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Time and Time Again

Chris Giovacchini bought his first, and only, Santana 22, Santa Maria, in 1992. The boat was in full cruise mode, so Chris, intrigued by the prospect of racing the boat, began making changes, little by little, to switch to race mode.

He sold Santa Maria in 2002, in the hope of rekindling an out-of-state romance. But the romance “didn’t work out” and, sadly, his much loved “Santa Maria was gone.” Still, he kept track of the boat, all the while racing with other owners and even partnering with one. In 2009, Chris bought Santa Maria back from the then-owner and again made the transformation to race mode, this time taking an entire year to sand, streamline and prepare for the next season. The culmination of that preparation was the order of a class main and jib from Pineapple Sails.

Barely ready for the end of the 2010 season, Santa Maria “did okay in the last race” and came in second.

In 2011, Chris raced the full season and won. In 2012 he went for a repeat performance and was tied for first going into the last two races of the year. Again, he won the season.

As he puts it: All the while... Powered by Pineapples.

*Tis the season. Give us a call.

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Cover: And this is just the little Team Oracle boat pitch poling!

Photo: ACEA/Gilles Martin-Raget

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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, 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.
**SUPER VALUES!**

- **Beneteau 40.7, 2001** $165,000
- **Beneteau 393, 2003** $134,500
- **Beneteau 40, 2009** $199,000
- **Island Packet 31, 1988** $59,500

**SAIL**

- 51' Beneteau Cyclades 2006 $260,000
- 50' Gulfstar 1977 139,500
- 46' Beneteau Oceanis 461 1998 174,000
- 42' Beneteau First 42 1985 89,500
- 41' Tartan 4100 2004 345,000
- 41' Beneteau 411 1999 148,500
- 41' Dehler DS 1998 159,000
- 40' Beneteau 2009 199,000
- 40' Beneteau 2008 175,000
- 40' Beneteau 40.7 2001 165,000
- 39' Beneteau 393 2003 134,500
- 38' Island Packet 380 1999 229,000
- 38' Island Packet 380 1999 227,000
- 38' Beneteau Moorings 1991 42,000
- 38' Ericson 38-200 1988 68,000
- 37' Island Packet 370 cutter 2004 269,900
- 37' Pacific Seacraft yawl 1984 119,000
- 36' Hunter sloop 2004 94,500
- 36' Beneteau 361 2000 89,900
- 36' Catalina 1989 49,900
- 36' Pearson 36-II 1985 57,900
- 34' C&G Marine Tiffany Jayne 1982 29,000
- 33' Beneteau 331 2004 89,300
- 33' Hunter 33.5 sloop 1992 39,500
- 32' Beneteau 323 2007 93,500
- 32' Beneteau 323 2007 89,500
- 32' J/32 1997 73,000
- 32' Westsail 1976 64,400
- 32' Freedom 1976 47,500
- 31' Island Packet 1988 59,500
- 28' Alerion Express 2002 74,500
- 28' Catalina MkII 2002 49,900
- 24' Corsair Sprint 750 2008 55,000

**POWER**

- 61' Mikelson SFP 2002 990,000
- 53' Navigator CPMY 1998 249,000
- 31' Tung Hwa sedan trawler 1981 35,000

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Publisher/Exec. Editor .........Richard Spindler ..........richard@latitude38.com
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 Desk ..................racing@latitude38.com ...........ext. 105
Contributing Editors ..........John Riise, Paul Kamen
Advertising Sales .............John Arndt ..........john@latitude38.com .............ext. 108
Advertising Sales .............Mike Zwiebach ............mike@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-Winsor ....annie@latitude38.com .............ext. 106
Bookkeeping ........................Penny Clayton.................penny@latitude38.com............ext. 101

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Derk Wolmuth was evacuated from his Vindo 40, Bela Bartok, due to a medical emergency while enroute to Hawaii. His Monitor Windvane steered the unmanned boat (and home) for 4.5 days until it was safely rescued 12 miles off Hawaii. Read more in the NEWS section of our website:

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CALENDAR

Non-Race


Nov. 1-Dec 6 — Lady Washington and Hawaiian Chieftain come and go in the Bay Area. For dates, times and details on tours or booking passage, see www.historicalseaport.org.


Nov. 4 — Daylight Saving Time ends.


Nov. 4-25 — Free sailing at Pier 40 every Sunday courtesy of BAADS. Info, (415) 281-0212 or www.baads.org.


Nov. 7-28 — Wednesday Yachting Luncheon Series at St. Francis YC, 12-2 p.m. Enjoy lunch and a dynamic speaker each Wednesday for about $25. All YCs’ members welcome. More info under the ‘Events’ tab at www.stfyc.com.

Nov. 8 — Are you a single boatowner and need crew? The Single Sailors Association has crew to help sail your boat. Monthly meeting at Ballena Bay YC in Alameda, 6:30 p.m. Info, www.singlesailors.org or (510) 239-7245.

Nov. 10 & 17 — Sail aboard San Francisco Maritime National Historic Park’s scow schooner Alma. Learn the Bay’s history on this 3-hour voyage, leaving Hyde St. Pier at 1 p.m. $40 adults, $20 kids 6-15. Info, www.singlesailors.org or (415) 435-4771.

Nov. 10-11 — ISAF Sea Survival course at San Francisco Maritime National Historic Park’s scow schooner Alma. Learn the Bay’s history on this 3-hour voyage, leaving Hyde St. Pier at 1 p.m. $40 adults, $20 kids 6-15. Info, www.singlesailors.org or (415) 435-4771.

Nov. 10-11 — ISAF Sea Survival course at San Francisco YC. Fee $240. Fulfills Pacific Cup requirements. Repeats 11/17-18. Email amperrin@racingyachtmanagement.com for more info.

Nov. 11 — Take a veteran sailing!


Nov. 19-21 — Radial Clinic with NA champ Isabella Bertold & Christine Neville at Richmond YC. $350. BYOB(oat) or email for charter. Info, chrisnev@gmail.com.

Nov. 20 — La Paz Beach Party at La Costa Restaurant, 4-7 p.m. Free for first 50 Ha-Ha’ers; everyone welcome.

Nov. 22 — Work off all that turkey and pumpkin pie on a hearty Thanksgiving daysail with the family.

Nov. 22 — Thanksgiving Cruiser Party hosted by El Cid Marina at Plaza Machado in Mazatlan, 5-8 p.m. Tickets $25. Info, marinaelcidmazatlan@elcid.com.mx.

Nov. 28 — Sail under the full moon on hump day.
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Catalina 470, 2005 .............................................$327,000
Catalina 470, 1999 .............................................$170,000
Catalina Morgan 440, 2006 ....................................$259,900
Catalina 42 MkII, 2004 ..........................................195,000
Catalina 42, 1989 .................................................$90,000
Catalina 400, 2004 .................................................$189,000
Catalina 400, 2001 ..................................................168,000
Catalina 380, 2000 ..................................................136,000
Catalina Morgan 38, 1994 .........................................$108,000
Catalina 36 MkII, 2001 ............................................$98,500
Catalina 36, 1999 ......................................................$82,500
Catalina 36, 1995 ......................................................$75,000
Catalina 36, 1984 ......................................................$49,500
Catalina 36, 1983 ......................................................$51,900
Catalina 350, 2005 ..................................................129,900
Catalina 350, 2003 ..................................................116,500
Catalina 34, 2003 ......................................................95,000
Catalina 34, 1999 ......................................................47,500
Catalina 34, 1987 ......................................................$49,000
Catalina 34, 1989 ......................................................$47,500
Catalina 34, 1987 ......................................................SOLD!
Catalina 320, 2000 ....................................................$78,000
Catalina 310, 2000 ....................................................$79,000
Catalina 310, 2000 ....................................................$59,000
Catalina 30, 1995 ......................................................SOLD!
Catalina 30, 1988 ......................................................$34,000
Catalina 30, 1988 ......................................................$22,000

Preowned Sailing Yachts at Our Docks

Gulfstar 50 owners’ model, 1978 ................................125,000
Beneteau 473, 2006 .................................................$288,500
Norseman 447, 1980 .................................................$199,000
Tartan 4100, 2004 ....................................................345,000
C&C 38, 1979 .........................................................$41,000
Tayana 37 Cutter .....................................................$77,000
Hunter 37, 1987 .......................................................$49,000

Open Boat Weekend November 10 & 11 – Finalize Your Dream!
Nov. 29 — Angel Lights Countdown Benefit, a fundraiser for the Angel Island Conservancy, at a private Mill Valley home, 6-9 p.m. $250. Info, www.angelisland.org/angellights.

Nov. 1982 — It Was Thirty Years Ago from the Sightings article ‘A Real Boon for Yachtsmen’ by Glennda Chui:

Mike Lacey has seen it all — the “Flying Dutchman” boat that sailed 40 feet into the air, the attempted murder, the earthquake that rang a bell. But that’s all over now. A new bridge has opened across the southern end of San Francisco Bay, the old Dumbarton Bridge is closed and Lacey, a drawbridge tender for 22 years, is out of work.

“You feel like you lost something,” said Lacey, 66, as he sipped a Coors in the kitchen of his two-bedroom cabin in Sunol.

But one man’s loss is another man’s gain, said Bob Halligan, a spokesman for the State Department of Transportation, which built the new bridge and is tearing down the old one.

“That thing has been getting in their way for years.”

The old Dumbarton Bridge has been a landmark since it opened in 1927, the first bridge to carry cars across the Bay. It stretches from Newark to East Palo Alto, clearing the water by nine feet at the main shipping channel. The drawbridge over the channel was lifted two or three times a day to a maximum height of 135 feet to make room for million-gallon fuel barges headed for Moffett Field and sailboats bound for the Gate.

One sailboat, known to the bridge tenders as the “Flying Dutchman,” became something of a legend a few years back. The skipper and his son were approaching the Dumbarton from the south when they saw the drawbridge rise and decided to slip on through.

To their horror, the bridge dropped while they were directly underneath. They figured the mast would be snapped like a toothpick.

Just as the bridge touched the top of the mast, it hesitated, stopped and started back up — taking the boat with it. A stay or shroud had caught on the lip of a bolt on the underside of the bridge.

As the boat precariously rose 40 feet into the air, the father and son argued the merits of diving off into the Bay. “The son was prayin’ and the old man was cussin’,” Lacey said with a chuckle.

Meanwhile, a woman whose car was stopped on the bridge climbed up the metal trusswork, frantically shouting and waving at the lift operator, who was waiting for the boat to emerge on the other side and wondering what was taking it so long.

Finally the drawbridge was lowered. When the boat was a foot above the water, the wire that was caught on the bolt snapped. The boat plopped down, bobbed a bit and sailed on to San Leandro.

Lacey and the other drawbridge operators worked in a cramped, lonely office on the drawbridge, just above the roadway. Between lifts, they maintained the 120-hp gas engine, greased the bridgeworks, looked at TV and watched seagulls swoop down to steal fish from seals.

The new Dumbarton, $180 million worth of stark, graceful concrete with 85 feet of clearance at the shipping channel, was opened on October 6. The old drawbridge was permanently raised. The steel trestle part of the bridge, about a quarter of a mile long, will be dynamited early next year, Halligan said, and the old access roads will be turned into fishing piers.

Lacey says he’s kind of sorry to see it go. “I wouldn’t spend all that money. That bridge would last another 50 years.”

Dec. 1 — 36th Annual Lighted Yacht Parade on the Oak
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boat Model</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>39' Sea Ray 390</td>
<td>1985</td>
<td>$195,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42' Catalina 42-3</td>
<td>1989</td>
<td>$97,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>40' Hinckley Bermuda MkII CB</td>
<td>1968</td>
<td>$119,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>40' Farr, 1992</td>
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<tr>
<td>46' Beneteau 45f5</td>
<td>1993</td>
<td>$157,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>33' Nauticat</td>
<td>1987</td>
<td>$79,995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41' Storebro SRC 400</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>$169,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39' Cal MkII</td>
<td>1979</td>
<td>$49,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>37' Tayana Cutter</td>
<td>1977</td>
<td>$59,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>37' Pacific Seacraft</td>
<td>1980</td>
<td>$109,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>36' Catalina</td>
<td>1986</td>
<td>$45,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>32' Westsail</td>
<td>1977</td>
<td>$49,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>30' Cape Dory Cutter</td>
<td>1982</td>
<td>$39,500</td>
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<td>30' Albin Ballad</td>
<td>1978</td>
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<td>1978</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SF BERTH**

- **Reduced**
  - 39' Cal MkII, 1979: $49,000
  - 37' Tayana Cutter, 1977: $59,000
  - 37' Pacific Seacraft, 1980: $109,000
  - 40' Caliber 40 LRC, 1998: $189,500

- **SF BERTH**
  - 36' Catalina, 1986: $45,000
  - 32' Westsail, 1977: $49,000
  - 30' Cape Dory Cutter, 1982: $39,500
  - 30' Albin Ballad, 1978: $25,000

- **Reduced**
  - 33' Nauticat, 1987: $79,995
  - 41' Storebro SRC 400, 1990: $169,000
  - 39' Sea Ray 390, 1985: $195,000
  - 34' Legacy, 2003: $270,000

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Dec. 8 — Sausalito Lighted Yacht Parade along the waterfront, 6 p.m. Info, www.sausalitoyachtclub.org.

Racing


Nov. 3-4 — NorCal FJ Regatta. SCYC, www.scyc.org.

Nov. 3-4 — Perry Cup/Kelp Cup. MPYC, www.mpyc.org.


Nov. 13 — YKA Year End Awards Party at Berkeley YC, 7 p.m. Info, (415) 771-9500 or www.yra.org.


Midwinter Regattas


BERKELEY YC — Chowder Races: Sundays through March except when it conflicts with above.

CAL SAILING CLUB — Year-round Sunday morning dinghy races, intrachub only, typically in Laser Bahias and JY15s. Info, racing_chair@cal-sailing.org.

CORINTHIAN YC — Midwinters: 1/19-20, 2/16-17. Michael, racing@cyc.org.


GOLDEN GATE YC — Manuel Fagundes Seaweed Soup Series: 11/3, 12/1, 1/5, 2/2, 3/2. Info, (916) 215-4566 or raceoffice@ggyc.com.


REGATTAPRO — Winter One Design & IRC: 11/10, 12/8, 1/12, 2/9. Jeff, (415) 595-8364 or jzarwell@regattapro.com.

RICHMOND YC — Small Boat Midwinters: 12/2, 1/6, 2/3, 3/3. Opti Midwinters: 12/1, 1/5, 2/2, 3/2. Bob, bbranstad@gmail.com.


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## Calendar

### November Weekend Tides

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### November Weekend Currents

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### Sausalito YC

- Sunday Midwinters: 11/4, 12/2, 1/6, 2/3, 3/3. Dave Burton, (415) 302-7084 or race@sausalitoyachtclub.org.

### Sequoia YC


### South Beach YC


### Tiburon YC

- Midwinters: 1/12, 2/9, 3/9. Ian, race@tyc.org.

### Vallejo YC


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

Our time to start cruising is coming near, so my wife and I are spending more time reading Latitude, looking at boats in the Berkeley Marina, and watching YouTube videos about sailing. Come February, the two of us will be driving our VW bus to Miami to hopefully begin a new life at sea.

I’m a local from the Bay Area, but my wife is from Prague. It’s taken me awhile to get her onboard with my dreams of sailing adventures, but she’s way down with it now, and it seems as if the time of our lives is quite possibly just around the corner. There are just two assumptions. The first is that she finishes her final semester at Cal. The second, and potentially more troubling one, is that we find a way for her to get over her motion sickness.

My wife is very prone to seasickness. For example, she got motion sickness while sitting on the back of a water ski boat on Lake Tahoe on a super glassy day. She has a hard time with bus rides, and even my driving can give her nausea. The good news is that she doesn’t have a problem when she’s driving.

So maybe Latitude can answer our two questions: 1) Is it possible for someone who is “very allergic” to seasickness to overcome it; and, 2) what are the best methods for prevention and treatment?

Adam Scheuer
Berkeley

Adam — As we’re sure you know, motion sickness isn’t an allergy, but rather confusion between the eyes’ seeing a world that is still while the equilibrium sensors in the inner ear transmit signals saying that a person’s environment is moving. In many people this confusion causes the body — to say nothing of the digestive system — to go into a state of alarm. As is the case with your wife, potential victims often feel better when they drive the car or the boat because there tends to be less internal confusion between what’s being seen and what’s being sensed.

We’re not doctors, nor do we even play them on television, so the following information is just a starting point for a discussion with your wife’s physician. There are countless so-called remedies for seasickness, from ginger to acupressure wrist bands to prescription and non-prescription medicines. It’s hard to tell what’s going to work on any given person.

Based on anecdotal reports, the remedy we’ve heard to be the most effective is Cinnarizine/Stugeron, which is a prescription medicine in Canada, but is sold over-the-counter in Mexico and just about everywhere else in the world — except the States, where it’s not available. Stugeron is an antihistamine that interferes with the signals between a person’s inner ear and their ‘vomiting center’.

As with all powerful drugs, you don’t want to take Stugeron without discussing it with your doctor, and you must be careful with the dosage. If too much is taken, it can make a person drowsy. We’re told that when this happens to members of the Coast Guard, they are given epinephrine as the second part of what’s known as the ‘Coast Guard Cocktail’. But again, don’t...
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even dream of doing this without consulting your doctor, as epinephrine is another very powerful drug.

We rarely get seasick, so we’re going to ask our more seasickness-prone readers for their experiences with the malady, and remedies that have worked or not worked for them. We wish your wife the best of luck, because as the old saying goes, there are only two states of being seasick: 1) Feeling as if you’re going to die, and 2) wishing that you would die.

NOT NECESSARILY A CAUSE FOR ALARM

After reading about Doña de Mallorca’s very unpleasant experience with vertigo during the Redondo Beach stop in the SoCal Ta-Ta, I want her to know about a similar experience I had after being aboard for an extended period of time. My ear doctor, who sails a Hunter 36, immediately diagnosed me as having benign paroxysmal positional vertigo. He suggested that it might be related to the movement onboard a boat, and not a cause for alarm.

De Mallorca may have been able to avoid her trip to the emergency room if she had known this information. It might be good for the readers of your — fabulous! — magazine to know, too.

Ron McCarthy
Surprise, Ericson 38
San Diego

Ron — Thank you for your kind words and concern. The paramedics who responded to de Mallorca at the King Harbor YC were very familiar with vertigo. In fact, they even told her it was likely that’s what she was suffering from, as opposed to much more serious possibilities such as a brain tumor or stroke. But because her vertigo was so severe — she could barely lie down let alone sit up — the paramedics felt they had no choice but to take her to the hospital where the possibilities of stroke and tumor could be eliminated. Even several hours after being given a medication — Bonine, a common seasickness treatment — de Mallorca was still too dizzy to even sit up. Twelve hours after the attack, she was exhausted but otherwise felt fine. And the doctor even cleared her for a sail to Catalina.

We’re convinced that de Mallorca’s vertigo had nothing to do with her having been on a boat, as it didn’t come on until after she’d been ashore for an hour or more, and the vertigo hasn’t returned despite her being on the boat almost full-time ever since.

De Mallorca would like to pass on the knowledge that vertigo is not at all uncommon, so if you experience it, try your best to remain calm, because chances are that it’s not serious and it won’t return. Nonetheless, if you’re more than a little dizzy, you can’t risk not being checked out immediately.

THEFTS IN THE ESTUARY SURGE

There has been a rash of marine-related thefts in the Oakland Estuary area lately. Hearsay has it that somewhere between nine and 15 outboard motors were stolen from boats in just one Estuary marina. I know of at least two incidents of kayaks being stolen. And then, on September 18, my Monitor windvane was stolen off the dock next to my boat at Marina Village. I had removed it from my boat for service, and felt it would be safe on the dock overnight.

I’ve always found the boating community to be both trusting and trustworthy, so it’s sad when a few lowlifes spoil it for everyone. Lots of fingers have been pointed toward the anchor-outs next to Coast Guard Island, but there is no proof that any of them have been involved.

Indeed, because of the different ways the thefts were carried
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2007 33' Cross Current $179K
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2000 32' J/32 - Rhapsody $109K
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LETTERS

Jim — We imagine it wouldn’t surprise you to hear that there had been a big ring of outboard motor thieves operating in Long Beach. According to a story by Taylor Hill in the October 12-25 edition of The Log, “…32 suspects have been identified in the organized thefts of numerous unlocked outboard engines from boats [in Long Beach’s Shoreline Marina]. Thieves reportedly loaded the engines onto pallets and sold them in bundles for around $10,000.”

The article went on to report that the thieves — 15 of whom were already in custody — specialized in stealing small outboards that could be carried easily by hand. Since the bust, there hasn’t been further outboard theft from the 1,764-slip Long Beach Marina Village, Alameda board that could be carried easily by hand. Since the bust, there hasn’t been further outboard theft from the 1,764-slip Long Beach Marina Village, Alameda.

In what we find to be a strange twist to the story, a federal grant was issued so that the Marine Bureau could purchase and distribute 3,000 engine locks to boatowners. What’s next, the government providing homeowners with locks for the front doors of their homes?

† ALSO KNOWN AS WHALENIP

In his September letter, Steve Eiffereim asked for ways to alert whales while underway on a ‘silent’ sailing vessel. During numerous long-distance races from Southern California to Mexican ports such as Cabo San Lucas, Puerto Vallarta and
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Manzanillo, we have had numerous close encounters with whales. Over time we noticed that turning our depthsounder on or off had a noticeable effect on whales. Some of them approached our 50-ft boat within a few feet when the sounder was on, and departed when we turned the instrument off.

I discussed some of these experiences with a marine mammal expert while on a whale watching trip along the coast of Maine. She explained that whales can detect sound waves emitted by the depthsounder’s transducer. Experiments and observations showed that some whales actually rubbed themselves against large transducers installed at the bow of commercial vessels when the depth sounder was on.

It seems to me that turning a depth sounder on while sailing would alert whales. If they get too close, shut the depth sounder off!

Victor Beelik
Zephyr Cove, NV

Victor — Given the tremendous increase in the number of whales along the West Coast of North America, it would be nice if there were some scientific, rather than just anecdotal, data to support your hypothesis that depthsounder sound waves are catnip to cetaceans. But since there is nothing to lose when offshore, our plan is to leave our depthsounder off in deep water.

⇑⇓

"PLEASE HAVE A FATHERLY CHAT WITH ZACH"

At the closing ceremony of the ’11 Baja Ha-Ha, the Grand Poobah awarded the Spirit of the Ha-Ha Award to Zach Lough and his Catalina 30 Panache. Since then, we have been following his adventures, which have been documented with beautiful photographs, at sailpanache.com.

Zach recently completed his passage from Central America to French Polynesia via the Galapagos. On his blog he boasted about using Ham radio without a license, unsuccessfully sneaking into the Galapagos without checking in, and visiting Fatu Hiva before clearing into French Polynesia at Hiva Oa. I feel that this devil-may-care attitude of flouting authority should be discouraged. It makes the yachtie life more difficult for the rest of us law-abiding cruisers.

I hope that you will have a ‘fatherly’ chat with Zach and help him return to being the young cruiser who is ‘The Spirit of the Ha-Ha’.

Ned Backus
Frannie B, Outbound 44
Seattle, WA

’91-’99 Circumnavigation on Cal 39 Plain Jane

⇑⇑

ZACH RESPONDS

I read the email from Frannie B, and I wanted to be sure everyone got my side of the story. I also want to thank Frannie B for following my blog and caring enough to comment.

While I understand where Ned is coming from — breaking FCC regulations is bad, and sneaking into a country is also bad — he needs to understand that I’m not some cavalier jackass thumbing my nose at authority. There is substantial context missing in his account, and I suspect he is misunderstanding my sarcastic tone.

I meant no disrespect. The portion of my blog post concerning the illegal use of the HF radio aboard Panache was an attempt to be funny by describing an honest — maybe silly — perspective of someone singlehanding across an ocean and then, five days into his crossing, being told he can no longer communicate with the outside world. It was a pretty grim feeling, and I challenge anyone to feel differently. Yes, I should have gotten my license, and yes, I had more than
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enough time. I admit both these facts on my blog.

"Tried to forward my position using the Maritime Mobile net, 14.300 USB, and was ousted as a non-licensed user." Yeah, I don't have a license, but I am a singlehanded sailor who relies on other people’s knowledge of my position as insurance against worst-case scenarios. Sure, I can transmit if I have an emergency, but what if my emergency rendered me unconscious, or what if my radio were damaged? I understand the rules, but I saw myself as an exception. I am professional when using the radio, don’t break protocol (other than not having a call sign), and only transmit my position on maritime nets. My well-being is more important to me than government rules governing light waves. Unfortunately, I don’t have a call sign to argue. From here on, I can only listen.

Thank gosh a person doesn’t need a license to respond over the Internet. I haven’t transmitted on the radio since I was ousted. Ned’s letter makes me out to be some serial pirate Ham operator. Being a passive listener to the 20-meter band since my ousting, I can tell you I am the least of the FCC’s worries. Regardless, I don’t transmit on any frequency anymore, and I don’t condone it. SailPanache.com doesn’t either. Sorry for offending anyone, and know that the first thing I plan to do when I return stateside is get my Ham license.

As for the Galapagos, sarcastically talking about ignoring the port captain is different from actually avoiding port authority. If I meant to avoid port authority, I wouldn’t have anchored in front of the Port Captain’s office. As for Fatu Hiva, the port authority had no issue with me when I told them I made my landfall at Fatu Hiva.

I don’t want to step on any toes, but I certainly don’t want to be misrepresented. And as to Ned’s point about my actions making it harder for future cruisers, while I may write sarcastically on my blog in an attempt at humor, I am always respectful when visiting other countries and dealing with authorities.

Zachary S.O. Lough
Panache, 1976 Catalina 30
www.SailPanache.com

Letters — We’re not going to get too worked up about this, as we understand both Ned’s position as an experienced circumnavigator trying to keep order, and Zach’s position as an eager but novice cruiser learning which rules must be followed and which are mere suggestions.

Given the fact that Zach had a radio with both Ham and SSB capability, it was unfortunate that he didn’t realize he could have simply started his own SSB net, which doesn’t require a license. All he needed to do was pick a name for the net, set a time and frequency, and convince others to participate. The farther cruisers get from the West Coast, the greater the number of SSB nets, and the smaller the number of Ham nets.

Running Aground in the Delta? No Way!
In our recent annual trip from Emery Cove to Rio Vista in the Delta, we had the misfortune of running aground about 20
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yards north of the deep water channel along the Port Chicago Reach, which is off the Concord Naval Weapons Station pier.

After several attempts to get our Catalina 34 free, we found that she was firmly stuck on the bottom. Several boats in the area witnessed our grounding, and stood off waiting to see if we needed help. White Wolf, a motor vessel, even tried to tow us off. But after multiple attempts and a complete soaking of their crew, they had to give up. We were finally towed to deep water by the professionals of Vessel Assist.

We would very much like to thank the crew of White Wolf and those mariners who offered assistance or stood by. It was very reassuring to know help was close. While no damage was done to our boat, and no lives were endangered, it was scary to be grounded in four feet of water — particularly with the tide going out, and the wind and chop building. Adding to our concern was the fact that one of the people on our boat was a 94-year-old making his maiden voyage to the Delta!

Gayle & Pete Vaughan
Cover Girl, Catalina 34
Benicia

Gayle and Pete — A salute to all those who actively tried to help or at least stood by.

Your incident reminds us of our all-time greatest grounding, which happened about 25 years ago. A doctor told us we’d die young if we didn’t take more breaks from work, so we and a young novice sailing couple headed up the Delta on Little O, the first of three Olson 30s we’ve owned. We were doing a lot of 10s under a spinnaker in a fresh breeze as we passed the Martinez Bridge. When we got near the area where you ran aground with Cover Girl, we started telling the young couple how smart we were for being in the middle of the channel, because it was so very shallow on either side. Before we could even finish bragging, the Olson lurched a little, went into the mother of all slo-mo round-ups, and came to a halt heeled over at nearly 90 degrees. Fearing that the boat might somehow tip over even more and trap us, we dove into the water and swam away for as long as we could hold our breath. We were about 50 feet away when we surfaced — and were stunned to find we could stand in about three feet of water.

The young couple, clinging to the Olson and fearing that we’d be swept away, screamed frantically for us to swim back to the boat. They need not have bothered, for we were able to casually stroll back to the perpendicular boat in knee-deep water. In fact, we vividly remember sloshing over to the top of the masthead — which was at water level — and bending down to unclip the head of the spinnaker from the halyard. It was obvious that no boat was going to be able to come to our rescue anytime soon, so out of desperation we got down on our knees by the bow and tried to lift, bounce, and ooch the Olson into deeper water. In one of the great surprises of our lives, thanks to the partial flotation, soft bottom, and strong wind at our backs, not only were we able to move the 3,000-lb Olson over to the channel, it wasn’t even very hard. The only difficult part was avoiding getting left behind when the Olson reached deeper water, bolted upright, and took off like a bat out of hell.

When we later told our doctor about the incident, he told us we’d probably live the longest if we worked 24/7 and never went sailing again.

Gayle & Pete Vaughan
Cover Girl, Catalina 34
Benicia

LIGHT UP!

I read with interest Michael Nagy’s October letter expressing concern about the use of solar-powered LED lights — such as our RailLight — as anchor lights. We wholeheartedly agree that these lights are not designed for such use.
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Indeed, we constantly receive inquiries asking whether our RailLight Premium or RailLight Mini will work as an anchor light, and we are careful to tell potential customers that while they will certainly work as an emergency light, they are not bright enough — nor will they last through the night unless there is at least 12 hours of bright, direct sunshine on them each day — to substitute for a hard-wired anchor light.

That being said, our RailLights make an excellent emergency light. When my Venezia 42 cat was struck by lightning in Mexico some years ago, virtually all my electronics were fried. Were it not for my RailLights, a few flashlights, headlamps and flares, my boat would have been totally in the dark.

I have a RailLight Mini permanently rigged on my mast — and a couple in my cockpit — so that if my masthead anchor light ever goes out, at least there is some light on my boat. Especially in Mexico where unlit boats seem to be the norm.

Eric Sanford
Hood River, OR
www.SolLight.com

Eric — For years we had an incandescent anchor light atop Profligate’s mast, and in addition to draining the batteries, that sucker was the dimmest bulb in the fleet. But we’ve had a masthead LED tricolor/anchor light/strobe hard-wired to our house batteries for the last five years, during which time we’ve had the brightest anchor light in just about every anchorage. We love it.

⇑⇓

SHINE ON!

Michael Nagy’s letter on the inadequacy of solar-powered LED lights for anchor lights really got me cranked. Some boats just don’t run anchor lights, and others use these tiny solar-powered garden variety ones that are dead by 3 a.m. I agree with Mike, and wanted to mention that the vessel he was referring to in La Cruz that stood out because of the blue bow and stern lights was/is our Jacaranda. We could pick out our boat in the anchorage before we even got off the bus coming home from Puerto Vallarta. In addition to the blue Bebi LED anchor lights, we also have an all-round white Bebi LED light just to be legal. Paranoid? You betcha! Our goal is to be seen and not hit!

In the age of inexpensive LEDs, for God’s sake, toss those damn lawn lanterns overboard and get something that can be seen at 3 a.m. It always amazes us how many boats, even those with solar-powered lights, can’t be seen. Try coming into La Cruz on a dark night with all the background lights, and you will be amazed how ineffective your solar powered anchor light really is. If someone runs into you because they can’t see you, you will be held responsible.

We have been using Bebi anchor lights for a couple of years, and think they are fantastic. They switch on automatically and don’t even move the digital volt meter. By the way, these are made by cruisers who employ local Fijians to make them. As they cost just $39 and draw only .065 amp, it’s well worth it to order one. Your cruising friends arriving after dark will be thankful at night, and your batteries will be happy in the morning. Thank you for letting me rant.

Chuck Houlihan
Jacaranda, Allied 39
Currently lying in La Paz

Chuck — You’re not ranting, as it really is often very difficult to see boats that are anchored out in Mexico. Like you, we think it’s important to not only have a brilliant masthead
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anchor light, but to also light up the deck level of one’s boat. Bow and stern lights, such as on your boat, are a little hard because there are four corners on a cat, so we just make sure we leave at least two big CCFL panel lights on in the salon at night, too.

⇑⇑

Jim is our ‘Woof’ Rock Star Helmsman

As you mentioned, San Francisco Bay racer and world cruiser Jim Jessie turned 80 last month — and is still racing.

I first met Jim Jessie in the mid ’70s at Clear Lake when he was visiting his sister. I was sailing a Hobie 16 then, and his sister asked if I would give her brother a ride. When I was introduced to Jim, he had his pipe in his mouth — yes, even back then — and when he said he would be glad to take a ride on my boat, I asked if he could swim.

“That question does not inspire confidence in you,” he replied.

In ’78, he surveyed a Cal 2-29 I was buying — and still race today. I joined the Oakland Yacht Club and became a friend of Jim’s. When he and Diana started their circumnavigation in ’85, I was aboard going out the Gate and turning left. I made it all the way to Catalina, at which point I had to jump ship to return to work. They, as everyone knows, kept going and going and going.

Today, Jim is the helmsman and the ‘Racing Instructor’ aboard my boat, and we have a great time racing up and down the Estuary and in the Bay. The members of our crew refer to ourselves as ‘Woofs’ — well-off old farts. Our average age is 73. When we lose our focus, as we sometimes do, Jim brings us back by saying, “Come on guys, let’s do it just like we were racing!”

Dick Johnson
Nice Turn, Cal 2-29
Oakland YC

⇑⇑Two of the Main Causes of Misery

First rate October 15 ’Lectronic commentary on James Kwon, the high-ranking Port of Oakland official who, four years after the fact, was found to have spent $4,500 of taxpayer money at a strip club in Houston one night. My question is what financial abuses have they not discovered yet?

Dave Barten
Ikani, Aqua Lady 38
Shelter Island

Dave — For those who missed that ’Lectronic commentary on James Kwon, the high-ranking Port of Oakland official who, four years after the fact, was found to have spent $4,500 of taxpayer money at a strip club in Houston one night. My question is what financial abuses have they not discovered yet?

Dave Barten
Ikani, Aqua Lady 38
Shelter Island

How did the former security guard get to be captain of one of the larger cruise ships in the world? Family connections, not merit. In other words, corruption, which along with the lawyer-
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driven contention that nobody is ever responsible for the terrible consequences of their irresponsible actions, are two of the main causes of misery in this world. At least to our thinking.


SETTING THE WINDJAMMER RECORD STRAIGHT

I just read Latitude’s report on the Windjammer’s Race to Santa Cruz, and need to correct you. The overall winner was actually Howard Turner’s J/109 *Symmetry*, which not only won Class 1, but had the fastest time in classes 1 and 2, beating *Kokopelli* 2, the other class winner, by about 12 minutes.

Jay Crum
*Piñata*, Olson 30
Santa Cruz

Jay — Our apologies and congratulations to Howard Turner and the crew of *Symmetry*.


A DOCK OF THE BAY

With public interest in the America’s Cup on the increase, boatowners might be interested to note that La Mar Cebichería Peruana restaurant, located on Pier 1.5 in the heart of the San Francisco waterfront, has its own public dock where vessels up to 40-ft can tie up for up to three hours at no charge. Of course, boatowners don’t even have to care about the America’s Cup to take advantage of the dock.

Tom Walton
San Francisco

Tom — Thanks for the reminder, as San Francisco sailors are always looking for new places to visit with their boats.


DON’T FORGET THE TUBES AND THE SLIME

Thanks for the well-written piece about the pleasures of bringing smaller bikes on boats. As an avid rider and ex-racer, I would advise bringing at least three extra small tubes and tires. Most cruisers weigh more than they did when they were kids, and will tend to wear out two back tires for every front tire. And quickly, too. Replacement tubes and tires are hard to find here in Mexico and many other countries. In addition, cruiser/bikers should also buy a couple bottles of green Slime, the stuff you squirt into the inner tube to stop those nagging flats.

Bikes and cruising boats — a good combination.

Bob Walker
*Cactus*, Hunter Cherubini 37
Wofford Heights / La Paz


CRUISERS SHOULD STOP AT ENSENADA

Thanks for the recent great coverage of Ensenada. We were down there in August from Long Beach, and were once again impressed with the facilities and the friendly people. We were on a short stay, so the Cruiseport Marina staff did a great job of expediting our paperwork, giving us the maximum time to enjoy the town and the sights. Many more California cruisers should make a cruise to Ensenada. After all, it really is Mexico, and if you do the Bash back at night, it’s easy.

Bob Schilling
*Tuckernuck*, Cherubini 44
Long Beach
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Bob — We did two trips to Ensenada this summer, and really enjoyed ourselves on both occasions. Yes, at first glance the downtown area looks as though it could use a little spiffing up, but we quickly forgot all about it as we were swept up by the friendliness of the people of Mexico. Because Ensenada is so close to California, sometimes we think it’s not really Mexico. But it is.

From now on, Ensenada is going to be our last stop when doing a Baja Bash at the end of each cruising season — and not just because fuel is so much less expensive than in the States. We’re also putting early October’s Little Ensenada Race, followed a day later by the 16-mile Todos Santos Race, on our annual calendar. They were a blast. We’re going to try to get more multihulls, too, because being the only other boat on the starting line with the old Waterworld trimaran was a little lonely.

The other thing that surprised us about Ensenada is how many veteran cruisers have elected to base there — instead of a U.S. harbor — because they like it more.

Ensenada Mayor Enrique Pelayo told us that he understands how important it is for American boatowners to be able to clear into and out of Ensenada quickly and at minimum expense. Despite the fact that Immigration and visas are federal matters, he and local legislators are working to get the federal government to make Ensenada a special zone — sort of like Tijuana and other border towns — where visitors coming for less than 72 hours don’t have to do paperwork or pay for a visa.

WHICH NAVIGATION APP IS THE BEST?

Having recently woken up in the morning on the Napa River to pea soup fog, a falling tide and a need to get back down river that day, I am now duly impressed with navigation apps for Apple products. Without our being able to see very far, one crewmember simply and quickly downloaded a navigation app, and it worked flawlessly. However, there seems to be a number of navigation apps, and I’m wondering if Latitude or any Latitude readers have a preference.

P.S. I absolutely love Latitude, so please don’t retire.

Art Hartinger
Pied-a-Mer, Beneteau First 310
South Beach Harbor

Art — Thank you for the kind words.

The only marine navigation app we’ve used extensively is Navionics, and we’ve been very impressed with it, no matter if we were navigating in California, Mexico, or the Caribbean. Because the Navionics app has worked so well, we really haven’t given iNavX a try, and that may have been our loss, for apparently the iNavX has a lot of features that the Navionics doesn’t.

For instance, iNavX has all the free NOAA raster marine charts, with detailed coverage of the U.S. West Coast, Gulf Coast, East Coast, Great Lakes, Alaska, Hawaii, and US Virgin Islands. It also can make your iPad or similar Apple product
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function as a repeater for popular marine navigation software that supports NMEA data over TCP/IP. We’re talking about GPS, AIS receivers and transponders, and depth, speed, wind, engine, and battery instruments. According to the press release, iNavX gives you “the power of a color chartplotter for a fraction of the cost.” As far as we’re concerned, the anchor alarm is worth the entire $49 price.

So our highly technical and definitive product review is as follows: Navionics is a terrific marine navigation app, but for all we know, the iNavX app might even be better.”

To comment — on the products, not our review — email richard@latitude38.com.

NEW FOR OLD IN THE THIRD WORLD

It was good to read your timely note about rebuilding diesels, as we ourselves were faced with a diesel problem here in Turkey. But after a week of twisting on a mooring in a little Turkish fishing harbor, we have decided that we will repower with a new Yanmar rather than rebuild.

Our Angel Louise is a 25-year-old Catalac 41 catamaran and was repowered 20 years ago by her previous owner. He did it partly to get more power, so he installed twin Yanmar 3JH2Es. Those two 37-hp diesels mean we usually can motor faster than we can sail.

We bought Angel Louise in ’07 as our ‘retirement home’ after auctioning off our real home in Des Moines, Iowa, and all our stuff in it. We’ve since been across the Atlantic with her, spent a winter in England, and most recently did a very rare west-to-east crossing of the European continent. She’s been a grand retirement home, and provided us with a way to see a lot of the world and life as well.

Anyway, we lost the right engine two months ago when cruising down the Danube River just short of Belgrade, Serbia. From there on — including through Romania and the Black Sea to Istanbul, where we restepped the mast — we had the use of only one engine.

Maneuvering Angel Louise with just one engine was hairy. In part because the remaining working engine was offset from the centerline of the boat, but also because there was a strong following current in the rivers. Trying to stop or maneuver Angel Louise with one engine was sort of like trying to stop a car with one brake locked on winter ice in Iowa. Given the sometimes narrow channels, and the huge sandbanks in them, we easily could have been stranded for the entire winter.

Nonetheless, our trip from the Netherlands and over the continental divide of Europe — elevation 1,340 feet above sea level — was well worth it. Plus, we had a nice 48-hour sail down to and through the Bosphorus into and through Istanbul. For those not familiar with the area, the 31-mile long Bosphorus, also known as the Istanbul Strait, forms part of the boundary between Europe and Asia. Connecting the Med to the Sea of Marmara — and from there the Black Sea — it’s the narrowest strait in the world that is used for international navigation.

Anyway, we stumbled upon this local fishing harbor at Istanbul where the locals took us under their wing, despite...
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the fact that none of them speaks any English. They gave us a free mooring right in the middle of their harbor, and insisted that we pay nothing for it. Everyone greets us with smiles and a friendly "Merhaba," which means 'hello'. They could not have made us strangers feel any more welcome.

We managed to find a true 'salt of the earth' local mechanic, who, along with his two sons, lifted the 400-lb engine out of Angel Louise's right engine well. After driving it to the mechanic's shop 20 miles away, they found that the crankshaft journal — the part the #1 piston connects to and rotates around — had worn away to the point that the piston was flopping up and down and not working, making the engine shake horribly.

With the help of folks who follow our travels by email, we did a search for a new crankshaft. After searching in Japan, the United States and Europe, we found that the very last crankshaft in the Yanmar system had been sold while we were searching for it, and Yanmar had no plans for making more. We had been prepared to fly to wherever and bring a crankshaft back in a suitcase, but we heard that there is a lot of red tape involved in bringing parts to boats 'in transit'. Even if we could have found the crankshaft, the cost of rebuilding our engine was going to be close to half the cost of a new one. And if we rebuilt the engine, we would be rebuilding a 20-year-old engine that already had seen 7,500 hours of service. I figured that was akin to rebuilding a car engine with 250,000 miles. Not a pleasant thought to ponder since we would be crossing the Atlantic a year from now.

I'm writing the day after we paid half down for a new Yanmar 3JH5e. It is to be delivered out of a bonded warehouse next week to the Yanmar distributor. We hope our friends in the engine shop will be able to put it into Angel Louise on Wednesday, and the electrician can wire up our old panel and instruments to certify it for warranty purposes. An additional bonus of buying a new engine is that we'll be able to carry the old engine's 'top shelf', and all her other critical parts, for spares for the remaining 3JH2E to use to keep her going.

Readers would have been amazed to see these Turks lift the old engine out of the well and slide it to the stern, then lift it onto a helping fisherman's boat. It was a very scary job, with two guys balancing a huge and heavy engine, and putting it on shore before loading it into their truck. I fear my heart will race seeing the same trip in reverse bringing the new engine to the boat at her mooring. But that's how they do things in Turkey — and the Third World.

Our cruising adventure continues into year six! We will spend the winter at Marmaris on the 'Turkish Riviera'. Next year we'll complete our circle of Europe by sailing west across
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Readers — It’s hard to say how many hours is a lot on a diesel, but 7,500 doesn’t sound like that much. We say that because both of ‘ti Proligate’s diesels have close to 9,000 hours and have — touch wood — been running great. The mechanics at the charter base tell us that it’s not uncommon for diesels in frequently used charter boats to run for 14,000 hours. But things like not changing the oil on schedule, lugging the engine, and running dirty fuel are just three of the many things that can dramatically shorten the lifespan of a diesel.

BE PREPARED TO BLEED

I rebuilt my Perkins 4-108 diesel in the late ‘80s after it spun a rod bearing while motoring up the coast. My prior experience was having helped rebuild a Model A Ford engine as a teen, building a Ford Cortina (British) 4-banger for SCCA production-class car racing in my 20s, and having overhauled a couple of dunked outboards. So I had some idea what I was doing, and I had the help of a San Rafael machine shop.

It also helped that I was rebuilding a durable — considering that it was British — engine. When I tore my Perkins down at a friend’s shop, he was tearing down the GM 6-71 diesel that ultimately ended up in Alert, Harold Sommer’s tug. I noticed that I took seven parts off my Perkins for every one he took off his Detroit Diesel.

Getting the engine out of the boat, and later putting it back in, was fun. Seriously. I looked at it as a heavy puzzle. It took some thought, a couple of timbers, a chain hoist, a come-along, padding, and the ability to hold one’s breath. But no teak got scratched, and only about an ounce of blood was spilled.

I got lucky when it came to parts. That model Perkins was popular in tractor-trailer refrigeration units, and I found a San Leandro refrigeration outfit that was wisely switching all its reefer units over to Yanmar diesels. Thus they had no further use for their stash of Perkins parts. So I managed to buy a brand-new crank, rods, pistons, pins, valves and springs, an injection pump, and such — all for a dime on the dollar.

By working slowly and carefully, and never when tired, and with several smart mechanic friends to check procedures with, I got the engine back together and into the boat. It was a success, and I was amazed. The engine ran sweetly for years — until the sensitive, ethereal sort who bought my boat promptly ran it without water and fried the thing.

I would not advise the mechanical clubfoot to take on such a project, but anybody savvy enough to go world cruising successfully with limited funds should be able to rebuild a small diesel. After all, they get overhauled under astoundingly crude conditions in the Third World all the time. But it does take some common sense, and a willingness to get dirty and to bleed some.

Brooks Townes
Port Townsend, WA

SHINY NEW PISTONS ARE MY KIND OF JEWELRY!

I offer a woman’s point of view on diesel rebuilds. I’ve had three boat diesels rebuilt to varying degrees, and found each one to be a learning experience.

The first was an engine rebuild and repair of a broken crankshaft on my Columbia 43’s Perkins 4-108. I did this on the dock at Marina de La Paz in ’94 under the tutelage of a
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<tr>
<th>Yacht Model</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Condition</th>
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<td>36' HUNTER SLOOP</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Bristol condition!</td>
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<td>47' WAUQUIEZ</td>
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<td>44' HUNTER DECK SALON</td>
<td>2005</td>
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<td>34' ALOHA</td>
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<td>1975</td>
<td>John G. Alden design.</td>
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<tr>
<td>40' BRISTOL YAWL</td>
<td>1981</td>
<td>Very well maintained.</td>
<td>$64,000</td>
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<td>44' MOODY</td>
<td>1997</td>
<td>New listing.</td>
<td>$199,000</td>
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<td>32' WESTSAIL</td>
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<td>35' SANTANA</td>
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<td>34' SAN JUAN SLOOP</td>
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<td>29' FARALLON SLOOP</td>
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<tr>
<td>24' CORSAIR SPRINT</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>$44,900</td>
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fellow cruiser who was also a mechanic. Every evening he’d come by for his sundowner and to assign me tasks for the next day.

In ’95, an oil line split on that same engine, causing it to seize. This time I did the rebuild on the dock in Portland under the daily guidance of a friend who owned a Portland boatyard.

On the way to La Paz after the Ha-Ha in ’09, the diesel on my Gulfstar 50 Talion gave it up. Since it was a much bigger engine than I’d had on the Columbia 43, and because I’m older and wiser, I had Colin, a gringo friend in La Paz, do the rebuild. Lucky for me, Colin let me do what I could — the wiring, plumbing, painting and cleaning — to keep the cost down.

All of my diesel rebuilds have been overwhelming and filthy tasks that ran over budget. On the plus side, I learned so much about my boat and engines from my three mentors that I’m no longer as intimidated when things go wrong.

Patsy Verhoeven
Talion, Gulfstar 50
La Paz, Baja California Sur

NOT WITHOUT ACCESS TO A PROPER MACHINE SHOP

For the last 12 years I have been tending to the diesel engines aboard our three charter cats here in Belize. We have a Lagoon 47, a Lagoon 500, and a Voyage 500 that our son manages. All have twin Yanmar diesels. So I probably have a lot more time on diesels than do most cruisers.

Even though I consider myself to be a reasonably competent mechanic, I would never, ever try to rebuild one on my own without access to a proper machine shop. In addition, you should remove the engine from the boat and have the proper, clean space to work on it. Otherwise, you are probably wasting your time — not to mention the considerable cost of the parts. Once you start a rebuild, you will probably want to have the head planed, the valves ground or replaced, and so forth.

By the way, things are great here in Belize.

Cliff Wilson
Aubisque, Lagoon 47
Belize

DETERMINING A GOOD REBUILD CANDIDATE

Should an average do-it-yourselfer try to rebuild a diesel engine? What a great question!

The important first step is to determine what’s wrong with the engine, assuming it’s something beyond the normal high hours. For example, if the engine had been overheated, there could be internal cracks that would be hard to find — unless
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all components were magna-fluxed. With severe overheating and an engine that would not run correctly, attempting a rebuild would be a gamble. But if we’re talking about a dependable old diesel with a trillion hours that still runs, was never overheated, but blows oil through, that would be a good candidate for a rebuild. Of course, the do-it-yourselfer would still need good tools and some experienced machine shop or mechanic to walk him/her through it.

Dave Biron
Big Break Marina, Oakley

DON’T BOTHER TO JUST SAVE MONEY

I would say ‘no’, it’s not appropriate for the average boatowner to try to rebuild a boat’s diesel engine. First, you need special tools that you’d need only once. Second, you need to spend a lot of time becoming knowledgeable before you begin. And three, just the smallest mistake can ruin the engine.

That said, I think the kind of sailors who built their own boat would be right at home rebuilding their diesel engine. So for some boaters — the kind who derive as much joy from the building and maintenance process as from sailing — it makes complete sense. But forget it if you’re just trying to save a few bucks.

Greg Retkowski
San Jose

Readers — Greg cruised his Morgan Out-Island 41 Scirocco from California to Florida, then built his own airplane, and is now, with his wife Cherie, looking to buy either an F-27 or an F-31 trimaran.

We got a tremendous amount of response to our ‘should a do-it-yourselfer try to rebuild a diesel’ question, and will have more responses next month.

ANOTHER GREAT LATITUDE EVENT

I was crew on Paul Martson’s Contour 34 trimaran for the first ever SoCal Ta-Ta in September, and we had a great time! The sailing was absolutely perfect — and we didn’t have to bring the boat all the way back from Mexico as we do after a Ha-Ha. Congrats to the Grand Poobah and the Ta-Ta staff for pulling off such a wonderful and well-organized event.

Jared Brockway
Orange, Contour 34 Ventura

Jared — Thanks for the kind words, but no matter if it’s Latitude’s Baja Ha-Ha, SoCal Ta-Ta, or Delta Doo Dah, what makes an event are the participants. We love doing these events — well, Christine Weaver and LaDonna Bubak run the Doo Dah — because the participants have been so fun, so interesting and so responsible.

IT’S ALL ABOUT THE FOOD

In the article about the Ta-Ta, you wrote that you were surprised that none of the six people on my little Cal 27 jumped ship. The explanation can be found on Carmela’s menu for the week, which included roast lamb, linguine, heroes, taquitos, burgers, bacon and eggs, and tons of salad. By the way, thanks for all your organizing work, as it made the trip a huge success for our crew. We can’t wait for next year’s Ta-Ta II.

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THEY'RE ALL GOOD PLACES

The closest I have ever been to the Caribbean is doing the Miami-Nassau Race many years ago. But Rick Meyerhoff of Marin, one of my customers I knew from a former life, has invited me to come sailing with him in the Caribbean aboard his LaFitte 44 Maya — if I can find the time. He will launch his boat in Grenada in November, and then just cruise the Caribbean until the onset of hurricane season in about July. If I can find 10 days or so, what would be the best area with respect to good sailing, good people, good places to visit, and so forth? And from where it is reasonable to fly in and out?

Chris Boome
Burlingame

Chris — Nassau in the Bahamas is actually in the Atlantic, a long way away from the Eastern Caribbean. Everybody on the West Coast makes the same mistake — except for those who have tried to sail from the Bahamas to the Eastern Caribbean. December and January are when most people sail in the Caribbean, but they do that because that's when the weather is so crappy in the States and people get time off from work. Alas, that's when the Christmas trades blow the strongest in the Caribbean, and they often blow hard for weeks without stopping. Seriously. Some guy flicks on the Azores High in mid-December, and it blows like a huge fan day and night until the guy turns it off two months later.

Generally, the weather improves with lighter winds — 15 to 20 knots — and smaller seas starting in early February. That's why Doña de Mallorca and the Wanderer wait until then to open the Caribbean office of Latitude, and keep it open until early May. The Eastern Caribbean weather doesn't get bad — meaning really hot and humid — until July.

We're not sure how far north Rick is going to cruise this winter, but here is a general guide for you:

The British Virgins offer the easiest sailing, thanks to flat water and countless places that cater to the charter fleets. But Rick might not want to go that far north. Furthermore, the British Virgins can be very crowded in season, and it might seem awfully structured to some. That said, there are good reasons that the British Virgins are to charter sailing what Vegas is to gambling.

Our favorite area of the Caribbean, as all Latitude readers know, is tiny St. Barth, which is atypically clean, safe, and full of characters. We won't even mention the very skinny and stylish French girls who stop by the pâtisseries for coffee, croissants — and everyone's viewing pleasure. St. Barth is mostly our favorite because we bought Big O there in '85, and over time have become dear friends with many of the residents. If you stay on a boat, St. Barth doesn't have to be that expensive. You don't need a car, you're surrounded by the great yachts of the world, and the anchorages and beaches are wonderful. St. Barth is close to St. Martin and Anguilla, which have great cruising, too.

Antigua's historic English Harbor is another big boat yacht- ing center, and the island has a beach for every day of the year. There is fabulous sailing as you reach past Cades Reef and get into the lee of the island, and as with all the islands of the Eastern Caribbean, there is excellent diving.

Guadeloupe and Martinique are huge sailing bases for the French, and have plenty of attractions. But the islands are expensive, there can be a bit of a language barrier, and except for Guadeloupe's Îles des Saintes, which are very crowded, there isn't much that other islands don't have.

Some of the lesser known islands are fabulous, too, such as St. Lucia, St. Vincent and all the little Grenadines, and
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Grenada. But things are markedly more primitive and slower paced 'down island'. Not bad, mind you, just much slower and less developed. So where you should go all depends on what kind of experience you want.

If you want the most mellow time with the easiest sailing, we’d recommend the British Virgins. If you’re more adventurous and don’t have a problem with open ocean sailing, we’d try to meet Rick at St. Martin and kick around there and Anguilla, and spend most of the time at St. Barth. If you could pick any time to do this, we’d go during either the St. Barth Bucket, the greatest sailing spectacle in the world, or the Voiles de St. Barth, which is smaller, but nonetheless totally French sailing and partying fun. The beauty of going during either of these events is that you can choose to enjoy great partying at the quay next to many of the great yachts of the world, or you can motor about three miles to the Columbie anchorage, where there are not only no roads or houses, but no lights either. If you want the 'path less travelled', sail down-island with Rick. But the truth of the matter is that if you can’t have fun sailing anywhere in the Caribbean, you’ve got a serious problem.

It’s not that hard to get to any of the islands of the Eastern Caribbean. From the Bay Area, you fly to either Miami or New York, then get connections to the bigger Eastern Caribbean islands. If you want to go to the smaller islands, there are fewer flights, and you will probably have to go through Puerto Rico or St. Martin, which may cost you a day of sailing fun. Flying between the islands of the Eastern Caribbean — even many of the bigger ones — is often difficult if not impossible, and it’s always expensive. So plan carefully.

PIRATES IN MEXICO?

I appreciated your recent editorial response to a letter regarding cruiser safety and Mexico. In that response you wrote, “As we reported last month, we can’t recall a case of a violent attack on a cruising boat in Mexico in decades. When we asked our readers last month, they couldn’t either. If anyone has evidence to the contrary, we stand ready to be corrected.”

Well, I would like to remind the sailing community of Alameda sailor John Long, who was killed off of the coast of Southern Mexico in ‘08. And I would encourage the sailing community to read David Vann’s moving piece, Last Voyage of the Culin, which is about the incident. It appeared in Outside magazine, which can be found at tinyurl.com/8m6ypmy.

Perry
San Francisco

Perry — We’re very sad to hear about the death of John Long, and wish we’d been told about it earlier. We’ll gladly alert our readers to that incident, and to the article in Outside magazine. But frankly, we hardly know what to make of it, especially when Vann claims that Long “was killed” as opposed to simply having died. After all, Vann’s tale not only is colorful, but also seems to be full of exaggerations, embellishments, admitted speculation, and what we find to be questionable conclusions. Speaking as an editor, it seems to us that Outside went hook, line and sinker for a sensationalized bit of writing, assuming few of their readers knew anything about sailing in Mexico.

Consider, for example, the following paragraph: “The truth may be elusive in other places, but here in Puerto Madero and La Cigüeria, I believe it never actually exists. Even as events occur, they immediately become something else. An outsider can never know anything for certain, and this is partly because we are mythological creatures, born of conquistadores and sit-
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ting on our mountain of gold in El Norte. We aren’t believable ourselves, even our existence, so we’re told stories, and every story is about one thing: money.”

We’re pretty open-minded as an editor, but we’d have suspended Vann’s poetic license for at least six months for writing stuff like that. Furthermore, it doesn’t sound anything like the coast of a country we’ve visited countless times with our own boats over a period of 30 years.

Mind you, there is no doubt that Vann knows something about Puerto Madero, for he writes about his misadventures with his own boat there 15 years ago:

“My sailboat was a 48-ft ketch, just like Long’s, and in the late fall of 1997 I hired another captain to deliver her from San Francisco to Panama while I finished a semester of teaching at Stanford. My plan was to pick up the boat in Panama and continue to the British Virgin Islands, where I would run winter charters. This boat, Grendel, was my business and my home.

“But the captain I’d hired, an accomplished sailor in her thirties, took on some bad diesel in Acapulco, diesel with water in it, and limped into the town of Puerto Madero on a bit of wind. For some reason, she waited a week before calling me. Then the cook took off on another boat for la pura vida in Costa Rica, and took my $2,000 in emergency cash with him.”

It would have been helpful had Vann identified his accomplished female skipper, as it would have allowed us to ask her why she supposedly waited a week to call him about the boat’s problems, and generally get her version of the events that took place. Anyway, when Vann got down to his boat in Puerto Madero, things were grim. Really grim:

“My sailboat was large and broken, tied to the one crumbled chunk of concrete on the shoreline, visited by rats, snakes, begging children, prostitutes, the police, the navy, drunken fishermen, and the crooked port captain’s men. At first I tried to have the engine fixed, but a mechanic with a disco shirt, gold chains, and a group of thugs at his shop held the high-pressure injection pump for ransom, demanding $900 instead of $100 for the repair. So I tried a new tack, spending $3,500 to buy a used engine and have it trucked down from California. This engine was stolen before it ever arrived, only to reappear mysteriously months later, a 500-lb hunk of metal dumped on the beach in the middle of the night.”

Nothing but rats, snakes, begging children, prostitutes, the police, the navy, drunken fishermen, and the crooked port captain’s men — do tell! We find this description to be just a wee bit dramatic, even for Puerto Madero, which admittedly was for a long time the most corrupt port on the Pacific Coast of Mexico. It’s now home to the new Chiapas Marina, which we’re told is being run by the much-liked former harbormaster at Huatulco.

We also find it interesting that in the 35 years we’ve covered cruising on the Pacific Coast of Mexico, we can’t remember anyone — but Vann — using the incendiary word “pirates” in Mexico. Pirates who Vann claims sometimes transport drugs nearly 2,000 miles up the Pacific Coast to California in pangas powered by 115-hp outboards. Boy, their asses must be sore
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when they get to the States.

The other thing that gives us pause with regard to the veracity of Vann’s speculations was the 78-year-old Long’s physical and mental condition at the time of his death. Long is said to have been in such poor physical shape that he could hardly climb the bleachers at baseball games. As for his mental abilities, Vann reported that Long twice left San Francisco and turned north, somehow thinking that Tomales Bay was on the way to Mexico.

Vann speculates that Long was the victim of an attack by ‘pirates’. It’s possible. But we’re skeptical. Very skeptical.

⇑⇓

NOT WILLING TO RISK LIFE AND LIMB

To a prudent sailor, aggressive sailing and poor seamanship are one and the same.

While on a Crewed Farallones Race about 35 years ago, I experienced both aggressive sailing and poor seamanship. We were just outside breakers in strong winds and big seas, when suddenly the Farallones became so enveloped in fog that we couldn’t see them. Our best crewman suggested to the owner that we come up in order to clear the island safely, but the owner ignored that advice. We all quit the boat after that race.

I had raced in the Bay and offshore many years before that race, but I realized that I was not willing to risk my life and limb so some owner could feel like a winner.

Arthur D. Saftlas
Larkspur

Arthur — We totally empathize with your not wanting to have your life in the hands of an owner/driver who you think is operating whatever vehicle you’re on — be it a sailboat, a car or an airplane — in a reckless manner. We can’t remember being in that situation on a boat. In part because we’re semi-control freaks who rarely like to sail on boats other than our own, but it’s happened to us a number of times when we were in cars or taxis. And we’ve never hesitated to get the heck out of the car, no matter where we were. We’ve felt so strongly about control over our lives, and those of our kids, that we made sure they got cars as soon as they turned 16. The last thing we ever wanted to happen was for them to be injured or killed as a result of being in a car operated foolishly by some reckless friend.

The problem with boats, of course, is that you can’t just get off them anytime you feel they are being operated dangerously. So it’s important that crewmembers, owners, and skippers all be on the same page when it comes to what level of risk-taking they want to engage in. The longer and rougher the sail, the more important it is to be on the same page.

We disagree, however, with your assertion that aggressive sailing is necessarily the same as poor seamanship, in part because those are subjective terms. For example, some sailors believe that good seamanship means that you should always reef the main and take down the spinnaker at night. But to many sailors, and particularly experienced racers, keeping the main and spinnaker up at night in moderate and even fairly strong conditions is neither aggressive nor poor seamanship. Of course, much depends on one’s age and sailing experience, the type of boat, skill of the driver and crew, and so forth.

The nice thing about sailing is that you can pretty much pick the level of risk you want, based on what and where you sail, and with whom you sail. After all, the risk level is considerably lower when sailing in a non-spinnaker division of a beer can race on the Oakland Estuary than it is doing something like the Doublehanded Farallones on a Moore 24.
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Thanks for the interesting article on the Phil Rhodes-designed 90-ft motor yacht, Sea Diamond. I’m Phil’s grandson, so I read the article with interest, in part because Sea Diamond was my favorite of his designs. But I was curious about the caption you had for the photo of the original nameplate, which read, “Oddly enough, the only slightly cheesy thing on the great yacht is the original nameplate.” Why was it cheesy?

I loved the information in the article and the fabulous photos. I hope to get a glimpse of her at the shipyard in Newport, Rhode Island.

Doug Harrison
Stamford, CT

Doug — You’re a little behind the times, as we recall that article ran a couple of years ago. But no worries, we’re glad you liked it. Our remark about the nameplate was not to suggest that a nameplate is a cheesy thing, but rather that the quality of the nameplate on Sea Diamond seemed inferior to the rest of this classic beauty.

WE WERE SAD TO DROP OUT OF THE TA-TA

When Latitude introduced the idea of a SoCal Ta-Ta, my wife and I realized that it would be the perfect vehicle to kick ourselves in the ass and get moving to make ourselves and our boat ocean worthy, and to gain more practice for the family cruising adventure we hope to start in the near future. So we signed up and got to work. We got the radar working, we tweaked the watermaker into shape, and we sailed around the Farallones and up to Drakes Bay on a blustery 25-knot weekend. Family Circus, our Fontaine-Pajot 35 catamaran, shined the whole time we were on the water. We even made our first boat flag and had plans for making a Ta-Ta pennant.

We decided to head down to Southern California early, as I couldn’t take enough time off work to do the delivery and the Ta-Ta all at once. Then we did final engine checks, and unfortunately discovered our port engine was starting to lose compression and thus wasn’t doing so well. We decided that we’d nurse it down to Southern California for the Ta-Ta and back, then get the engine overhauled upon our return. Alas, as we entered Monterey Harbor to refuel — there was no wind the first 12 hours out of the Gate — we couldn’t bring the engine to life. Faced with a difficult decision of where to have the major engine work done, and what adventures we could undertake safely with all our kids aboard during the event, we decided that we had to abandon our hopes of doing the Ta-Ta. So we returned to San Francisco Bay under one engine.

What made it worse was that our kids had just learned that you had given the Ta-Ta a ‘Reggae Pon Da Ocean’ theme. They were totally into it! In fact, they even asked if we could charter a boat for a week so we could still take part.

So even though we didn’t get to do the Ta-Ta, signing up for it did so much to further our progress toward our cruising goal. We hope to join Latitude on a future adventure, and
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Chris Tzortzis
Family Circus, Fontaine-Pajot 38
San Francisco

Chris — We’re sorry that your family wasn’t able to make it, as we think we can safely say that the Ta-Ta turned out to be a pretty enjoyable event. But we’re glad it helped you get off the dime with respect to preparing you and your boat for an upcoming cruise. By the way, did you realize that next year’s Ha-Ha is going to be the 20th?

⇑⇓

WE HAD BOTH FULL-SIZE AND FOLDING BIKES.

Latitude asked what bikes are best for cruising boats. I had a pair of full-size mountain bikes aboard my Deerfoot 62 Moonshadow during our ’94 to ’11 circumnavigation. They got a lot a use and really added to the experience. When we sold the boat earlier this year, we left the bikes aboard so John and Deb Rogers of San Diego, the new owners, are enjoying them now.

After selling Moonshadow, we went to the dark side — for cruising anyway — and bought a Mainship 39-ft trawler near Baltimore. Because space is very limited, I picked up a couple of folding bikes from an online store — and Merima and I couldn’t be happier with them. We spent a couple of months cruising down the Intracoastal Waterway, and are now in Ft. Lauderdale. The bikes got — and still get — a lot of use. While not as fast and stable as full-size bikes, the folding bikes are easier to store and handle. We took them out almost every time we stopped at a marina. They look pretty cool and get a lot of compliments.

We’re now waiting for a ship to take our boat — and our bikes — home to Auckland next month.

George Backhus & Merima Dzaferi
Jolly Mon, Mainship 39
Lying in Ft. Lauderdale / Auckland / Formerly Sausalito

⇑⇓

TEN YEARS OF SATISFACTION

We have a pair of Montague folding bikes for our boat that we bought in December of ’02, and we absolutely love them! They are full-size mountain bikes, and we have logged a lot of miles on them throughout Hawaii, Alaska, and many South Pacific islands.

Some of the islands that we visited — such as Niue, Wallis and Funafuti — don’t have public transportation or taxis, so the bikes allowed us the opportunity to tour the islands without the expense of hiring a car. We met so many locals while riding along! On many occasions we were flagged down and invited to join in at a meal or were offered a drinking nut. The locals were very curious about us and really wanted to talk to us. It was great fun.

Another benefit of bikes is that they allowed us to explore more remote areas. The full-size bikes make it much easier to tackle the uphill grinds, so we’re glad we chose them over the smaller ones.

Emmy Newbould & Eric Willbur
Nataraja, Dutchman 37
Brickyard Cove

⇑⇓

YUM, CREOSOTE, NOT NECESSARILY A BAD THING

I’m worried about the creosote at the Army Corps of Engineers site in Sausalito. There are times when the creosote odor from the pier is so strong that it causes lung and eye irritation, as well as dizziness. It’s especially bad when the Corps uses heavy equipment to break down the piles of stuff
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they bring in from the waters of the Bay. The particulate matter is blown across the water, and can be smelled on boats in the vicinity.

I’m concerned because creosote can cause cancer. I’ve contacted the City of Sausalito, but they say it’s a federal issue. I contacted the Army Corps, and they said they would look at doing testing. Isn’t that something they should have done before? If the Army Corps were a private business, I suspect such tests would have been required. I’ve contacted the BCDC (Bay Conservation and Development Commission) but they said there was nothing they could do.

If the predominant winds blew toward the many offices in the area instead of toward the water, I wonder if there would be more of a response. Do you have any suggestions on what else can be done?

C.M. — We originally thought you were making a big stink out of a slight odor. But then we went down to the Army Corps site, and we were surprised by how strong the creosote fumes were. Nevertheless, a history of creosote, as well as an understanding of its current uses, makes us wonder how dangerous it really is. Particularly when compared to the more powerful toxins sailors are frequently exposed to.

Even before the chemical compound that is creosote was ‘discovered’ by Western scientists, it had long been the chief active component in many medical remedies around the world. For instance, it was used by Greeks in the time of Pliny, by Native Americans in the Southwest, by Caribbean and South American Indians, and throughout the Middle Ages in Europe. Creosote from wood sources such as chaparral remains a popular herbal remedy today. It was also used frequently in Western medicine, primarily as an expectorant, antiseptic, astringent, anesthetic and laxative.

But get this — creosote is the primary ingredient in most ‘liquid smoke’ food products! Shortly after the creosote chemical compound was discovered in 1832, it was found to keep non-rerefrigerated meats from putrefying. And many people thought it gave meat a mouth-watering smoky flavor.

Our conclusion is that worrying about moderate creosote fumes might be more dangerous than the fumes themselves. But who knows for sure? Unless you want to become the Erin Brockovich of creosote, we think the best short-term solution is to simply move your boat north or south, so you’re not directly downwind of the Army Corps site.

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A GIANT AMONG SAILING LEGENDS

I enjoyed your October 5 ‘Lectronic tribute to Jim Kilroy of the various Kialoas. He truly is one of the great sailors of the last 50 years.

I grew up in Newport Beach and attended junior and senior high with Dana Kilroy, one of Jim’s daughters. In the mid-’60s, catamarans were just catching on on the West Coast, and as I recall, the catamaran adherents were making as many enemies as friends. It was only renegades such as James Arness of the 58-ft Seasmoke and Buddy Ebsen of Polynesian Concepts I, II, III and IV, who bought them. I should say renegades who were also actors, as Arness was the star of the hugely popular television series Gunsmoke, and Ebsen was a very busy actor, playing countless roles from the original Tin Man in The Wizard of Oz to Jed Clampett in the Beverly Hillbillies.

But as I recall, Jim Kilroy chartered a large cat — I believe Alley Cat — during a weekend of particularly ferocious Santa
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Ana winds in the Newport area. It was so windy that Kilroy and his crew must have been the only ones sailing that day. Anyway, the catamaran flipped in the middle of Newport Harbor, sticking the masthead in the mud of the shallow harbor.

The catamaran remained capsized in the middle of the harbor for at least a few days, a shrine to either — pick one — failed seammanship or too much bravado. Anyway, some smart ass rowed out to the inverted hulls, which floated at least five feet out of the water, and used them as a canvas on which to paint the popular World War II slogan, "Kilroy was here!"

I was a 12-year-old paper boy for the Daily Pilot back then, and each day I read the paper as I folded 75 copies for later delivery via my Sting Ray bicycle. On the day after the capsize, there was a magnificent photo of the flipped cat, sporting the slogan, on the front page of the Daily Pilot. I thought it made for one of the funniest pictures that I'd seen in 55 years of yachting. I would love to search the Daily Pilot archives for that photo. Kilroy naturally took a lot of ribbing over the incident.

As I’m sure Latitude is aware, many of the early California catamarans were designed by Rudy Choy of Hawaii. I attended Rudy’s memorial service at the Outrigger Canoe Club in Honolulu about 18 months ago. I first met Rudy at Corona del Mar High School, where he presented a movie and lecture about catamarans a few years after the famous Kilroy capsize. I was sent to a prep school on the Big Island for my junior and senior years, where I became a classmate of Robin, Rudy’s daughter. Small world.

Cats rule!

P.S. I love Latitude 38.

Mark Blackburn
www.markblackburn.org

Mark — Thank you for the kind words. The Kilroy cat flipping story is interesting, because we once saw the man who introduced Kilroy to the Southwestern YC audience — our new buddy Dennis Conner — flip a cat. It was when Dennis was practicing for the catamaran-versus-Kiwi 'Big Boat' America’s Cup in 1988, and Dennis and crew did a little-too-aggressive fly-by of the San Diego YC one festive weekend. After the capsize, Dennis casually swam over to the yacht club dock, a big smile on his face, leaving the crew to deal with the cat’s remains.

Chuck Driscoll of Driscoll’s Boat Works in San Diego told us an interesting story about Kilroy and the building of his S&S-designed 74-ft ketch Kialoa II. At the height of S&S’s glory, they wouldn’t let just any yard build their designs, and also required an approved expert to supervise construction. S&S agreed that the yacht could be built by Yacht Dynamics of Harbor City — which was some sort of joint venture of Ken Watts of Watts Sails, Bud Gardiner, and Donald Douglas of Douglas Aircraft Corp. — but only as long as Gerry Driscoll would supervise.

Driscoll was a sailing champion several times over, and 20
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LETTERS

years before had started numerous boatyard enterprises in the San Diego area with his brother Harlan. The only problem was that Gerry lived in San Diego, and the 100,000-lb aluminum Kialoa II was being built in the South Bay area of Los Angeles. As one can imagine, making five round-trip driving trips a week between San Diego and Los Angeles got old really fast, even in the ‘60s. Kilroy’s solution was to buy a plane and have a pilot fly Driscoll between San Diego’s Lindbergh Field and LAX every working day. After a month or so, Kilroy paid for Driscoll to take flying lessons, and Driscoll eventually made about 18 months’ worth of round trips as his own pilot until the yacht was completed.

Kilroy’s Kialoas seemed to be everywhere. As we mentioned, Frank Robben of Berkeley bought Kialoa II and sailed her relentlessly around the globe for 15 years before selling her to a Dutch businessman in ’99. Google ‘Kialoa II’ and you can read all about Robben’s many adventures with the yacht. Kialoa II has been totally refit twice in Turkey in the last dozen years, and is now for sale — for over $1,000,000!

Kialoa III, of course, was the most ubiquitous of all Kilroy’s yachts, and made her presence felt all over the world, first as a wildly successful racing machine, and subsequently as a cruising boat — albeit not the most comfortable cruising boat in the world. It never surprised us to see Kialoa III racing on San Francisco Bay, in Southern California, or to Hawaii. But when we sailed our Ocean 71 Big O from California to Turkey in ’95, we were pleasantly surprised to tie up next to Kialoa III at a marina in Marmaris. In fact, we poached ‘Big Bill’, one of her Aussie crew, for the trip back across the Med and Atlantic. As mentioned before, the Palmer-Johnson-built Kialoa III is structurally in fine shape and for sale in the San Pedro area. Alas, the same couldn’t be said for Kialoa V, which we saw a few years ago on the hard at La Rochelle, France, looking more than a little out of sorts. Lord know where Kialoa IV is.

Jim Kilroy, truly a sailing legend.

††YOU CAN’T SNEAK POETRY PAST US

I became involved with sailing this summer and had a blast! I mostly sailed beer cans out of Richmond YC, and I want to thank all the folks on Gruntled, Lighten Up 3, Mirage, and Monterey Peninsula’s Yankee, for sharing their knowledge and love of sailing. I liked it so much, I wrote a love letter to sailing to sum up why I enjoy it so much.

[Poem deleted by publisher]

I’m looking forward to getting out this fall and winter, and to continuing to read Latitude.

Linda Dayoan
Richmond

Linda — While it was important for us to let you express your sentiment, we’ve had a firm policy for the last 35 years of not allowing poetry. The problem is we simply don’t like it. But if it will make amends, we hope you can join us for a sail aboard Proligate sometime.

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, sailing 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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whoops!

Ever since Oracle Team USA’s AC72 catamaran was launched in August, many racing fans — and crewmembers — have wondered when and if the radical speed machine would capsize in San Francisco Bay’s strong winds. They needn’t wonder any longer, as the big cat nosedived and flipped on October 16 at roughly 3 p.m. just inside the Golden Gate.

“We called for a bear-away as we were out training,” recalled tactician Tom Slingsby. Winds had built during the afternoon to about 25 knots, accompanied by a strong ebb. “We started the bear-away, and as the boat accelerated it pitchpoled.” Per the rules established for America’s Cup 34, each team is allowed only 30 days of training prior to January 31, 2013. This was the team’s eighth practice day.

“When the nose went down,” Slingsby continued, “the wing hit and a few guys went in the water. We were unsure if the wing would snap, so we all climbed off the boat.” Fortunately none of the crew was injured, but the crumpled wing appears to be all but a total loss. Oracle support boats were on the scene, so crew were picked up quickly, with the Coast Guard standing by also.

But with the force of the strengthening ebb — which reached a max of 5.5 knots around 5:30 p.m. — the capsized hull was swept about four miles outside the Gate before it could be righted and towed back to its base along the Cityfront, arriving early the following morning.

“There’s no question this is a setback,” skipper James Spithill admitted. “It’s going to be a big test for this team. But . . . this won’t stop us from winning the America’s Cup.”

The team has been conspicuously silent since the day after the capsize. Keep an eye on ‘Lectronic Latitude for updates.

— andy

latitude’s ‘modest’ proposal

It took the October 16 capsize — and recovery, such as it was — of the Oracle AC72 USA 17 to make us fully appreciate just how gigantic and unwieldy these catamarans are. Actually, it wasn’t the capsizing in 25 knots of wind that shocked us — at some point we all expected that to happen — but rather the video of the nine Oracle rescue boats struggling in vain to keep the askew monster from drifting a reported four miles outside the Gate on a strong ebb. “We’re a little out of control here!” the video screamed at us.

Thank god nobody was seriously hurt or killed. Let us repeat that: Thank god nobody was seriously hurt or killed.

We were even more surprised by the fact that — while the capsized Oracle was still drifting out the Gate, and bits of her wing were becoming souvenirs all over the Bay — it was announced that nothing has changed, and that America’s Cup 34 will continue as planned.

In the past, Oracle honcho Russell Coutts has seemed to confess that maybe they had gone a little too extreme with the parameters of the AC72s in an attempt to make the America’s Cup competition more exciting. Ya think? That being the case, it crossed our minds that the capsize of the Oracle cat, and the total destruction of her main, might signal a perfect opportunity to take a week or so to digest what has happened, what it portended for the event as planned, and...
seminar turns 20

the concept of women teaching women to the Bay Area, and hundreds of women have since passed through the program. All instructors, boats, and classroom space are donated to the effort. “In response to the increasing number of recidivists and women with advanced skills, new tracks have emerged focusing on spinnakers and blue water sailing,” said Sotebier. Courses included Short-handed Sailing, Diesel Maintenance, and

proposal — cont’d

what possible alternatives there might be.

At this stage of the game, it would be extremely embarrassing and very poor form, and create an uproar, if dramatic changes were made to the very fundamentals of the 34th America’s Cup. On the other hand, would it not be even worse form and more humiliating if not even two of the 72s — and their wings — survived their trials for there to even be an America’s Cup?

If we were Russell Coutts and, more importantly, Larry Ellison, we would take this opportunity to suggest an alternative to all interested stakeholders. The alternative is that the huge — as well as hugely expensive and hugely complicated AC72 cats — be scrapped.
as of right now. To make up for what the other teams have invested, Larry would purchase a MOD 70 trimaran for each of the teams that has participated so far. Given the much less expensive option, other syndicates might decide to jump in.

Despite having only soft sails, these brand-new extremely high performance trimarans from VPLP have proven themselves, both when sailing across the Atlantic and in inshore races in Europe. We’re talking over 700 miles in 24 hours in their first ocean race, and lots of mid-30s at other times. The MOD 70s are only two feet shorter than the AC72s, and damn near as fast, and cost a fraction of the price. And having raced across the Atlantic at 30+ knots, they have what it takes to race safely on San Francisco Bay.

Since the MOD 70s are one design with soft sails, they are com-
was able to make their own wind to sail past the others,” said Sotebier.

Now going on 24, the WSS’s big sister, the Women’s Sailing Convention in Southern California, will be held on February 2 at Bahia Corinthian YC. Call Gail Hine at (951) 677-8121 for info or see www.wsscyca.scyaweb.org.

Tiburon’s Corinthian YC also hosts a Women’s Sailing Seminar for Bay Area sailors, usually in May. Any others on the West Coast? Tell us about yours in an email to chris@latitude38.com.

— chris

_We don’t know about the rest of you but the sizzlin’ fast one design MOD 70s, which offer huge bang for the buck, would work just fine for us in the America’s Cup. And when the Cup was over, they could race them to Hawaii in 4.5 days._

— cont’d

paratively easy, quick and inexpensive to build — particularly when compared to the AC72s. And because the first batch was made in Europe, we’re sure another dozen could be made in time for next year’s slated World Series in Venice, Italy, in April and Naples, Italy, in May, and already could be in Europe for those events. After the European World Series, they could be shipped to Newport, Rhode Island, and then San Francisco, for additional World Series events in the summer of ’13. That means America’s Cup 34 would be postponed until ’14, which is fine with us, as we think it’s a much better prospect than what we’re sailing toward now. And one last thing that we think every spectator would agree on — the America’s Cup should be fleet racing, not match racing, which is so last-century.

Wondering if we were out of line in our thinking, we asked ‘Electronic Latitude’ readers what they thought about our admittedly unrealistic suggestion. Response was, as we expected, mixed. The early responses were mostly in favor, the later responses not so much. Our favorite came from Randy Repass, lifelong sailor and founder of West Marine:

“Great idea! Your whole plan makes sense to me. I say congrats to Russell Coutts and Team Oracle for coming up with a radically different and unproven AC boat, and a format in a very accessible setting. Change is great! But so is common sense. I wonder at what point the Coast Guard will not allow the 72s to sail. The MOD 70s sure look to be very exciting, safer, still very high-tech, but less expensive. And because of the soft sails are perhaps easier to sail for the vast majority of typical sailors — which would be a good thing for sailing. My only question is how much change this American’s Cup round can handle. As for fleet racing instead of match racing, I agree with you. But that’s even more change.”

For what it’s worth, of those who didn’t agree with our modest suggestion of switching to MOD 70s, a number of them still agreed that fleet racing is much more exciting and interesting than match racing. If organizers want the America’s Cup to become more people-pleasing, we hate to say it but the match racing will have to end up in the dustbin of America’s Cup history.

And now, for a little humor. Just a couple of days before the capsize, Latitude’s Paul Kamen attended a ‘Meet the Skippers’ press event. In a post-meeting one-on-one with the great Russell Coutts — who in addition to being the most successful America’s Cup skipper ever and the CEO of Oracle Racing, is also a trained engineer — Kamen asked if, since the 72s will be fully foil-borne, would active hydrodynamic pitch control eliminate the risk of pitchpoling. Coutts’ flat-out assertion was, “Pitchpoling will not be a problem.”

It proves once again that, when dealing with the cutting edge of technology, one should shy away from definitive statements.

push on past la push

Just 56 hours after sailing into Seattle on a delivery from Hawaii, I converted my hard-earned summer’s wages into a Cal 2-27 named _Sirena Gorda_, which I spent two days refitting and outfitting before sailing out the Strait of Juan de Fuca to the Pacific Ocean. That’s where things got interesting. Having rounded Cape Flattery and heading south down the Washington coast, we hoisted the spinnaker in a light northwesterly. But flying it off a jib halyard obviously caused some chafe because the halyard blew six hours later and the kite came back down on deck. With no spare halyard, we motored for the nearest port: La Push.

Entering the narrow channel into La Push in the dark, we were shocked to find a series of buoys strung across the channel. Shit, a fishing net! We tried to avoid wrapping the prop in the net but we

— richard

continued on outside column of next sightings page
SIGHTINGS

la push — cont’d

shifted into neutral too late. We tried to anchor but, with an ebbing tide and a fishing net wrapped in the prop, we were effectively stern-tied to the net. Immobile and 30 feet from a rock jetty, we called the Coast Guard. Ironically, one of their boats got caught up in the nets before another was able to free us. As we were being freed, I was cutting the fishing net with a rigging knife. I remember saying to my crew, “There are going to be some very pissed off fishermen in the morning.” Little did I know . . .

The next morning we were awakened by an angry Native American fisherman beating on the boat with a stick. “Did you cut my fucking fishing net you motherfucker?” I explained what had happened and then he threatened to kill me. I called the Coast Guard and advised them of the situation. And their response? “The natives are restless.” Not quite comforted by this, we headed to breakfast at a local restaurant only to return to find a cop and a game warden. The cop was there “for our protection” while the game warden was there to ticket the fisherman, who had apparently violated several laws. We were clearly not making any friends in La Push.

It was when another fisherman and his wife, who was holding a sawed-off, double-barrel shotgun on her lap, delivered more death threats that I decided to get the hell out of Dodge. The previous night’s escapade had left Sirena Gorda engineless, so we just hoisted sails and shoved off. As we short tacked our way up the narrow, winding Quillayute River, the fishing fleet hurled some of the nastiest, most profane and hateful insults and threats imaginable at us. We managed to make it back to the ocean unscathed and down to much-friendlier Newport, Oregon, where Sirena Gorda is currently lying.

Simpson warns southbound cruisers to avoid entering La Push due to abundant fishing nets.

This article is probably too late to help many southbound sailors, but hopefully it will serve others who may come later. My experience in La Push apparently wasn’t an isolated incident. Several other sailors have shared similar stories with me, and I would strongly suggest that cruising yachts avoid stopping there. If you are forced to go into La Push, check in with the Coast Guard, who may be able to help you navigate in or at least shine a large light onto the channel as it frequently has nets across it.

— ronnie simpson

webb chiles

A man in his early 70s losing his vision in one eye but planning to do a circumnavigation on a Moore 24 ultralight? Yeah, right.

But before you snort that this man has no idea what he’s getting into, understand that he’s already done five mostly (90%) singlehanded circumnavigations. And before you scoff at the notion of doing a circumnavigation on a Moore 24, understand that he’s already done one with an 18-ft open boat that weighed just 900 lbs.

leukemia cup rakes it in

“Ted Turner was the main reason we came to this event,” said Discovery Bay residents Lee and Bob Allen of the 7th Annual Leukemia Cup, held October 20-21. The Allens aren’t sailors — in fact they own a powerboat — and have never followed sailing in their lives. However, the excitement surrounding the America’s Cup, and the fact that, decades ago they met and became fans of Turner, an opportunity arose they couldn’t pass up. “We’re really attracted to this cause.” Bob noted, “but almost more importantly, we’ve been exposed to sailboat racing, and this is something we plan to follow more in the future.”

Being that the race — held on the second day of the event — is just an excuse for a fundraiser, the Leukemia Cup Perpetual trophy is awarded to the top fundraising boat. This year, it went to David Joyner and Bill Nolan’s Tiburon-based Melges 24 Relentless, which managed to plop $58,250 into the big kitty.

continued on outside column of next sightings page
sneak peek

(Actually, he did one circumnavigation with two 18-ft open boats, because after the Saudi Arabians confiscated his first 18-footer and threw him in jail for a few weeks, he ultimately had to complete the voyage in a sistership.)

The man we’re talking about is, of course, Webb Chiles who, although he now lives in Evanston, Illinois, bought his first sailboat, an Excalibur 26, many decades ago in Berkeley. As we were driving

continued in middle column of next sightings page

leukemia cup — cont’d

Top individual donors were the tag-team combination of Matt Brooks and Pam Levy, owners of the S&S 52 Dorade, who pledged $50,000, while Anne Feinberg claimed a respectable second place by raising $44,000 to add to the pot.

As of this writing, this year’s regatta raised roughly $850,000, which is a bit under last year’s $1 million haul but well above 2010’s total — and the numbers hadn’t even been finalized.

The diverse fleet of 77 boats — from a Cal 20 to an Extreme 40 cat — ranging in age from 2 to 75 years old lined up in 11 fleets. After a delay for the westerly, PRO Bartz Schneider ran the proceedings like clockwork. In the end, conditions were gorgeous — 14 to 20 knots out

continued in out side column of next sightings page
leukemia cup — cont’d

of the west on a perfectly flat flood current on a clear, sunny day.

A new division for the race called the ‘Classic Yachts’ included Paul and Chrissy Kaplan’s 55-ft S&S schooner Santana, the aforementioned Dorade, skippered by Olympian J.J. Fetter, Jim Rumer’s Rhodes 48 Copperhead and Hank Eason’s 8-meter Yucca. They started off the procession with Dorade edging out Yucca for the win.

The next division followed with a catamaran match race between StFYC Commodore Peter Stoneberg’s Rolex Big Boat Series winner Shadow, a ProSail 40, and the Extreme 40 SmartRecruiters loaned to this writer who, if we do say so ourselves, trounced the older ProSail by over six minutes on a 16-mile course.

The contrast of old vs new, wood vs carbon couldn’t have been more evident.

webb chiles

over to meet him at the marina in Mission Bay late last month, we didn’t quite know what to expect. But after spending a very pleasant hour interviewing him, we found him to be absolutely normal — except for the fact that he seems to have an unusually clear understanding of his likes and dislikes.

For one thing, the lean and fit Chiles really likes women. Which partially explains why he’s been married six times. He also really likes sailing. Not sailing to get somewhere, sailing to set a record, or daysailing, but sailing for the Zen of it. It

continued on outside column of next sightings page

Spread, ‘Dauntless’ wasn’t the only eye-popping beauty in the Classic Yacht division. Above, the lovely crew of ‘Dorade’ collecting their hard-earned award.
appeals to Chiles’ sense of symmetry that if he completes a circumnavigation with the Moore, he’ll have circumnavigated as many times as he’s been married. Chiles also learned early on that he didn’t like to work for other people, so he became an author, writing about his sailing adventures. Is it just us, or do we have a couple of things in common with Webb?

Anyway, stand by for our Latitude 38 Interview with Webb in the December issue of Latitude 38. We think you’ll enjoy it as much as we did.

— richard

leukemia cup — cont’d

Other class match-ups included Thomas Akin’s big blue Southern Cross 52 Meanie and Daniel Thielman’s RP44 Tai Kuai, and Big Boat rivals Frank Morrow on his IMX 38 Hawkeye and Gerard Sheridan aboard his Elan 40 Tupelo Honey. In some tight racing, Thielman and Morrow both edged out their rivals.

There are too many winners in too many divisions to list here — see www.leukemiacup.org/sf for the full results — but the biggest winners are those who fight blood cancers, both patients and doctors, and that is a very good reason to go sailing.

— dave wilhite

our breakfast with commodore

It was our privilege, in the middle of October, to enjoy a Captain’s Breakfast prepared and served by none other than lifetime sailor Warwick ‘Commodore’ Tompkins at his Mill Valley aerie. When we say ‘lifetime sailor’, we’re not talking about a mere five or six decades on the ocean. It was in 1932 in Boston that the infant Commodore was brought aboard the family’s 105-ft LOA schooner Wanderbird, which was built in the 1880s and had long served as the engineless pilot vessel for Germany’s Elbe River. Commodore is still going strong — by the time you read this, he and his wife Nancy will have flown back to their Wylie 38+ Flashgirl in New Zealand’s Bay of Islands to start yet another season of cruising.

By the time Commodore — it’s been his nickname since he was a baby, not a position he’s held or would have wanted to hold — was four years old, he’d sailed across the Atlantic 13 times. Indeed, there are photos of him as a very young boy blithely straddling the bowsprit with his legs alone while the great schooner is underway. The family made a living by operating the schooner as a school ship for the sons and daughters of the East Coast elite.

The Tompkins family eventually sailed around Cape Horn in the winter of ’36–’37, making the historic film Fifty South to Fifty South in the process. After that they sailed north and settled in Sausalito. Commodore has subsequently done every type of sailing gig one can imagine, from deliveries to Olympic campaigns to driving maxis to running charter boats to building his own Wylie 38+. He also was mentor to a whole generation of Northern California sailors who left their mark in racing circles from California to Florida to England.

Despite more than 80 years and countless hundreds of thousands of sea miles, the no-longer-quite-so-truculent Commodore still doesn’t possess a Coast Guard captain’s license. Given his views of the real-world qualifications — or lack thereof — of 90% of those who do have such licenses, it’s a point of honor that he doesn’t have one. It’s a view shared by Robert Flowerman, his friend and another of Northern California’s most experienced and respected delivery skippers.

After completing Flashgirl in Sonoma in April 2000, Commodore and Nancy started their long-distance cruising with a 3,700-mile passage from San Diego to Papeete in ’05. They made landfall after just 21 days. Nancy remembers it as “a fabulous passage, one I wished hadn’t ended so soon.”

The couple have been spending parts of every year since cruising continued on outside column of next sightings page
commodore — cont’d

around various parts of the South Pacific. For example, between December ’10 and December ’11, they did a 5,500-mile loop of the tropics between Australia and the Bay of Islands, getting as far north as the Caroline Islands. They visited 34 islands and five countries in the process. “The only place that spooked me was New Guinea,” says Nancy. “It’s dangerous. Everywhere else — particularly the less-populated areas — is totally safe and the people are very friendly.”

Commodore’s attraction to the less-visited and less-developed islands of the South Pacific may have something to do with the fact that his father, sick of farming in the Troy, New York-area, kicked around the South Pacific a bit in the ’20s. He eventually became the captain of a schooner that travelled up the Fly River in Papua New Guinea to find workers for the sugar cane fields of Queensland, Australia. In less-polite terms, it’s called blackbirding, hiring black men to work for white people. If you think New Guinea is primitive now — and it is — you should see the now-faded photos his father took. The outfits — or lack thereof — worn by his native first mate Wagi are beyond anything that Hollywood costume departments could produce.

Two months ago, Commodore, who suffered a heart attack decades ago, received a fourth stent. Two days after being released from the hospital, the 80-year-old was aloft the 65-ft Wylie-designed cat ketch schooner Derick M Baylis to make sure the rigging was up to his exacting standards. Commodore was to be the supercargo — i.e. owner’s rep — on the vessel during a monthlong oceanic research trip off the coasts of Northern California and Oregon for Oregon State University. Having completed that gig, and with the temperatures dropping in foggy, woodsy Mill Valley, Commodore was eager to get back to his boat.

“I figure I have five or maybe six more years of cruising left in me,” Commodore told us, “but Nancy and I haven’t figured out where we want to go. We might go east in the tropics, or we might go west. I do know that I want to return to Pohnpei in the Carolines, for I have something of an adopted son there I would like to check up on. And at some point I would love to see British Columbia from the decks of my own yacht. I also want to see the great animals of Africa, but I probably won’t sail there.”

In Commodore’s estimation, there is no more beautiful anchorage in the world than Opunohu Bay, Moorea. Nancy is in agreement. Alas, Moorea is in French Polynesia, which is at the top of Commodore’s list of the most expensive places to cruise. By French Polynesia, he includes everything French in the South Pacific, including New Caledonia. Next is Australia, which is much more expensive than the still very expensive Vanuatu and New Zealand. If Commodore wants cheap cruising, he’s going to have to return to the remote parts of the Solomon Islands or the Carolines, or maybe give the Philippines or Southeast Asia a try.

For the record, Commodore’s Captain’s Breakfast consists of soft scrambled eggs, potatoes, onions, strawberries, English muffins, coffee and juice. Delicious.

— richard

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the rocketeer

Film and television actor Billy Campbell, perhaps best known for playing the title role in the ’91 film The Rocketeer, is officially a hero for helping to save the lives of three sailors earlier this month. On September 10, Campbell and his crew were on the maiden voyage of his new 50-ft David Westergard-designed wooden schooner Martha Seabury, which had been launched in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, in August. They were bound for

Wagi, first mate on one of the senior Tompkins boats.
to the rescue

the Newport Boat Show and were about four miles off Cuttyhunk Island in Massachusetts when, around 7:30 p.m., a crewmember spotted three men clinging to an overturned 15-ft sailing dinghy. Skipper Michael Moreland doused sail, started the engine, and went to their aid.

"The three victims were in their 20s," he said in a report. "Two were in PFDs continued in middle column of next sightings page

the true spirit of the sea

"Captain, can this boat go faster?" shouts an ebullient teenager from Redwood High School's continuation program. A few of his classmates chime in. "Faster! Faster!"

The captain ignores the pleas for speed. Suddenly, as if on cue, the wind picks up and the boat starts to heel as the sails fill with a brisk San Francisco Bay breeze. As the vessel scoots along past Alcatraz, the kids' excitement increases.

On this crystal-clear autumn day, 20 students are under the watchful eye of Capt. Richard Gillette and his all-volunteer crew aboard a 64-ft steel cutter, built more for long-range expedition voyaging than...
sightings — cont’d

but one was not. It was quickly apparent that all three were hypothermic and low on strength and energy.

After the crew pulled the three men, who were apparently out for a daysail, from the water, they wrapped them in wool and sleeping bags. They were later transferred to a Coast Guard cutter and are reportedly no worse for wear.

As for the schooner, she was conceived as a collaboration between Lunenburg master shipwrights. According to their site, the New Lunenburg Schooners — Martha and her ‘twin sister’ — were "built in the tried and true, time-tested sublime daysails. In fact, she recently completed a 13-month, 24,000-mile circumnavigation of the American continents to raise awareness of ocean health issues under the command of Capt. Mark Schrader as Ocean Watch.

Capt. Richard’s passion for ocean education seems to segue perfectly into this vessel’s current incarnation as Spirit of the Sea. One year ago, Richard founded the nonprofit organization of the same name, and brings hands-on experiences that are not possible in a classroom.

“Safety is our number one priority,” he says. “We strive to be the safest boat on the Bay.” The secondary mission is fun. Capt. Richard clearly loves having young people onboard and makes connections easily, whether by teasing a young lady for texting — much to the delight of her peers — or by guiding a youngster who is at the helm.

The ability to capture the attention of a group of teenagers is a much...
way with stout wooden planks on heavy double-sawn frames, the same techniques that created the famous ‘Fast and Able’ North Atlantic fishing schooners Bluenose and Bluenose II of Lunenburg and the great schooners of Gloucester, but using only the very best materials and finest durable timbers sourced from around the world.”

For his part, Campbell says he’s thrilled with Martha’s performance. “She’s a dream . . . better than I ever imagined or hoped for.” Read more about the ‘classic’ boats at twinschooners.blogspot.com.

— ladonna

Spirit of the Sea — cont’d

more challenging task than sailing this rugged 44-ton vessel. Yet Capt. Richard makes it look easy.

During his environmental awareness lectures, the entire group listens with rapt attention. Of course, bribery helps keep them on their toes: He offers a cherished spot on the bow to the first student who can repeat a fact about ocean conservation.

“What percent of the earth’s surface is ocean?” booms the captain’s voice. A gaggle of hands fly up. He points to the first one. “Seventy percent, Captain!” responds a young woman, who’s attired in Ugg boots, jeans and a 49ers sweatshirt under her life vest.

Richard’s passion rubs off as he gently persuades the kids to recycle and do their part for the planet. Many of them have never been on the Bay, let alone on a boat. One 17-year-old boy asks what bridge we’re passing under — the Oakland Bay Bridge. What seems natural to us sailors is a whole new world for landlocked youth.

After a delightful three-hour sail, we motor down the Estuary to Spirit of the Sea’s permanent dock at Jack London Square. London would be proud of the work Richard and his crew do as a pure labor of love; inspiring, cajoling and teaching youngsters about the beauty and fragility of the seas.

Capt. Richard’s resume includes 30 years as a professional photographer with his work appearing in Time, Wine Spectator and many other publications. He was recently recipient of the Jefferson Award for his work with children in the San Francisco Bay Area, and holds a US Coast Guard 100-ton Master’s license, and US Sailing Instructor Certificate.

The Spirit of the Sea works with many local agencies, and hosts youngsters with life-threatening illnesses, underprivileged youth, foster children and kids from after-school programs. Studying marine organisms, such as viewing plankton through a microscope, adds to the nature of fun scientific and aquatic education.

Once the school group has departed, Richard expresses his immense appreciation to his crew. He exclaims more than once, “We wouldn’t be here if it weren’t for all of you volunteering your time.” One of the women crewing said she was as rusty at sailing as she was at interacting with teenagers, but her motivation for volunteering was to push herself out of her comfort zone.

If you’d like to push your own comfort zone a bit and give back to the community, you can donate time or money by getting in touch with Capt. Richard at CaptainRichard@spiritofthesea.org. Find out more at www.spiritofthesea.org.

— lynn ringsets

The Irrepressible Jeanne Socrates

You just can’t keep Jeanne Socrates down. The irrepressible Brit left Victoria, B.C. the morning of October 22 aboard her Najad 380 Nereida on her third attempt at a nonstop solo circumnavigation. If she succeeds in completing this one nonstop — she was forced to stop during her last two circumnavigations when her boat was damaged — she’ll not only be the oldest woman, at 70, to have done so, she’ll also be the only woman to have done so starting from North America.

Though record-keeping organizations no longer recognize age-based sailing records, they are very interested in geographical and gender-based records. That being the case, Canadian Tony Gooch, who set
SIGHTINGS

socrates — cont’d

the record for the first North American (Victoria) singlehanded nonstop circumnavigation in ’03, was on hand to seal her prop shaft and take her time for the World Sailing Speed Record Council. It’s interesting to note that Socrates is not sponsored — other than a few equipment donations — and she’s sailing to raise money for the Marie Curie Cancer Care, a nonprofit that supplies nurses to terminally ill patients.

Socrates’ journey should take about eight months — over half of it in the Southern Ocean! — and we’ll be posting frequent updates from her in ‘Lectronic. You can also follow her at www.svnereida.com.

— ladonna

supporting hope for the warriors

Working in the charitable nonprofit sector can be challenging. Getting a new wounded-veteran’s sailing program off the ground has entailed a year’s worth of 3 a.m. emails and hard work. So it was with much gratitude to learn that Ted Turner would be sailing to benefit our group, Hope for the Warriors, in the recent 12-Meter North American Championship regatta, held off Newport, Rhode Island, in late September. And I was stoked to be invited as a guest of honor and guest speaker next to Turner and Gary Jobson!

Arriving in Newport on a Thursday, I went straight to the yacht harbor and hopped on Ted’s old 12-Meter American Eagle, which was sporting a big Hope for the Warriors boom cover for the regatta. Sailing on the big, heavy 68-ft yacht was an absolute thrill. After a year of mostly solo ocean racing on a lightweight Moore 24, it was a huge departure to be part of a 16-man crew practicing things like mark rounding, gybe sets and windward douses.

After a great afternoon of sailing in 12 knots of breeze, we docked American Eagle back at the wharf and everyone prepared to head to the official regatta dinner, which was again a benefit for Hope for the Warriors. It was an incredible honor to be one of three guest speakers for the evening, in addition to Turner and Jobson. One of the real thrills was just in sharing a dinner with them. They were so gracious and down to earth.

After a night of hanging with the boys in Newport, I cancelled my flight back to Seattle and stayed for an extra three days to sail in the regatta. It was a good decision. With 10-15 knots of breeze for the majority of the regatta, the racing was close and tactical. Traveling back to the West Coast, I prepared to host another wounded-veteran sailing clinic, owing much to the generosity that we received in Newport.

From October 3-6, Hope for the Warriors and BAADS teamed up to conduct our second wounded-veteran sailing clinic of the year in San Francisco. The clinic taking place at Pier 40, we flew four wounded Iraq and Afghanistan veterans to the West Coast, in addition to hosting one Marine who was semi-local. Over three days, we taught the guys how to sail using BAADS’ Access dinghies in and around McCovey Cove, next to AT&T Park. The guys loved it!

After the sailing on the first day, we took the group to explore Muir Woods. After sailing on the second day, we enjoyed a tour of the Pier 30/32 America’s Cup compound courtesy of Team Oracle USA. That night, Drew Harper of Spinnaker Sailing generously took

continued on outside column of next sightings page
the world series

a boat in McCovey Cove, where the scoreboard and replay screens are visible."

As baseball fans know, the Giants won the National League Championship Series last month and, as this issue goes to press, are just starting the World Series against the Detroit Tigers. By the time you read this, the popcorn and trash will have been swept away, but we have no doubt the memory of a family cruise-out to McCovey Cove to watch the World Series will not be soon forgotten.

— ladonna

hope — cont’d

the group on a sunset cruise on his Santa Cruz 50 Yukon Jack to watch the America’s Cup World Series fleet racing. Then on the third day, Team Oracle USA again brought out the red carpet to host our group to a tour of Pier 80 and the AC 72 USA 17. The whole thing was epic! One of our veterans, a recent double above-the-knee amputee, was so inspired by the clinic that his new dream is to race sailboats. We’re proud and honored to be able to sponsor him in an upcoming Paralympic development regatta.

Hope for the Warriors will be expanding the vet’s sailing program to include four clinics for next year, including San Francisco and Newport, Rhode Island. Find out how you can help by emailing me at rsimpson48@yahoo.com.

— ronnie simpson

Spread, Ted Turner’s 12-Meter ‘American Eagle’ sported the Hope for the Warriors logo during the recent North American Championships for the class. Inset, Simpson has run two sailing clinics for wounded vets with the help of the Bay Area Association of Disabled Sailors (BAADS) and hopes to expand the program. Check out the group’s inspirational video at vimeo.com/50964197.
AC WORLD SERIES, ROUND II —

With the Bay’s John Kostecki calling tactics, Spithill’s Oracle Team USA was unstoppable.
Last month's edition of the America's Cup World Series in San Francisco was truly spectacular, despite the fact that a wide range of music and sports events threatened to upstage it. With a massive three-day music fest in Golden Gate Park, Giants playoff games at the AT&T Park, a Niners game at Candlestick and several cultural celebrations downtown, it was said to have been the busiest weekend in the City's history. With AC45s on the water and F-18s overhead, the ACWS weekend was sensational. But none of that deterred diehard racing fans from turning out to soak in the thrills of the AC45 traveling road show October 3-7.

On-the-water action began on Wednesday, October 3 with match race qualifiers in typical fall conditions: Wind climbed into the low 20s, fog lingered overhead, and the Bay's notorious ebb flowed swiftly. Together this provided challenging racing for the 11-
boat international fleet.
Notably, 21-year-old Peter Burling of New Zealand, who had taken the helm for Team Korea a mere two weeks prior, won his qualifier over Chris Draper and crew aboard Luna Rossa Piranha. The other youngster and relative newbie in the fleet, 25-year-old Kiwi Phil Robertson aboard the Team China cat, won his first ACWS victory against Luna Rossa Piranha. China Team sustained damage to their wing during a gybe, however, and could not make their third race.
Robertson recalled, “We were about five minutes before our start and put in a gybe, and the carbon structure in the wing fell apart on us. It almost snapped in half up the middle.”
In what was probably a first in international yacht racing, the race schedule on the remaining days of the ACWS was sandwiched around the aerial acrobatics of the Fleet Week Air Show right overhead (practice Thursday and Friday, with the real deal Saturday and Sunday). Thursday’s quarterfinals began at noon, with fleet racing after 5 p.m. Wind was tickling the mid-teens at its max velocity in the afternoon, and the ebb didn’t fire up until late in the day. For us photographers, shooting in the late afternoon light of the “golden hour” was a real treat.
In the first fleet race Ben Ainslie, skipper of JP Morgan BAR, was sailing his own race, way out ahead. A champion dinghy sailor with five Olympic medals in two classes, he’d finally figured out how to make the big cat go fast after a lackluster showing in the August
ACWS races. BAR finished 17 seconds — a big margin in this field — ahead of the second place contender, Oracle Team USA’s Spithill.

Friday October 5 saw a huge increase in spectators. The jetty out to the Wave Organ east of the Golden Gate YC was packed. Again there were quarterfinal match races in the morning and fleet races in the afternoon. In the two-boat matchups, Oracle Team USA Spithill beat BAR, while another young skipper, Aussie Nathan Outteridge, 26, helming Artemis Racing Red, beat the old master, Russell Coutts aboard the second Oracle boat. Another Olympic medalist, Outteridge joined the Artemis Team barely a month prior to this ACWS, having previously raced for Team Korea.

Despite a penalty against him at the start of his face-off with Coutts, he won after Coutts rounded the wrong mark.

In Friday’s fleet racing Ben Ainslie Racing cleaned up with a first and a second place, while Terry Hutchinson, aboard Artemis Racing White, took a second and a first. Aboard Artemis Racing Red, Outteridge and crew took the third position overall with a pair of fourth place finishes.

During one of their best races ever, China Team unfortunately lost their jib halyard mid-race. But they flaked the sail on the bowsprit and continued sailing, staying mid-pack for the duration of the race despite having just their main.

Saturday, October 6, was a big day for crowd numbers. The breeze was in the upper teens, the sun was out, the...
scene was festive, and San Francisco showed its epic autumn beauty. The entire shoreline was packed in every direction. The spectator fleet was thicker, and more aggressive: it was game on! And the schedule was packed: match race quarterfinals after the air show, then two fleet races followed by the match racing finals.

From my position off the yacht club spit, I was in the perfect position to snag some good bow spray shots as the AC45s bore away around mark 1. As I fired the shutter, I focused on Spithill, who seemed to be pitching a little more radically on this rounding. I kept firing and his bows kept diving down the mineshaft! As Spithill was pitch-poling, I saw Terry Hutchinson expertly maneuver around the whole disaster. For a few seconds, the fleet was stacked in tightly doing 20 knots, and I thought there would surely be a collision. But in a testament to the high degree of skill on the course that day, everyone made it out relatively unscathed. Emirates Team New Zealand finished with a first in Race 6. Ben Ainslie continued sailing extremely well with a first in Race 7. Amazingly enough, after hoisting a crewmember to the masthead to assess several broken ribs in the wing, Spithill came back to win a second place in Fleet Race 2. Even more amazingly, later in the day during the start of his match race with Emirates Team New Zealand’s Dean Barker, he luffed ETNZ up so badly during the prestart maneuvers that ETNZ had to tack to avoid a penalty. Spithill went on to win the match by almost 20 seconds. He’d come back from his capsize with a vengeance, and his team took the match racing title.

Sunday October 7 was another mix of Fleet Week activities followed the Super Sunday Fleet Racing Finals, where scoring was heavily weighted compared to previous races. The wind was in the upper teens and the ebb was flowing. I would have had a hard time believing it if I hadn’t seen it with my own eyes, but Spithill climbed the ladder from absolute last place to win that race by 17 seconds. It was unbelievable to watch Oracle Team USA Spithill pick off one competitor at a time. Their incredible comeback left Spithill tied for first in the series with Ainslie, each with 79 points. Spithill was awarded top honors, however, having won the final race.

This edition of the ACWS was so brilliantly orchestrated and thrilling to watch Oracle Team USA Spithill pick off one competitor at a time. Their incredible comeback left Spithill tied for first in the series with Ainslie, each with 79 points. Spithill was awarded top honors, however, having won the final race.

This edition of the ACWS was so brilliantly orchestrated and thrilling to watch that it will be a hard act to follow — even by the main event, America’s Cup 34 in July. We can hardly wait to see that!

— Jeremy Leonard
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Serving the Bay Area Since 1986
We can’t remember the last time we got as much reader feedback as we did following our October 10 ‘Letter’s Corner’ report that long-time San Francisco Bay anchor-out, musician and — almost paradoxically — St. Francis sailingYC member Todd Tholke had filed suit against Energy Team, the French entry in the America’s Cup World Series. Tholke is demanding compensation for his ‘salvage’ of Energy Team’s 45-ft catamaran.

To recap, Tholke’s attorney John Edgcomb says Tholke spotted the Energy Team cat on the rocks at Treasure Island in the wee hours of September 30. Tholke then got his 14-ft Boston Whaler skiff and by his lonesome towed the high-performance cat over to Clipper Cove. It’s unclear how the cat got loose from her mile-distant mooring at San Francisco’s Pier 30-32 in the first place, but the French reportedly thanked Tholke and offered him a ride on their cat in appreciation.

Tholke, through his court filing, has told the French that he thinks $200,000+ would be a more appreciated expression of gratitude.

We’re not experts on maritime law, but those who are tell us it’s almost certain that Tholke does have a valid claim for what’s called ‘harbor salvage’. In fact, so do you if you’ve ever pulled a boat off the hard, given a boat with a bad engine a tow back to her berth, loaned an out-of-fuel mariner gas, or in one of countless other ways assisted a fellow mariner.

Many readers have written Latitude to say they believe that assisting other mariners is a point of honor among sailors, and that they never would have dreamed of asking anything for what Tholke did. “I can’t help but make a comparison to the recent rescue of Derk Wolmuth’s Vindo 40 Bela Bartok, which had to be abandoned because of a medical emergency during the Singlehanded TransPac,” writes Ben Johnston. “The generosity of time and resources on the part of other Singlehanded TransPac participants, with no thought of compensation, was truly an inspiring story that gave me a positive feeling about mankind.”

At first glance, one has to wonder how difficult Tholke’s Energy Team salvage was. After all, it was done by one person, in the middle of the night, in just a couple of hours, with nothing more than a 14-ft skiff. But in a court filing made after the final World Series race in October, Tholke claims he’s owed a high reward because he put himself and his boat at considerable risk. For example, it’s mentioned that his 70-hp outboard smoked and that his skiff nearly capsized several times on what has been described as a calm night. “The 45 was in no immediate danger, and Tholke risked causing serious damage to it by doing the rescue himself,” wrote Eric Anderson in disagreeing with Tholke’s assertion.

In a story in the San Francisco Chronicle, Tholke’s lawyer makes the claim that his client didn’t rescue the Energy Team for the money, but rather because he wanted “to be a hero.” Yet as many respondents to Latitude pointed out, if Tholke wasn’t doing it for the money, why is he asking for $200,000? “Ever notice that whenever people say that it’s not about the money, it often is about the money?” asks a skeptical Adrian Morgan.

Others thought that Tholke didn’t act heroically at all. “I think he deserves a prize for stupidity, nothing more,” wrote Thomas Gradie. “I wouldn’t have tried to salvage a 45-ft cat with a 14-ft skiff in the middle of the night by myself.”

Why, many readers wondered, didn’t Tholke simply let the Coast Guard, which had contact numbers for the America’s Cup organizers and the French team, handle the situation with professional equipment? After all, it doesn’t appear there was a great emergency in retrieving the light but robustly built cat.

The size of Tholke’s claim, as well as the fact that he spotted Energy Team on the rocks in the early hours of the morning, caused many readers to wonder if Tholke hadn’t had a hand in the cat’s getting loose in the first place. “Sometimes the firefighter is the arsonist,” notes Walter E. Smithe III.

We think these are emotional rather than rational responses. After all, Tholke is a long-time musician, and many musicians come home late at night after gigs. Our gut feeling is that Tholke has a bunch of people who could vouch for his whereabouts when the cat got loose.

Of the 118 responses — at last count — that we received, only a few backed Tholke’s claim. “Considering the cost of replacement of the cat, it seems the demand for $200K may be legitimate,” wrote Michael Caplan. “Calm conditions or not, anytime a salvage effort is initiated, there is a potential of adverse consequences to the party involved in the effort.”

Horst Lechler, on the other hand, thought $200,000 might be the least expensive way out for the French. “While $200,000 sounds like a lot of money, it’s probably a smaller amount than if they fight it and have to pay attorney fees, expert witness fees, taxes, and so forth. So I am for the $200,000.”

But several other respondents put themselves at the other end of the opinion spectrum.

“How about a hearty ‘thank you’ from the French, and if that wasn’t enough, a kick in the ass,” wrote James Jennett. “You do this type of thing to help another person, not to claim salvage. Welcome to California and the United States.”

“I’d give Tholke a swift kick in the ass,” writes Matthew Krohn. “I would have called Vessel Assist.”

“Shoot the SOB,” suggests Steve Gann, explaining that “Tholke gives sailors and good seamen a bad reputation.”

The following is a sample of the other responses we received, edited for brevity and in a few cases clarity. We think this is a reasonably good sample of the total we received.

“I’d award Tholke a new skiff and engine. But had I been in his shoes, I’d have told the French, ‘Happy to have been of help. I hope you have the opportunity to do the same for some other mariner in the future. But come on brothers, we’re all in this together.’” —Marty Goldsmith
"I feel like Tholke missed a tremendous opportunity to be a hero. Lending assistance to other vessels is a fundamental rule of the sea, and it’s a shame when it gets turned around for profit." —Chuck Hawley

"I would have done the salvage for nothing, and enjoyed the ride as offered because that’s how I choose to live. Unfortunately, we live in a society where doing the right thing is rarely done without a motive. I don’t live hand to mouth — doing things for free is easy for me — so I think Tholke deserves compensation per the law, but not $200,000." —Bill Lockridge

"I pulled plenty of boats off after Hurricane Ike here in Texas, and didn’t ask for money. I know Tholke needs money, but he should wait until someone offers, then accept." —Capt. Fred Loue

"I would have given him a post-regatta ride on the cat, and a Corum men’s Admiral’s Cup Swiss watch from the team sponsor." —Kent Arndt

"I think just a free ride was not a very generous offer, and thus an unappreciated gesture. On the other hand, given Tholke’s life circumstances — he’s not exactly rolling in dough — I feel a $5-10,000 expression of appreciation would not be unreasonable. But I would have tried to save the cat in a New York minute without thinking about a reward. Sailors help other sailors, plain and simple." —Bill Rehm

"Wow! How embarrassing for the community of San Francisco street artists, and what a sad commentary on our local anchor-outs. Tholke had a chance to be a hero, but he and Edgcomb have gone down the slimy weasel opportunist path instead." —Mark Wieber

"The contradictions in this story are legion, from ‘Todd wasn’t doing it for the money’ to Tholke’s claim in the Bay Guardian to stand ‘for freedom and liberty,’ a stand somewhat undermined by having the Energy Team cat arrested.’ —August Zajonc

I would have pulled the cat off the shoreline and back to the marina, then accepted a beer, handshake, ride, or gas money as thanks. We sailors take care of each other with no thought of repayment — other than the expectation that others would do the same for us." —John Griffith

"If you’re going to be an underhanded opportunist, then at least have the balls to admit it. But for God’s sake, don’t go crying Mother Teresa on us. Even if Tholke’s skiff was damaged, why would he need anything other than the replacement cost of it?" —Marianne Armand

"If Tholke gets $200,000 for ‘finding’ a lost boat, what should I give my neighbor who found me semi-conscious on the ground after I recently fell from the roof? A million dollars? But perhaps a little more generosity on the part of the French might have forestalled the claim." —Max Nankervis, Australia

"I don’t know maritime law, but good citizenship and seamanship would suggest Tholke should have allowed Energy Team a chance to rescue the cat before he did. If his dinghy drifted onto the beach at night, would a person collecting it have a claim, even if it was easily retrievable and in no danger of sinking?’ —Bryan Chavez

"Whatever happened to doing something nice for someone just because it’s the right thing to do?" —Marlene Angle

"Tholke is a disgrace to all sailors, San Francisco, the United States, and the world. Sailors don’t treat other sailors this way." —Rodney Kidd

"What a shitty attitude. Everyone deserves what they get.” —Tony Dibnah

"What an embarrassment to San Francisco’s sailing community. This is how we treat guests? I am disgusted with this guy’s behavior.” —Nick Gibbens

"If I were Tholke, I’d find the nearest rock and crawl under it." —Helen Horn (owner of six boats)

"Tholke will eventually need help from his fellow sailors, and he won’t wish for the treatment he is according our French guests.” —Jim Stevens

"Just do the right thing, people. Take care of each other. Be civil and respectful, and it will come back to you. But I guess we’ll never get there if we don’t kill all the lawyers first." —Brian Richards

"I would not settle for anything less than two rides! But that’s because I’m a greedy mother#&$@er! But if Tholke did save their boat from additional damage at some cost to himself, and it was their carelessness that was to blame, I’d say maybe $10,000.” —Marc Bodian

"Even Vessel Assist only charges $300 an hour for a tow. Tholke is going to be short on karma. By the way, is his boat anchors out in Clipper Cove?" —Dave Biron

"I understand the French team have offered $25,000, which should be very adequate, with a ride or two, for Tholke’s effort.” —Charles Cunningham

"I would have asked for a ride with one or two of my sailing buds. My girlfriend would have rescued the boat for nothing more than dinner with Loick Peyron. I’ve tossed people out of harm’s way without a second thought. A real sailor wouldn’t do this.” —Nick Salvador
“The Ugly American that Tholke portrays by demanding $200K when he ‘wasn’t doing it for the money’ is most unfortunate. What have we come to when we can’t just help someone out for the sake of being a good member of the community?” —Jeannie Crum, New Zealand

“Something will happen to us all, and we’ll need to rely on someone else. Fortunately, most of us know that. Pay it forward, folks, don’t milk it.” —Tim Litvin

“I think Tholke did a good thing, and deserves a lot more than a free ride. Perhaps a dinghy swap, a new outboard for his Whaler, or one of their Protectors.” —Jim Gossman

“My opinion is that towing an AC45 with an outboard-powered 14-ft Whaler is risky at best, especially singlehanded. If anything had gone wrong, Tholke could have drifted into the path of a ship. Maybe it’s more like piracy than salvage.” —Vernon Huffer

Perhaps the most original answer came from Wayne Meretsky, who lost his S&iS 47 Moonduster to a tropical cyclone in Fiji a few years back:

“Energy Team should just give Tholke the cat and be done with it. After all, the AC45 is now worthless at best and actually a massive liability. The World Series is nearly finished, and the boats will never be used again. So let Tholke have to deal with disposing of it and the several containers of now mostly worthless associated equipment. Tholke will get his just deserts without even knowing it. As for the French, walking away saves them legal fees and salvage cost, plus the cost of shipping the cat back to Europe. Furthermore, it gets them out of the World Series, which is a dead-end for them anyway. It’s the perfect conclusion to a silly story.”

What would we at Latitude have done had we been in Tholke’s Top-Siders? We’d have contacted the Coast Guard to contact the French team, knowing they had the right people and equipment for the job. But we would have hung around to watch and lend a hand if needed, just for the pure fun of it. If we were a judge who had to rule on the salvage claim, we would award Tholke the same amount that Vessel Assist or a similar tow service would have billed the French. We would not give Tolke anything for any damage to his outboard or his Whaler, because there was no emergency, so it was he who chose to attempt a rescue without adequate equipment and manpower.

In closing, we wonder if anybody else is struck by the seeming incongruity between awards for saving boats as opposed to awards for saving people. Say somebody does a relatively hard and dangerous rescue of a $1 million vessel in adverse conditions. It’s not uncommon for such salvors to be awarded between $100,000 and $250,000. Using that as a yardstick, what is someone entitled to for saving the life of someone who has fallen overboard or is drowning? Yet we can’t remember courts every awarding somebody money for saving the life of someone else. Curious, don’t you think?

— latitude/richard

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StarBoard, teak or make your own. Solar mounting hardware available, too.
Skipper Bill Belmont was naturally pleased to win the Farrallon Clipper class in last month’s Jessica Cup (October 13), but to him the race will be especially memorable because he got to sail his 1952 woodie Credit alongside the classic beauty Dorade, which now graces San Francisco Bay once again.

“It was exciting to see her out racing as she’s one of America’s most famous sailboats,” Belmont commented. “And, of course, (the 1935 56-ft S&S schooner) Santana was out — another of America’s most famous sailboats — as well as (the 1937 8-Meter) Yucca, which is a West Coast favorite, and probably the winning-est boat on the Bay. It was just spectacular.”

Built in 1929, the 52-ft yawl Dorade was one of the first designs to come out of the then-fledgling design firm Sparkman and Stephens, and is considered by many experts to be the most influential sailing yacht ever built. San Franciscans Matt Brooks and Pam Levy purchased her in August 2010 and immediately put her into a full refit in Newport, RI, with the intention of preparing her for ocean racing again. Their goal was to repeat all of her early ocean races: Newport-Bermuda (done this June), Transpacific 2013, Newport-Bermuda 2014 (again), Transatlantic 2015, Fastnet, and Cowes. During her heyday, decades ago, Dorade won all of these races, a record that stands unbeaten today says Levy.

She’s the first classic yacht the couple has owned. Two and a half years ago
BEAUTIES ON THE BAY
they were looking for a boat to daysail together on the Bay and, as Levy describes it, “ended up with a historic boat that needed a full refit 3,000 miles away, and that takes 8+ people to race.”

After spending a year and a half going back and forth to Newport overseeing the refit while working full time in San Francisco, they finally got to spend the winter racing her in the Caribbean, winning her class in every regatta she entered, as well as the Concours d’Elegance in the Antigua Classic Yacht Regatta.

“We both work in fields completely unrelated to sailing, and we’re both middle-aged with grown children,” explained Levy, “so this has been quite an unexpected adventure.”

_Dorade_ and crew were late sign-ups for the Jessica Cup, but no less enthusiastic. Local crew members included Danielle Dignan who helmed, Melinda Erkelens, Bob Hanelt (owner of the classic yacht _Skylark_, another S&S design), and Mark Adams. _Dorade_ took second in the Marconi 1 class, losing to Hank Easom’s _Yucca_ (which won the Jessica Cup). _Dorade_’s new owners put in a fine effort considering it’s been years — perhaps 30 — since Brooks and Levy have raced on the Bay. Paul and Chrissy Kaplan’s _Santana_ took third in class.

“What’s interesting for us is that the general feel here is a little more infor-
mal,” Levy commented. “In Newport, even the older classics are driven with great resolve to win, and it’s more competitive, I think, especially in the classics. One of our interests in refitting and bringing her to the West Coast is that we think these boats can be raced hard. When we race, no matter what kind of race it is, we race to win! I think that’s still our mission,” Levy laughed. “Hopefully that will inspire other people to do the same, right?”

One owner/skipper who needs little inspiration to race hard is Easom, who in his usual low-key style took home yet another win in class. He’s won every time he’s sailed the Jessica Cup, which he thinks is eight times.

Easom described his race, “After a delayed start, a beautiful westerly came in. We didn’t know how the heck we’d do with Dorade. We had a good start. She tried a port-tack start, which I thought might work, but actually it didn’t. We were overlapped with Santana at the start, but sailed out underneath her, tacked, then led at every mark... I guess we were faster, which is a nice thing to have happen!”

Paul Kaplan can appreciate what it means to have Dorade on the Bay. “It really is a special sight to have both Santana and Dorade sailing together. The boats are similar designs from the same designer, just a few years different in age, and the hull shapes and aesthetics of the boats are not too different from each other. Matt and Pam have done a spectacular job with the boat. Matt has been very methodical in following the original design as much as he could during the refit — the mast is a brand-new wooden spar with internal halyards no less — a beautiful job.”

There was no breeze to speak of at the scheduled noon gun. But about an hour and a half later the breeze built up enough to allow one of the two anticipated races to be run.

In the Marconi 2 division, David James’ lovely Lapworth 36 took top honors, followed by Bill Claussen’s Bird Curlew and Allen Edwards’ L-36 Papoose.

Among the gaffers, Ken Inouye’s 34-ft gaff ketch Makhani Kai took first, followed by Hans List’s Tahiti ketch Sequoist and Terry Klaus’ gaff schooner Brigadoon. List was disappointed with second place after sailing a great race until the last leg, where he and his crew suffered two spinnaker-related foul-ups.

“I really did want to beat Makhani Kai, not only because Ken Inouye is a good friend, but also because my mother-in-law (Suzanne Statler) was on that boat!” List laughed. “We had ‘em the whole damn race until that last leg.”

Well, Hans, there’s always next year. Perhaps then you may want to think about having Suzanne race on your boat! (See www.mastermariners.org for complete results.)

— Michelle Slade

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As you read this the 147-boat Baja Ha-Ha fleet is scudding south toward new adventures and sunnier latitudes. If you’re a regular reader you know that this 19th incarnation of the San Diego-to-Cabo San Lucas rally has been dubbed the ‘Don’t Stop Believin’ Ha-Ha, commemorating the years — and in some cases, decades — that many fleet members have spent preparing for, and dreaming about, sampling the cruising lifestyle south of the border. The fleet is expected to round the southern tip of Baja California and enter Cabo Harbor on Thursday, November 8.

Picking up where we left off last month, we’ll introduce you to the final entrants in this year’s two-week rally. As you probably noted in the previous two installments of fleet profiles, this disparate armada of cruising boats is crewed by sailors from all walks of life. (They are listed here in the order in which they signed up.

**Mona Too — Hunter Legend 45**
David Halaby, Berkeley
**Occupation:** cabinet biz owner (retired)
**Crew:** son Lex Halaby
**Quote:** “I planned to keep working as long as I could get to the shop. Luckily the economy tanked so I get to do the ‘Scintilla’ crew have flexible plans."
**Cruise Plans:** Open-ended: "The boat is home!"

**Sea Angel — Catalina 42**
Brian Taucher, Sacramento
**Occupation:** attorney (ret)
**Quote:** “The best time to go to Mexico is when you can!"  
**Cruise Plans:** Mainland Mexico.

**Bonnie Lass — Catalina Morgan 440**
Bill Alexander, Tiburon
**Occupation:** renewable energy executive (ret)
**Quote:** “This will be our second Ha-Ha. The first was a blast."
**Cruise Plans:** Continue south.

**The ‘Scintilla’ crew have flexible plans.**

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**Heart2Heart — Irwin 41**
Jeff Overley, Avalon
**Occupation:** plumbing contractor (ret)
**Quote:** “I’m excited and optimistic!"
**Cruise Plans:** South to El Salvador; sail home in a couple of years.

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**Tusitala — Townsend 47**
Briania Moseley & David Adolphs  
San Francisco
**Occupation:** mediators; CPA  
**Quote:** “Life’s hard, sailing’s easy, tack on the headers, stay on the lifts, and have fun!"
**Cruise Plans:** On to the Galapagos, then possibly to French Polynesia.

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**Flying Fox — Corsair 31**
George Woodley, Incline Village, NV
**Occupation:** engineering exec (ret)
**Quote:** “My crew and I met in ‘99 on our first Ha-Ha. It’s a wonderful venue to meet lifelong friends with similar interests.”
**Cruise Plans:** Sail the mainland this winter, then on the hard for summer.

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**Talion — Gulfstar 50**
Patsy Verhoeven, La Paz, BCS
**Occupation:** real estate (ret)
**Quote:** “This will be my 6th year of sailing all the way.”
**Cruise Plans:** Home to La Paz.

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**Emerald Isle — Island Packet 420**
Mike & Kathee Mealer, Goodyear, AZ
**Occupation:** aerospace engineer; civil engineer (both ret)
**Quote:** “We have done many Seattle-to-Portland bicycle rides with literally 10,000 other riders. If we liked that event, we will love the Ha-Ha.”
**Cruise Plans:** Continue south, then maybe west. . . or maybe east.

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**aleutian Light — Cal 31**
Nick Hindman, Alameda
**Occupation:** fisheries biologist (ret)
**Quote:** “Let’s go!"
**Cruise Plans:** Continue south.

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**Wallflower — Kalik 44**
Deron Bardin, San Diego
**Occupation:** golf management  
**Quote:** “Let’s go!”
**Cruise Plans:** A season of cruising, then bash home.

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**Scuttle Butt — Formosa 41**
Bruce Glass, Two Harbors

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**Occupation:** Catalina Harbor Dept. (ret)
**Crew:** Ralph Davidson
**Quote:** Bruce is looking for a boatmate: “Seaworthy woman wanted, must love to cook, clean and varnish.”
**Cruise Plans:** Open-ended: “The boat is home!”
Crew: Debbie Jahn, Paul Ludgate, Monte Cottrell & Trish Goforth
Quote: “It’s great to have so many of my cruising friends in one place. For me the Ha-Ha is a floating reunion.”
Cruise Plans: No plans to bring the boat north again.

Inspirare — Bavaria 47
Arvid & Annika Elias
Seattle, WA
Occupations: both program managers
Noteworthy: This is a German boat with Swedish rigging, sailed from Seattle by a Swedish couple and their Canadian Great Dane (dog) named Pluto.
Cruise Plans: A season in Mexico.

Sojourn — Pearson Alberg 35
Bridget & Bruce Eastman, Brisbane
Occupations: college counselor; nurse practitioner (both ret)
Crew: Dave Kendall
Quote: “We wanted to do the Ha-Ha twice before, but life intervened. Let’s hope the third time is the charm.”
Cruise Plans: Sea of Cortez, then south to Puerto Vallarta.

Mean Kitty — Catalina 42
William Walters, Ventura
Occupation: MD
Crew: Kay Fain, Chuck Landis, Lori Beraha & Alan (Doc) Roske
Noteworthy: In his younger days William did some serious offshore sailing, including Hong Kong to Iwo Jima and Seattle to Kodiak, AK.
Cruise Plans: “Enjoy the culture of Mexico and then continue southward and eastward.”

Aphrodite — Jeanneau SO 45
Peggy & Barry Corlett, Brisbane
Occupations: engineering designer; holistic health counselor
Crew: daughter Genna, 13, & Robert Tinus
Noteworthy: “The most interesting thing about our entry in the Ha-Ha is that we’re actually doing it!”
Cruise Plans: Undetermined.

Ronin — Caliber 38
Dwayne Jennings, Vancouver, BC
Occupation: helicopter pilot
Crew: Stephen (‘the Hammer’) Cox
Noteworthy: Every past and present owner of this boat has taken her to the

The ‘Thunderbird’ crew are not just going cruising, they’re on a mission.

Occupations: executive; development director (both ret)
Quote: “We’re heading south until the butter melts!”
Cruise Plans: First step of a South Pacific cruise.

Silhouette — Beneteau 423
Phil Donatto, San Antonio, TX
Occupation: engineer (ret)
Crew: brother Aaron
Quote: “We’ll have to wait and see — could be fun.”
Cruise Plans: Begin a circumnavigation at Cabo.

Beach Access — Lagoon 380
Glenn Twichell, Newport Beach
Occupation: electrician
The ‘Beach Access’ crew will be back again.

En Pointe — Searunner 31
Tom Van Dyke, San Francisco
Occupation: journalist
Crew: TBA
Quote: “Each day my gratitude exceeds my expectations, then I have a good day.” — Ray Wylie Hubbard
Cruise Plans: No plans to return.

Mariah — Gulf 32 PH
Ken Painter, Seattle, WA
Occupation: physical therapist

The international ‘Inspirare’ crew.

November, 2012 • Latitude 38 • Page 93
Sea of Cortez.

**Cruise Plans:** Farther south; eventually do the Pacific Puddle Jump.

**Trumpeter** — Newport Gulf 32
Bob & Robby Hinds

**Chula Vista**
Occupations: both lawyers
Crew: Steve Labarre

*Noteworthy:* Bob and Robby are father and son

**Cruise Plans:** A month or more at Cabo or Mazatlan.

**Dos Tacos** — Seawind 1160 cat
Tony & Michelle Soter, Portland, OR

**Occupations:** wine-makers
Crew: daughter Livi, 14, son Anton, 12, & Mark DeMaria

*Noteworthy:* "We will barely finish the harvest and fermentation of the new wines before putting them into barrels and shoving off for Mexico."

**Cruise Plans:** Boat stays in Mexico.

**Bluewater** — Seawind 1000 cat
Mark Barrish & Lawrence Kerver
Santa Cruz

**Occupations:** patent attorney; engineer

Crew: Mark's wife Liz & daughter Amanda, 5, plus Kevin Mulholand & Andrew McMullen

*Quote:* "Life is too short to wonder for too long whether life is too short."

**Crew:** Sea of Cortez.

**Camelot** — Hunter 54
Howie & Donna Shaw, Portland, OR

**Occupations:** traffic engineer; secretary (both retired)
Crew: son Craig Shaw, daughter Sandy, Jane Roy & Kenneth Smith

*Noteworthy:* At 84, Howie may be the fleet's elder statesman; hecrewed on a previous rally for Craig.

**Cruise Plans:** A season in Mexico.

**Kinda Blue** — Hershine 41
Jerome Phillips, Portland, OR

**Occupation:** musician
Crew: Ron Capasso & Don Mertie

*Noteworthy:* There's a piano on board!

**Cruise Plans:** Winter in Mexico.

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**Brizo** — Coronado 35
Tom & Leila Whitney Miron
Portland, OR

**Occupations:** sailing club manager; student (both in their 20s, but 're-tired')
Crew: Kristine DeWilde

*Noteworthy:* All on board are under 30, and former college sailors.

**Cruise Plans:** "Onward south!"

**Ripple Effect** — Creekmore 35
Jay Ahrens, San Francisco

**Occupation:** web developer
Crew: Kau Bahler & Tiffanie Linkin

*Quote:* "This is an excellent way to begin a foreign cruising lifestyle. It has the safety of numbers, and a concentration of sailors to develop a personal cruising network."

**Cruise Plans:** Bash back in January.

**Patricia Belle** — 66-ft schooner
Patrick & Geni Hughes, Seattle, WA

**Occupations:** merchant marine; nurse (both ret)
Crew: TBA

*Quote:* "Can't we all just get along?"

*Noteworthy:* They built this steel vessel themselves.

**Cruise Plans:** South, then on to Hawaii and San Diego.

**Star Passage** — Valiant 40
Peter & Kim Johnson, Pt. Richmond

**Occupations:** CEO; mom
Crew: son Harlan, 11, & daughter Sophie, 8

*Quote:* "Let the music begin!"

**Cruise Plans:** Stay in Mexico.

**Scout** — Jeanneau SO 52.2
Greg Himes, Whitefish, MT

**Occupation:** educator
Crew: Liz Wilson & Liz Lococo

*Quote:* "If life gives you the west coast of Baja, make it into the Baja Ha-Ha."

**Cruise Plans:** Bash to LA in June.

**Patapa** — Cal 34
Aron & Rhanne Kormout

**Moss Landing**

**Occupations:** wildland firefighter; waitress

**Crew:** TBA

*Quote:* "After three years of blood, sweat and beers (refitting this stock '69 classic), we're ready to go!"

**Cruise Plans:** Cruise the mainland and the Sea of Cortez, then commuter cruise.

**Blackjack** — Hunter 46.6
Jonathan Peebles, Point Loma

**Occupation:** sales
Crew: Bill Kirk

*Quote:* "This boat was spoiled as a baby: now it wants to kick ass."

**Cruise Plans:** This is a shakedown for a cruise to Australia.

**Sisu** — Hans Christian 43
Christopher & Barbara Warnock
San Francisco

**Occupations:** CEO (ret); graphic designer
Crew: sons John, 17, & Joshua ('Yoshi'), 15

*Noteworthy:* This rare '78 cutter-rigged ketch survived a category-five hurricane in Tonga in '85, skippered by Phil Howe.

**Cruise Plans:** Undecided.

**Purusha** — Spencer 53
Erich Hope-Goldsmith & Lyndie Burt
Vancouver, BC

**Occupation:** Lyndie, kinesiologist
Crew: David Caves (capt.), Anna Cunningham, Anniken Chadwick, Naomi ('Pony') Peterson & Shireen Nabatian

*Noteworthy:* The Purusha crew call themselves fun-loving hippies who love making music. Aboard are guitars, flute, sax, violin and piano!

**Cruise Plans:** Continue south.

**Sweet Dreams** — Irwin 54
Jim & Gina Nie
Portland, OR

**Occupations:** both managers (ret)
Crew: son Colton, 14, & daughter Niki, 11

*Noteworthy:* We're sure Jim and Gina will make lots of friends — they have an icemaker on board.

**Cruise Plans:** A season in Mexico, then perhaps a trip to Papua New Guines to do missionary work.

**Truant** — Cabo Rico 38
Frank Murphy, San Diego

**Occupation:** real estate
Crew: G.W. Grigg, & Chip Scire

*Quote:* "Hoping the adventure is even better than all the stories in the pages..."
The ‘Patricia Belle’ was built by her owners. of Latitude 38 that I’ve been living vicariously through all these years.”
Cruise Plans: Continue cruising Mexico.

Golden Eagle — Catalina 30
Ethan Johnson, Seattle, WA
Occupation: ski maker
Crew: Jennea Thornburg
Quote: “Let the naysayers step aside so the doers can get through.”
Cruise Plans: "Wing it!"

Fellowship — Valiant 42
Rich & Lyn Lewis
Wilmington, DE
Occupations: special ed. administrator; school social worker (both ret)
Quote: “Life is not about the destination. It’s about the journey and the reason for it.”
Cruise Plans: On to Loreto to work with Mexican Medical Missions. Then Puddle Jump to the So Pac to do more of the same.

Thunderbird 1 — Albin Stratus 36
International Rescue Group, Alameda
Crew: Jack "The Professor" Li, Jenni Hecker & Evelyne Dumas
Noteworthy: This is the first boat in International Rescue Group’s anticipated fleet. Her mission is to provide humanitarian aid to disaster-hit, mainly Third World coastal communities.
Cruise Plans: Boat will operate between Mexico and Panama.

Joya — Dreadnought 32
Steve Pruitt, Brookings, OR
Occupation: chandlery owner
Crew: son Dylan, 24
Noteworthy: Joya has a beautiful mermaid painted on her bow.
Cruise Plans: Enjoy Mexico before bashing home.

Blackheart — Coronado 30
Darcy McBride & Traci Grant
Del Mar Marina
Occupations: plumber; firefighter
Crew: Phillip Tate
Quote: “We’re excited!”
Cruise Plans: Bash home.

Arcane — Aura 40
Jean Cote & Jacinthe Morin
Montreal, QC
Occupations: TV producer; financial officer
Quote: “We’re just here for a good time.”
Cruise Plans: Eventually on to the South Pacific.

Cariba — Bayfield 36
Gab Cote & Isabelle Valois
Vancouver, BC
Occupations: apparel brand director; teacher
Quote: “We’re playful as the dolphins we will meet on the way, patient, and hopefully as wise as the old turtles of the Baja.
Cruise Plans: Undecided.

Distant Drum — Idylle 15.50
Harry Hazzard, San Diego
Occupation: info tech (ret)
Crew: Mark Noyes
Noteworthy: Harry started sailing at age 8.
Cruise Plans: Mexico, Central America, then Galapagos

Bella Dama — Islander 36
Chad Kominek, Ventura
Occupation: business owner
Crew: bro Rorke & Marvin Stevens
Quote: “My wife died this year. Life is short. Go now!”
Cruise Plans: Cruise Mexico, possibly for more than a season.

Lady J — Beneteau 393
Steve Hirsh, San Diego
Occupation: hay hauler
Crew: Mike Sanduskey
Quote: Just do it.
Cruise Plans: Sail on...
Someday — Hunter 35.5
Don McNeil, Channel Island
Occupation: N/A (ret)
Crew: Leah Wright
Quote: "The wind’s in my sails and the sea to my back, to take me down and bring me back!"
Cruise Plans: Cruise the mainland, then the Sea of Cortez.

Magic — Kelly-Peterson 44
Terry & Marian Benjamin, San Diego
Occupations: R&D chemist; editor
Quote: "We’re in for the fun!"
Cruise Plans: No plans to go home.

Sweet Cherri — Columbia 36
Josh & Julia Siudyla
Alameda
Occupations: sailor; geologist
Crew: Zack Launiere
Quote: "We are living our dreams!"
Cruise Plans: Cruise indefinitely.

Corinna — Allied Wright 36
Christopher & Christine Jette
San Francisco
Occupations: composer; anesthesiologist
Noteworthy: They both just finished grad school and are taking a break to cruise.
Cruise Plans: Bash home in December.

Happy Trails — True North 34
Ed Trzebiatowski
San Francisco
Occupation: engineer
Crew: Marc Culver (capt.)
Quote: "I want to go to Mexico! I want a great learning cruise with lots of fun people."
Cruise Plans: Stay in Mexico.

Moontide — Lagoon 470
Bill Lilly, Newport Beach
Occupation: real estate developer
Crew: Judy (Hootie) Lang, Beverly Smith, Danna Pomykal, Liz Brown, Carol Hefferman
Noteworthy: Somehow Bill was able to put together an all-girl crew — again!
Cruise Plans: May decide it’s easier to keep going.

Northern Passage
— Kanter PH 51
Bruce Rein & Jennifer Gordon
Seldovia, AK
Occupation: fiber optic cable engineer; writer/editor
Crew: son Richard, 12 & daughter Carmen, 10
Quote: "Our cruising plan is to be unplanned, and here we are at the right place at the right time, so why not join the fun?"
Cruise Plans: Continue south, then into the Caribbean.

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ARE YOU READY TO HA-HA?

One look at the Ha-Ha XIX entry roster at www.baja-haha.com shows you that boat types in this year’s fleet are as varied as ever, and the crews who sail them will be as colorful as in years past.

In addition to many first-timers, there will undoubtedly be plenty of ‘repeat offenders’ who want to replay some of the fun and great sailing that they experienced the last time around. Some full-time Mexico cruisers even sail all the way back to San Diego each fall just to re-do the rally.

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 on ‘Lectronic Latitude at www.latitude38.com.
MEET THE FLEET

In this edition you’ll find our final installment of fleet mini-profiles. Previous installments appeared in September and October. (Every edition of Latitude 38 is available in our downloadable eBook archive at www.latitude38.com.)

As you’ll read, the roster of entrants is made up of a highly diverse group, some sailing million-dollar yachts, others on modest ‘plastic classics’.

Many crew found rides this year via our free online Crew List at www.latitude38.com, which is constantly updated. Check it out for post-Ha-Ha cruising positions, as well as spots on Bay Area daysails and races.

PACIFIC PUDDLE JUMP

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 we 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 it at www.pacificpuddlejump.com.
IMPORTANT DATES

Oct. 20 — Ha-Ha Welcome to San Diego Party, Downwind Marine, 12-4 pm. Ha-Ha entrants only.

Oct. 27 — Pacific Puddle Jump seminar, West Marine, San Diego, 5 pm.

Oct. 28, 9 am — Final deadline for all crew and skipper waivers, West Marine, San Diego. Skippers only please.

Oct. 28, 11 am — Skipper’s meeting, West Marine, San Diego. Skippers only please.

Oct. 28, 1 pm — Ha-Ha Halloween Costume Party and Barbecue, West Marine, San Diego. Skippers only please.

Oct. 29, 7 am — Awards presentations hosted by the Cabo Marina.

Nov. 3, 8 am — Start of Leg 2

Nov. 7, 7 am — Start of Leg 3

Nov. 9 — Cabo Beach Party

Nov. 10 — Awards presentations hosted by the Cabo Marina.

Nov. 20, 4-7 pm — La Paz Beach Party. Mexican folk dancing, live music, food & drinks, door prizes, more.

Please note: Correspondence relating to the event can be emailed to andy@baja-haha.com. Please don’t call Latitude 38 with questions. The Ha-Ha is a separate operation.
really didn’t expect to find much activity at the university sailing club on a rainy weekday afternoon. But with more rain in the forecast for the weekend, and most of my regular crew suddenly discovering they had prior obligations, this was the most likely place to sign up some last-minute replacements.

Fortunately for my recruiting effort, I found the little unheated equipment and maintenance shed that serves as their clubhouse crowded with enthusiastic young sailors, the smells of hot chocolate and wet wool hanging in the air.

Several college students were gathered around an electric radiator and a chalkboard, and one of them was delivering what appeared to be a lecture on basic sailing theory. "Always remember to tension the jib luff before going sailing," the instructor advised. "And it’s especially important to always remember to slack it off when you put the boat away, or else you’ll put a permanent bend in the hull."

"Can we tip the mast forward more by making the jib halyard tighter to reduce weather helm?" asked one of his students.

"No, the mast rake is controlled by the adjustment plates for the shrouds. The jib halyard needs to be very tight for the furling to work properly. Of course you could reduce weather helm by setting the shroud adjusters looser to rake the mast forward, but only the vice commodore in charge of dinghy maintenance should change those settings."

"What’s weather helm?" asked a young college student. She was wearing a wetsuit and a soaking wet sweater.

"Remember when we were sailing rudderless during the lesson?" asked the instructor. "The boat kept turning up into the wind every time we sheeted in the main. That’s weather helm, and it’s caused by the center of pressure of the sails . . . ." He paused to draw a profile view of a sailboat, with the geometric center of the mainsail marked. " . . . behind the center of lateral resistance."

He completed the diagram by indicating the center of the side force on the centerboard.

"Force on the sails is here. The equal and opposite force on the centerboard is here. So the result is a turning force that turns the boat into the wind."

"That’s why we couldn’t go straight until we raised the centerboard most of the way up," observed another student of sailing. "Now I think I see why."

"We can steer by letting the main luff and pulling the jib in. That moves the center of pressure in front of the center of lateral resistance, and we bear off. Or we can let the jib out and pull the main in. That moves the center of pressure aft, and we head up."

"But we actually did most of our turning by just letting the boat heel more, or by hiking out and making it heel less," said a third student. "Pulling the main in makes the boat heel more, and it seemed to be like that’s what was making us turn into the wind."

"Right, good observation," said the instructor. "Heeling has a big effect on our helm because the boat’s hull becomes asymmetrical. The bow on the leeward side pushes more water away so the boat goes the other way, and that’s why it always turns away from the direction of heel."

He pronounced ‘leeward’ with a long e, so I started to wonder if this kid really knew what he was talking about.

"One boat down," shouted someone from another small group of club members over by the window. "Windy-windy!"

I moved over to the window to take a look. One of the club’s sailing dinghies had apparently just performed a spectacular capsise not far from the dock. Another boat sailed past them on a full plane with their asymmetrical spinnaker flying from an extended bowsprit. The windsurfers and kiteboards were going even faster.

"This sure isn’t the way we taught sailing when I was in college," I remarked to the people looking out the window with me as a strong gust rattled the window pane. "Rudderless sailing and big spinnakers in high wind were only for the experts. But if anyone would like to check out sailing on a big boat this weekend, I have three, maybe four crew spots to fill for the midwinter race."

"The front door to the clubhouse was flung open and another member, an older man, burst into the room in a cloud of wind-driven spray and rain. "Windy-windy!" he exclaimed in a thick Japanese accent. I concluded, from his harness hook and helmet, that he must be a windsurfer. Now that the storm wind was up to full force, the sailing thrill craft were having a really good day. It was as if no one had even heard my crew call. And no one cared much about the capsize, either. It was all routine at this place, from rudderless sailing lessons for beginners to A-sails in 25 knot gusts."

I moved back over to the chalk-talk to see if maybe one of those students would be interested in crewing.

"I don’t sink zee heeling of zee boat gives it zee weather helm," said one of the students who looked like a tall undergraduate with what I took to be a German accent. "On a surfboard, zee turn is in zee same direction as zee lean."

The instructor formed a shape with his hands that looked vaguely like the bow of a boat and explained again how water pressure on the leeward bow caused the boat to turn in the opposite direction. But the surfer was sure it would work the other way. "Zee bottom is much wider zan it is deep, just like zee surfboard," he pointed out. "Zey both have a lot of, how do you say, spoon in zee hull . . . ."

"We call it rocker," added another sailor from across the small room. "Yes, zee is rocker in zee hull. Zee bow should have only a small effect."

The instructor didn’t have a good explanation for this, but the student in the wet sweater, who was huddling over the radiator trying to keep warm, did. "I think he’s right," she suggested. "It’s the transverse shift in the thrust of the sails that causes weather helm to increase when the boat heels, not the forces on the bow."

She went on to propose that it would be easy to perform an experiment involving a boat powered by a small outboard, to separate the turning effect of the hull.
forces from the turning effect of the sail forces. This was immediately criticized by another student who claimed it would be invalid because the outboard's propeller, and therefore center of thrust, is too far below the hull and would introduce a turning moment when the boat heeled. Not to mention the angled propeller shaft. Finally they agreed that a valid result could be obtained with the boat coasting, after casting off a towline.

"Back to basic sailing theory," announced the instructor as he directed our attention to the chalkboard. "The opposite of weather helm is when the boat tries to fall off when the tiller is let go. This is called lee helm."

As if on cue, the door opened and in walked Lee Helm herself, letting in another cloud of cold wind-driven rain. "Like, windy-windy!" she exclaimed. "Awesome day."

Then her eyes caught the diagram on the board which said: "Weather helm: Boat heads up with helm free. Lee helm: Boat falls off with helm free."

"Um, that's not really true," she said as she pointed to the chalkboard while shaking sea water out of her hair.

"That's how the books always define it," the instructor insisted.

"The books are, like, wrong," Lee stated flatly. "Two things have a big effect on how a boat turns when you let go of the tiller, and neither of them has anything to do with actual weather helm or lee helm."

We all turned to Lee to hear what those two things were.

"One is how balanced the rudder is. If the rudder is unbalanced and swept back like on old-style dinghies, or like a Laser rudder half retracted for sculling, you get a lot more force on the tiller for the same amount of lift force on the rudder. That will make the boat seem as if it has a really heavy weather helm, even if it doesn't really have any at all."

"Ah, but it will have more weather helm if you kick up the rudder blade, because the force on the tiller is more," said the instructor.

"That's another, different definition of weather helm that's also totally wrong," Lee asserted. "Some people think that weather helm is the force on the tiller required to steer a straight course. But, like, consider a balanced rudder. There might be no force on the tiller at all if it's perfectly balanced, even at a high angle. And the exact same rudder blade built with the rudder stock at a different angle might be way under-balanced, putting a lot of force on the tiller. But the water sees exactly the same rudder blade at exactly the same angle of attack in both cases."

"Well sure, the design of the rudder affects the helm force without necessarily affecting the angle of the rudder blade. But I think it's still the best definition of helm. And isn't helm force going to be the only thing that determines which way the boat turns when you let go?"

"Not always. Tiller and rudder weight is the other factor that can change the hands-free turn direction. If you put a big hiking stick at the end of a long tiller on a boat with a very light helm force to start with, when you heel the tiller will fall to the low side. It's not such a small effect in light air."

"Okay Lee," I had to ask. "How do you define weather helm?"

"It should always be based on angle, not force," she stated. "If the rudder blade is at the same angle as the keel, that is, parallel to the boat's centerline, then there's no helm. If the rudder has to be angled to a couple of degrees, more angle of attack than the keel, just to keep the boat going straight, then there's weather helm. If the rudder is at a lower angle of attack than the keel, then it's lee helm, even though the angle of attack through the water might still be positive, and there might still be a force on the tiller that feels like weather helm, and the boat might still round up when you let go of the tiller. This is common with an unbalanced or swept-back rudder."

"Zat is how I define it also," added the German sailor.

"I still think the direction of turn after you let go of the tiller is the more useful definition," said the instructor. "It's a safety thing. In a gust, you want the boat to turn into the wind."

"That happened during my lesson last week when someone let go of the tiller in a gust," recalled the woman in the wet sweater. "The boat made a sharp turn into the wind but that just backwinded the jib and forced us to come about, and with everyone suddenly on the low side we flipped right over."

"The actual reason we should care about helm," Lee continued, "is to minimize total drag. Any foil that creates lift also creates drag, pretty much in proportion to the lift squared. The goal is to, like, evenly distribute the lift between the centerboard and the rudder. Not by area, but by span length. So if the rudder is two-thirds as long as the centerboard, then that's five-thirds total, and two-fifths of the lift should come from the rudder and the other three-fifths of the lift should come from the centerboard or keel."

"That almost makes sense," I said.

Lee caught some confused faces in the group, and explained that by "lift"
she didn’t mean upward force, but side force resisting leeway.

“Since the rudder usually has a smaller chord length than the keel or centerboard, it usually has to operate at a higher angle of attack to get the same lift span loading as the keel.”

There were more confused faces.

“We want the same amount of lift per foot of foil length for the keel as for the rudder. It usually works out to a couple of degrees more angle on the rudder compared to the keel, so the optimum weather helm is usually just a couple of degrees positive, measuring from the boat’s centerline.”

“You forget about zee downwash angle from zee keel,” said the German sailor.

“For sure. But that’s hard to measure, and it’s a pretty small angle anyway. It might add another, like, half-degree to the optimum weather helm angle.”

I surmised from the expression on the instructor’s face that he didn’t really follow the logic, and that he really didn’t like giving up his old definition of helm balance.

“You can’t fire a volunteer,” Lee whispered to me. But before the debate could heat up any more we were interrupted by another soaking wet sailor bursting into the room amid another cloud of cold wind-driven rain and spray.

“Two boats over,” he shouted. “I think one of them is going to need some assistance to keep them off the rocks.”

The person behind the desk gave an annoyed sigh as he put down his textbook, put on a foulie jacket and a PFD, then took a VHF out of the charging cradle and clipped it to a ring on the lifejacket. Another big gust of wind shook the building and rattled the window panes.

“Windy-windy-windy,” shouted the Japanese windsurfer gleefully.

“It’s totally gusting over 30,” Lee announced as she read the anemometer on the clubhouse wall. With that, she and her windsurfing friends tightened up their harness straps and started for the door.

“Wait!” I called after them. “The reason I came down here today was to sign up crew for the big boat race this weekend. I need a foredeck, a tactician and a couple of good grinders.”

“Does it include lunch?” Lee asked.

“Of course!” I replied quickly, knowing how much a free meal can motivate a starving student. “Custom orders from the fancy sandwich shop uptown.”

“Hmm,” Lee considered. “But if the wind is up I’d much rather be windsurfing.”

“And a nice dinner if we win our division,” I added, gesturing toward the upscale waterfront restaurant down the shoreline a ways.

“I’ll sign zee articles,” said the German sailor, “but only if zee wind is less zahn force seven. I cannot crew if vee have gale varnings for I vill be vindsurfing.”

“I’ll sign up under those terms, too,” said Lee, and two of her friends immediately followed suit for a total of four new recruits.

My crew was all set. As long as the wind didn’t blow.

— max ebb

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November, 2012 • Latitude 32 • Page 103
Flying Dutchman Worlds

As the wind went, so did the rate of success for Szabolcs Majthenyi and Andras Domokos. So, when gusts began to blow across the Monterey Bay in the final days of the Flying Dutchman World Championships, held September 25-30, they blew Majthenyi and Domokos straight to their eighth world title.

The Hungarian pair had sealed up the title before they finished third in a final race that featured the best conditions of the week, with sunshine, eight knots of breeze and a feisty swell. They tallied 15 points in the nine-race event that allowed two dropped scores.

Dutchmen Enno Krammer and Ard Geelkerken won the final race to sew up second with 18 points. Germany’s Kay-Uwe Lüdtke and Kai Schäfers (21) took third overall, Italian brothers Nicola and Francesco Vespasiani (34) finished a distant fourth and Andrew McKee and Mathew Bismark (47) of New Zealand took fifth after finishing as runner-up in the final race of the regatta.

Santa Cruz skipper Philippe Khan teamed with Steve Bourdow and used local knowledge of the bay to take fourth in Race 9.

Majthenyi and Domokos have established a dynasty in Flying Dutchman World Championships, winning their third straight and eight of the past 11. The three other titles in that span were claimed by Jorgen and Jacob Bojesen-Moller of Denmark, who did not travel to Santa Cruz for the 2012 race.

At the outset of the 2012 championships, however, the Hungarian juggernauts couldn’t be found in the standings. Confounded by spotty winds as quiet as 6 knots, they didn’t finish among the top three in any of the first three races of the 45-boat regatta. It wasn’t until the second race of the second day — when winds picked up to 14-16 knots — that they overtook Krammer and Geelkerken on the beat and maneuvered to their first win.

“If the conditions are like this afternoon, it will be hard to beat the Hungarians,” Krammer, who won in 1998 with a different teammate, said that afternoon in a bit of foreshadowing. “We’re getting a little bit closer each year, but we need some luck.”

The winds came and went, and occasionally were joined by thick fog patches. But neither those fluctuating elements, nor the surfer’s-heaven swells — much different from the quieter lakes of Europe — threw the Hungarians off course. They took first and third, respectively, in Thursday’s Race 5-6 coupling. After a lay day Friday for lack of wind, they won Saturday’s opening race and took second in Race 8.

By Race 9 on Sunday, for Majthenyi and Domokos, it was nothing but smooth sailing.

— julie jag

INTERNATIONAL FLYING DUTCHMAN OPEN WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (9/25-30; 9r, 2t)

OVERALL — 1) Majthényi/Domokos, 15 points; 2) Krammer/Geelkerken, 18; 3) Lüdtke/Schäfers, 21; 4) Vespasiani/Vespasiani, 34; 5) McKee/Bismark, 47 (45 boats)

Full results at www.sailifdco.com
found — and kept — enough breeze once they turned right into San Pablo Bay. With the absence of any significant wind holes, the boat that finished first stayed there once the math was done. Darren Doud and Chris Lewis on the Corsair 31R Roshambo, rated 33, finished at 1:30 p.m. and saved their time to win the Vallejo 2 overall.

But officially the Vallejo 1-2 is scored as a two-race regatta, and a boat from the middle of the ratings band corrected out to win the trophy for first place overall. Gordie Nash on the 135-rated Arcadia (which started life as a Santana 27 before Nash took a Sawzall to it) found himself in the middle of Lot A on Saturday — and Gordie Nash/Ruth Suzuki, 2 points; 2) Razzberries, Olson 34, Bruce Nesbit, 6; 3) Racer X, J/105, Rich Pipkin/Mary McGrath, 6 (5 boats) 

SPINNAKER PHRF ≤150 — 1) Arcadia, Mod. Santana 27, Gordie Nash/Ruth Suzuki, 2 points; 2) Moonshadow, Wylie 31, David Morins, 4; 3) Solar Wind, Martin 32, Max Crittenden/Roger Schmidt, 7 (7 boats)

SPINNAKER PHRF ≥100 — 1) Timber Wolf, Farr 38, David Hodges/Scott Parker, 2; 2) Razzberries, Olson 34, Bruce Nesbit, 6; 3) Racer X, J/105, Rich Pipkin/Mary McGrath, 6 (5 boats)

SPORTBOAT — 1) Max, Ultimate 24, Bryan Wade/John Pytlak, 4 points; 2) Flight Risk, T650, Ben Landon/Blake Davis, 9; 3) Dragonsong, Olson 30, Sam McFadden/Mike Brennan, 10 (11 boats) 

EXPRESS 27 — 1) Dianne, Steve Katzman/Jar- ian Westfall, 4 points; 2) Take Five, Donald Carroll/ Mike Bruzzone, 7; 3) Verve, Ron Snetsinger/Michael Singer, 7 (7 boats)

WYLIECAT 30 — 1) Uno, Steve Wonner/Ross Craig, 3 points; 2) Life Is Good, Andy Hall/Chris Penn, 5; 3) Dazzler, Tom Patterson/Sue Estey, 6 (7 boats)

MULTIHULL — 1) Roshambo, Corsair 31R, Darren Doud/Chris Lewis, 5 points; 2) Bobanja, Corsair F-24, Robert Hyde/Anja Thiel, 5; 3) Ma’s Rover, Corsair F-31, Mark Eastham, 6 (3 boats)

OVERALL — Arcadia. (55 boats)

Full results – www.sfbaysss.org

Islander 36 Nationals

What is happening right in the Bay Area racing scene is the positive use of social networking to organize owners in fleets that diminished long ago. Case in point is the Islander 36 fleet which, back in its heyday, featured now-prominent J/105 sailor Bruce Stone as its last-place but most-improved sailor of the year — but that was something like 1982.

Today Dan Knox has worked hard to organize the current owners so they might once again hold what they call the Islander 36 National Regatta. A decidedly less competitive crowd, the cohesive and inclusive group of 11 boats competed on October 14 with the involvement of an additional seven boat owners to help organize this year’s event.

Now, one race does not a national championship make, but on the other hand this group of sailors is out sailing together and by all accounts they have a lot of fun.

In the spirit of inclusiveness, the fleet allowed skippers to sail with or without spinnakers to build participation. We’re not really sure how that works out but, hey, they make their rules and it’s all good.

The race was intended to start south of the Bay Bridge. But with no breeze, everybody decided to shift to the north of Treasure Island, cut Blackaller to shorten the course, and instead sail around Alcatraz as the new weather mark. A building ebb caused another delay as the start pin wouldn’t set, but finally the fleet set off in a 10- to 12-knot west-erly and made short work of rounding The Rock. With the finish set at the Encinal YC, the racers all had their work cut out as it was late in the day and well into the ebb.

It seemed the four boats that sailed Spinnaker would make a go of it but, one by one, boats dropped out and began to motor to the finish/party. Only Alameda’s Kit Wiegman aboard Cassiopeia...
October 14 started out as a grey, windless morning but cleared and turned into another beautiful and sunny day of breeze-on San Francisco Bay sailing. From the outset, it was abundantly clear that one boat was in a class of its own: Katie Love’s Aussie 18 skiff Love Machine, which was painted pink, including the sails, just for the regatta! Leaving the fleet in her wake, Love sailed 10 laps around the course, rounding an incredible 40 marks. In the process, Love claimed five awards, including pinkest boat, most marks rounded and best performance by a woman-skippered boat.

The second-fastest boat on the course was Jim Quanci’s venerable Cal 40 Green Buffalo, skippered by wife Mary Lovely. Romping around the course to round 29 marks, the mostly female crew raised enough money to buy 18.6 buoys and win the A-Cup class and overall with 47.6 points. They narrowly edged out Terri Griffith’s Ericson 38 Wayward Whale by one-tenth of a point. How’s that when you can buy a regatta win!

In the C-Cup class, it was Wayward Whale taking a resounding class win with Alan Barr’s Beneteau First 34.5 Voyager, sailing with Pink Boat founder Thomas Watson onboard, claiming second in class. Taking the DD-Cup class win was Ted Goldbeck’s Cal 20 Just Em, which signed up the morning of the race and still managed to raise $600 toward the cause.

Organizers once again threw a rockin’
after-party with a live band, silent auction and all of the ambiance that only CYC’s race deck can provide. The Pink Boat Regattas have now raised over $50,000 in 2012, with proceeds to benefit The Breast Cancer Research Foundation’s search to find a cure. The next Pink Boat Regatta will be held in the spring of 2013 in San Diego.

— ronnie simpson

**Pink Boat Regatta (10/14)**

**Overall Points**
1) Green Buffalo, Cal 40, Mary Quanci, 47.6 points; 2) Wayward Whale, Ericson 38, Terri Griffith, 47.5; 3) Love Machine, 18’ Skiff, Kathleen Love, 41. (17 boats)

**A-Cup (PHRF <125)**
1) Green Buffalo; 2) Love Machine; 3) Georgia, Van de Stadt 41, Lucie Mewes, 35.5. (5 boats)

**C-Cup (PHRF 125-175)**
1) Wayward Whale; 2) Voyager, Beneteau First 345, Alan Barr, 33.15; 3) Stink Eye, Laser 28, Christine Weaver, 29. (7 boats)

**DD-Cup (PHRF >175)**
1) Just Em, Cal 20, Ted Goldbeck, 28 points; 2) Tortuga, Westsail 32, Randy Leasure, 27.25; 3) Road Runner, Ranger 23, Lorraine Weiss, 25.75. (5 boats)

Full results at www.pinkboat.org

**Melges 20 PCCs**

Corinthian YC hosted the Melges 20 PCCs over the beautiful, if decidedly mellow, weekend of September 29-30. Though nine boats had pre-registered for the event, only eight showed up to the starting line — a bit surprising considering their Nationals were the following weekend.

Over at the Circle on Saturday, lack of wind forced a two-hour delay to the start while waiting for the breeze to fill in, which it finally did. The fleet was able to complete four races that day in winds up to 20 knots, which gave the competitors a good workout, especially the crew on Danny Shea’s Kentfield-based Diamante, who suffered a broken rudder (they were able to repair it for Sunday’s racing).

There were more delays on Sunday, but the breeze kicked up earlier and topped out at 18 knots, allowing time for three races before the racers returned to the barn for the awards ceremony.

The notable news for this fleet was the fact that no one broke a mast. A rudder yes, mast no.

— jeff zarwell

**Audi Melges 20 Pacific Coast Championship (9/29-30; 7r, 1t)**

**Overall**
1) Atlas, Brian & Melissa Hill, 7 points; 2) BLAST!, Roland Vandermeer, 8; 3) Flyg-fisk, Tom Kassberg, 20; 4) Kuai, Daniel Thielman, 21; 5) Problem Child, Elliot James, 23. (8 boats)

Full results at www.melges20.com

**Express 27 Nationals**

A bit of Santa Cruz hit the Bay in September with both the Moore 24s and Express 27s running their Nationals a little north of their birthplace on the same
THE RACING

weekend, September 28-30. The Express 27s ran a long Bay Tour course on Friday with the start near the XOC mark in the Berkeley Circle, a beat up to Yellow Bluff, a jibe at Blossom Rock and back down and around the Circle. “I wanted a long course with no islands and no bridges,” said PRO Fred Paxton of host club, Richmond YC. “I was feeling pretty warm and fuzzy about it.”

The racers had plenty of challenging conditions, with shifty light wind around Yellow Bluff, followed by plenty of breeze for a tricky jibe around Blossom Rock.

On Saturday and Sunday, the fleet was treated to windward/leeward courses in the Circle, with building breeze. Saturday’s wind didn’t get much above 15 knots, but subjectively it felt more like low 20s to the racers, who were drenched and tired from the steep ebb chop. “The waves were a little stacky,” said Aaron Lee, who sailed on the Express 27 Ergo.

Scott Parker’s Freaks on a Leash broke their spinnaker pole during Saturday’s last race and had to sail the last run with Dominic Marchal serving as a human spinnaker pole. They doused for the jibe, then got bored and reset. A generous competitor lent them an extra pole for Sunday, which turned into a repeat of Saturday, with the strong ebb causing some nasty wind waves and only two races completed in order to get the tired folks home.

At the end of all the bashing, Jennifer McKenna, foredeck on Wetsu, her hair dripping saltwater on the carpet in RYC’s lounge, summed it up. “It was awesome!” she said through clenched teeth.

ncs

EXPRESS 27 NATIONALS (9/28-30; 5r)

OVERALL — 1) Shenanigans, Bill Moore, 10 points; 2) Wile E Coyote, Dan Pruzan, 17; 3) El Raton, Ray Lotto, 23; 4) Get Happy!!, Brendan Busch, 23; 5) Freaks on a Leash, Scott Parker, 28.

(22 boats)

Full results at www.express27.org

Moore 24 Nationals

Bart Hackworth has been sailing Moores for over a decade and, with the help of co-owner Simon Winer’s excellent sail trim. Rowan Fennell’s tactical input and Guillaume Cavinet’s near-flawless foredeck work, Gruntled claimed the 2012 Moore 24 Nationals, held at the South Beach YC September 28-30.

“The whole weekend was a bit amazing,” said Hackworth. “I’d heard that the...
Pegasus guy was tough but we had never sailed against him, and we knew Scott Easom on Mas! and John Kernot aboard Banditos would be right in the mix, too," he said. "Everything worked out great and we had the regatta pretty well sewed up by the last race."

In fact, the team assembled aboard Gruntled had never before sailed together as a group, even though they’d known each other for years. Where Kernot figured that the main reason they had not sailed well in the regatta was lack of practice, Hackworth’s group gelled by sailing the Wabbit Nationals just the week before, which gave them crucial time on the water prior to the event. “Simon adapted quickly and was able to give us great boatspeed right off the bat, which was a major factor for us,” said Hackworth.

The first race of the series was considered the 'long distance' event that had the 14-boat fleet sail out to Pt. Bonita from a start off the end of Treasure Island and the finish off the clubhouse. In what will go down as one of the best rides in a while, the teams were treated to 20+ knots of breeze and a stiff ebb, which created a short chop and mad planing conditions. "The fleet was absolutely lit up," said Kernot.

Everybody we talked to seemed to agree that SBYC had run a great regatta, reeling off races in an almost workmanlike fashion and, despite congested conditions close to AT&T Park and the lack of a local hoist, the event proved reward enough to those who braved the urban conditions.

---
dave wilhite

MOORE 24 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP (9/28-30)

OVERALL — 1) Gruntled, Bart Hackworth, 8 points; 2) Pegasus MotionX, Mark Christensen, 9; 3) Mas!, Mark English, 11; 4) Banditos, John Kernot, 22; 5) Double Trouble, Kevin Durant, 25.

(14 boats)

The Moore 24 fleet battled brisk conditions and a crowded Bay for their Nationals in September.

Full results at www.moore24.org

YRA Season Closer

Remember these numbers: 36, 49, 123. They’re important numbers from Saturday’s race in this year’s YRA Party Circuit Season Closer hosted by the Corinthian YC the last weekend of September.

- 123 = The number of boats entered.
- 49 = The number of boats started.
- 36 = The number of boats finished.

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A far cry from what the scene at the Corinthian YC just five years ago, where the fleet would fill the entire basin over this regatta weekend.

On the plus side, the race was the first outing for a certain Memo Gidley aboard his newly acquired Sausalito-based custom Elliott 10.50 Basic Instinct. If the Gidley name sounds familiar, then you’ve heard of Sausalito’s Cass’ Marina but what is interesting is that Memo, Cass’ son born just after Cass turned 60, is better known in the world of car racing.

Gidley’s crew consisted of tactician Gary Gebhard, trimmers Taylor Joy and Bob Lesnett, and Memo’s mom, first mate and 70-something-year-old Mary. “We were a little short-crewed to be racing this class but we all decided we would just take our time and go for it,” said Gidley.

With a third on Saturday in one of the most hotly contested divisions, this new team is a welcome addition to the fleet.

Sunday’s “Crazy 8” pursuit race featured a course where contestants chose one of two figure-eight directions to sail around Angel and Alcatraz Islands. The day offered consistent breeze and favored the big-waterline boats as Division A dominated the starters.

John Clauser and Bobbi Tosse’s Berkeley-based 1D48 Bodacious+ won the 12-mile course, finishing almost two minutes in front of William Helvenstine’s San Francisco-based Santa Cruz 50 De-

ceptation, closely followed by SFYC’s Mary Coleman aboard her Farr 40 Astra.

— dave wilhite

YRA SEASON CLOSER I (9/29)

PHRF 1 — 1) Astra, Farr 40, Mary Coleman; 2) Encore, Sydney 36, Wayne Koide; 3) Basic Instinct, Elliott 10.50, Memo Gidley. (9 boats)

PHRF 2 — 1) Mintaka 4, Gerry Brown, Farr 38; 2) Jarien, J/35, Robert Bloom; 3) Red Cloud, Farr 36, Don Ahrens. (5 boats)


PHRF 4 — 1) Siento El Viento, C&C 29, Ian Matthew; 2) Mission Impossible, Merit 25, Dave Hamilton; 3) Byte Size, Santana 22, Anna Alderkamp. (5 boats)

SPORTBOATS — 1) Ragtime, J/90, Trig Liljestrand; 2) Frequent Flyer, Farr 30, Stan Phillips; 3) Vitesse Too, Hobie 33, Grant Hayes. (5 boats)

EXPRESS 37 — 1) Golden Moon, Bill Bridge/Kame Richards; 2) Stewball, Bob Harford; 3) Elan, Jack Peurach. (4 boats)

ISLANDER 36 — 1) Windwalker, Richard Shoenhair; 2) Califia, Tim Bussiek; 3) Luna Sea, Daniel Knox. (3 boats)

SF 180s — 1) Zeehond, Newport 30-2, Donn
Guay. (2 boats)
SF 30s — 1) Shameless, Schumacher 30, George Ellison. (3 boats)
SHORTHANDED — 1) Nancy, Wyliecat 30, Pat Broderick. (2 boats)
NON-SPINNAKER — 1) Q, Schumacher 40, Glenn Isaacsen. (2 boats)

YRA SEASON CLOSER II (9/20)
OVERALL — 1) Bodacious+, 1D48, John Clauser/Bobbi Tosse; 2) Deception, SC 50, Wil-liam Helvestine; 3) Astra, Farr 40, Mary Coleman. (40 boats)

Full results at www.yra.org

Race Notes

The Race Committee elves at St. Francis YC had their hands full on the weekend of October 13-14. In addition to running the Jessica Cup for big wood-ies (see page 88), they ran the Albert T. Simpson for Etchells and Express 27s, Joe Logan for Mercuries and Calvin Paige for Stars. Seven Mercs sailed four races, and Randy Smith’s Fast Break from SFYC squeaked by Doug Baird’s Axon by just one point. Another SFYC boat, Jim Cunningham’s USA 1404, topped the seven Etchells, and StFYC’s Ray Lotto added another notch in his belt with the Express 27 El Raton. The Star class failed to make an appearance.

Stan Honey of Palo Alto and John Kostecki — a long-time Marinite who now calls Reno home — were inducted into the National Sailing Hall of Fame on October 14. Kostecki, tactician for America’s Cup defenders Oracle Team USA, was still smarting from a capsize in the AC World Series. Kostecki’s won the “Triple Crown” or “Grand Slam” of sailing — an around-the-world race (the 2002 Volvo Ocean Race aboard illbruck), the America’s Cup (AC 33), and an Olympic medal (silver in the Soling class of 1988) — which is something no other sailor in the world has done. Besides his innovations in TV technology that have led to two Emmy Awards, Honey was the navigator for the 2006 Volvo Ocean Race-winning ABN Amro One and 2010’s record-breaking circumnaviga-

Berkeley YC hosted the YRA’s Champion of Champions and Yankee Cup races on October 20. Light winds ended the day after the completion of two out of three races. Trig Liljestrand’s j/90 Ragtime topped PHRF 1, and George El-lison’s Schumacher 30 Shameless won in PHRF 2. If you finished a YRA race this year in a podium position, chances are they have a prize for you. The Year End Trophy Party will be held at Berkeley YC on Wednesday, November 14, at 7:00 p.m.

The Ultimate 20 Class Association has announced that W.D. Schock of Newport Beach will be the official North American builder for the mid-’90s Jim Antrim design. Hulls #250 and 251 are currently under construction. See www.u20class.org for more info about this fun sportboat.

Our usual year-end coverage of season champions will begin in the December issue.

– latitude/chris
With reports this month on Escaping to the Sunny Caribbean, and a two-family 'kids' charter' in Spain’s Balearics — a Favorite Mediterranean hot spot.

Chase Away the Winter Blues With a Tropical Sailing Getaway

Now that days get shorter, temperatures drop and skies overhead become gray and gloomy, you’re probably starting to yearn for those sunny days of summer. But there’s no need to get in a funk, because we’ve got a surefire method for chasing away the winter blues: Shangh hai a boatload of your favorite friends or family members and jet to a tropical charter destination for a week or more of barefoot fun.

While it may be the ‘melancholy season’ here at home, it’s peak season down in the sunny latitudes of the Eastern Caribbean where a 500-mile stretch of islands — from Puerto Rico to Grenada — offer trade wind sailing under brilliant blue skies.

If your vacation options are constrained by school holidays, you’ll find there are still some bareboats available for the two weeks that encompass Christmas and New Year’s. But if your schedule is flexible, you’ll save money on both boats and flights, and will see fewer boats in the anchorages. If you avoid that period, which is the busiest two weeks of the year for bareboat and crewed yacht charters, as well as shoreside vacationing.

In addition to the popular charter bases in the U.S. and British Virgin Islands, you’ll find charter bases at Grenada.

Breezin’ Through the Balearics: Mallorca, Ibiza & Formentera

My good friend Marco Salvalaggio suggested that we plan a sailing charter with our kids in Spain’s Balearic Islands, which include Menorca, Mallorca, Ibiza and Formentera. In early July we found ourselves island-hopping through the western Med, on a week-long cruise out of Palma, Mallorca, that covered 210 miles.

We chartered through a broker — Cosmos (cosmosyachting.com) — although in hindsight we probably could have saved some money by going directly through the charter company that handled the boat, Viva Yacht Charters (vivacharter.com). We wanted a 50-footer, and went with a 2008 Bavaria named Fora Nirvis. While in Palma, we noticed there are numerous charter companies, so you have lots of options, although the charter companies we often use, The Moorings and Sunsail, do not have a base in the Balearics.

We were a crew of seven, including me, Marco, his 15-year-old daughter Daniela, her friend Claire, my daughter Claire, 20, and her friends Prakash, 20, and Tomek, 24. Marco, Daniela and Claire flew down from London and Tomek came from Warsaw. My daughter Claire and Prakash had joined me earlier in Barcelona for a few days of sightseeing and tapas-sampling before flying on to Mallorca. We all made a rendezvous at the airport in Palma, Mallorca (PMI). The flight from Barcelona (BCN) to PMI only takes about thirty minutes, and there are lots of schedules and airlines to choose from including Vueling, Iberia, and Ryan Air.

Palma itself is located on a huge bay that’s about 10 miles across, with lots of marinas and a big yachting scene. Marco brought an excellent pilotage guide that’s simply titled: Isla Baleares: Ibiza, Formentera, Mallorca, Cabrera and Menorca by Graham Hutt (published through the RCC Pilotage Foundation / Imray Laurie Norie & Wilson). I wholeheartedly recommend it, although I believe it is expensive. This guide has incredible detail, and appeared to be accurate in all respects, with dozens of useful GPS waypoints.

One tip I can pass along to charterers and other sailors with limited time in this area: Don’t forget to get a permit in advance for cruising Cabrera, islands that are part of a national marine preserve just south of Mallorca. We had been led to believe that we could get a permit before we departed from Palma,
A week full of contrasts. Spread: Formentera’s spectacular beaches. Insets: Claire and Prakash take a swim off the stern; the busy harbor at Palma with its grand cathedral.

but were told there was no way to do so at the last minute. Everything had been fully booked for at least two weeks. But we vowed to return so we could see those waters.

Our plan was to circumnavigate Ibiza, with a side trip to Formentera. I have been spoiled by the Caribbean, but this trip was an eye-opener. We encountered great winds daily of 8 to 20+ knots, and warm water. I hope to return because the sailing is fantastic, and the beaches are among the most beautiful I have ever seen. I wouldn’t be surprised if the beach at Formentera rates in the top 10 in the world.

Our checkout from Viva Charter was a tad unusual. A staffer named Henry instructed us to inventory the boat equipment. He then collected money: 2,500 euros as a damage deposit, 90 euros to rent an outboard motor for the dinghy, and more money for linen and towels.

After making sure our credit cards went through, he asked, "Do you have any questions?" That was it. We had a few questions about the main roller-furler procedure and other boat systems, but we promptly shoved off. We’d been pretty anxious to get going anyway, as the marina was hot and tightly laid out, with all boats inches apart and berthed stern-to.

We had no complaints with our big, comfy Bavaria, but unfortunately our dinghy leaked so badly that we had to pump it up every time we launched it.

We shoved off and sailed in about 10 knots of wind roughly five miles toward the mouth of Palma Bay to Cala Portals. We all went for a swim, Tomek made a great pasta, and we were finally underway on our cruise. This was a rolly anchorage, but we really had no other choice as we’d left after 4:30 p.m., and this was better than staying at the marina.

The next morning we got up early and set sail at about 6:30 a.m., as we’d planned a 60-mile trip south to the famous isle of Ibiza. Along the way we had variable winds, although at times we saw 10 to 12 knots. Thirty miles out, the winds were so light that we let the kids swim off the stern — with safety lines deployed, of course.

After a long day we finally arrived in Cala Portinatx, a small bay with a beach, "supermarkets," and beach bars. We launched the dinghy, and the kids went in to get some extra provisions and explore.

Cala Portinatx is on the north coast of Ibiza. It’s a beautiful little bay, with easy anchoring, clear water, and places to provision. It’s very low key and even quaint compared to the larger Ibiza Town and San Antonio.

The kids went ashore for dinner that night, while Marco and I stayed behind to cook some chicken and sausages. It turned out we had four vegetarians on board! Yeah, we screwed up the provisioning by ordering too much meat.

The next day was Daniela’s 15th birthday. Marco had made arrangements to go to Pacha (pacha.com) — a famous nightclub in Ibiza Town — as a birthday present. We dinghied in for fresh croissants, then weighed anchor for San Antonio. We’d considered going directly to Ibiza Town, but anchoring was reportedly difficult, and the marina was 400 euros per night (if we could get a spot).

So the plan was to drop anchor in San Antonio, then power nap to prepare for Pacha — because, we learned, one does not go to Pacha before 1 a.m.

We had a great sail in 15-18 knots of wind. Upon arrival we found that the anchorage was crowded, but we noodled in and found a spot as close as possible to the beach. We’d been pretty anxious to get going anyway, as the marina was hot and tightly laid out, with all boats inches apart and berthed stern-to.

The party scene at Ibiza has been notorious for decades. Where else can you find sexy dancers gyrating inside giant martini glasses?
to the dinghy landing. San Antonio is a zoo, with discos booming all night, and strange tourist attractions catering to the young party crowd.

After napping, we dinghied ashore about midnight and took a taxi to Ibiza Town for dinner. We got to Pacha about 1:30 a.m. and, although I was skeptical, it really was quite wild and interesting. The DJ, Tiesto, is rated one of the top five in the world, and the kids were thrilled. As an old fart I confess that I had not even heard of Tiesto. But there were thousands of people going wild in Pacha who proved that he is something of a sensation.

We got back to the boat about 6:45 a.m., and thankfully our sagging dinghy was still there among several people passed out from clubbing that evening.

Although it was probably a questionable decision, we decided to shove off because the next destination we'd planned to visit was only about 18 miles away: an anchorage off a famous place called “the Blue Marlin.” The bay is called Jondal.

Cala Jondal has a rocky beach, but the scene ashore is lively, with the Blue Marlin (bluemarlinibiza.com) dominating. There was lots of ‘action’, with some large yachts, both power and sail, around us. The Blue Marlin is a swanky, South Beach, Florida-type of place, with a DJ, models parading around wearing clothes from the onsite boutique, and good (but expensive) food.

Tomek spotted Steven Gerrard, captain of England’s national football team, lounging with some other guys in a cabana. When Tomek tried to take his picture, he was promptly chastised by a bodyguard. But when I let them know I was American, and didn’t even know Gerrard was a celeb, he kindly set up a photo opportunity for us. Tomek was ecstatic.

We set sail the next day for Formentera. It was only about eight miles to Isla Espalmador, which is just off the coast of Formentera. This is a beautiful spot, with a range of boats from megayachts to smaller boats the size of our Bavaria 50. Marco and I dropped the kids off to explore this truly beautiful beach, and we stayed on board to soak in the scene. Soon, the Veuve Clicquot girls arrived in

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their runabout selling bottles of Champagne! That’s not something that happens at every chartering destination.

At about 4 p.m., we had a short sail along a peninsula of beaches and sand dunes to Formentera. We dropped anchor off a spot with two beach resorts on shore, one of which is named the Restaurant Es Ministe. The long, beautiful beach had lounges for rent in front of the two businesses, with the usual euro-beach scene — as I’m coming to understand it — but with a relatively deserted strand that ranges north for two miles or so.

On the sixth day of our trip we opted to position the boat on the north side of Ibiza, so we’d be in a good position to sail back to the charter base the following day (Friday).

We enjoyed a 25-mile sail in 12 to 20 knots of wind, although it was mostly on the nose. We thought we’d anchor in the northeast, at Cala de San Vicente. However, the sea state was so rough that we opted to return to Cala Partinatx. It was nice to return to this charming anchorage, and it made our trip a true circumnavigation of Ibiza. Tomek and Daniela paired up to make a fantastic pasta, and we went to sleep knowing that the next day we had a 60-mile passage back to Mallorca.

The alarm went off at 5:30 a.m., and we weighed anchor at 6 a.m. The sailing was close-hauled again, but the seas were relatively flat, and we made good time. Along the way, we made a stop at a harbor resort south of our marina to meet with the family of one of the kids, who were vacationing in Mallorca.

As we approached the charter base, we recalled that the instructions had been strict: Refuel the vessel at the fuel dock (which closes at 5 p.m.), and return the yacht stern-to no later than 6 p.m. or the credit cards would have to come out yet again. We made it to the fuel dock by 4:55 p.m. and topped off the tank. The return to the marina was painless, with Marco at the helm as we came in stern-to — a flawless re-entry.

It was a great trip that gave us lots of happy memories. And although we’re sorry that charter had to end, we’re already thinking about the next one!

— art hartinger
Sea Level — Schionning 49 Cat
Jim and Kent Milski
Across the Indian Ocean
(Lake City, Colorado)

With Somali pirates having curtailed cruiser interest in heading to the Med via the Red Sea, the only choices for westbound West Coast cruisers who are in Indonesia/Thailand/Malaysia are to sail home backward via the Pacific, which isn’t that appealing, or continue west around the world via the Indian Ocean, the Cape of Good Hope, and up the Atlantic to the Caribbean. Since we’d already sailed more than halfway around the world, and it’s easier to continue on than to backtrack, we’re continuing west.

We’re heading to South Africa via Rodrigues Island, where we are now, and Mauritius. Our last passage, from Sumatra, Indonesia to Rodrigues Island, was more than 2,000 miles. It was also our roughest passage to date. Cruisers who made the passage just before us or just after us reported the same rough conditions.

The problems were that it was windy and the sea conditions were not pleasant. It was so windy that all we ever flew was a double-reefed main and between one-half and one-third of the headsail. That’s not much. The other issue was that we were getting a big swell from the southeast, making for sloppy conditions.

We hove to for two nights. The first time was for comfort and to get some rest. One of the lesser publicized positive attributes of catamarans is that they are easy to keep pointed into the wind in bad weather. For example, we would roll up the jib completely, secure the double-reefed main amidships, center the rudders, then turn off everything except our navigation lights. In this configuration Sea Level would maintain a heading of about 30 degrees off the wind, and depending on the current and the strength of the wind, make one to two knots. We could control what tack we were on by moving the traveller to port or starboard of center. The constant motion was reduced to a minimum, which allowed us to enjoy a decent meal in relative peace, watch a movie, or get some sleep.

The second time we hove to was just off Rodrigues, and we did it for safety. We were going to be losing the last of daylight as we entered an unfamiliar port, and we didn’t think that would be prudent. So as much as we wanted to enjoy the tranquility of a harbor, we hove to until the next morning.

A French cruiser who arrived off Rodrigues about the same time we did, decided that he would go in. His boat went up on a reef. We’re happy to report that he, with the help of others, was able to get his boat off without her suffering too much damage. But we were happy with our decision.

Talk about lightning hitting the same place — or boat — twice! We just learned that our catamaran friends Greg and Debbie Dorland of the Tahoe-based Catana 52 Escapade had their boat hit by lightning for the second time — with predictable unpleasant results for much of the electronics — in three years. At last word they were in Florida, but we’re hoping to cross paths with them in the Caribbean in January.

— Jim 10/01/12

Geja — Islander 36
Andrew Vik
Summer In The Med
(San Francisco)

When I left off last month’s installment of my latest summer of cruising in the Med — more specifically the Adriatic — my crew and I were thrilled to be back in Italy, where the people are so friendly and lively, and where the food is ridiculously delicious. On the downside, far fewer Italians are fluent in English than are residents of the former Yugoslavian countries.

After clearing in at Bari — no fuss and no cost to enter the European Union — we headed down the coast. It didn’t take long before the horizon was a frothy white again, with 20+ knot winds and a nasty little swell. Once reefed down, it was an exciting and wet close reach. Geja rose and fell with the waves, sometimes taking a direct hit that sent spray back into the cockpit. We were soaked but satisfied, as Geja handled the conditions like a champ.

Unlike the steep-sided Croatian side of the Adriatic Sea, the Italian side is shallow with mostly man-made ports and virtually no islands. The approaches
to the harbors can have as little as 10 feet of water, which makes entering precarious when five-foot swells roll in. We entered little Giovinazzo with not much drama, and took an awkward spot at the end of a floating pontoon, which required us to partially raft to a resident powerboat. I discovered Giovinazzo by accident in ’10, and it quickly became one of my favorite spots in the Med. It’s a small harbor where Geja was again the largest boat — something I can’t often say in this part of the world.

It was no accident that we arrived during Ferragosto, the period in August when most industries shut down and Italians flee to the coast to escape the inland heat. As the late afternoon siesta wraps up, Italians of all ages converge on the nearest town for the nightly passeggiate, which of course includes a stop at the gelateria. There is often some kind of program being presented in the town piazza, and on our first night in Giovinazzo, it happened to be the regional competition for the Miss Italy contest. My all-male crew and I were quite happy to hang around and root for our favorites!

My plan was to end the week at Trani, just a couple of stops up the coast, but the sea had other plans for us. The onshore wind and waves just didn’t let up, and the harbor entrance was closed by breakers. So Geja was stuck in Giovinazzo’s surging harbor for two additional nights, and I constantly worried that the metal gudgeons on the end of the floating dock would poke a hole in Geja’s hull. But what a great town to be stuck in!

With another new crew and calmer weather, we had a great sail up to Trani, its famous seaside cathedral visible for many miles down the coast. The bars around the large harbor really get going at night, with one offering its own liquid concoction called Rocket Fuel — a far cry from the standard one-ounce pours in Croatia.

A bit of rain and scattered thunderstorms kept us in Trani for an extra night before we continued up to Vieste in dreamlike sailing conditions. A bustling hillside holiday town, Vieste had an excellent outdoor food market. The town’s location on the ‘spur’ of Italy, only 60 miles from Croatia, makes it a popular place to head back across the Adriatic. But taking the direct route means missing Italy’s Tremiti Islands, which are gems of the Med.

Spoiled by another day of perfect sailing conditions, including a fast spinnaker run, we opted to take the detour to the Tremitis. Those who say that the Med lacks wind should have been there when I was. During the eight-day span from Montenegro to these islands, we covered some 250 miles, 90% under sail.

The Tremiti Islands lie 13 miles off Italy’s relatively featureless southeast coast. They consist of a cluster of five islands housing about 500 permanent residents. The Tremiti Islands, 13 miles off Italy’s otherwise featureless east coast, are one of Andrew’s favorite nautical playgrounds.

Italian food — ridiculously delicious.

PHOTOS COURTESY GEJA

Insets left; Andrew Vik loves Italian food; loves little Italian ports such as Giovinazzo, where his Islander 36 was the biggest boat around; and loves Italian holiday playgrounds such as the Tremiti Islands. But when it comes to sharing his cruising adventures, he loves women of all nationalities.
residents, with visitors ferried in by the thousands during the summer months. One of the things to do there is to hop into the dinghy and do the four-mile circle around Isola San Domino, the coastline of which features coves, grottos, and sandy beaches. As a nautical playground, the Tremiti Islands are hard to beat. But you need stable weather, as the anchorages offer poor protection.

As we prepared to depart the Tremiti Islands for the overnight sail back to Croatia, a dinghy pulled up for a visit. Two Italian men from a neighboring boat wanted to chat, and presented us with a nice bottle of white wine. Geja, thanks to her crusty looks and American flag, is no stranger to special attention. But then Italian hospitality never ceases to impress me.

Our overnight sail back to Croatia was for the most part sweet pleasure sailing, with 12 knots of wind on the beam in flat seas. I chose to check in at the town of Vis, where unlike Cavtat, this isn’t a special customs quay. You just take a regular spot on the public quay and begin the three-step check-in process: harbormaster, police, and customs. The customs official seemed really cool at first, even suggesting that my crew get coffee while they wait. Take that, Cavta!

While things began smoothly, slowly but surely, they started to go downhill when the beer-guzzling customs guy asked me to run around town and photocopy some of my documents for him. Unable to find a place to get copies, I returned to his office pissed off. “If you really need copies, I’ll email them to you,” I stated angrily. Then I began to take photos of my documents with my iPhone.

“No, no!” said Mr. Customs man, but I kept snapping away. He then took my papers and walked away. I asked the policeman in the same office if the customs guy was normal. “Not really,” he said with a confirming smirk. A few minutes later, the customs guy returned with photocopies, likely from his copy machine in an upstairs office. I chewed him out a bit before storming off, some two hours after beginning the check-in process. Mind you, my cruising permit from before was still valid. A Croatian bureaucrat had once again been a source of frustration. Hopefully some of this bureaucratic nonsense will disappear when Croatia is admitted to the European Union in ’13.

Tired from the overnight sail, and pissed off due to the fat customs jerk, we continued on for another couple of hours to the Pakleni Islands — another of my favorite stops in the Med. Palmižana is a busy but relaxing bay with excellent restaurants lining the shore.

Just before weighing anchor the next morning, I was to enjoy one of the most pleasant surprises of all my time in the Med. An older Croatian sailor in a dinghy came alongside, and explained that 13 years before, he and his wife had invited Dick and Shirley Sandys, the Palo Alto-based previous owners of Geja, for dinner while their boats were anchored together in Palmižana. Unbelievably, he produced a note written by the Sandys from his scrapbook that read, “Hvala for dinner.” Hvala being the Croatian word for ‘thank you’. I often think of Dick and Shirley Sandys, and the crazy adventures they must have had while sailing Geja from California to the Med many years ago. This chance encounter blew me away!

Back in lively Hvar, my having closed the loop I’d begun four weeks earlier, my final crew of the season hopped on board. Though Geja’s winter port near Split was just a day sail away, there were plenty of islands and attractions in between, which resulted in an easy and relaxing final week. Best of all, the weather forecast was as stable as I’ve seen, with clear hot weather — and none of the nighttime offshore bora winds that cause boatowners to lose sleep.

After overindulging once again in the town of Hvar, we relocated Geja to a nearby island, one that happens to be home to the Carpe Diem Beach Club. When the bars in Hvar shut off the music at 2 a.m., folks are shuttled to the beach club, where the festivities continue until 5 a.m. Anchored strategically near the club, we waited until folks began to arrive. At 2:30 a.m., we hopped into the dinghy, figuring that our stealth approach would save us the 20 euro cover charge. We had no such luck, as a guard intercepted us and led us to the cashier.

Halfway through the final week, having had several late nights out in a row, I sought out the quietest anchorage pos-
IN LATITUDES

able rates by the boatyard crew. Geja’s sails are hand-me-downs from the really nice members of the Islander 36 Association of San Francisco Bay. But they are quite decent. And what a sweet sailing boat the Islander 36 is!

As I mentioned in my last report, my fifth straight summer aboard Geja consisted of 37 days and 36 nights, with 27 different overnight stops and two overnight sails. I covered nearly 700 miles, 60% of them under sail alone — the highest percentage of the five summers. The best part has always been sharing the experience with friends, 10 of whom joined me this summer.

— andrew 10/15/12

Fleetwood — Naja 30
Jack van Ommen
The Med To Amsterdam
(Gig Harbor, WA)

Some readers may wonder how far it is, how many locks you have to pass through, how long it takes, and how much fuel you need to motor a 30-ft sailboat with an unstepped mast from the Med coast of France to Amsterdam.

Having arrived in Amsterdam in early October after making the trip, I can provide answers based on my experience. It took me seven weeks and 1,000 statute miles to pass through France and Belgium via the Rhone, Saone, and various other waterways. During that time I transited a total of 251 locks, burned about 40 gallons of fuel, and spent about

If your boat is narrow enough and doesn’t draw too much, you can travel from the Med to Amsterdam via waterways such as this.
$325 in mooring fees. Those interested in details of my trip north through France and Belgium should visit my blog.

Belgium became the 49th country that I have visited with Fleetwood since departing California in '05. I've lost track of how many miles my boat and I have sailed together, but it's something close to 35,000, most of them singlehanded. I did, however, have company for the trip from the Med to Amsterdam.

After so much traveling, Fleetwood needs a lot of work. Her 33-year-old teak deck, for example, needs to be removed. I hope to do this under cover in the spring. Fleetwood will spend the winter not far from Amsterdam.

I had planned to sail the Baltic Sea next summer, but after talking to a few of the members of the local yacht club, I am now planning to join them on a trip to Bretagne — northwest France — via the South Coast of England in June and July, then follow Spain's north coast to Portugal. In January of '14, I plan to take off from the Canary Islands for Cartagena, Colombia, where I will begin exploring South America by land.

— jack 09/15/12

Witch of Endor — Vagabond 47
Steve Cherry
Costa Rica, El Salvador
(San Diego)
Bob Willmann of the Casamance 47 cat Vida! and I had a very interesting Labor Day weekend. We were anchored at Isla Muertos, which is across the Gulf of Nicoya from Puntarenas in Costa Rica. We'd been here 12 years before — both with our previous boats — so we were kinda excited to check out the Luminosa Resort.

In the 'old days', the resort was just a big building with a bar where I'd gotten my picture taken with Pancho the monkey. Times have changed. Pancho is gone, having lost an altercation with dogs. Sven, Luminosa's old manager, has been replaced by an Italian couple. And the Luminosa Resort is empty — so empty they only had one beer in stock. After we drank that and some wine, Bob and I headed back to our boats.

That places 'aren't what they used to be' seems to be the norm as Bob and I retrace our paths through Central America from a dozen years before. But there is one constant — theft.

My dinghy was stolen the second night we were anchored off the Luminosa. As many Latitude readers know, the bad guys all over Latin America steal the dinghies for the outboard motors they can use on their cayucas, pangas, lanchas, or whatever they want to call them. You never see a Latino driving an inflatable dinghy. Nonetheless, these poorer than dirt people all have $2,000+plus Yamaha outboards for their pangas. Go figure.

Bob and I hoist our dinghies in the evenings every night, making it very unlikely that they can be stolen. We never trail our dinghies behind our boat because it would be just too easy for thieves to cut the lines, and drift away with them. After this they would take the motor off and either hide the inflatable in the mangroves or set it adrift.

For the past dozen years, I have religiously hoisted my dinghy at night, both to prevent theft, and to have it secured in case bad weather hits and I have to quickly bail out of an anchorage. A rare exception to the rule is for me to remove the motor, put it on the rail of the big boat, and let the dinghy trail astern. After all, if there is no outboard on the inflatable, there is no reason for a Latino to steal it, right?

So, the one time that I make the rare exception — I had put my outboard on the rail of the big boat in Panama's Perlas Islands because I was starting an open ocean trip, and the extra 80 pounds tends to make the dinghy bang around in rough weather — my inflatable gets stolen. I discovered it was gone at midnight. When I pulled in the line, sure enough, it had been cut with a knife. So I was dinghy-less!

Bob wasn't having such good luck either, as his anchor windlass quit working. We had a good idea why, but needed a real electrician to repair it.

So it was that at 4:30 a.m., Bob and I assaulted the beach in his dinghy, and walked up to the bus stop to catch the 5:15 a.m. bus to Paquera and the ferry. When we got to the bus stop, we found out that the bus leaves 15 minutes before 5 a.m., not after 5 a.m. Something had been lost in the translation when we asked about the ferry schedule. But there was a lady at the bus stop waiting for a ride in a car, and we managed to tag along with her, thus making the 6 a.m. ferry to Puntarenas after all.

We went to the Costa Rica YC looking for an electrician and possibly a dinghy.
but we found that our old friend Carlos, the club manager was gone. Fortunately, the hotel manager, a sweet young thing who speaks perfect English, rounded up an electrician who thought he might have a friend who might have another friend with a dinghy for sale.

While sitting at a table in the yacht club at about 8:45 a.m., the girl suddenly said, "Earthquake — oh my God!" There was indeed a little shaking, followed very quickly by some major shaking. Glass was breaking, planters were falling over, and about a quarter of the water in the swimming pool sloshed out. We ducked under a table until things settled down, then got the hell out of the building.

As it turned out, there was no major damage in Puntarenas other than the power and cell phone service going out. But the main highway from Puntarenas north was jammed with traffic, as people fled the threat of a tsunami — which didn’t materialize. Steve and I took a taxi downtown looking for a dinghy dealer, but thanks to the earthquake, every store was shuttered.

The only place that was open was the Bar Porton Verde, which we had frequented when we were here years before. So we went in and drank beer in the semi-darkness for an hour or so, then went back out to the yacht club to check out the dinghy possibility — which turned out to be a bust. So we took the ferry back to Paquera, made a strategic beach withdrawal in Bob’s dinghy, and got ready to attack our problems the next day.

My next move was to try to call Apex, the Costa Rican-based inflatable manufacturer who had made my stolen dinghy. After lots of busy signals that were the result of earthquake damage, I got through to them. Alas, they wanted $4,000 for the new dinghy — way more than I’d paid for the old one in Panama years before. Plus, there was no easy way to get one to me. So I guess I’ll just have to have the folks at Barillas in El Salvador order one for me and pay whatever it costs. After that, I’ll hoist it every night!

Bob has been luckier, as he now has two functioning windlasses.

Update: Bob and I are now at Barillas Resort in El Salvador, where Sun Runner is the only other boat here besides Viva! and Witch of Endor. When we were here 11 years ago, there must have been 30 or 40 boats. Of course, it is late summer, the lowest of the low season, when it rains like crazy.

Barillas is still just perfect in that it’s very un-Central American like — which means that the employees are friendly and actually understand that we are paying guests. Management, in the personage of Heriberto Pineda, is very accommodating, and assists with boats checking into the country.

My message to everyone coming this way is obvious — always lift your dinghy out of the water at night!

— steve 09/15/12

New to cruising and unsure how to tell if a yacht belongs to a 1%'er? There are two common 'tells'. First, is the staysail roller furler bigger around than the foredeck man? Second, are the yacht's anchors big enough to be used on an aircraft carrier? Solid gold anchors are just for show.

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To be or not to be," that was the question for Hamlet. "To spend a whole year cruising Mexico so we can see the Sea of Cortez, or take off across the Pacific in the spring without seeing it," that is the question for many cruisers.

Verdo and Gabriella, Doña de Mallorca's friends from her days working on big yachts in the Med, who sold their home in Queensland to come to California to buy a cruising boat, faced the 'Sea of Cortez Question' last spring. While Verdo and Gabby can't wait to return to the remote islands of the South Pacific, they decided, after a winter on the mainland, that they couldn't just pass the Sea by. So they spent the summer there.

"We absolutely loved it!" gushed an enthusiastic Gabby. "The Sea of Cortez has spectacular geological formations you don't see anywhere else, so my biggest disappointment was not being able to find a proper geology book about it. But the colors, the formations — I wanted to learn all about it.

Not the types who need a crowd of people to be happy, Verdo and Gabby were surprised — and pleased — to feel as though they almost had the Sea to themselves. "We hardly saw a soul," says Verdo, "it was just wonderful."

"We had all the anchorages we wanted to ourselves," confirms Gabby, "but we met some really lovely people, too. I'm in love with the people of Mexico! They are truly the salt of the earth."

Verdo is a fishing maniac, so he had every night when we were at Bahía de Los Angeles, so we headed over to San Carlos on the mainland," says Verdo. "We only paid $16/night at San Carlos Marina, and that included water — and the electricity for our air-conditioner. With the marina water temperature 91 degrees, you can imagine how hot the still air was."

When we spoke to the couple at the beginning of October, they were excited to be heading off on a trip to the Copper Canyon, and noted that the summer heat in the Sea had finally broken. "The southerlies of summer have been replaced by winds out of the northwest" said Verdo. "By the time we get back from the Copper Canyon, the cruising weather should be ideal."

Barring late-season tropical storms, many Sea vets consider October to be the best weather month for cruising. The water is still warm and clear, the daytime highs are high 80s to low 90s, and the nighttime lows are a positively chilly 70 degrees or so.

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"We had lots of shade for our boat, and slept outside all the time, but still weren't prepared for it," admits Verdo. "Fortunately, we were able to buy an air conditioner from another cruiser for 400 pesos — less than $40 — and it worked a treat. We could only use it when tied up to a marina, of course, but that's where you really needed it, because when you're on the hook there is usually a little breeze."

Had the Verdons to do it again, they would do the Sea a little differently. "It's foolish to stay on your boat for the most brutal heat of August and September," says Verdo. "The people who have spent a lot of time in the Sea all head back to the States or cooler places during those two months, and with good reason."

The other downside of the Sea in the summer are the chubascos and elefantes, which are the unpredictable, powerful, but usually short-lived nighttime storms.

"We eventually got tired of the 35-knot and 40-knot storms almost
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It's one of the perversities of human nature to take what is easily accessible for granted. So many of us on the West Coast lust for what's in the distant South Pacific or Southeast Asia, when we have unique cruising treasures such as the Sea so close to home.

"Verdo and I are not the only ones who loved the Sea," says Gabby. "We had some Kiwi friends — true world travelers — who spent two weeks cruising with us. They were in awe of the Sea of Cortez, having not had any idea what a spectacular and unique place they were coming to. In fact, they told us it was one of their best holidays ever."

We didn't ask, but we assume the Kiwi couple didn't visit in August or September.

It was nonetheless the place to be, as we knew that the stronger winds would come from the south, meaning we'd eventually have great protection from seas.

Sure enough, the wind direction suddenly switched from north to south in the middle of the afternoon. All seven of the other boats in the anchorage with us quickly turned on their hooks to face the new direction. The wind then gusted to close to 60 knots, just shy of hurricane strength.

And then the rain started pouring down. We opened the water tank fill and let the rainwater water flow in until the tank was full. We also collected water in bowls and a five-gallon bucket so we could rinse our hair. But then a strong gust hit, knocking the full bucket over, dumping water into the cockpit. Doh!

The wind blew a sustained 25 to 30 knots for about 20 hours, with regular gusts to 40 knots, and a couple to 50. Thanks to the never-ending torrents of rain, we found all of Harmony's leaks, which our normal dry season cruising allows us to ignore. But with eight inches of rain in just 12 hours, we were scampering around looking for towels to catch the leaks, then having to wring the towels out. There wasn't any permanent damage, but we can't ignore those leaks any longer.

The eight inches of rain in the afternoon created gullywashers. By midday, the usually blue-green water of the bay was mixed with muddy swirls of water littered with cactus and other debris from land. It was an eerie sight.

Fortunately, there wasn't any damage to the boats anchored with us. One boat had the dinghy with the outboard in the water and tied to the side of the boat. Before long, the dinghy was airborne, then landed upside down, soaking the motor. The local mechanics stopped by the next morning to flush the engine out.

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Mother Nature always seems to find new ways to test us. As far as storms go, mid-October's hurricane Paul was not the strongest or longest lasting tempesta to hit the Sea of Cortez. But for us, it brought a day to remember.

We want to thank everyone who called all the many gods of weather on our behalf, because although Paul passed close by, he showed us mercy. We were particularly fortunate in that we had no thunder or lightning in our neighborhood — which for the duration of the storm was Santa Barbara Cove, Concepcion Bay, which is about 220 miles NW of La Paz and 80 miles NW of Puerto Escondido.

We had wind from all directions, but much of the day we were bucking into wind out of the north — the one direction for which Concepcion Bay affords no protection. It was nonetheless the place to be, as we knew that the stronger winds...
They had it running again in no time.

A boat in a nearby anchorage was in shallow water when the new moon tide reached its lowest point, and went aground. He was able to kedge off in the rising tide. We heard that one boat in San Carlos broke free from her mooring and landed on the beach, but compared to previous tropical storms and hurricanes that have come up the Sea, there was apparently little damage.

Since one of our dodger window covers had blown off during the height of the storm, the next morning we borrowed Ben, 6, and Huon, 3, the two little Tasmanian kids off the catamaran Sonrisa, and took them treasure hunting on the beach. We didn’t find our dodger cover, but we did find lots of shell treasures, sticks, and mud holes to splash in. After that we brought the kids back to play with Rob’s gun collection. Fun times!

So Paul turned out to be about what it had been forecast to be. Had stronger winds been predicted, we might have run to a real hurricane hole, or maybe a marina. That said, a buddy who was run to a real hurricane hole, or maybe a marina. That said, a buddy who was

Cruise Notes:

“That was a nice photo Latitude recently ran of some cruisers holding up clams they’d taken in the Sea of Cortez, but it might be a nice idea to remind everyone that it is illegal for non-Mexican citizens to take any shellfish,” writes James Hassberger of the La Paz-based Valiant 40 Kanga. “I know of one cruiser who had his dinghy, outboard and fishing gear confiscated – fortunately only temporarily — but had to pay several hundred dollars in fines, and had to travel all the way from Loreto to La Paz to get it straightened out.”

Hassberger is correct, and we apologize for the massive brain fade on our part. We knew full well that it’s illegal for foreigners to take shellfish in Mexico, we just somehow figured that anything smaller than lobster really didn’t qualify as shellfish. Idiots! A complication, of course, is that from time immemorial some Mexican fishermen have offered to sell cruisers shellfish — almost always lobster. Once again, that’s not only illegal, it violates the rules of the cooperatives that most of them belong to.

We’re shedding buckets of crocodile tears for Ahmed Muse Salad, Abukar Osman Beyle and Shani Nurani Shiekh Abrar, the three Somali pirates who have been charged with the February ’11 hijacking of the Marina del Rey-based Davidson 59-ft Quest, and the subsequent murders of Jean and Scott Adam of Marina del Rey, and their crew, Bob Riggie and Phyllis Macay of Seattle. Attorneys for the three Somalis are challenging the fact that 22 of the 26 charges they are facing are “death penalty-eligible”. Their attorneys, paid for by you and us, argue that the death penalty is unconsti-
Our most recent visit was as participants in the Southwestern YC’s 62-mile Little Ensenada Race from San Diego to Ensenada. While we managed to complete only 61 of the 62 miles before the wind shut down completely in the early hours, we still had a blast. The sailing was even better on the 16-mile around Todos Santos Island Race two days later. While downtown Ensenada could hardly be described as posh, it’s lively after dark, and the locals are as friendly as anywhere in Mexico — and that’s saying something. Thanks to Cruiseport Marina and the Coral Hotel & Marina, the berthing options are clean and secure. The fact that mariners have to check in to Mexico and get a tourist visa is, of course, an impediment to visits by California sailors. However, Mayor Enrique Pelayo told us that he and some legislators are looking to get this changed.

The other thing that impressed us were the veteran cruisers who have decided to base out of Ensenada rather than California, and not because it’s less expensive — diesel was just $3/gallon — but because they like Ensenada more. Among them are longtime cruisers Jan and Ramona Miller, who three years ago returned to the West Coast after a long trip across the Pacific with their Odyssey 30 Jatimo. As much as they liked their old homeport of Santa Cruz, they like Ensenada better. Another couple takes a high degree of self-sufficiency and physical fitness to do such a circumnavigation, and I have both,” says Meleshyus, who is supremely confident despite, if we’re not mistaken, having lost his first San Juan 24.

We wish the proud Russian-American a safe and successful voyage. It will be interesting to see how his attempted circumnavigation compares with that of Webb Chiles — see this month’s Sightings — who is hoping to complete his sixth circumnavigation, this time aboard his Moore 24 Gannett.

After their long cruise across the Pacific, Ramona and Jan of ‘Jatimo’ find that they prefer Ensenada over any bases in California.
who think Ensenada is just great are Lionel and Irene Bass of Perth, Western Australia. A little more than a year ago the couple purchased Pete and Susan Wolcott’s M&M 52 catamaran *Kiapa*. They plan to take three years to sail and surf her across the Pacific to Perth.

"It was great to read about and see photos of Ensenada, as well as both the ‘new’ and ‘old’ Hussong’s Cantinas," write Jim and Robbie Hill of the Peninsula and Sayulita, Mexico, former owners of the Farr/Tompkins 55 *Amazing Grace*. "After finishing the Big Ensenada Race in about ‘54, some friends and I went to Hussong’s Cantina. As we were sitting there, two guys on a rented horse rode in. They ordered three margaritas. ‘One is for the horse,’ they explained. They had no problem getting served.

We don’t know if you can still ride horses into Hussong’s, but paying a visit to Hussong’s on their wedding day is still a tradition for many Ensenada brides.

"I am still in Palau, but leaving in October for Puerto Galera in the Philippines in order to participate in the Royal Cargo All Souls Regatta," reports David Addleman of the Monterey-based Santa Cruz girlfriend, is Filipina."

We’d never heard of the All Souls Regatta, which is held November 2-4, but based on our research and knowing how much Filipinos love fun, it’s sounds like a blast. The event was founded in ’04, and at least 30 boats are expected to participate this year, from small boats, to cruising boats, to multihulls, to IRC boats. Event organizers emphasize that everyone is encouraged to participate, no matter what kind of boat they have — or even if they don’t have a boat at all.

Norm Sween is hoping that someone gives him the finger when he, his wife Susan, and crew Justin and Erika Sween of Bodega Bay arrive in Fatu Hiva in the Marquesas with their 32-ft cutter *Monte Cristo* in the summer of ’14. "I ventured to the South Pacific in ’93 aboard the same 32-ft cutter, which was named *Monte Crest* back then," says Norm. "By accident, I left my right index finger in a plastic bottle at Hana Vatu on Fatu Hiva as a ‘gift to the gods’. I later heard from a French vessel in Bora Bora that my finger had been found, but spirits would keep it there until I returned. If anyone else..."
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has found my finger, please contact me at norm.swn@gmail.com."

"When Latitude recently wrote about Mexico, I was surprised that you didn’t mention Barra de Navidad," writes Capt Adriana Kenlan, with the ‘Wonder Poodle’ Boxer of the Oceanside-based Catalina 36 Stimulator. "Barra, 135 miles south of Puerto Vallarta, is amazing because it’s safe and secure, has crystal clear water, is easy to enter, and has every amenity a sailor could ask for. When I needed a hurricane hole for the summer, I discovered Marina Isla Navidad, which turned out to be the best marina in Mexico — and better than most in the world. The marina is connected to the Wyndham Grand Bay Hotel, which is ranked the #1 Mexican Resort by the Travel Channel. Marina tenants have access to everything. In addition to 207 new slips with water, electricity, and Internet, there are eight spotless shower rooms, a massive pool with a water slide, bar and food service, a spa, tennis courts, a great golf course, inexpensive restaurants, and magnificent scenery. A French baker even delivers French pastries and bread every morning by boat. I know my boat is safe because she is guarded 24/7 and maintained by a conscientious staff."

Our neglecting to mention Barra was certainly an oversight — and for more reasons than just the Marina Isla Navidad. As Mexico vets know, the marina is right across from the charming and inexpensive waterfront town of Barra de Navidad, which shares the same small bay as Melaque. It’s also right on the shores of the Barra Lagoon, where cruisers can anchor securely for free in totally protected waters. The Grand Bay Hotel and the marina are both very nice, but with all due respect, we think it’s a stretch to claim that the marina is one of the best in the world and the resort the top-rated one in Mexico. We like them both, but they both have plenty of competition.

A woman sailor who owns a boat named Stimulator? If we didn’t know Stimulator better, we’d think it was provocative. How are we supposed to believe anything Pat and Carole MacIntosh of Roseville tell us? A while back they sold their Hunter, and said they were moving to powerboats. Yet on September 28, they

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sent the following email: “We’re about to close a deal on a Cheoy Lee 35 in Barra de Navidad — and she is not a project boat.”

Jim and Chris Machado of Puerto Vallarta-based Jeanneau 41 La Ballona are another cruising couple who have changed boats. “It’s the fault of Dave Wegesend of the Puerto Vallarta-based Maluhia, who took us sailing on his Catana 42 cat, that we’ve gone over to the ‘dark side’. ‘We’re now the owners of the Catana 43 Bright Wing, the only tall-rig 43 ever made.’ La Ballona was brought up from Puerto Vallarta for sale in San Diego, while Bright Wing, which was in Alameda, is now in Ensenada. As Jim is recovering from back surgery, he and Chris probably won’t sail south for Mexico until December.

As we reported in ‘Lectronic a few weeks ago, The Div Bar — at the far west end of Newport Harbor, and which used to be Josh Slocum’s Restaurant, and then for a time was owned or fronted by Dennis ‘Sexual Chocolate’ Rodman — welcomes cruisers to come by and use their dock space to take on water, wash their boats, and tie up to go shopping. But — and it’s a ‘but’ as big as Kim K’s — the docks have to be cleared by noon to let paying restaurant customers use the space. The Dîv Bar is easy to find. Just look for circumnavigator Ernie Minney’s DownEast 38 Anita, “named after my fourth wife.” Much more than a bar, the Div Bar is a great smokehouse, too. Even more important to frugal cruisers, it’s only a moderate walk from inimitable Ernie’s Minney’s Marine Surplus on Newport Blvd. It’s the biggest marine surplus store on the coast, and is loaded with bargains.

You’re on an Air Canada flight from Vancouver, British Columbia, across the Pacific Ocean to Sydney, Australia, on a Boeing 777 on October 17. When the plane descends from 24,000 feet to 5,000 feet, you’re not too worried, because you’re 12 hours into the flight and figure you must be getting close to landing. But then the captain asks if any of the passengers has a pair of binoculars he can borrow. Wha?!! Actually, there wasn’t any reason for the 270 passengers aboard flight AC033 to freak, because the captain was just responding to an Australian Maritime Safety Authority request to search for the source of an EPIRB signal. In fact, the captain asked the passengers to look out the windows for a dismasted vessel. When a
IN LATITUDES

passenger with a pair of binos did spot the vessel, a big cheer went up from the other passengers. The distressed vessel’s singlehanded skipper had left Sydney for New Zealand two weeks before, had been dismasted, and ran out of fuel 300 miles east of the Australian coast — i.e. in the middle of nowhere. He and his boat were later rescued by Australian resources.

As reported several times in ‘Lectronic, Mexican Immigration laws have changed, with potentially major ramifications for cruisers. According to the letter of the new laws, boats arriving in Mexico have to electronically notify officials at their port of entry 24 hours before they arrive; will have to be inspected at their port of entry; and will not be permitted to stop anywhere in Mexico prior to clearing in at a port of entry. In other words, if you don’t clear in at Ensenada, you can’t stop anywhere along the coast of Baja until you check-in at Cabo San Lucas. At first glance, it may seem as if Ensenada is making a grab for Immigration and business income. But when you think about it, what other country would allow you to leisurely cruise 750 miles of their coast before clearing in?

Nonetheless, the new rules had the potential to create problems for this year’s Ha-Ha, because Ensenada doesn’t currently have the facilities or manpower to handle 150 boats arriving at once. Fortunately, Neil Shroyer of Marina del La Paz, Fito Espinoza of Coral Marina, and other members of the Mexican Marina Owners Association, were able to work with Immigration officials in Mexico City to delay implementation of the new rules until November 9, the day after all the Ha-Ha boats should have cleared in at Cabo San Lucas. In addition, implementation of the other rules will be “gradual.” This is out of necessity, because Immigration and port captain offices are not equipped to handle the new procedures. Given that there will be a whole new federal government taking over on December 1, and the current impracticability of the new rules, it’s possible that some or all of them will be rescinded.

The bottom line is that if you’re heading south after the Ha-Ha, and you want to be in accordance with Mexican law, you’ll need to clear into Mexico at Ensenada — at least if you want to stop anywhere along the coast of Baja before Cabo San Lucas. Shroyer also recommends getting your Temporary Import Permit online, although you probably
need to allow two weeks to get it. We’ll keep you posted on how the situation evolves.

What’s up for cruisers in Mexico this winter? Here are some of the major events:

November 20 — Multi-sponsor Welcome to La Paz Ha-Ha Party and festivities. Everyone welcome, but first 50 Ha-Ha participants get in free.

November 22 — Thanksgiving celebrations everywhere cruisers gather. It’s always been big in Mazatlan.

December 12 — Nayarit Riviera Sailor’s Splash. Paradise Marina in Nuevo Vallarta, the Marina Riviera Nayarit in La Cruz, and a bunch of local restaurants welcome members of the Ha-Ha fleet — and everyone else. Free.

December 13-15 — Banderas Bay Blast, ‘nothing serious’ cruiser racing between Paradise Marina, Riviera Nayarit, and Punta Mita, also including the Swimming Pool Volleyball Championships, the opening of the Punta Mita Yacht & Surf Club, and the Pirates for Pupils Spinnaker Run for Charity on the 15th. Free except for $1 yacht club membership. Free berthing for one night at both marinas.

December 25 and January 1 — Holiday celebrations everywhere cruisers gather.

February 7-12 — Zihua SailFest.

The Banderas Bay Blast ‘water balloon drop'. There is more much than sailing to the various cruiser events in Mexico.

For years this has been the biggest cruiser-led fundraiser in Mexico, all for local schools. But it counts on a new group of cruiser volunteers each year. Great fun, terrific cause!

March 19-23 — Banderas Bay Regatta. While still ‘nothing serious’ racing fun for cruisers, this is the biggest one of the season in Mexico, and the Paradise Marina / Vallarta YC venue is world class for fun. Free.

April 12-15 — Club Cruceros de La Paz Bay Fest. All kinds of sailing and social fun to kick off the season in the Sea of Cortez. Free.

May 4-6 — Loreto Fest. Puerto Escondido. The biggest cruiser gathering in the Sea of Cortez, with lots of music, seminars, and fun. Free, but also a fund raiser for local schools.

There are lots of other smaller events in Mexico over the winter that are great fun, too. Tune into your local VHF nets for further information.

With another cruising season upon us, we wish everyone safe sailing! Don’t forget to write — short and sweet is perfect — or send in the high res photos.

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27-FT CS-27, $16,000. Canadian Sailcraft 27. New LP, sails, stove. Previous owner spent $40,000+ plus. The prettiest CS-27 on the Bay. Recent haulout. Fast sailer. Feed my cockroaches. (415) 272-5776 or 1941babbage@earthlink.net.

28-FT ALERION EXPRESS. Sausalito. $70,000 (1/2 of new price). Spinnaker, gennaker, GPS, holding tank, radar, autopilot, all lines led to cockpit, lifelines. “The prettiest girl on the dock.” (415) 302-7490.

25-FT MERIT, 1986. Morgan Hill. $8,900 or trailerable trade. New gelcoat, new lifelines, low hour Honda 2hp. 1999 tandem Trail-Rite trailer, just added 5 lifelines, low hour Honda 2hp. Trailerable trade. New gelcoat, new hydraulic winch, new 5 coats barrier w/2 antifouling, waterpump, Volvo Penta MD5 w/saildrive, new 5 coats barrier w/2 antifouling, Mack Pack main, Mack 110 genoa, 150 genoa, spinnaker, asymmetrical w/sock, new upholstery, new cockpit cushions, dodger, bimini, too many extras. Perfect sailboat. Unique, comfortable, dry. Largest 28.5’ boat you’ll see! Email for pics: tom@bbscglobal.net or (209) 470-5804. More at http://sailskippersepromise2962.wordpress.com.


28-FT PEARSON, 1977. Mulege, Baja. $7,000. Moored Conception Bay. Equipped to cruise. New standing rigging and furlex, main, 2 jibs, 2 solar panels, Universal 25hp, Origo, 3 anchors, more. Documented, MX Permit. New jobs, must sell. (734) 823-4078 or (861) 634-2777 or givansickie@gmail.com.

29 TO 31 FEET


30-FT ISLANDER, 1979. Marina Bay, Richmond. $5,000. Nice, clean boat, roller furling, good main and jib. Volvo motor furling, but needs work. (530) 343-9391 or plutonic1@aol.com.

29-FT WINGA 862, 1984. Stockton Sailing Club, $17,200. Swedish Promise. Fractional sloop, racer/cruiser, 6 halyards. New running rigging, new complete wiring, new panel, 2 new AGM batteries, autopilot and backup, new VHF w/remote, stereo, aft cabin w/two single berths, fridge, stove, BBQ, new head/ices, new alternator, waterpump, Volvo Penta MDW w/saildrive, new 5 coats barrier w/2 antifouling, Mack Pack main, Mack 110 genoa, 150 genoa, spinnaker, asymmetrical w/sock, new upholstery, new cockpit cushions, dodger, bimini, too many extras. Perfect sailboat. Unique, comfortable, dry. Largest 28.5’ boat you’ll see! Email for pics: tom@bbscglobal.net or (209) 470-5804. More at http://sailskippersepromise2962.wordpress.com.
32 TO 35 FEET


34-FT EXPRESS, 1988. RYC. $59,750. Two Scoops, well maintained, well sailed, fast with great sail inventory. Equipped with stove, refrigerator, GPS, radar, VHF with cockpit and nav station locations and many AM/FM stereo. Contact c_longaker@sbcglobal.net. (415) 450-1113 or (415) 383-1006.


34-FT C&C, 1981. Emery Cove Marina. $27,000. Racer/cruiser in excellent condition. Yanmar diesel, roller furling, Barent ST winches, rod rigging, hydraulic backstay, 3 headsails, plus spinnaker, 3-burner propane stove, dinghy with outboard, shower and Lectra-San system. (925) 3/6-1081 or (925) 212-6080 or zedakers@hotmail.com.


35-FT YOUNG SUN CUTTER, 1981. San Carlos, Mexico. $5,400. Proven blue water cruiser, ready to sail the world, with a bombproof fiberglass hull. Fully cruise equipped, designed by Robert Perry, same layout as Tayana 37, but at a bargain price. http://younsun.squarespace.com/specs. Email mohrmonnte@gmail.com.


36-FT HANS CHRISTIAN, 1975. Oyster Point Marina. $39,000. A proven cruiser from Alaska to New Zealand. Good Bones needs new sails and a little TLC to restore her to offshore condition. Monitor wind vane, dinghy and more. USCG documented. Contact (415) 337-5303 or svtekin@gmail.com.


36-FT ISLANDER FREEPORT. Model B, 1978. Morro Bay. $47,000. Roller furling, Bruce, 2 Fortress, windlass, radar, 2 VHF, remote mic, chart plotter, Autohelm, depth, wind gauge, refrigerator, CNG stove/oven, 1900-watt inverter, dual bank charger, fireplace, Perkins 4-108. Contact bobjenzizzarr@sbcglobal.net or (559) 707-7344.


37-FT CREALOCK, 1979. Monterey. $50,000. Cruising consultants, new LPU entire boat, interior, new Yanmar. Email for pics and video. (831) 234-4892 or dcd987@gmail.com.


42-FT FREYA, 1983. San Carlos, Mexico. $79,000. Larger version of classic double-ender. Steel, new mainsail, new furling, Yanmar 3GM30 diesel engine, 750 watt solar panel, Ampair 100 wind generator, 4 AGM batteries, Proline Truewave 1000 multi, Monitor self-steering windvane, Icom IC-M700 Pro with Pactor III modem, AGM batteries, Prosine Truewave 1000, autopilot, windeon, solar, fridges, HMR/HVF, liferaft, dinghy, mahogany interior, easy single-handed. Email tvrand1@yahoo.ca.


40-FT OLSON, 1983. Squamish, B.C. $73,000. Race and cruise equipped. Pac Cup ready, Espar furnace, fridge, dodger, furler, etc. An extensive equipment and sail list. (604) 898-9448 or (778) 879-4272 or jgugins@telus.net.

42-FT FREYA, 1983. San Carlos, Mexico. $93,000. Cruiser, in primo condition, ready to go. Spacious interior - must see to appreciate. Recent survey. See website for current photos, complete equipment list: http://sailboatfagai.blogspot.com. (520) 825-7551 or stanstrebig@gmail.com.

40-TO 50 FEET

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47-FT CATALINA, 2000. Long Beach, CA. $185,000. Excellent condition and priced to sell. Call or email for more details, photos and spec sheet. (626) 807-0061 or sailboat47@yahoo.com.

44-FT TARTAN 4400, 2003. Channel Island Harbor. $399,000, or trade?. Reduced price! Dark green hull, low hours, bow thruster, electric winches, vacuflush heads, spinmaker, new batteries, new LP and bottom paint, numerous other upgrades. See test sail at: youtube.com/watch?v=ckZHxXEAMec.

41-FT SCEPTRE, 1986. Crescent Beach, B.C. $168,000. Original owners. Professionally maintained. Recent survey and bottom paint. Email or call for more info and pictures: raceeway@shaw.ca or (604) 539-9373.


50-FT MARINER MOTORSAILER. 1980. Redwood City. $165,000. Great liveaboard cruising boat. 2 staterooms, 2 heads, 300 gals fresh water, 400 gal/day watermaker, uprigh tfridge/freezer, separate deep freeze. Too much other equipment to list. Please contact for complete list. Contact (831) 335-3573 or ladyhawke50@yahoo.com.

46-FT JEANNEAU SUN ODYSSEY 45.2. 2000. Tacoma, WA. $134,000. This salt water veteran is fully equipped with all the necessary equipment to take you offshore in the direction of your dreams! She just got back from a cruise in the Med and the Caribbean and is lying Tacoma, WA waiting for you to prep her for her next voyage. She is a rare 3-cabin/3-head model, perfect for a family or larger group cruising - each cabin has its own head. Great charter opportunity for America’s Cup next year! The vessel has many upgrades - and lots of spares (206) 992-6637.


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41-FT NEWPORT, 1984. Bruno’s Island Marina. $49,000. Price reduced. Mexico vet, radar, GPS, autopilot, 40hp Universal diesel, solid rod rigging, 38 gal. fuel, 60 gal. water, sleeps 6, 8-ft dinghy with 9.9hp Nissan. Contact raadinkdy@yahoo.com or (707) 688-0814 or (707) 290-9535. 1200 Brannan Island Rd.
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60-FT ALDEN SCHOONER. Design #356-B. 2005. Santa Barbara, CA. $750,000. Rebuilt 2005. Epoxy glued db1 plated kapur (like teak) below w1. 75% new frames, new deck beams. One knowledgeable owner for past 45 years. Professionally maintained. Email for photos: captkent2@sbcglobal.net or call (707) 252-9383.

32-FT DOUBLE ENDER TEHANI, 1926. Sausalito. $30,000. Classic Danish yacht in beautiful shape. Regularly sailed and always maintained. Email me for picture info: pgaetani@gmail.com or call (415) 246-7712.


55-FT ALDEN CENTERBOARD YAWL. 1970. Honolulu. $68,000. This 1970 recently restored yawl will take you back to the 1930s. It has full cover, 120hp Ford Lehman engine low hours, hand beveled ports, teak deck, gold- and chrome-plated bronze fittings, aluminum man, Sika spruce mizen, 55ft overall, 13 ft. beam, amazing interior, mahogany over white oak, newer sails, new refrigeration, wiring, hoses, stainless steel frame, just hauled June 2012. More info at www.alendesigns.com/yawls-keel-cb/d0948.html. Contact (510) 332-4900 or vernonthompson@yahoo.com.

65-FT CHESAPEAKE BUG EYE. Half Moon Bay. $30,000/obo. Beautiful, all clear fir, ketch. See web page, www.sunstarsail.com or call for more info. (530) 467-3173 or sunstarsail@yahoo.com.

19-FT RHODES, 1940. Hurricane, Utah. $1,900. Party restored boat that needs some plank work and re-caulking. Includes steel centerboard, mast, boom, main and jib, rudder, rigging. No known rot. Study cradle on casters. No trailer. More photos on request. (208) 404-8965 or miketaggett@gmail.com.

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38-FT CHAMBERLIN CAT, 1992. Nevis St. Kitts, Caribbean, $85,000. Custom composite vacuum bagged Divincieli/Viny- 
ester/Bax racer/cruiser. 2 doubles, 1 head, galley up, bridge deck with seated headroom (4’6”, 5’9” in hulls). Queen-
sland-built, 20,000 ocean miles. Must sell. Email sydeva@gmail.com.


62-FT HOUSEBOAT. Sausalito, $35,000. Houseboat 22x62, on 20x55 concrete barge. Absolutely no berth, must be re-
moved from Marin County. Copper roof, v-joint redwood siding. You can rehab what is there, or demo and start from the 
barge up. A new concrete barge this size would cost $84,700. (415) 465-0035.

43-FT VIKING MOTORYACHT, 1978. Sausalito, $69,800. Viking is well known for their quality engineering and rugged construction. This vessel is equipped with twin Detroit diesel 6-71’s, Onan 7.5kw generator, new main fuel tanks, new canvas hydraulic engine enclosure, diesel 
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37-FT PROUT SNOWGOOSE, 1982. Sausalito. $28,000. Cutter, tanbark sails, low hour diesel, big top cockpit with lar-

47-FT MAYOTTE/OYAGE, 1994, Panama City, Panama. $219,000. Motivated seller Survey says $306,000 value. I say $219,000 is a steal. First one there gets her! I love my wife very much and this is not 
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23-FT MULTI-23, 2008. Los Angeles. $19,000. Fast, fun boat that is perfect for the 
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danielcm@yahoo.com.

42-FT TRAWLER, 1979. Long Beach, 
$79,000, 42’ California LRC twin 3298’s. 
This boat is in really good shape. I would 
also trade for a motor sailor or remote 
cabin of equal value. The slip can come 
with the boat. It has a great view and is a 
great place to live. I will email pictures upon request. Wnbnfrench@msn.com or 
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LOOKING FOR PARTNERSHIP. On small catamaran, San Francisco Bay. Negotiable. Looking for partnership on small catamaran on the Bay. Have 18-ft Hobie Cat in Santa Cruz and 38-ft keelboat in SF Bay. Would like to sail a small cat (weight + trapeze) in SF without sterilizing from Santa Cruz to the Bay and back. If you have a small cat “near” a ramp and need/want experienced sailors to help you with it let us know. Contact (831) 297-3059 or pierre.patin@gmail.com.

I WANT TO LIVE ON A BOAT. SF. Sausalito. $1,200 for right craft. Boat-savvy professor wants to live aboard a boat for several months while writing. Willing to be low-key. Call or email: (415) 971-1127 or suni.petersen@gmail.com.

INTERNET FRAUD. Recently, we’ve been getting another wave of reports of Internet scams, so we feel compelled to warn you once again about this unfortunate aspect of human nature. It 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.

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50' KETTENBURG, '64 $95,000
46' SWAN, '84 $228,000 $199,000
46' CAL 2-46, '73 $119,000

52' ENDEAVOUR CUTTER, '90 $239,000
40' BABA, '80 $120,000
43' MASON CUTTER, '79 $124,500
34' PACIFIC SEACRAFT, '88 $93,000

36' CATALINA MkII, '99 $79,999
41' DRISCOLL BRUCE KING, '76 $179,000
40' FORMULA CAT, '88 $150,000
30' CATALINA TALL RIG, '88 $29,900

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To legally operate a charter with more than 6 passengers, a vessel must meet construction and inspection requirements of the USCG and be awarded a Certificate of Inspection (COI). Buying new or retrofitting can be prohibitively expensive. Purchasing an active COI vessel is the most cost-effective means to enter this market. These two vessels are ready to go, and each is self-supporting in its current business model. Call to learn more!

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**HINCKLEY BERMUDA 40 MkII Yawl CB** (1968)
*Invictus* is a classic Bill Tripp design in truly excellent condition. Many new updates. **$119,000**

**BURGER 72 PILOTHOUSE YACHT** (1964)
Papagallo II’s luxurious “Onboard Nautical Events” attract intimate parties of two and celebrations of 40-60. Great SF Bay opportunity. **$595,000**

**MUMM/FARR-OVINGTON 30** (1997)
Trunk Monkey is ready to join the SF Bay Class. Well built, spectacular racing history. Many, many upgrades. **$65,000**

**SKIPPERLINER 63** (1996)
Steel construction, twin CAT diesels, operates as “Delta Discovery Cruises” certified for Bay and Delta cruises with 83 passengers. **$275,000**

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Why Not is Doug Peterson’s award-winning design for full comfort performance cruising. Motivated seller, Sausalito berth in very desirable location transfers with application approval. **$75,000**

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47' CATALINA 470, 2008
Dark blue hulled beauty shows as new inside and out, only 50 hours on Yanmar. In-boom main, electric winches, bow thruster, custom hard dodger with Barrett Bonded glass. Transferable Sausalito Yacht Harbor slip. $349,000

41' SCEPTRE CUTTER, 1985
Updated throughout, professionally maintained, transferable Sausalito Yacht Harbor slip. $174,900

48' ISLANDER SLOOP, 1985
Pacem has only two long-term owners since new, and shows absolutely beautifully today. New sails. $159,000

SISTERSHIP

52' CUSTOM COLD-MOLDED SCHOONER, 1999
Her keel was laid in '72, she then sat unfinished in covered shed until current owners discovered her in '95; meticulously finishing her out before & after '96 launch; then christened/documenting in '99. $149,000

52' ISLANDER, 1979
Over $100,000 spent over past several years on this vessel. Rewired, new fuel tanks, extensive upgrades. Owner is motivated to sell IMMEDIATELY. $79,000

38' TA SHING PANDA, 1983
Gary Grant-designed classic beauty with brightwork and interior showing MUCH newer than her age. New interior upholstery and foam. Sails well, will make a perfect cruiser. $129,900

36' UNION POLARIS, 1981
Only one owner since new, Phantome has never been cruised, extensively upgraded over the years, and is bristol inside/out. Must be seen to be appreciated, a contender for anyone in the market for a traditional cruiser. $99,000

37' HUNTER LEGEND 37.5, 1993
37.5 was one of Hunter’s most popular designs ever and this particular low-time example is very clean inside and out, competitively priced and lying in Sausalito Yacht Harbor slip that’s potentially transferable. $67,000

33' WAUQUIEZ, 1984
Classic European sloop shows much newer than actual age – interior in particular shows as new. Major refit ’97 included a much more powerful 30 hp diesel, B&G electronics, Harken roller furler, sails, heavy-duty dodger, etc. $59,000

37' TAYANA, 1977
Nice example of a very popular model with exterior canvas and brightwork in good shape. The Perkins 4-108 diesel runs like a top, and the interior shows well. $49,900

30' FORTUNE PILOTHOUSE CUTTER, 1978
This charming custom pilothouse feels WAY bigger than 30’! She also has much new equipment (including new Isuzu diesel installed in ’95), shows pride of ownership throughout, and is a must-see. $43,500

45' STARRETT & JENKS, 1977
Nice aft cockpit sloop with new Yanmar diesel ($30,000 project). Great value cruiser or liveaboard. $39,000

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**48' GRAND BANKS Trawler** 3, 4, 5/R, twin diesel, FB & PH helm, classic mahogany in BEAUTIFUL condition. OWNED, fully loaded galley, 3 heads, shower & tub, inflatable dinghy w/motor, swim platform, steering rack, radar, MORE! Asking $99,950

**48' DUTCH CANAL BOAT** by deVries Lentsch. Steel. Unique, comfortable cruiser for Bay/ Delta. Diesel, hub, galley, fireplace, salon, comfortable aft enclosure, beautiful decor. MORE? LIVESTRONG & GEM! Now asking $144,000

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**35' SPARKMAN & STEPHENS** Center Cockpit. Asking $28,950

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**43' STEPHENS** Classic Raised Deck Express Cruiser, 1951. Covered deck & beautiful. Dreaming of 50's fishing in great style. She's a work of art! Ready to go & have fun now! Tasco Cryderman, more! $115,000

**27' CANADIAN SAILCRAFT CS-27** Low hours Yanmar diesel. Exceptionally well built & just freshly refinished in & out. Absolutely beautiful, this boat looks new! Roller furling, self-tailing winches, new rigging & MORE. Outstanding value. Asking $17,950

**40' DUFOR PERFORMANCE CRUISER** Full electronics, roller furling, dodger, full sail inventory, cruise equipped. FANTASTIC, in beautiful condition and MORE! Located in Southern California, she's a MUST SEE! Asking $159,500

**49' ROSBOROUGH WINDJAMMER SCHOONER** Stearly built in Nova Scotia in 1980 of bronze-fastened white oak. 57’ LOA, 13.5’ beam. Loaded with character. Self to go to sea & dry there. Comfy, seaworthy design. Center cockpit, large offshore, MORE! Asking $49,950

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**28' SOUTHERN CROSS** Cutter. Famous top-quality pocket cruiser designed by renowned naval architect Thomas Glimmer. Diesel, double-ender. Known for seaworthiness and beauty. These fine craft are rare on the West Coast. A great opportunity. Asking $17,950

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Herb Crane

What a sight... in the past month, we've seen some pretty spectacular sailing yachts on the Bay, and I dare say... the likes never witnessed before. The spectrum of yachts - from simple and functional to classic, built in the 1930s - is truly diverse. It's a sight to behold, even for the most experienced eye.

It's fall, what smells better... freshly carved turkey or wood?