice bay with warm, clear water. When transiting the Red Sea, it's easy to stop and anchor every night.

Fishing in the southern Red Sea is spectacular, and we caught fish almost at will. We landed three large fish one day, and ate fish for breakfast, lunch and dinner. But caution, you will lose all your tackle rated at less than 100 pounds. The winds in the southern Red Sea tend to blow from the south. It gets light halfway up the sea, and becomes increasingly strong from the north as

you get farther north. If you're patient and don't mind tacking, you can sail almost the entire way. We did.

We eventually cleared into Eritrea at Massawa, side-tying to the concrete wall at the commercial port. It had excellent security and water, but no power. We made a two-day bus trip up to the capital city of Asmara. You ride five hours through the desert and desolate



countryside, then eventually up a windy mountain road that takes you up to over 7,000 feet. The city of Asmara is like being transported to an Italian city, complete with sidewalk cafes and pizza restaurants that serve beer. The outdoor central market requires a least a full day to appreciate. There is great leather work and other handicrafts.

*(To be continued next month.)*

— marvin 09/15/09

## Luaau Time

### Blue Water Cruising Club Geiger Cove, Catalina

Sailing was very different 70 years ago. For example, not that many folks in Southern California had boats. And back then, a 26-footer was considered a big sailboat. What's more, it was common for boats not to have engines. Nonetheless, the intrepid sailors and their friends would cruise to Catalina and up to the Channel Islands. With the start of World War II, things took a sudden change for the worse. For in addition to the trag-

# IN LATITUDES



ALL PHOTOS LATITUDE/NICK



*Clockwise from above.* Luau chef Don Young, looking fine in his lava lava, tends to the pit. Dick Landes and Tim Weissenberger serve up the meat. Asst. chef Kris Rittenhouse, in fireproof flip-flops, works the pit. The beach scene at Geiger. Ellen Rittenhouse samples husband Kris's cooking.

edy of war itself, private boats weren't allowed outside the L.A. Breakwater. So the sailors used to hang out in L.A. Harbor and — according to one source — drink a lot.

Once the war was over, sailors couldn't wait to get back out to Catalina. So a group of them formed the Blue Water Cruising Club. Their big event of the year was a luau, which they would hold at a different cove on the island every year. By the '50s, Catalina was starting to get crowded, and groups were getting leases on the various coves. The honchos at Blue Water settled on Geiger Cove, in large part because the wind usually holds all the way into the cove, making it ideal for boats without engines. At other coves on the island, it could take two days to sail the last two miles.

There are some interesting things about the Blue Water YC. First, it's a club for sailors — although older members are

allowed to switch to powerboats. Second, unlike most coves at Catalina, there are no moorings at Geiger. Boats anchor fore and aft, and are packed together more tightly than Antigua during Sailing Week. Despite how jammed the little anchorage gets during the busiest weekends, we're told there is never a discouraging word. Not even when a foul wind comes up and everyone has to bail out of the anchorage. Third, outboard-powered dinghies are not allowed in the anchorage in order to maintain the peace and protect swimmers. As a result, most members have Avon Redcrest dinghies, as they are perfect for rowing the very short distance ashore.

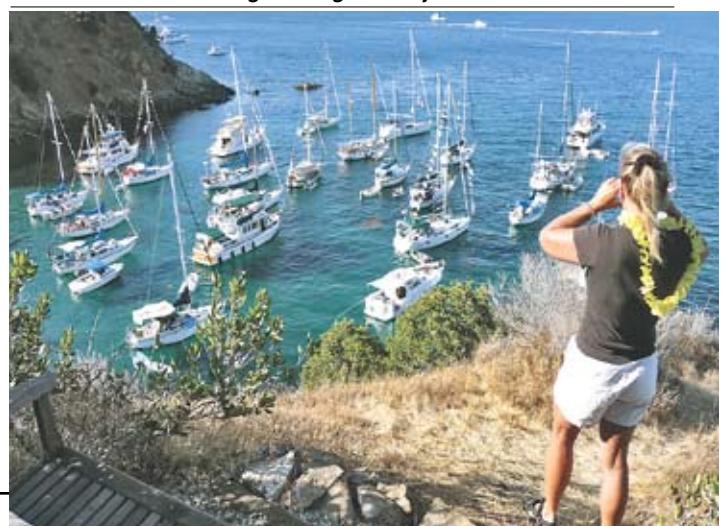
The club's facilities are ultra spartan, just the way the members like it. The 'clubhouse' is small and so basic that it doesn't even have electricity. The one luxury is a gravity fed shower. But there are some BBQ rings in the cove, a swing for the kids, trails, and some shaded tables. It's all guarded by Geiger, the ferocious dog who watches over the cove when none of the members are around.

*Oh, to be young and swinging at Geiger.*

Last month we were invited to the club's big luau, which is their swan song event of the summer. About 40 boats packed the cove so tightly you could have passed the Grey Poupon from one side of the anchorage to the other. Some 150 members and guests came ashore. In an authentic luau, you cook a whole pig in the ground. But since that takes a long time, and nobody wants to bring a dead pig across from the mainland on his/her, the Blue Water Cruising Club did a modified luau that featured big chunks of pig and beef, as well as whole tuna.

For the last 15 years, the luau 'chef' has been Don Young, who took over the duties after George Geiger passed away in the '90s. You couldn't envision a more perfect guy for the role than the tan and trim Young, who continues to live the sailing and surfing life, and who looked authentic in the lava lava he picked up during a charter trip to Tonga. Young not only did the TransPac this year aboard the Catalina 42 *Carpe Diem*, but he did

*Luau guest Zuzana Prochazka of the Celestial 48 'Indigo' surveys the tightly packed anchorage at Geiger Cove just before dinner.*



LATITUDE/NICK

# CHANGES

the delivery back, too. (He's got some advice for Catalina 42 owners — don't attach the tack of a gennaker to the anchor roller.)

Preparing for a luau is like paint-



**With motors not allowed Redcrests are popular at Geiger.** and potatoes were cooked to perfection. This was a good thing, because when you're cooking in a pit as opposed to an oven, you just can't take out the food to see if it's done, and slide it back in the oven if it's not.

Anyway, it was a great event with great people at a great cove on a Sunday of perfect Southern California weather. Just like the old days.

— latitude 09/05/09

## Cruise Notes:

It gets really hot in the Sea of Cortez in the summer, and toward the end of summer it gets both very hot and very humid. So what do cruisers do to cool off? There are a number of strategies, but Anthony Diliberti, who did the '07 Ha-Ha with his Seattle-based Ta Chou 51 **Mandalay**, explains how he does it in La Paz: "First, we chill the beer. Then we clean the dinghy and fill it with water. Finally, we get in the dinghy, pop open a cool one, and use the dinghy like a

**"Come on in, the dinghy-pool is cool!" Figuring out a way to stay cool in the summer in the Sea of Cortez is very important.**

bathtub." He didn't mention how long it takes before they need to add ice to avoid being parboiled.

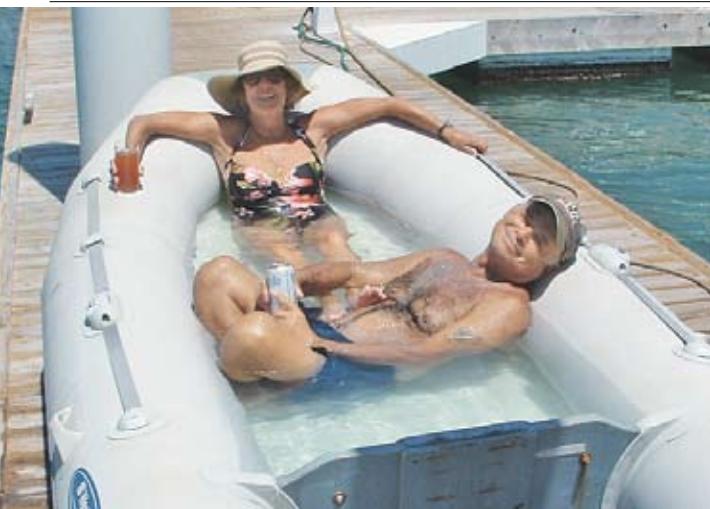
For as long as we've been editing *Changes in Latitudes* — and it's been more than three decades now — cruisers have complained about the harbor at **Pago Pago, American Samoa**. Thanks to the two fish processing plants, the harbor has always been ugly, dirty, smelly and noisy. And the officials weren't always the most helpful. Thus, some cruisers took to referring to it as the 'armpit of the Pacific'. But there are big changes underway that will hopefully improve Pago Pago's image and make it a more attractive destination for cruisers. Samoa Packing, whose 2,500 workers made it the biggest employer on the island, has shut down. In response, the Governor says he's determined to clean up the harbor — and with it, the town's tawdry image. As it's on the South Pacific Milk Run from Tahiti to New Zealand, and as it's a U.S. Territory and therefore gets U.S. Mail and goods and services, Pago Pago has a couple of things going for it. To add to that, \$2 million — of U.S. taxpayer money, of course — is being spent on a dock for cruising boats and a security fence. A private company has also been given a 10-year lease to develop the yacht basin even further. A large budget has also been allocated to developing tourism in the nearby Manu'a islands, and to refurbish the historic RainMaker Hotel. But what no amount of money can change is the fact that Pago Pago, home to only about 12,000 people, is one of the wettest inhabited spots on earth.

Pago Pago used to have an aerial tramway to the highest peak, which afforded a beautiful view of the harbor. Alas, on Flag Day in '80, a U.S. Navy plane that was part of the festivities struck the tramway cable, and then crashed into a wing of the Rainmaker Hotel. The tram still hasn't been repaired, and the now government-owned hotel is dilapidated. According to one review on the internet, "The Rainmaker Hotel is frequented by government officials on often dubious business. If you are one for novel experiences, then stay here for a few nights, as you'll likely meet some interesting characters and have a few sto-



ries for back home." Anyway, we wish the folks in Pago Pago the best of luck in making the changes. To make sure there is no confusion, American Samoa is entirely different from the **Independent State of Samoa**, which was formerly known as Western Samoa. The latter is not a territory of the United States, and by most accounts is better for not having become a welfare ward of Uncle Sam.

"Latitude is famous in windy Spanish Waters, Curacao," write Veronique Bardach and Ted Halstead of the D.C.-based Catana 50 catamaran **Verite**. "That's because you guys are the custodians for the Pacific Puddle Jump, and the PPJ is all the rage at the bi-weekly happy hour for cruisers here who will be doing the South Pacific. So we had to check out the PPJ site for ourselves. Wow, pretty damn impressive! We're going to try to participate if we can. After getting interviewed by the publisher of *Latitude* in St. Barth just before New Year's, we hit many of the other islands in the Lesser Antilles. Most recently, we had a blast in Mustique, and we loved



# IN LATITUDES



COURTESY VERITE

**Spread:** The Catana 50 'Verite' storming along beneath the Pitons off St. Lucia. **Inset:** Ted and Veronique, who hope to do the Pacific.

Martinique and the Los Roques Islands of Venezuela. But nothing compared to St. Barth. While cruising down here, we met a really cool Italian couple our age who, like us, have a Catana 50 but don't have kids. They are also kiteboarders. In fact, some years back he was the Italian water ski champion, and this year she won the European Barefoot Waterskiing Championship. We plan to cruise across the Pacific with them. Bet you guys didn't think we'd 'make it.' Heck, we were wondering ourselves."

Ted and Veronique's cruising commitment had indeed looked a little shaky there for awhile. They'd bought their expensive cat new in France last summer, and having had little cruising or even sailing experience, had assumed that there wasn't much more to it than adding fuel, water and food, and taking off on a carefree lifestyle. But they're both smart and both big lovers of ocean sports, so we were confident they'd make

it. Since the couple did start their cruise in the Med, we're going to share their thumbnail opinion of sailing in that part of the world:

"For us, the biggest draw to sailing in the Med is the diversity of cultures and the great food and entertainment. You just don't find that in the Caribbean. Sailing itself in the Med is feast or famine, however, as there is either too little or too much wind. Our one overriding complaint about the area is that it's usually so crowded in the summer. But with the world economy having been in shambles, we found most places to be largely empty when we were there."

Bruce Balan and Alene Rice report that they and their California-based Cross 45 trimaran **Migration** are about to leave Taha'a, French Polynesia, for New Zealand. It's not that they don't like French Polynesia, they just aren't interested in spending the South Pacific cyclone season in the cyclone zone — even in a seldom-hit part of the zone. You

might remember that the couple spent nearly a month at Rapa Nui, a.k.a. Easter Island, when they sailed there from the Galapagos in the spring of '08. They put together some comprehensive information about where to anchor at Rapa Nui in various wind and sea conditions, so if you're planning on sailing there, you might contact them at AE6XT@winlink.org. Keep your message short.

As *Latitude* readers know, Scott and Cindy Stolnitz of the Marina del Rey-based Switch 51 catamaran **Beach House** are accomplished and relentless scuba divers. And they've continued diving after sailing to French Polynesia. "We had a fantastic week diving with a parade of sharks in the south pass of Fakarava," writes Cindy. "The diving is so easy, and the dive master has been so busy that he's basically let us and our friends Dan and Jill dive on our own. The dive master has the boat driver drop us off at the right spot, and we get to do our own thing without getting stuck with a group. It's been terrific, for in addition to plenty of sharks, we've seen gorgeous fields of coral, every size and shape of tropical fish, and every dive has been an hour or longer. There have only been two things wrong. One time we had lunch at a local restaurant between two dives, and while we didn't starve, the food was barely edible. For example, one offering was Spam pizza and another was fish quiche. Yuck! Jill later saved the day by bringing out some Trader Joe's chocolate-covered almonds that she'd brought from the States. The other prob-

**Cindy has been messing with sharks ever since she and Scott started their cruise. These white tips sleep all day and hunt all night.**



The moai are the iconic figures of Rapa Nui.

SCOTT STOLNITZ

# CHANGES

lem has been my ear. But the other day Steven, an M.D. on the sailboat **Uliad**, was kind enough to make a 'boat call' to *Beach House* to examine my ear. After one look, he said there was no mystery why I couldn't hear well. Using an ear curette, he pulled out a bunch of wax. He also instructed me to, after coming out of the saltwater, rinse my ears with mild soapy water using an ear bulb. He recommended that I continue to use alcohol or vinegar/peroxide drops. It was weird and somewhat jarring to be able to suddenly hear clearly out of my right ear again."

Here's a 'what are the chances?' story from the South Pacific, as reported by Keith, no last name, commodore of the Niue YC in the tiny nation of Niue in the South Pacific. According to Keith, the crew of the vessel **Dosis** was anchored off Beveridge Reef — which is mostly submerged and is in the middle of the ocean — when they visited a nearby boat for "drinkies". When it was time to head back to their own boat, the crew discovered the dinghy and outboard had drifted away. After an extensive search



NELSON MONDALE

*Had the dinghy from 'Dosis' not been found by a fisherman, it would have been slammed to bits on the rugged coast of Niue.*

at first light, nothing was found and it was given up for lost. **Dosis** continued dinghy-less to Niue, stayed awhile, then left for Tonga. Miraculously, three weeks later the boat's dinghy and outboard

were discovered by a fisherman just 150 feet from going on the jagged rocks of Niue. Somehow it had drifted several hundred miles from Beveridge Reef right to Niue. And the engine still worked. That left just one problem — how to get the dinghy and motor to *Dosis* in Tonga.

Speaking of Niue, while perusing the Niue YC newsletter, we discovered that Steve and Susan Chamberlin of the Pt. Richmond-based Schumacher 46 **Surprise** haven't owned up to something they did there. When the couple stopped at Niue about a year ago, they were discouraged to see that only eight of the 30 computers at the Niue High School tech labs were working. Asking how they could help out, the senior math instructor suggested they could perhaps assist in getting some of the computers repaired, or even buy the school a new one. The Chamberlins said they'd see what they could do, then sailed away. A short time later, they offered the high school sufficient funding to replace all 30 computers with new ones! On further investigation, the folks at Niue High were



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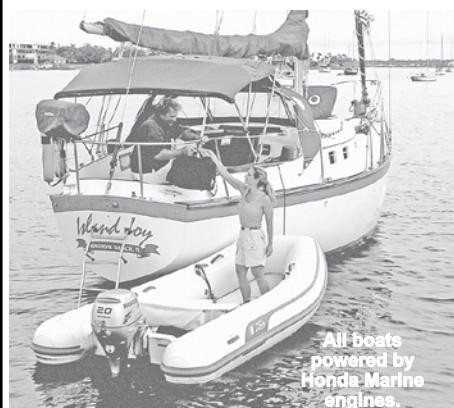
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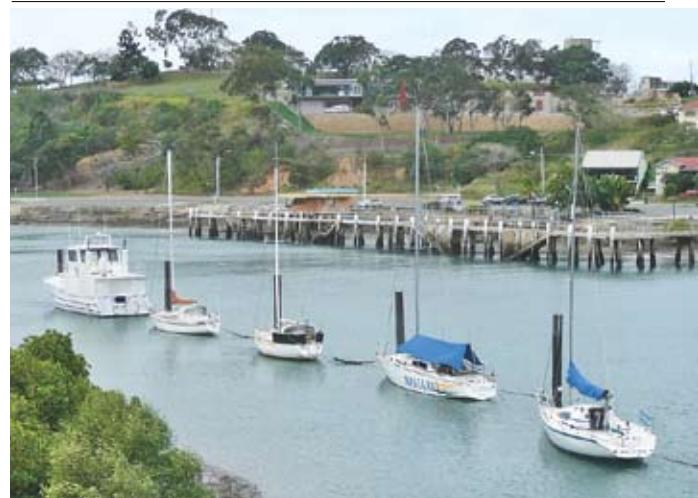
dismayed to learn that they couldn't just buy 30 computers and plug them in, they would also need a new server, software licensing, a network upgrade, additional RAM for each computer, plus technical support from New Zealand to install the whole system. More big bucks. According to the Niue YC newsletter, Steve and Susan weren't fazed at all, and happily agreed to cover those additional costs, too. While it took months to order all the stuff, the whole system was ready to go for the start of the '09 school year. Brilliant. We apologize to Steve and Susan for outing their generosity, but found it too inspiring to resist.

If you're cruising to Australia, don't expect marine items to be cheap — or even reasonably priced. For example, '08 Puddle Jumpers Bill and Judy Rouse of the Houston-based Amel Maramu 52 **Bebe** report that the oil absorbent pads that many fuel docks and marinas give away free in the States, and which you can buy in bulk here for as little as 60 cents each, sell for as much as \$14.95 each in Australia! And that the 5 and 20

micron pre-filters that they paid \$6.97 for at Budget Marine in the Eastern Caribbean, cost \$20 each in Australia. "Had we known such basic items were going to be so expensive in Oz, we would have stocked up before leaving New Zealand," they write.

Jeff Stander of the Seattle-based Kelly-Peterson 44 **Beatrix**,

currently in Bundaberg, Oz, has an explanation. "Australia is a great place with great people, but they're still stuck with the same archaic distribution system of importer/distributor/retailer/end user. It makes purchases ridiculously slow and expensive." Stander writes that marine supplies and other stuff are often 50% to even 200% more expensive in Australia than in the U.S.. But he's



**Australia has a lot of things going for it — including pile moorings in most rivers — but low prices aren't among them.**

figured out ways to work the system. For instance, using the internet and eBay, he was able to buy watermaker pre-filters for less than the Rouses paid for them in the Eastern Caribbean. He also has marine stuff sent via U.S. Priority Mail from Seattle to Bundaberg at the flat rate of \$51 for 20 pounds. It takes only five business days, and can be tracked



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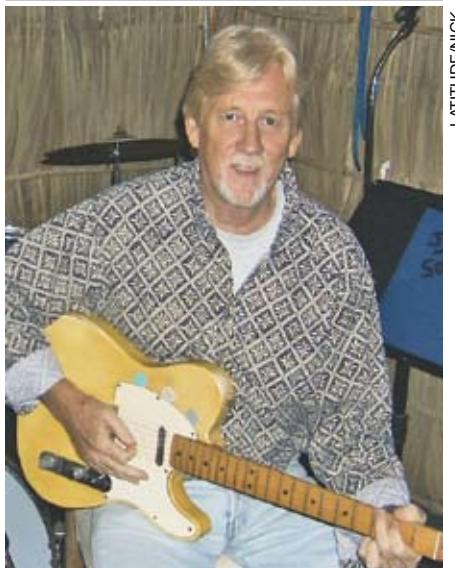
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# CHANGES

via the internet all the way into and out of Australian Customs. It's allowed him to save more than 25% on things like shower pumps.

All this helps explain why we got a phone call the other day from a fellow in Perth, Western Australia, inquiring about the original mast for **Profligate** that we have for sale. When we expressed surprise that it could make financial sense for him to buy our mast, which is currently located in Santa Barbara, and ship it half way around the world, he assured us that it very well might. After all, he told us that his other main option was to buy a Selden mast made in Denmark. Couldn't he have a mast made in the sailing centers of Sydney or Auckland and shipped to Perth for much less? "Not necessarily," he replied. "It's often less expensive to have something shipped to Perth from Europe than it is to have it trucked here from Sydney."

Could this be the solution to your **health insurance costs?** "Some Americans are moving to Mexico in order to get IMSS, which is Mexican Social Security health insurance," writes Philo Hayward. Philo did the Ha-Ha aboard



LATITUDE/NICK

*Philo, seen here with his favorite guitar at his place in La Cruz, has IMSS health insurance. You might want to get it, too.*

his Mendocino-based Cal 36 **Cherokee** in '00, and despite buying a music venue and bar in La Cruz on Banderas Bay, continued cruising across the Pacific until he sold his boat in Vanuatu. For

the last seven years or so, he's run the extremely popular and community-oriented Philo's bar and music studio. In his last newsletter, he refers to a September 1 *USA Today* article about IMSS, which is Mexican social security health insurance, and which can be purchased by Americans with the proper visa. Although the coverage is good only for treatment in Mexico, it is said to cover everything — including tests, medicines, x-rays, eyeglasses and even dental work. There is no deductible, and it apparently costs a flat fee of less than \$300 a year. Now that's what we call affordable health care! John Skoriak of the Marine Exchange in Sausalito reports that there are a variety of other low cost health insurance and health care options in Mexico.

Putting some speed into their cruising! Bruce and Nora Slayden of Sisters, Oregon, did the '04 Ha-Ha and '05 Puddle Jump with their Island Packet 485 **Jamboree**. But we heard they were on the Bay over the Labor Day Weekend with their new — and much faster — ride. She's the Gunboat 66 **Sugar**

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**Daddy**, a totally high-tech cat designed by Morrelli & Melvin. A lot of catamaran manufacturers stretch the truth when they talk about the speeds of their cats, but a Gunboat 66 has no trouble hitting speeds in the 20s. The Slaydens are apparently going to haul out in San Diego in October, then set sail for Hawaii and the Line Islands, then cruise Australia for a year.

Rob and Lorraine Coleman, who started cruising out of Berkeley ages ago on the Columbia 30 **Samba Pa Ti**, report they have sold **Southern Cross**, their wood Anglerman gaff ketch that was designed in '37 and is currently in New Zealand. You don't want to sell a classic yacht like that to just anyone, so the Colemans were fortunate that the new buyers are Ed and Stacy McDonald, who currently own a small sistership.

"If you get on Google Earth," the Colemans write, "and zoom in on the north side of the pass on the east side of Fanning Island, you'll see a rectangular barge. If you zoom in really tight, you can see *Southern Cross* tied up to the barge. And if you have really good

resolution, you may even see Lorraine and Borau cleaning the day's catch of five octopus. It's cool."

We know how cool that is because we like to zoom around and see what boats we can find at popular anchorages and marinas in Mexico. For example, when we zoom in at La Cruz, we can see Bob Smith's Vancouver-based custom 44-ft cat **Pantera** on the hook just outside the marina. And moving over to Paradise Marina, it's easy to pick out David Crowe's San Jose-based M&M 70 cat **Humu Humu**. We can also see **Profligate** at Paradise Marina — and on the hook at Catalina's Harbor Reef. Who says a boat can't be in two places at the same time? The latest version of Google Earth is much faster than it used to be, and in many areas the resolution is much



The marinas at Nuevo Vallarta courtesy of Google Earth. With a few clicks on your mouse you 'visit' every anchorage in the world.

greater than just a short time ago. It's a great navigation tool, too. For example, zoom in on Punta Mita, and you get a great view of where the underwater rocks are.

Nearing the end of a 15-year circumnavigation — albeit a much interrupted one — are Kirk, Cath and son Stuart

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# CHANGES

McGeorge of the Virgin Islands-based Hylas 47 **Gallivanter**. "After five months in French Polynesia, we've made it back to Tahiti for one last provisioning while anchored at Marina Taina in preparation to begin back-tracking to the Marquesas via the northern Tuamotus," the family reports. "We were going to set sail this morning, but last night we were raked by savage winds gusting to 56 knots. It caused our anchor to drag — and our home right along with it! The savage winds came in three waves of intense squalls, and during the seven hour period we never had less than 20 knots. At least four vessels were driven onto the bricks, and I saw two genoas unfurl and get shredded in a matter of minutes. If you haven't been in such conditions, here's how to get an idea of what it was like — stand in the back of a pick-up doing 65 mph offroad at night in the rain, then try to lasso a rhino. We had to pick up 300 feet of chain and a 65-lb anchor, re-position out in the channel, reset the hook, then stay up all night making sure we were holding fast. I'm talking about full throttle maneuvering



JULIE TURPIN

*Making landfall in Hawaii will complete a circumnavigation for Kirk McGeorge, but not his wife Cath or his son Stuart.*

in a very tight space! We were inside a lagoon, so thankfully we had only wind waves to deal with. Unlike some boats, ours came through undamaged, but we

were exhausted. Provided the weather settles, we'll head off tomorrow on the 200-mile leg to the Tuamotus, the 550-mile leg to the Marquesas, and finally the 2,200-mile leg to Hilo. Somewhere along the way we'll celebrate our son's 6th birthday. When we arrive in Honolulu, we'll be able to connect the dots on our globe and cross our outbound path that began 15 years ago on the Islander 37 pilothouse I bought from ex-San Diegan Carol Post in Honolulu."

Last year Gary Burgin and his dad Larry did the Ha-Ha aboard their Santa Cruz-based Marples 55 catamaran **Crystal Blue Persuasion**, as the first step in going to Mahahual, which is 180 miles south of Cancun on the Caribbean coast of Mexico, to set up a charter business. They made it to Mahahual before Christmas, which means they really jammed. That was all well and good, but starting a charter business hasn't worked out as they had hoped. "Business in Mexico is not what it's played up to be," says Gary, noting that just about everybody had their hand out for a cut of the action.

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# IN LATITUDES

Worse than that, the transmissions on both engines went out. "Don't ask," says Gary — but it forced him to fly back to California to have a yard sale to raise the money to pay to get them fixed. Then a motor froze up while at Isla Mujeres. At least, he says, it was a nice place to be stuck. Right now Gary is looking for crew willing to share expenses on a trip back to California. He can be reached at [gduwb@msn.com](mailto:gduwb@msn.com).

As we reported earlier this year, **St. Barth** — the cleanest, safest and most upscale island in the Caribbean — took a horrible economic hit during the winter high season as a result of a combination of yet another year of unbridled price increases, a weak dollar and the severe downturn in the global economy. As a result, we weren't surprised to receive an email from our *bon ami* Luc Poupon, announcing that the little St. Barth YC, in concert with Saint Barthélémy's Collectivité, will be hosting a new sailing event, the four-race **Les Voiles de Saint Barth**, to be held April 6 to 11. The event will be open to maxi yachts, classic yachts,

racing boats and multi-hulls. The timing of the event couldn't be better, as it comes almost immediately after the wildly successful St. Barth Bucket, which is limited to sailboats over 100 feet, and just before the Antigua Classic Yacht Regatta and Antigua Sailing Week, which are held at 85-mile distant Antigua. If you'll be chartering a boat out of St. Martin during this time, you won't want to miss it — even if you're just a spectator for a race or two. For complete information, visit [www.lesvoiledesaintbarth.com](http://www.lesvoiledesaintbarth.com).

Speaking of St. Barth, Mike Harker of the Manhattan Beach-based Hunter 49 **Wanderlust 3** was there in early September, and the quay, the inner harbor moorings, and the outhar Gustavia

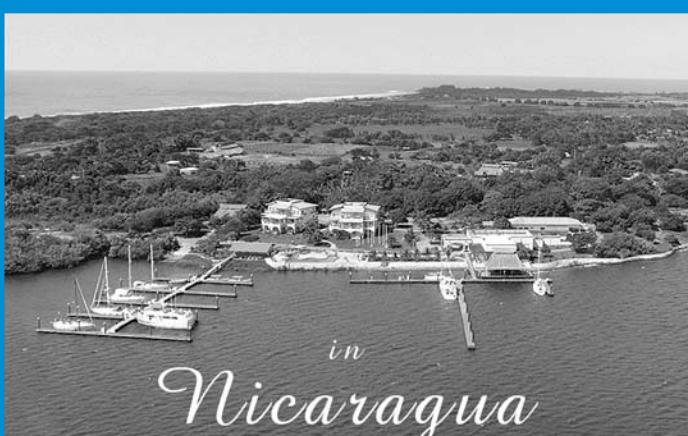


If you like really big boat racing, St. Barth will be the place to be during the Bucket. And for all boats during the new **Les Voiles de St. Barth**.

anchorage were all but deserted. What a difference off-season makes.

For those headed to **Mexico** this winter, the following is a list of the major organized activities. Most, but not all, are some combination of 'nothing serious' racing and fund-raising. We at *Latitude* support all of the following:

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# CHANGES

**Banderas Bay Blast**, including the Pirates for Pupils Spinnaker Run — December 2-4. Co-sponsored by the Punta Mita Yacht & Surf Club and the Vallarta YC, this event features three days of destination racing, with stops at Punta Mita, La Cruz and Paradise Marina. There is no entry fee, but it is a fundraiser.

**Vallarta YC Chili Cook-Off** — December 5, the day after the Blast. This is the Vallarta YC's biggest fundraiser of the year. Held at Paradise Marina.

**Subasta**, presented by the Club Cruceros de La Paz — December 6. Now in its 21st year, this is the club's biggest fundraiser, and coordinates with the respected Fundación Ayuda Niños La Paz, A.C. (FANLAP), which fights the good fight for the truly underprivileged kids of La Paz. The money raised is used to buy kids the basics such as toothbrushes and toothpaste, shampoo and soap, socks, underwear, and school supplies. Last year 400 simple Christmas presents were bought for kids who otherwise wouldn't have even gotten a piece of coal.

**Zihua SailFest** — February 2-9.

Conceived on a whim by the publisher of *Latitude*, thank goodness a series of more serious and responsible people took charge, and over the years have turned this into a stunningly successful cruiser fundraiser for local schools.

**Sea of Cortez Sailing Week** — early April. 'Nothing serious' cruiser racing from La Paz to Caleta Partida to Isla San Francisco and back. It's free, but it's fundraiser, too.

**Loreto Fest**, Puerto Escondido, Baja — early May. The big cruiser gathering in the Sea of Cortez includes four days of fun and fundraising.

Lots of cruisers like to make contributions on a personal rather than group level. For instance, when Wayne Hendryx and Carol Baggerly of the Brisbane-based Hughes 45 **Capricorn Cat** were in Mexico last year, they met a woman named Pat at Casa Fresca in one of the small Banderas Bay communities. Pat teaches local women how to sew, and she's desperately in need of a sewing machine. Any kind of sewing machine.

If you can help, contact [richard@latitude38.com](mailto:richard@latitude38.com), and we'll see that it gets to her. Wayne and Carol are also collecting clothes that are in good condition for the kids aged 2 to 10 at the orphanage in Bucerias, as well as pens, pencils and paper for the school kids. The stuff you never use or that you think of as junk, can have tremendous value for children in Mexico, some of them who literally live in city dumps.

Remember, too, that parts of Baja were hit badly by hurricane and later n tropical storm **Jimena**. If you've got room on your boat, try to bring something along for those folks, particularly the kids. Our only caution is to be very careful when giving cash to charitable organizations, for just as in the United States, the money often ends up in the wrong pockets.

On August 31, *'Lectronic* reported that 63-year-old Jim Cheshire of the Alberg 35 **Godot** was overdue on a singlehanded passage from Ecuador to the Marquesas. His family has since reported he's fine. We hope you're fine, too, and that this will be your year to go cruising.

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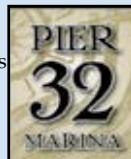
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## 29 TO 31 FEET



**31-FT CATALINA 309, 2007.** Alameda Marina. \$91,000. Catalina 309 'Boat of the Year' 31 ft x 11'6". New 11/07. Furling main, jib. Lines to cockpit. 2 enclosed cabins, 7 berths, 8 opening hatches/ports. 21 hp. 3 cyl. Yanmar, chart/cockpit tables. AC/DC fridge/freezer, LPG stove-oven, microwave, water heaters, autohelm, chart plotter, wind, tridata, electric windlass, mast VHF/TV. Spacious saloon, cockpit storage. Stern shower/ladder. Lead keel. Fully equipped sail/navigation/comfort. (510) 490-3575 or joan\_robert@juno.com.

**INTERNET FRAUD.** Recently, we've been getting another tidal wave of reports of Internet scams, so we feel compelled to warn you once again about this unfortunate aspect of human nature. If somebody wants to buy your boat sight unseen, and suggests sending you a cashier's check for more than the asking price, trust your instincts. It is too good to be true. Usually they want you to cash the check and return the remainder to them for shipping costs. Then, much later, the bank informs you that the check was no good. We recommend that you don't even respond to the initial email inquiry. For more info on these cons, see: [www.craigslist.com/about/scams.html](http://www.craigslist.com/about/scams.html) Brave New World.

**30-FT TARTAN, 1978.** Alameda. \$15,000. Well maintained, very clean, classic Sparkman & Stephens design with reliable Atomic 4 engine, many extras. Dodger, furler, BBQ, new head, stainless fuel tank and new prop. (510) 864-9880 or email ejwoollett@aol.com.



**29-FT RANGER, 1972.** Alameda. \$11,000. Great Bay and Delta cruiser! Sleeps 5. GPS, VHF, auto pilot, chart plotter, Atomic 4 engine. Ready to go! For more info: [www.wikipedia.org/wiki/ranger\\_29](http://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/ranger_29). Serious buyers please. (510) 769-9999 or email chipman.bill5@gmail.com.



**31-FT CAPE GEORGE CUTTER, 1992.** Port Townsend, WA. This CG is one of the finest examples of a yard-completed Cape George 31 in existence. Launched in 1992, carefully maintained, well equipped for extended cruising. Interior layout features laminated Port Orford cedar beams, trim with teak cabinets. Double berth forward, enclosed head with shower, settee-berths amidships, overhead skylight. Aft galley to starboard, nav station to port. Cockpit has two large cockpit lockers, 1 propane locker and 1 lazarette locker. New engine, radar, Trinka dinghy, running backstays, downwind pole, windlass, AGM batteries, Force 10 stove, BBQ, boom gallows, windvane, SSB, VHF, new thru-hulls/seacocks, etc. See at: [www.capecgeorgecutters.com/brokerage/Infinity.html](http://www.capecgeorgecutters.com/brokerage/Infinity.html). (360) 385-3412 or cgmw@olympus.net.

**30-FT CAPE DORY CUTTER, 1984.** Tomales Bay. \$37,500. Well maintained. Recent E80 radar, Variprop, new upholstery/cushions. A sweet sailing boat and easy to singlehand. Lots of pictures at website: <http://cd-30.blogspot.com> (click to enlarge photos). (510) 910-2099 or mbrtt@eyedocs.com.

**30-FT ISLANDER BAHAMA, 1981.** Alameda. \$15,000. Volvo Diesel. Dodger, Harken roller furler, knotmeter, depth-finder. H/C pressurized water. Autohelm, GPS chart, stereo, new interior cushions. Well maintained and loved. Photos upon request. (510) 638-1025 or (510) 333-4342. Email: lencardoza@yahoo.com.



**30-FT CAPE DORY, 1982.** Morro Bay. \$33,000. Volvo MD7A, VHF radio, Garmin GPS/chartplotter, JRC radar, dodger, cockpit shade and enclosure. Bought bigger boat, need to sell. Contact via email: bobjenkizziar@sbcglobal.net. Call (559) 925-1223 or (559) 707-7344.

**30-FT CAL 2-30, 1969.** RYC. \$14,000. Great Bay boat, 25hp Universal diesel, Ballenger boom and spreaders, new interior cushions, autopilot, hard vang, fully battened main, 3 jibs, spin gear, inflatable/outboard. (415) 246-0324 or email coyne49@comcast.net.



**30-FT CATALINA, 1990.** San Francisco Marina. \$39,000. Excellent 1990 with a desirable transferable slip in the SF Marina. Dodger, new Harken furler, new standing rigging, wheel, new throttle & shift cables, new house batteries, Autohelm ST4000, Raymarine ST360 depth, new macerator pump. Just hauled and bottom paint. Slip transferable upon Harbormaster approval. (916) 803-6410 or email gkmunoz@gmail.com.

**29-FT J/29, 1985.** Seattle, WA. \$23,000. Abracadabra. Excellent race history. Completely refurbished in 2003. B&G instruments, rod rigging, faired hull, hydraulic backstay. Too many trick items to list. (253) 288-0117 or (206) 571-1676. Email: stevemil@grahamus.com.



**29-FT CAL, 1970.** Point Richmond. \$8,500. Very clean. Equipped with mainsail, 3 jibs and spinnaker, five winches, depth sounder and knotmeter, professionally rebuilt Atomic 4 engine, anchors, and spare folding prop. (916) 498-1610 or (916) 752-6696.

**30-FT ISLANDER BAHAMA, 1982.** Sausalito. \$17,000. Very clean. Roller furling jib, Volvo diesel, new port lights, standing rigging replaced in 2001. Professionally maintained. Must see and sail. Sausalito slip included with ownership. Call Jack. Email jack@modernsailing.com or call (415) 331-8250.



**30-FT BABA, 1984.** Newport Beach, CA. \$56,000. Price reduced! Bob Perry design. New engine (2008), rigging and chainplates (2005), mainsail (2005). Way too much to list. Please check the web page for more details and photos: [www.balreich.net/mandisa/tour/boat\\_specs.html](http://www.balreich.net/mandisa/tour/boat_specs.html). (949) 375-3564.



**31-FTWYLIE, MOONSHADOW.** \$18,000/obo. One of Tom Wylie's best custom-designed yachts for SF Bay and ocean racing. A winner, remains competitive today. Yanmar diesel, 9 Barent winches, stainless rod rigging, Barent backstay adjuster, Quickvang boomvang, large sail inventory, Martex prop. Sleeps 6. Hauled 10/08, new bottom paint. Excellent condition. Race ready. (415) 435-1006 or (415) 377-6688.

**30-FT PEARSON 303, 1983.** Corinthian Yacht Club, Tiburon. Beautiful boat in excellent condition. Sturdy, seakindly Bay cruiser. Make offer, must sacrifice! Email: michaelhillman@comcast.net or call (415) 713-3250.

## 32 TO 35 FEET

**32-FT PEARSON, 1979.** Racer/cruiser. Alameda. \$22,500 or a reasonable offer. Fast, easily singlehanded sloop. Featured in August 2007 *Practical Sailor*. 1250 hours on original M-15 Universal Diesel. Gear (vintage '95): Autopilot, digital depth finder & gauge, Harken furler, Navtek backstay adjuster, Hall Spars Quikvang, Furuno radar, 25-watt marine radio. New: 19-gallon aluminum fuel tank and electric fuel pump (2002), 2 batteries (2006). Documentation: all original manuals, '95 survey, maintenance, diving, haul records since my '95 purchase. (510) 525-2754

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**34-FT GEMINI 105MC, 2005.** Redwood City, CA. \$160,000. Shipped August 2005. Screecher, hammock seat, microwave, Furuno NavNet GPS/radar/target tracking/fishfinder, Prosine 2000W inverter/charger, NewMar battery monitor, 200AH gel batteries, AB RIB/8HP Honda 4-stroke, Fortress F28, Honda EU2000 generator, new upholstery and new bottom June 2009. Much more! (650) 380-3343 or email [brian.j.gibbons@gmail.com](mailto:brian.j.gibbons@gmail.com).



**35-FT YORKTOWN, 1976.** St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands. \$45,000. Just completed 4-year circumnavigation. Baja Ha-Ha 2005 and Puddle Jump 2006 Vet. Many upgrades and ready to go. Why get beat up sailing down the Caribbean, buy one that is already there! Find photos and equipment listing at: <http://sandpiper38.blogspot.com>. Email [sandpiper\\_38@hotmail.com](mailto:sandpiper_38@hotmail.com) or call (340) 514-0778.

**34-FT SAN JUAN, 1984.** \$39,000. Fast comfortable, blue water cruiser, excellent condition. 6' headroom, galley, sleeps six, rod rigging. Roller furling headsail, 150% genoa, main, working jib, in good condition. 3GMID Yanmar, Achilles dinghy, large bimini. Price reduced. (510) 420-8956 or email [nino@access-print.com](mailto:nino@access-print.com).



**35-FT 1D35, 1999.** Richmond. \$79,500. Two time Rolex 1D35 Big Boat Winner, *Diablita* is in turn key condition. Always driedsailed, competitive inventory and practice sails, with trailer. This one design thoroughbred is only 6500lbs, and is ready for anything. Professionally maintained by KKMI. (510) 237-7600 or (510) 289-6422 or email [gboell@innovaflavors.com](mailto:gboell@innovaflavors.com).

**35-FT J/109, 2004.** Sausalito. \$185,000. Fast, fun, mint condition racer/cruiser singlehand or with crew. 1st 2008 J/109 Division, 1st 2009 J-Fest Division, 3rd PHRF (72 rating). Quantum Kevlar racing and Dacron cruising sails (2 mains, 2 jibs), 2 asymmetric spinnakers, new rigging, Spectra lines. B&G instruments, VHF radio, GPS, Yanmar diesel, 29 hp, excellent condition. Doubles as performance cruiser with roller furling, all rigging led aft, sleeps 6+ with full galley, head, shower, hot/cold water, fridge. Ready to race one-design, Pac Cup, PHRF or cruise oceans SF Bay and Delta in comfort, style and performance. Must sell. (415) 717-3664 or email [ahoy@earthlink.net](mailto:ahoy@earthlink.net).

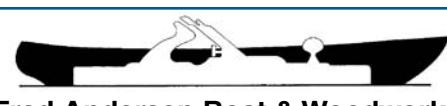
**33-FT STEEL SAIL, 2006.** Lowrie Harbor, San Rafael. \$62,000. 33' custom steel sloop. Round bottom, 28 hp Beta diesel, Hogan full batten main, Monitor vane, SS galley, Raytheon radar/GPS. Berth #101. Email [derwinski@pacific.net](mailto:derwinski@pacific.net) or call (707) 895-2813.



**33-FT DUTCH STEEL-VANDERVILS.** San Francisco. \$27,000. Ready to cruise. Survey (+hull) available. Rare aft cabin (separate entrance). New: Boom, head+macerator+holding tank, alternator, inverter, topside paint, varnish, GPS, stereo, netting, fridge. Autopilot, reliable Volvo 24-hp, 3 anchors+all chain. Full specs/pics: [www.elsewhere2.webs.com](http://www.elsewhere2.webs.com). Email [steelboat2009@hotmail.com](mailto:steelboat2009@hotmail.com) or call (415) 509-1277.

**35-FT YORKTOWN, 1974.** Emeryville Yacht Harbor. \$29,000. Proven blue water cruiser priced to move! Over 10k miles under the keel. Ready to cruise! One family has owned her since construction. See website for specs, photos and details: [www.maryanntwo.com](http://www.maryanntwo.com). (408) 202-4944 or email: [mortensontyler@yahoo.com](mailto:mortensontyler@yahoo.com).

**35-FT J/35, 1986.** Vallejo. \$42,900. Nice condition. The boat has an excellent racing record and a great sail inventory. It has much new gear including some cruising inventory. Email [oakline@wildblue.net](mailto:oakline@wildblue.net) or call (530) 622-8761.



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**34-FT PEARSON, 1984.** Vallejo. \$39,000. Harken furler. 125, 110, 90 heads'ls. Hydraulic backstay. Rigid vang. Nexus 3000 instr. Autopilot, GPS, radar detector. Diesel 1,200 hrs. Free sailing lessons. Negotiable extras: Life raft, 406 EPIRB, folding bikes, more. (707) 427-2291, (707) 479-3434 or frankgmena@hotmail.com.



**35-FT ERICSON 35 II, 1971.** Newport, OR. \$30,000. Excellent condition. Very well maintained. New Yanmar engine <100 hrs. Radar, windvane, roller furling, etc. Great boat. Slip available. (541) 990-9613 or email sj211509@hotmail.com.

**34-FT SABRE, 1983.** Bel Marin Keys. \$39,000. Good mid-size cruiser/racer. 6'3" headroom below. Can sleep six. Beautiful wood interior, galley, head with shower. New Hood Sails 90-105 headsail, Harken roller furler, new Harken traveler, new fuel lines, dodger, Westerbeke 28 hp diesel. Clean. (415) 883-3733 or email jackson@pbworld.com.



**32-FT COLUMBIA 5.5 METER, 1960.** SF Marina. \$7,000. Located in East Harbor, SF Marina. Slip transferrable upon harbor-master approval. Has current sails (main, jib, and spinnaker), refinished/painted interior, new rigging, new cleats, new adjustments, new bottom (super fair carbon anti-foul), new lines, remotely adjustable jib leads, topsides polished, wire hoisting slings, and a new cover. (415) 244-5422 or email cmtozzi@sbcglobal.net.

**35-FT TRIDENT WARRIOR, 1973.** Moss Landing. \$49,000. Ready for a bluewater cruiser upgrade? This boat can take you anywhere in the world, and at a price you can afford. Will consider partial trade - coastal cruiser. Too many upgrades to list. Email: rjwestbay@yahoo.com or call (559) 303-5997.



**35-FT HALLBERG-RASSY, 1972.** Moss Landing, CA. \$55,000. This is a nice center-cockpit bluewater cruiser. 30k in the last few years. Rebuilt Volvo MD30A. New Ullman sails with Furlon on jib. New rigging. Comnav autopilot, Raymarine plotter, radar, Interphase Outlook and more. Email: olinjordan@yahoo.com or call (831) 595-2467.

**34-FT SHADOW, 1984.** Ventura. \$46,000. Denis Ganley design - Steel. Excellent condition and loaded with cruising gear. Ready for high seas anytime. Kuari wood interior. Pictures, specifications and last survey on request. (805) 205-6093 or email apburkot@yahoo.com.



**32-FT BRISTOL, 1978.** Ixtapa, MX. \$19,000/obo. Early retirement, laid-off? Maybe it's time to get away. Our 2004 Baja Ha-Ha vet is waiting for you in Ixtapa. Fully equipped for cruising, nothing to buy. Give her a coat of bottom paint and wait for the fleet in Zihuatanejo. Later go back up to the Gulf for the best sailing in Mexico. 32' is the ideal size for the Sea of Cortez. Tuck in the little bays. Anchor in 10' of water. More details and list of equipment on the website: www.eblw.com/contepartiro/contepartiro.html. Make me an offer I can't refuse. (510) 367-5621 or email jeanne8@eblw.com.



**35-FT HALLBERG-RASSY RASMUS.** (sloop), 1974. Berkeley Marina. \$25,000. Classic Swedish cruiser. Great teak and mahogany woodwork. Solid wiring and electronics. Needs new engine, cushions and bottom paint job. Spacious main, aft and fore cabins. More pics available. As-is condition. Buyer to do survey. Call (206) 718-2350 or kristindizon@comcast.net.

## 36 TO 39 FEET



**38-FT KETTENBURG 38, 1956.** Berkeley, Wilmington. "Nice boat!", "Beautiful boat!", "Gorgeous boat!" heard many times from other boaters during every sail. Enjoy character, admiration, and fantastic sailing while sustaining the heritage. Details at: www.sailk38.com. (916) 847-9064 or email steve@paradigmplgrim.com.

**36-FT ISLANDER FREEPORT, 1979.** San Pedro. \$50,000. Plan B model with forward head in good condition. Cape Horn self steering, dinghy davits, dependable Perkins engine. Outside wood being refinished now. Painting to start next. Buy now or pay more later when more work is done. Email gadams4292@yahoo.com or call (530) 721-1305.

**36-FT PEARSON, 1985.** South Beach Harbor, SF. \$67,500. A great Bay boat with deep fin keel. Beautiful, comfortable and excellent sailing boat. Original Yanmar has less than 400 hrs. Interior is near perfect condition. Roller furler on jib, Dutchman on main and all lines led aft makes for easy singlehandling. Have original bill of sale and owner's manual! Will consider partnership with right party. This is a great boat in wonderful condition. (925) 286-8738 or Bobgthomas@earthlink.net.

**39-FT CAL, 1978.** Alameda. \$65,000. 50hp Yanmar repower 300hrs, C-80 chart plotter/radar/fishfinder, Profurl w/100% & 150 jibs. Full dodger, Maxwell 2500 windlass. This boat is very clean. For full details: www.ideasinmotion.com/cal39. Email borelmfg@earthlink.net or call (510) 864-0237.

**36-FT CAL-CRUISING, 1969.** La Paz, Mexico. \$29,500. Perkins 4-107, 7 sails, MaxProp, AMS autopilot, Monitor windvane, Harken furling system, 8 self-tailing Barients, Navtec backstay adjuster, Destroyer wheel, stout rigging, heavy tackle, Lofrans Tigress, Rathron radar, SSB, EPIRB, C.A.R.D., Zodiac liferaft, Siemens solar panels, energy monitor, AirMarine windgen, large tankage, refrigerator-freezer, Force-10 stove, fresh/salt-water power wash, 11' Hypalon inflatable, 2 outboards. Extra parts, service manuals, etc. Affordable turn-key cruiser. Email swdnwr@gmail.com. (707) 839-0120 is only good to mid-October, then we are in Mexico.



**37-FT ENDEAVOUR, 1981.** Wilmington, CA. \$45,000. Excellent liveaboard with beautiful teak interior. Private owner's cabin with double berth, huge salon, hanging lockers and drawers galore. 6'4" headroom, new upholstery, canvas and cosmetics in recent years. Easy to sail. Email: sailfast6@verizon.net or call (562) 706-4334.

**36-FT JEANNEAU, 1997.** \$89,000. Price reduced. Very well maintained. Electric anchor windlass, dodger, refrigerator/freezer, GPS, chartplotter, autopilot, CD player, VHF, B&G instruments, depth/knot/wind, dinghy with 2-hp Johnson. For info call Brian (209) 722-2068. To view call Roy (510) 523-4081 or email coolswick@aol.com.

**36-FT SABRE, 1998.** Berkeley. \$155,000. Professionally maintained sloop. Shallow draft wing keel ideal for cruising. Blue hull and topsides painted 12/06. Standing rigging replaced 2/07. New autopilot 5/07. New mainsail 7/08. Furling jib and lightly used asymmetrical spinnaker. (925) 766-2205 or email dan@deltaexcavating.net.



**39-FT YORKTOWN SLOOP, 1977.** Napa River. \$18,500/obo. Tall rig, skeg keel, Westerbeke diesel, newly overhauled transmission, CNG stove, complete galley, solar panel. Two staterooms, one marine head, very roomy, sleeps 7. Many new items on recent overhaul. Sturdy and sound, fun coastal cruiser. Last appraisal available. Email aplgd@aol.com.

**39-FT YORKTOWN, 1980.** Marina Bay, Richmond. \$27,500. Full size bed in aft cabin, V-berth, CNG gas stove/oven, microwave, refrigerator, freezer, ice maker, TV, DVD, VHF, radar, GPS, depthfinder, 50hp diesel, electric windlass, electric head, separate shower. Great liveaboard. (209) 743-6275 or vik@inreach.com.



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**38-FT MORGAN CC, 1993.** San Diego, CA. \$75,000. Waterfront living at its best. There is no other option out there that allows oceanfront property at this type of price in San Diego. Morgan is an excellent sailboat and there are 5 currently for sale across the country. The prices range from 93k to 130k. This boat was listed for 110k and is now listed for 75k, well below the market rate. Take advantage of this for sale by owner/no broker offer today. Additionally this boat is located at Humphrey's by the Bay, which has live concerts from May-October for your viewing, listening and entertainment pleasure, check [www.humphreysconcerts.com](http://www.humphreysconcerts.com). (619) 243-6269 or [jdarrochdesign@yahoo.com](mailto:jdarrochdesign@yahoo.com).

### 40 TO 50 FEET

**42-FT TAYANA VANCOUVER, CC, 1987.** San Carlos, Mexico. \$149,000. Beautifully maintained, proven safe passagemaker, upgraded comfortable interior, island master bed, electric toilet, separate shower, watermaker, MaxProp, 3 furling sails, solar panels, wind generator, wind vane, upgrades and spares. See more at: <http://pacificcruising.blogspot.com>. (520) 803-0240 or [herronsflight@yahoo.com.au](mailto:herronsflight@yahoo.com.au).

**40-FT HUNTER LEGEND, 1986.** La Paz, MX. \$76,000/obo. Multiple upgrades since 2006 include: radar, chart plotter, SSB, refrigeration, propane conversion, StackPack, solar, and more. Cruising Mexico past two seasons and ready to go again. Contact for details. (530) 957-2810 or email [gregondetente@gmail.com](mailto:gregondetente@gmail.com).



**37-FT CREALOCK, 1980.** Monterey. \$65,000. Cutter. Ballanger tabernacled mast. New Yanmar w/saildrive, radar, GPS, easy access to all systems, 70gal diesel, 3 watertight bulkheads. Not in yacht condition, needs finish work. Great little sailing ship. Price firm. Email: [ddatpbio@gmail.com](mailto:ddatpbio@gmail.com).

**37-FT HUNTER LEGEND, 1989.** Napa Valley. \$55,000. Perfect Bay boat. Comfortable, easy to handle! Great deck space, aft cabin, Yanmar 30hp diesel w/658 hours. Draft 4'9". Doyle stack pack on main and furling jib. Please email for pics: [mmoondoggie@gmail.com](mailto:mmoondoggie@gmail.com) or call (208) 880-6135.

**48-FT CELESTIAL, 1986.** Spacious, well-built center-cockpit ketch. Fantastic boat. Excellent condition. Many special features. Fully cruise ready. Great value. Beginning January, visit *Reba* in Puerto Vallarta. See *Reba* overview, details and contact info at: [www.celestia48.com](http://www.celestia48.com). (775) 832-7979.

**39-FT COLUMBIA, 1971.** West Palm Beach, FL. \$30,000. Deep draft 7', tall rig, wind gen. Westerbeke, propane, (AC, 6.5gen. needs work). Dual diesel tanks, dual battery bank, Anderson 46 winches, brand new Sta-Lok rigging and genny, extra sails including storm, new head, great storage, 7' headroom, very roomy for liveaboard. (954) 325-0118.

**41-FT MORGAN CLASSIC MODEL, 1991.** San Carlos, Mexico. \$98,000. Primo condition. Equipped and ready to cruise. Center cockpit, great liveaboard, must see to appreciate roominess. Recent survey. For equipment list and current photos: <http://sailboatvagari.blogspot.com>. Email: [stanstrebig@gmail.com](mailto:stanstrebig@gmail.com) or call (520) 825-7551.

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**46-Ft KELLY-PETERSON, 1985.** Marina del Rey, CA. \$197,000. *Reprise* was extensively refitted in 2005-2006. Upgrades include re-powering with Yanmar 125-hp turbo diesel, revision of the electrical and charging systems, new autopilot, chartplotter, SSB, refrigeration, upholstery, canvas, liferaft, Tides Strong Mainsail track, cruising spinnaker. New last year Ullman mainsail StackPack with integral lazyjacks. The interior hand-fitted teak joinery is in excellent condition. There are 2 staterooms and 2 full heads. The headliner was completely replaced in 2000 and appears new. The KP 46 is a proven bluewater cruiser, yet sails beautifully in light air. *Reprise* is ready to cruise. (310) 871-5260 or chasfu2@gmail.com.



**41-Ft NEWPORT MK II C/C, 1981.** Napa. \$39,000. Engine rebuilt-10 hrs. Bottom paint '09. Long distance cruiser or liveaboard. (530) 908-8555 or email jenedix@yahoo.com.



**42-Ft CATALINA, 1994.** Marina Nuevo Vallarta, Nayarit, Mexico. \$118,000. Two-cabin layout. Excellent condition. Cruise ready in Nuevo Vallarta, Mexico. Too many extras to list. Call for more information. (530) 318-4096 or (530) 554-4512. Email: tommanddianemiller@yahoo.com.



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**45-Ft BENETEAU 45F5, 1991.** Ventura, CA. \$125,000. Racer/cruiser, PHRF-63, with 3 cabins, 2 heads, beautiful wood interior. Price lowered for quick sale. Recent upgrades: New MaxProp 2008, fridge, inverter/charger, anchor, windlass. Email: rkrause@rjk-law.com. Call (559) 696-9653 or (559) 261-9295.

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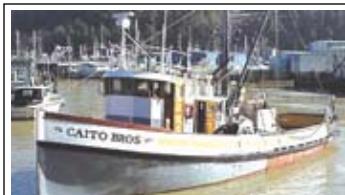


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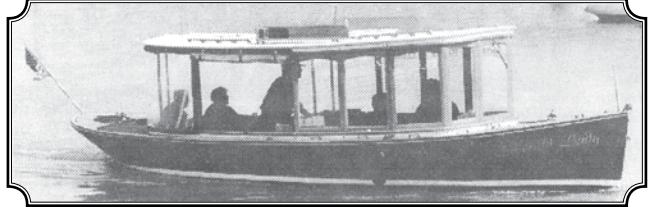
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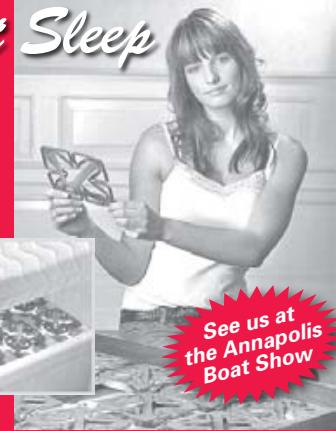
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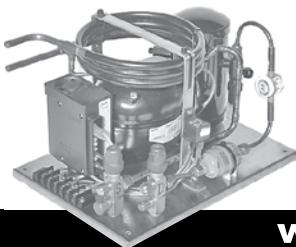
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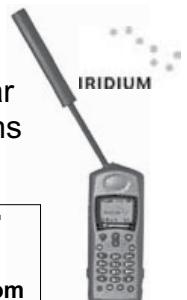
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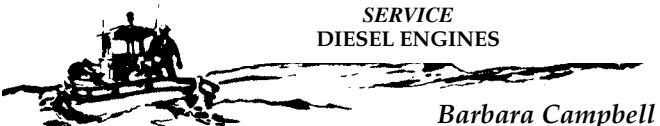
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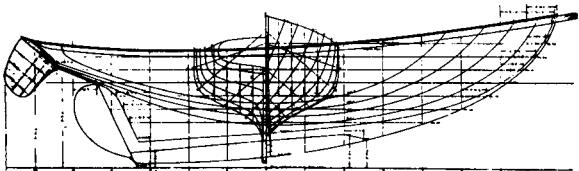
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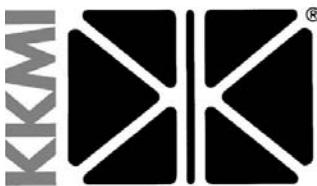
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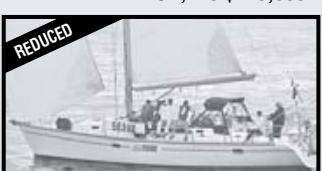
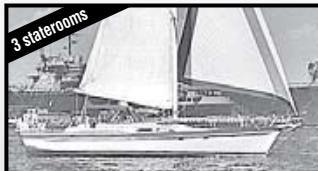
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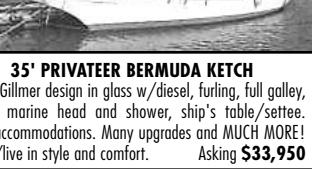
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