

# Latitude 38

VOLUME 440 February 2014

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# A-mazing Sails!

PHOTO PATRICE NELSON



## *Kite\**

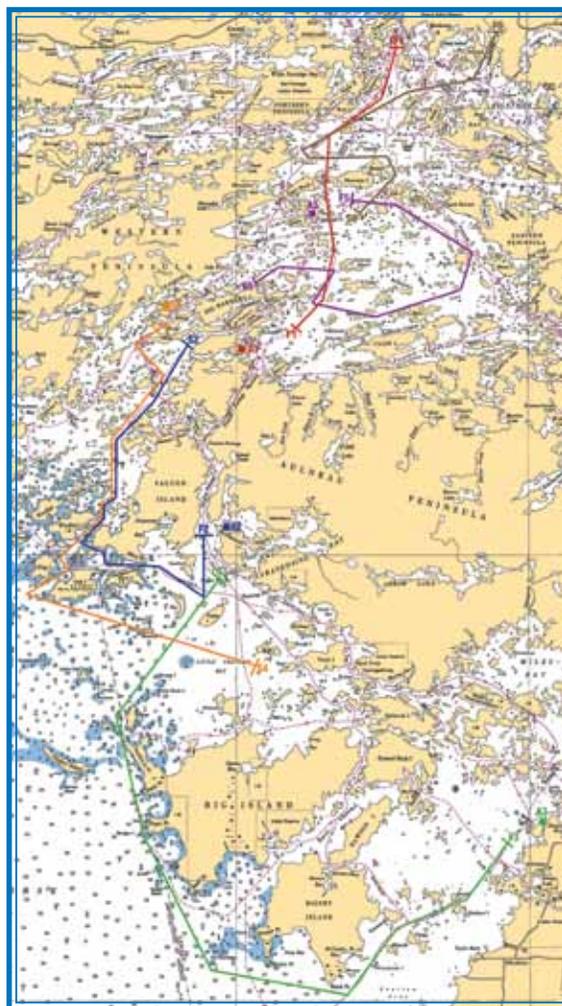
We'll let David Nelson and his Antrim 27, *Kite*, of Ontario, Canada, tell you the story!

"Lake of the Woods International Sailing Association's 48th annual LOWISA Regatta, held this past August, hosted 48 boats and crews for a week of point-to-point racing on Lake of the Woods. The lake spans the U.S.-Canada border east of Lake Superior and is a maze of 65,000 miles of shore-line and 14,600 islands.

Each day we sailed a separate race, approximately 20 miles long. To solve the maze, we needed a really versatile sail inventory, as conditions and headings change very quickly. Our 4-year-old carbon mainsail from Pineapple Sails is still going strong and their asymmetric spinnakers are so versatile, we carried only two: a big A2 and a smaller, flatter A3.

The A3 is a true weapon in light air close reaching. Additionally, we were amazed at how deep we could carry this efficient little sail in the light air. When winds get up over 20 knots we use the A3 as well. We believe that when conditions allow us to sail with the A3...we win!"

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Cover: Rigger Craig Shaw of the Portland-based Columbia 43, *Adios*, as seen from above.

Photo: Latitude 38/Richard

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

## SELECT BROKERAGE



**BENETEAU OCEANIS 49, 2009**  
\$299,000



**BENETEAU FIRST 30, 2011**  
\$128,500

### BENETEAU BROKERAGE

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OCEANIS 473	2005	\$249,000
FIRST 45	2009	\$295,000
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OCEANIS 393	2006	Pending
OCEANIS 393	2003	\$124,500
OCEANIS 37	2012	\$178,000
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FIRST 30	2011	\$128,500
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ISLANDER 36	1973	\$27,500
ISLANDER 36	1972	\$34,995
ERICSON 35	1977	\$29,900
ERICSON 28+	1987	\$27,888

### POWER BROKERAGE

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## BRAND NEW OCEANIS 38 DESIGN: European Yacht of the Year Arrives at Our Docks in February!



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PHOTOS NICOLAS CLARIS



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at our docks



**First 25**



**Barracuda 9**



**Oceanis 41**

*Sense* 43 46 50 55 **FIRST** 20 25 30 35 40 45 Oceanis 31 34 37 38 41 45 48 50 55

## FEBRUARY EVENTS

- **Thursday, February 6:**  
Boat as Business Seminar  
Please call for details.
- **Saturday, February 8:**  
Open Boats  
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
- **Sunday, February 9:**  
VIP Demo Sails (RSVP)
- **Saturday, February 22:**  
Boat as Business Seminar  
Please call for details.

  
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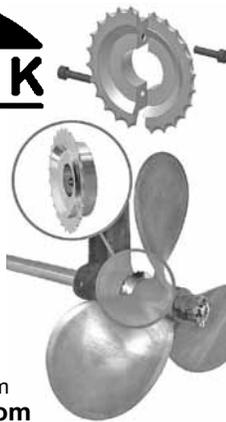
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**Min. Charge \$12**

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Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp.: \_\_\_\_\_ csv: \_\_\_\_\_

**INDIVIDUAL ISSUE ORDERS**  Current issue = \$6 ea.

Back Issues = \$7 ea. MONTH/YEAR: \_\_\_\_\_

## DISTRIBUTION

We have a marine-oriented business/yacht club in California which will distribute copies of *Latitude 38*. (Please fill out your name and address and mail it to the address below. Distribution will be supplied upon approval.)

Please send me further information for distribution outside California

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# Latitude 38

"we go where the wind blows"

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  
Racing Editor ..... Ross Tibbits ..... ross@latitude38.com ..... ext. 105  
Contributing Editors ..... John Riise, Paul Kamen  
Special Events ..... Donna Andre ..... donna@latitude38.com  
Advertising Sales ..... John Arndt ..... john@latitude38.com ..... ext. 108  
Advertising Sales ..... Mike Zwiebach ..... mikez@latitude38.com ..... ext. 107  
General Manager ..... Colleen Young ..... colleen@latitude38.com ..... ext. 102  
Production/Web ..... Christine Weaver ..... chris@latitude38.com ..... ext. 103  
Production/Photos ..... Annie Bates-Winship ..... annie@latitude38.com ..... ext. 106  
Bookkeeping ..... Penny Clayton ..... penny@latitude38.com ..... ext. 101  
Directions to our office ..... press 4  
Subscriptions ..... press 1,4  
Classifieds ..... class@latitude38.com ..... press 1,1  
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Other email ..... general@latitude38.com

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15 Locust Avenue, Mill Valley, CA 94941  
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# SIGN UP FOR THE 2014 RACING SEASON

Entry Form  
next page!



## Welcome to YRA Racing, the BEST racing value on the bay!

Thank you for participating in the YRA! We offer a choice for racing both on the Bay and on the local ocean!

### SERIES INFORMATION

#### **The YRA Party Circuit**

- Includes the 3 marquee YRA Weekend Regattas plus the new Westpoint Regatta. Weekend regattas are The Great Vallejo Race, the YRA 2<sup>nd</sup> Half Opener, and the YRA Season Closer. The three weekend regattas features 2 days of racing and a party at the host club Saturday night.
- All 5 races are longer, destination style races.
- There are 6 Divisions available for each Regatta: PHRF, Sportboat, One-Design, Double/Singlehanded, Non-Spinnaker & Multihull. Divisions may be split into multiple fleets to ensure competitive racing.

#### **The PHRF, Sport Boat & One-Design Series**

- In the Bay racing for boats with a current NCPHRF rating certificate, Portsmouth Rating or for One-Design classes.
- The series is broken in two separate series, each with 3 race days. Multiple races will be held on each race day.
- PHRF Divisions are determined by grouping similarly rated boats.
- Series Racers are invited to race in the OYRA Crewed Lightship ocean race for an additional \$10.00. Additional OYRA equipment requirements must be met. See [http://www.yra.org/OYRA/ocean\\_safety.html](http://www.yra.org/OYRA/ocean_safety.html).
- One-Design starts are available for any fleet that signs up for the Spring or Summer series, or, gets at least 5 boats to sign up for a single race day. If you are not sure if your One-Design fleet is eligible, or would like to sign your fleet up for the series, please contact the YRA office at (415) 771-9500 or [info@yra.org](mailto:info@yra.org).

#### **OYRA (Offshore Yacht Racing Association)**

- In 2014, there are 9 ocean races ranging from 25 to 60+ nautical miles.
- OYRA racers are invited to race in the Great Vallejo Race for only an additional \$10.00!
- Racers will be divided into divisions determined by the OYRA board. Racers can also choose to race in the Short Handed division:

#### **WBRA (Wooden Boat Racing Association)**

- The WBRA participates in the US Sailing Golden Anchor program which makes WBRA racers eligible for a discounted US Sailing Membership. US Sailing memberships through the WBRA Golden Anchor program must be purchased online here: <http://www1.ussailing.org/membership/MPP/Default.aspx?ycid=112274N>
- Bay racing for one of the following 5 fleets:
  - Bird Boats
  - Bear Boats
  - Folkboats
  - IODs
  - Knarrs

### GENERAL INFORMATION

- **YRA Sailing Instructions are available on the YRA website at [www.yra.org](http://www.yra.org).** Sailing instructions are normally posted approximately 1 week prior to each race. If you do not have access to the internet and need to have your race instructions mailed to you, please contact the YRA office at (415) 771-9500 or [info@yra.org](mailto:info@yra.org)
- Entries for a series, or individual regatta, must be received by 5 pm the Monday before the race or a \$35 late fee will be applied. No entries will be accepted after 5 pm the Thursday before a race.
- **A YRA sailing membership and a membership in a YRA member yacht club is required to register a boat for any YRA series.** A YRA membership is required to race in any individual YRA Race, but one time racers do not need to belong to a member club.
- The YRA Offers a discount on all race fees to US Sailing Members. YRA Racers are eligible for a discount on US Sailing Memberships through the Golden Anchor Program. US Sailing Memberships can be purchased online at <http://www1.ussailing.org/membership/MPP/Default.aspx?ycid=101132Z>.
- Sailors entering the OYRA Season, or any individual OYRA Race, must submit complete an online crew & boat registration form through [jibeset.net](http://jibeset.net) before each ocean Race. See [http://www.yra.org/OYRA/ocean\\_safety.html](http://www.yra.org/OYRA/ocean_safety.html) for more information. **Please note that to race in an OYRA Race there are rigorous additional safety requirements in effect, including the requirement for a 406 EPIRB or 406 PLB.**
- Please fill out your entry form completely, sign, date and return it to the YRA office along with your payment. If you need additional assistance completing this form, please contact the YRA office.
- You can save time and postage by signing up online! Visit [www.yra.org](http://www.yra.org) for more information!



# Yacht Racing Association of San Francisco Bay – 2014 Entry Form

1070 Marina Vaillage Pkwy., Suite 202-G  
Alameda, CA 94501  
Phone: 415.771.9500  
Fax: 415.276.2378  
email: info@yra.org

Name: _____	Boat Name: _____	Sail Number: _____
Street: _____	Boat Model: _____	
City, State, Zip: _____	Manufacturer: _____	Yr Built: _____
Evening Phone: _____ Daytime Phone: _____	Designer: _____	Yr. Designed: _____
Email Address: _____	U.S. Sailing #: _____	YRA Member #: _____
Yacht Club Affiliation: _____	Marina: _____	Berth/Slip #: _____

<b>Membership Fees:</b>	YRA Membership:	<b>Required for YRA Racing</b>	\$50	\$ _____
<b>NCPHRF Fees:</b>	Renewal of 2013 Certificate:		\$30 for YRA Members/\$40 for NON-YRA Members	\$ _____
	New Certificate/Renewal of 2012 or prior Cert.:		\$45 for YRA Members/\$55 for NON YRA Members	\$ _____

<b>Season Racing Fees:</b>	<b>US Sailing Members</b>	<b>Non US Sailing Members</b>	<b>Fleet: (PHRF, One-Design, etc.)</b>	
PC Series	\$180	\$195	_____	\$ _____
PHRF, Sport Boat and One-Design Spring Series	\$90	\$105	_____	\$ _____
PHRF, Sport Boat and One-Design Summer Series	\$90	\$105	_____	\$ _____
Offshore Yacht Racing Association (OYRA) Full Season *	\$195	\$210	_____	\$ _____
Wooden Boat Racing Association (WBRA) Season	\$155	\$170	_____	\$ _____

<b>Single Race Fees:</b>	<b>US Sailing Members</b>	<b>Non US Sailing Members</b>	<b>Fleet: (PHRF/One-Design, etc.)</b>	
PHRF Series racers entering the Lightship Ocean Race *	\$10	\$15	_____	\$ _____
OYRA season racers entering Vallejo	\$10	\$15	_____	\$ _____
Vallejo Race Only	\$75	\$80	_____	\$ _____
2nd Half Opener Only	\$75	\$80	_____	\$ _____
Season Closer Only	\$75	\$80	_____	\$ _____
All other YRA Races (write in race name):	\$55	\$60	_____	\$ _____

**Late Fee:** *No entries are accepted after 5pm the Wednesday before the race*  
Any entry Rec'd after 5pm the Mon before the race \$35 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**\* Participants in an ocean race or ocean series must complete an online boat crew registration form through Jibeset.net. See [http://www.yra.org/OYRA/ocean\\_safety.html](http://www.yra.org/OYRA/ocean_safety.html) for add'l info safety requirements** **TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_

In consideration of being admitted to sailing membership in the Yacht Racing Association of San Francisco Bay (YRA), I agree to abide by "The Racing Rules of Sailing" and the Sailing Instructions of the YRA and the regatta sponsors. I warrant that I will maintain compliance with the YRA Minimum Equipment requirements. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I hereby waive any rights I may have to sue the YRA with respect to personal injury or property damage suffered by myself or my crew as a result of our participation in the YRA and hereby release the YRA and it's race organizers from any liability for such injury or damage.. I further warrant that I have not relied upon any of the above entities or individuals in preparing my yacht for racing.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to YRA. To pay by MasterCard or Visa please provide card info below, including billing street address and zip code

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CW # \_\_\_\_\_ Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_  
Card Holder's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Office use only</b>			
C.C.	Check Number _____	Amount PD _____	DATE Received in office _____





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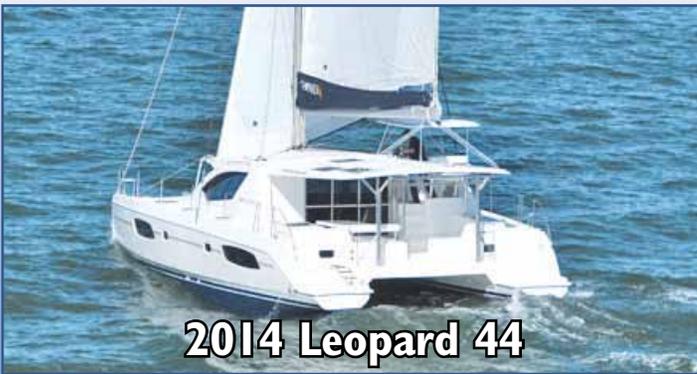
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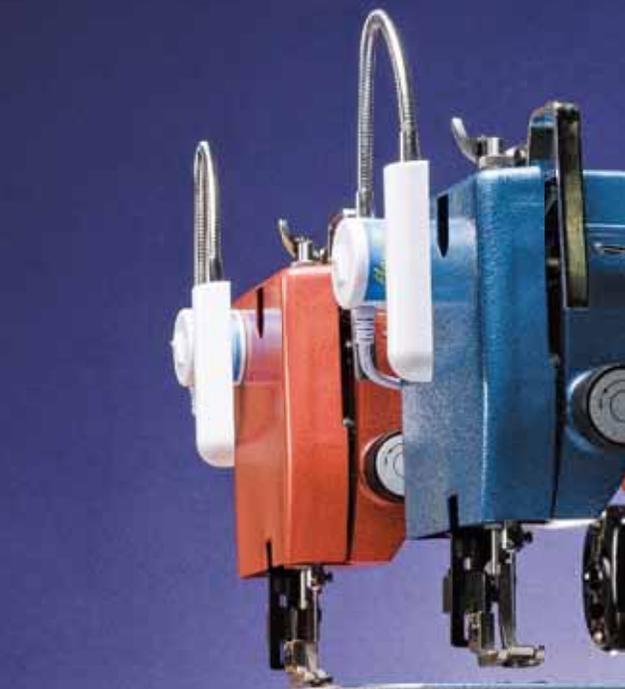
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## CALENDAR

### Non-Race

**Jan. 31-Feb. 1** — Seattle Boat Show, Indoors + Afloat at CenturyLink Field and South Lake Union. The largest boat show on the West Coast. Info, [www.seattleboatshow.com](http://www.seattleboatshow.com).

**Jan. 31-Feb. 3** — Tall ships *Lady Washington* and *Hawaiian Chieftain* California schedule includes 1/31-2/3: Ventura; 2/7-11: Morro Bay; 2/15-19: San Francisco; 2/21-24: Oakland; 2/26-3/2: Antioch; 3/4-12: Sausalito; 3/14-30: Redwood City; and back in SF 4/1-6. Info and tickets, (800) 200-5239 or [www.historicalseaport.org](http://www.historicalseaport.org).

**Feb. 1** — 25th Annual Women's Sailing Convention at Bahia Corinthian YC in Corona del Mar. \$185. Info, go to [www.womenssailingconvention.com](http://www.womenssailingconvention.com).

**Feb. 2** — Open House/Introductory Sails at Cal Sailing Club in Berkeley, 1-4 p.m. Info, [www.cal-sailing.org](http://www.cal-sailing.org).

**Feb. 2-23** — Veterans Go Sailing, every Sunday, 10 a.m., followed by Sunday Sail, noon, at Pier 40 in SF courtesy of BAADS. Free. Info, (415) 281-0212 or [www.baads.org](http://www.baads.org).

**Feb. 3, 10, 24** — San Diego's South Bay Sea Scouts meet at Chula Vista Marina on Mondays at 6 p.m. Sea Scouts is a program of the Boy Scouts of America for guys and gals ages 13-20. Info, Nate, (717) 654-3797 or [orn8kraft@gmail.com](mailto:orn8kraft@gmail.com).

**Feb. 5-26** — 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 'Events' tab at [www.stfyc.com](http://www.stfyc.com).

**Feb. 6-9** — Progressive Los Angeles Boat Show, L.A. Convention Center & Pier 44, MDR. Info, [www.laboatshow.com](http://www.laboatshow.com).

**Feb. 8** — US Sailing Race Management Seminar at Encinal YC, all day. \$50. Info, [encinalseminar@gmail.com](mailto:encinalseminar@gmail.com) or sign up at <http://tinyurl.com/7wbko59>.

**Feb. 8** — Auction of remaining vessels at Nelson's Marine in Alameda, 1 p.m. Previews 2/6-8. Postponed from 1/11. Info, [www.michaans.com](http://www.michaans.com).

**Feb. 9** — Sausalito Herring Festival, Gabrielson Park, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., rain or shine. Info, [www.cassgidley.org](http://www.cassgidley.org).

**Feb. 9** — North U. 'Boatspeed!' seminar at Del Rey YC in MDR, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. \$85-115. Info, [www.northu.com](http://www.northu.com).

**Feb. 11-May 6** — Sailing Skills and Seamanship class from the USCG Auxiliary at USCG Station Golden Gate, Sausalito. Tuesday evenings, 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$50. Info, Sean Harvey, [latitude38@thoughtsfromthetop.com](mailto:latitude38@thoughtsfromthetop.com).

**Feb. 12** — Singlehanded TransPac race seminar #5: 'The Return Trip' at Oakland YC, 7:30 p.m. All seminars are free and open to the public. Info, [www.sfbaysss.org](http://www.sfbaysss.org).

**Feb. 13** — Red Dress Racing: Dream Big! presentation by RDR founder Moe Roddy at Corinthian YC, 6:30 p.m. Free. RSVP at [www.cyc.org](http://www.cyc.org) or (415) 435-4771.

**Feb. 13** — Are you a single boatowner needing 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](http://www.singlesailors.org) or (510) 239-7245.

**Feb. 13** — Club Nautique's Winter Seminar Series continues with 'Mobile Apps for Mariners' by Joe Brandt in Alameda, 6:30-8 p.m. Other seminars run at the same time at alternating locations (A=Alameda, S=Sausalito). \$10 members/\$15 non-members. 2/27: Tour the Bay Model, (6 p.m., S); 3/13: 'Coastal Tides Explained' by Kame Richards (A); 3/27: 'Cruising with Club Nautique's Captain & Admiral' by Don & Judy (S). (510) 865-4700 or [www.clubnautique.net](http://www.clubnautique.net).

**Feb. 13-14, 17-18** — Basic Navigation/Day Skipper, SFYC, 5:30-9:30 p.m., \$250. Prerequisites are Sea Survival course (see below) and VHF course. Info, (415) 435-9133 or go to [www.sfyc.org](http://www.sfyc.org).

**Feb. 14** — Take your sweetheart for a Friday night sail



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Ranger 27 Tug, 2014.....	159,937
Ranger 25SC Tug, 2014.....	129,937

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Ranger 29 Tug, 2011, fully loaded.....	239,900
Ranger 29 Tug, 2011.....	224,000
Ranger 25 Tug, 2010.....	105,000
Ranger 25 Tug, 2009, includes trailer.....	105,000
Ranger 21 Tug, 2009.....	<b>REDUCED!</b> 39,000
Ranger 21 Tug, 2008.....	39,000

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Ocean Alexander 44, 1991.....	<b>REDUCED!</b> 139,000



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CANADIAN SAILCRAFT 40, '87 \$69,900



HUNTER 380, '01 \$99,900



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## CALENDAR

under the full moon on Valentine's Day.

**Feb. 15-16** — ISAF Sea Survival course #1, SFYC, 8:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m., \$240. Internationally recognized certification for offshore racers. Info, (415) 435-9133, [www.sfyf.org](http://www.sfyf.org).

**Feb. 17** — President's Day.

**Feb. 19-20** — Weather for Mariners seminar, SFYC, 5:30-9:30 p.m., \$120. Info, (415) 435-9133, [www.sfyf.org](http://www.sfyf.org).

**Feb. 22** — North U. Boat Speed and Racing Trim seminar with Andrew Kerr at Berkeley YC, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. \$60-\$125 includes lunch. Repeated 2/23 at Seattle YC. Info, Francine, (203) 245-0727 or [www.northu.com](http://www.northu.com).

**Feb. 22-23** — ISAF Sea Survival course #2, SFYC, 8:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m., \$240. Info, (415) 435-9133, [www.sfyf.org](http://www.sfyf.org).

**Feb. 26, 28** — Stretching at Sea workshop by Pat Henry at La Cruz Marina in Banderas Bay, Mexico. Free intro class 2/25; repeats 3/12, 14 (free class 3/11). \$95 per person/\$145 per couple includes DVD. Two-day stretching program for cruisers. Info, [www.pat-henry.com/organicstretching](http://www.pat-henry.com/organicstretching).

**Mar. 1** — Pacific Puddle Jump Send-off Party, Balboa YC, Panama, 12-4 p.m. Repeated 3/7 at Vallarta YC in Paradise Village, Mexico, 3-6 p.m. Info, [www.pacificpuddlejumps.com](http://www.pacificpuddlejumps.com).

**Mar. 1** — Sail a Small Boat Day at Richmond YC. 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Free boat rides; free hot dog lunch. Info, Greg Pfeiffer, (707) 548-8281, [www.richmondyc.org](http://www.richmondyc.org).

**Mar. 1** — North Sails Sausalito Open House, 11 a.m. Meet the team; food & drinks. Info, (415) 339-3000.

**Mar. 5-9** — San Francisco International Ocean Film Festival. Info, [www.oceanfilmfest.org](http://www.oceanfilmfest.org).

**Mar. 9** — Spring forward: Daylight Saving Time begins!

**Mar. 13** — In-the-water liferaft training class by Sal's Inflatable Services, 3:30-5 p.m. at Golden Gate YC, \$29 if you reserve by 3/5, \$39 after. Reservations & info, (510) 522-1824.

**Mar. 13** — Latitude 38's Spring Crew List Party at Golden Gate YC, 6-9 p.m. \$5 for ages 25 and under (with ID)! \$7 for the rest of us (cash only please). Info, [www.latitude38.com](http://www.latitude38.com).

**Mar. 15** — Laserpalooza III at Alameda Community Sailing Center, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Laser demo rides, racing clinic, rigging and boat repair demos, raffle and BBQ lunch. Free. Info, Ryan, (510) 421-2914 or Nick, (415) 601-7483.

**Mar. 15-Apr. 12** — Cruisers Rally to El Salvador in Bahia del Sol. \$66. Info, [www.elsalvadorrally.com](http://www.elsalvadorrally.com).

**Mar. 16** — Pacific Offshore Academy prep seminar #4 at Richmond YC, 8 a.m. Perfect for anyone planning to sail to Hawaii, especially in the Pacific Cup. Free for Pac Cup skippers, \$18 for others. Pre-registration strongly advised! Info, [www.pacificcup.org](http://www.pacificcup.org).

**Apr. 10-13** — Strictly Sail Pacific at Jack London Square. Info, [www.strictlysailpacific.com](http://www.strictlysailpacific.com).

### Racing

**Feb. 1** — Double Up and Back Race. CPYC, Tom Fedyna, [regatta@cpyc.com](mailto:regatta@cpyc.com) or [www.cpyc.com](http://www.cpyc.com).

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

**Feb. 8** — Perry Cup Series. MPYC, Dick Clark, (831) 373-8956, [www.mpyc.org](http://www.mpyc.org).

**Feb. 8-9** — North 1-2 Coed and Bryson Women's Inter-conference hosted by Stanford. [www.pccscracing.org](http://www.pccscracing.org).

**Feb. 8, Feb. 22, Mar. 8** — Spring Series on Folsom Lake, water level permitting. FLYC, [www.flyc.org](http://www.flyc.org).

**Feb. 8, Mar. 8** — Santana 22 Team Racing. SCYC, [www.scyf.org](http://www.scyf.org).

**Feb. 15-16** — BAYS Winter Optis. EYC, [www.encinal.org](http://www.encinal.org).

**Feb. 16** — Tune-Up Race. MPYC, [www.mpyc.org](http://www.mpyc.org).

**Feb. 22-23** — PCISA #4 & 5/Golden Bear Regatta for high

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## CALENDAR

school teams, Treasure Island. Info, [www.pcisa.hssailing.org](http://www.pcisa.hssailing.org).

**Feb. 22-23** — North 3-4 Coed Interconference; women's & JV available. Location TBA. Info, [www.pccscracing.org](http://www.pccscracing.org).

**Feb. 23** — Sadie Hawkins Race. Full crew, Sadie drives. Kicks off *Latitude's* unofficial Women's Circuit. [www.iyc.org](http://www.iyc.org).

**Feb. 28-Mar. 2** — Team Race 101. Friday night classroom, Saturday on the water, Sunday Scrimmage. [www.stfyc.org](http://www.stfyc.org).

**Mar. 1** — John Pitcher Memorial Race. CPYC, Tom Fedyna, [regatta@cpyc.com](mailto:regatta@cpyc.com) or [www.cpyc.com](http://www.cpyc.com).

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

**Mar. 1-2** — Appleton High School Regatta on Richardson Bay. Info, SFYC Youth Office, (415) 435-9525, [www.sfyyc.org](http://www.sfyyc.org).

**Mar. 1-2** — Jeremy McIntyre Team Race, Stanford & Cal Team Race at UC Berkeley. Info, [www.pccscracing.org](http://www.pccscracing.org).

**Mar. 2** — Whales Chase. BBYC, [www.bbyc.org](http://www.bbyc.org).

**Mar. 7-9** — Harbor Cup Keelboat Interconference, hosted by Cal Maritime Academy at Los Angeles YC and sailed in Catalina 37s. Info, [www.pccscracing.org](http://www.pccscracing.org).

**Mar. 8** — Mercury Series #1. EYC, [www.encinal.org](http://www.encinal.org).

**Mar. 8** — Londerville Cup. HMYC, [www.hmbyc.org](http://www.hmbyc.org).

**Mar. 8-9** — Big Daddy Regatta, with drop-mark racing on Saturday and a pursuit race around Angel Island and Alcatraz in either direction on Sunday. RYC, [www.richmondyc.org](http://www.richmondyc.org).

**Mar. 8-9** — Spring Dinghy. StFYC, [www.stfyc.org](http://www.stfyc.org).

**Mar. 9** — Spring 1 & 2 PHRF. MPYC, [www.mpyc.org](http://www.mpyc.org).

**Mar. 11-15** — Banderas Bay Regatta. Friendly racing for cruisers hosted by Vallarta YC and Paradise Village Marina in Nuevo Vallarta, Mexico. Info, [www.banderasbayregatta.com](http://www.banderasbayregatta.com).

**Mar. 14** — Guadalupe Island Race, a 582-mile biennial single- or doublehanded race from Marina del Rey to Baja's Guadalupe Island and back. Info, [www.pssala.com](http://www.pssala.com).

**Mar. 15-16** — Spring Keel and One Design Regatta. StFYC, [www.stfyc.org](http://www.stfyc.org).

**Mar. 22** — 35th Annual Doublehanded Farallones. BAMA, [www.sfbama.org](http://www.sfbama.org).

### Midwinter Regattas

**AQUATIC CENTER WINTER RACING CLUB** — All small boat sailors welcome every Sunday through 3/16 to sail six races in Capri 14.2s. At Mountain View's Shoreline Lake, 2-4 p.m. Info, [www.ShorelineLake.com](http://www.ShorelineLake.com).

**BENICIA YC** — Frostbite Series: 2/8, 3/8. Info, (707) 746-6600 or [www.benicia yachtclub.com](http://www.benicia yachtclub.com).

**BAY VIEW BC** — Midwinter Madness: 2/8, 3/8. Info, (408) 210-0517 or [www.bayviewboatclub.org](http://www.bayviewboatclub.org).

**BERKELEY YC** — Midwinters: 2/8-9; Champions Race: 2/23. Bobbi, (925) 939-9885 or [www.berkeleyyc.com](http://www.berkeleyyc.com).

**BERKELEY YC** — Chowder Races: Sundays through March except 2/9. Patrick, (415) 328-2819 or [www.berkeleyyc.com](http://www.berkeleyyc.com).

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

**CORINTHIAN YC** — Midwinters: 2/15-16, including 'Rob-gatta' (Rob Moore Memorial Regatta, a fund-raiser for lung cancer research) on 2/15. Kim, [racing@cyc.org](mailto:racing@cyc.org) or [www.cyc.org](http://www.cyc.org).

**ELKHORN YC** — Frostbite Series: 2/8, 2/22, 3/8, 3/22, 4/5. Info, (831) 724-3875 or [www.elkhornyc.com](http://www.elkhornyc.com).

**ENCINAL YC** — Jack Frost Series: 2/15, 3/15. Info, [rearcommandore@encinal.org](mailto:rearcommandore@encinal.org).

**GOLDEN GATE YC** — Manuel Fagundes Seaweed Soup Series: 2/1, 3/1. Info, (916) 215-4566 or [www.ggyc.com](http://www.ggyc.com).

**LAKE MERRITT SC** — Robinson Memorial Series: 2/8, 3/9. Mark, (925) 245-0287.

**ISLAND YC** — Estuary Midwinters: 2/9, 3/9. John, (510) 521-2980 or [iycracing@yahoo.com](mailto:iycracing@yahoo.com).



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# CALENDAR

**OAKLAND YC** — Sunday Brunch Series: 2/2, 2/16, 3/2. Jim, [urrailmeat@yahoo.com](mailto:urrailmeat@yahoo.com) or [www.oaklandyachtclub.net](http://www.oaklandyachtclub.net).

**REGATTAPRO** — Winter One Design: 2/8. Jeff, (415) 595-8364 or [www.regattapro.com](http://www.regattapro.com).

**RICHMOND YC** — Small Boat Midwinters: 2/2, 3/2. Opti Midwinters: 2/1, 3/1. Info, [www.richmondyc.org](http://www.richmondyc.org). Laser Sundays: 2/9, 2/16, 2/23, 3/16, 3/23. Info, <http://rycsunday.myfleet.org>.

**SANTA CRUZ YC** — Midwinters: 2/15, 3/15. Info, (831) 425-0690 or [www.scyc.org](http://www.scyc.org).

**SANTA ROSA SC** — Spring Lake Winter Series: 2/15. Info, [www.santarosasailingclub.org](http://www.santarosasailingclub.org).

**SAUSALITO YC** — Sunday Midwinters: 2/2, 3/2. Dave Borton, (415) 302-7084 or [www.sausalitoyachtclub.org](http://www.sausalitoyachtclub.org).

**SEQUOIA YC** — Winter Series: 2/8, 3/15. Redwood Cup: 2/22, 3/29. Info, [www.sequoiayc.org](http://www.sequoiayc.org).

**SOUTH BEACH YC** — Island Fever Midwinters: 2/15, 3/15. Info, [www.southbeachyc.org](http://www.southbeachyc.org).

**TIBURON YC** — Midwinters, revised schedule: 2/8, 3/8, 3/29. Rob, [race@tyc.org](mailto:race@tyc.org), [www.tyc.org](http://www.tyc.org).

**VALLEJO YC** — Tiny Robbins Midwinters: 2/22, 3/22. Info, [www.vyc.org](http://www.vyc.org) or (707) 643-1254.

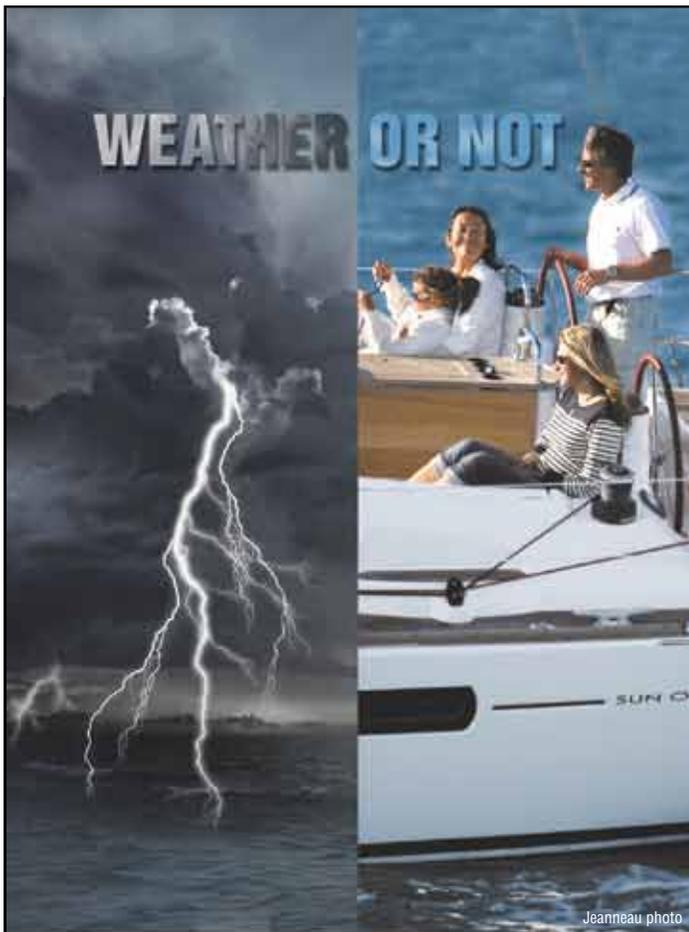
Please send your calendar items by the 10th of the month to [calendar@latitude38.com](mailto:calendar@latitude38.com). If you're totally old-school, mail them to *Latitude 38* (Attn: Calendar), 15 Locust Avenue, Mill Valley, CA, 94941 or fax them to us at (415) 383-5816. But please, no phone-ins! Calendar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

## February Weekend Tides

date/day	time/ht. HIGH	time/ht. LOW	time/ht. HIGH	time/ht. LOW
2/01 Sat	0044/5.9	0601/1.5	1215/6.5	1831/-0.7
2/02 Sun	0125/6.0	0656/1.4	1309/6.0	1915/-0.2
2/08 Sat	0618/5.7	1332/0.6	2035/4.3	
	<b>LOW</b>	<b>HIGH</b>	<b>LOW</b>	<b>HIGH</b>
2/09 Sun	0103/2.8	0715/5.7	1425/0.4	2129/4.5
	<b>HIGH</b>	<b>LOW</b>	<b>HIGH</b>	<b>LOW</b>
2/15 Sat	0010/5.2	0525/2.0	1128/5.7	1746/0.3
2/16 Sun	0036/5.3	0600/1.8	1206/5.5	1815/0.5
2/17 Mon	0103/5.4	0637/1.6	1246/5.2	1845/0.8
2/22 Sat	0420/5.7	1111/0.7	1819/3.8	2245/2.7
2/23 Sun	0522/5.8	1221/0.3	1941/4.1	

## February Weekend Currents

date/day	slack	max	slack	max
2/01 Sat	0223	0454/3.8E	0816	1108/3.8F
	1407	1709/5.2E	2054	2352/4.3F
2/02 Sun	0306	0542/3.9E	0912	1202/3.6F
	1503	1758/4.6E	2140	
2/08 Sat	0226	0524/2.2F	0811	1129/3.5E
	1537	1850/2.8F	2142	
2/09 Sun		0026/1.6E	0326	0625/2.3F
	0905	1230/3.7E	1629	1942/3.1F
	2236			
2/15 Sat	0144	0409/3.0E	0737	1025/2.9F
	1323	1622/4.2E	2009	2301/3.3F
2/16 Sun	0215	0446/3.2E	0813	1103/2.9F
	1402	1700/4.0E	2038	2333/3.2F
2/17 Mon	0246	0525/3.4E	0852	1144/2.8F
	1443	1740/3.7E	2107	
2/22 Sat	0003	0318/2.2F	0613	0933/3.8E
	1340	1631/2.5F	1957	2207/1.9E
2/23 Sun	0118	0422/2.2F	0717	1035/4.0E
	1446	1744/2.9F	2105	2313/2.0E



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## LETTERS

### WORKING ON BRINGING THE DREAM TO REALITY

Garth Wilcox, my husband, has been possessed by the dream of building his own boat since he was a young boy. It started when he was four years old and his parents took him sailing on their 26-ft Thunderbird, which they raced out of Redwood City. For vacations, the Wilcox family cruised up the Delta with other members of the Sequoia YC.

From the time he was a small boy, Garth knew that his parents' dream was to sail around the world. He adopted that dream as his own. In 1973, at age 13, Garth and his family set off on their proposed circumnavigation. This was, of course, long before the advent of GPS or even SatNav, and meant that if it was cloudy, it would be impossible to get a sun sight and really know where you were.

At age 14, Garth found himself and his family, as a result of being unable to get sun sights for several days, shipwrecked on a reef in Fiji. They lived Robinson Crusoe-style until help arrived to take them to the capital of Suva.

Initially the family assumed that the boat — with a hole in her side the size of a Volkswagen, and being ground on the reef more with each passing day — couldn't be salvaged. But the more they thought about it, the more confident they became they could save her. After pulling her off the reef, Garth's parents, with assistance from him, spent nine months rebuilding the boat in the tropical heat and humidity. They wanted to see their dream come true that badly.

The Wilcoxes did complete their circumnavigation, despite having to endure numerous other significant challenges that also almost ended their voyage. In 1977, months overdue, they sailed under the Golden Gate Bridge. Bewildered by the media fanfare, the then-18-year-old Garth looked forward to his post-voyage life, particularly going to school. Garth's home schooling during the circumnavigation left him a few credits short of a high school degree. The California school system, in its infinite bureaucratic wisdom, insisted that Garth's four years of sailing, rowing, hauling water and other strenuous physical exercise, wasn't equivalent to the four years of gym he'd missed in high school.

The years of sailing and rebuilding the family boat gave Garth an excellent real-world and practical education, and it changed him forever. Because he was 18, he was allowed to attend Foothill Community College upon his return to make up the high school credits he lacked. Armed with a GED and a stellar SAT score, he then transferred to MIT, intent on

studying naval architecture at one of the few institutions that offered such a program.

Garth's voyaging experience convinced him he could design a boat that could sail not only better than the tank on which his family had circled the world, but better than most of the other boats out voyaging, too.

He dove into his studies and downplayed his unusual past. Until, that is, he met and married a woman who shared his dream of exploring the world under sail. That would be me.

Together, we raced Thunderbirds and saved our money with the idea of voyaging. In 2000, we set out for what we thought might be a brief cruise aboard a rather modest 31-ft custom design by Tom Wylie. Seven years later, after 34,000 miles of cruising in the Pacific, Garth had to beg me to sail



COURTESY VELELLA

Garth and Wendy's 31-ft custom Wylie 'Vellela' took them around the Pacific.



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## LETTERS

back home to the Pacific Northwest.

One of the main reasons he wanted to return home was that he didn't want to end up looking like Quasimodo from having to stand or sit stooped over in a boat with inadequate headroom. An equally big reason was that he wanted to build the dream boat he'd been designing in his head for years. So what might have started out in his mind as a 'research trip' to refine the criteria for his boat design turned into its own epic voyage. But that's another story.

After years of Garth's mentally refining his dream boat and considering all the options that might make her perform better, he became impatient to turn his nautical dream into reality. An often-frustrating search to find the right place to build the boat finally ended with the perfect spot: a conveniently located farm house that featured a workshop in the backyard that was just big enough to build a 38-ft boat inside.

And so we've begun. The dream is already looking like more than just a pretty picture on a piece of paper, a multi-colored



WENDY HINMAN

**Garth's design is taking shape, and soon the couple will be voyaging again.**

AutoCAD model, or a stack of wood. It's beginning to resemble a boat.

Inspired by the T-bird's simple plywood boat-building method, Garth designed a boat that would be easy to build with

plywood sheets and a soft chine, but would have a lifting keel and an unstayed rig. She'd be a simple 38-footer with which we plan to explore the canals of Patagonia and the canals of Europe.

Yes, we've been around the water long enough to know that such a dream isn't very rational. But to an audience of sailors, who are somewhat irrational by their very nature, I think you'll understand. There comes a moment in life when we must not only dream, but follow it wherever it might lead.

Wendy Hinman  
Bainbridge, WA

*Readers — You can read about Garth and Wendy's 34,000-mile, seven-year adventure aboard Velella, which started with the 2000 Baja Ha-Ha, in Tightwads on the Loose, a Seven Year Pacific Odyssey. See [www.wendyhinman.com](http://www.wendyhinman.com).*

*But from home schooling almost directly to MIT? Pretty impressive.*

### ↑↓ SOMALI PIRACY ON THE DECLINE

Did *Latitude* see the report from the US Office of Naval Intelligence saying there were zero hijackings of commercial vessels by Somali pirates last year? The peak for hijackings was in 2009, when 52 ships were hijacked. It's been declining every year since. I wonder how many private yachts were hijacked last year.

Tom Van Dyke  
En Pointe, Searunner 31  
San Francisco

*Tom — We don't believe any private yachts were hijacked in the Indian Ocean last year, because if any had been, the news would have quickly gotten around the world. Besides, we're not sure any yachties are willing to risk those waters yet. While no ships were successfully hijacked there in 2013, nine vessels were still attacked, four in the last two months of the year.*

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## LETTERS

Experts suggest there are three reasons for the sharp decline in piracy: 1) An increased presence of international navies in and around the Indian Ocean; 2) Kenyan military intervention against al-Shabab strongholds in Somalia; and 3) the vigilance among vessel owners, who have rerouted and fortified ships to combat piracy threats.

Ships transiting the west coast of Africa were less fortunate in 2013. Pirates fired on 31 vessels in the Gulf of Guinea and seized nine.

### ↑↓ **COUNT US IN FOR THE SO-CAL TA-TA 2014**

We had so much fun in the 2012 Ta-Ta that we absolutely gotta do it again this year. Count us in!

Bill & Kathryn Gaffaney  
Wayward Wind, Catalina 42  
Marina del Rey

Bill and Kathryn — For readers who may not remember, the Ta-Ta, aka Reggae 'pon da Ocean, started with a party



LATITUDE / RICHARD

### ↑↓ **Rasta women wave to a boat starting at Santa Barbara.**

at Santa Barbara on a Sunday night, two nights at Santa Cruz Island, a night at Paradise Park, a night at King Harbor, and a wrap-up party at Two Harbors on Saturday. We had a great time, and over the next few months will be seeing if we can't coordinate the event with the Santa Barbara Yacht Harbor, the Santa Barbara YC, the King Harbor YC, and Two Harbors. The event will be held in September if there are 30 or more entries. The number of entries would be limited by the amount of space available at King Harbor. We'll keep you posted.

### ↑↓ **CAN'T WAIT TO DO IT AGAIN**

My wife Michele and I were part of the first Ta-Ta in 2012, and had so much fun that we can't wait to do it again. Besides, it was great to get together with old UC Santa Barbara friends while in town before the start. Count us in!



LATITUDE / RICHARD

Cary & Michele Hansen  
Kailani  
Catalina 400 MkII  
Nawiliwili, HI

### ↑↓ **Going for a hike on Santa Cruz Island.**

Cary and Michele — Having attended UCSB in the 1960s, we wonder how many graduates have managed to live at such a place after they graduated. As they used to say, "Life is all downhill once you graduate from UCSB."

### ↑↓ **US TOO, PLEASE**

If Latitude is going to be doing another SoCal Ta-Ta this year, please count us in. We love sailing the Channel Islands and Southern California coast. We sailed a total of 30 days in 2012, including four trips to Catalina, two to Anacapa Island, and one to Santa Cruz Island.

We hope you will allow our Catalina 250 to enter. She mo-

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## LETTERS

tors at about 5.5 knots, and is fairly well equipped for coastal cruising. We have automatic inflatable PFDs with harnesses and tethers, a PLB, a Lifesling, two anchors and rode, a double reefing mainsail, a roller furling jib, a whisker pole,



LATITUDE / RICHARD

### The Ta-Ta logo.

And since we live in Southern California, we'd be happy to help with any logistics.

Don & Linda Murphy  
Serendipity, Catalina 250  
Camarillo

*Don and Linda — We can't imagine why we wouldn't allow you to enter. Stay tuned.*

### ↑↓WE'RE IN

I did the first Ta-Ta in 2012 with my Beneteau 440 *St. Somewhere*, and we had great weather and a hell of a good time. The only way a 2014 Ta-Ta could top it is if nobody has to go to the hospital. Kurt Langford, my crew from 2012, is already inked in as crew, so sign me up!

Patrick McCormick  
*St. Somewhere*  
Beneteau 440  
Alamitos Bay

*Patrick — Doña de Mallorca has had a couple of minor bouts of vertigo since — she never left her cabin during the Little Ensenada Race — but hasn't had any major episodes like the one that struck her in the dining room of the King Harbor YC. It turns out vertigo is far more common than we realized.*

### ↑↓WE DIDN'T KNOW THEY HAD BIRDS IN SAN DIEGO

I read that you are seeing if anyone is interested in doing a SoCal Ta-Ta in 2014. You can count *Moonshadow* in. If you can convince a couple of 60-year-olds to Bash all the way up from Mexico, we don't imagine you'll have a problem filling out the rest of your dance card.

I should be back in Marina Riviera Nayarit in La Cruz in another week or so, and I'm really hoping we don't find yellow crime scene tape around *Moonshadow*. Maybe we'll find we lucked out, slipping into the marina just after AGACE's visit, and the authorities are now all off to other marinas. Or better yet, a more sensible solution.

We have a Temporary Import Permit (TIP) and all the other correct documentation. However, *Moonshadow*, the third of four Deerfoot 2-62s built in Finland in 1986, doesn't have a HIN (hull identification number) or any other kind of hull number markings. Our US Coast Guard document accommodates this fact by stating 'None' in the box for hull number. I would be happy to break out our Dremel and engrave '3' in our transom, but somehow don't think that will get us out of the penalty box if we find ourselves there.

Finally, I also read about the Bird Boat named *Swallow*. I really hope somebody steps up to restore her. David Rogers,



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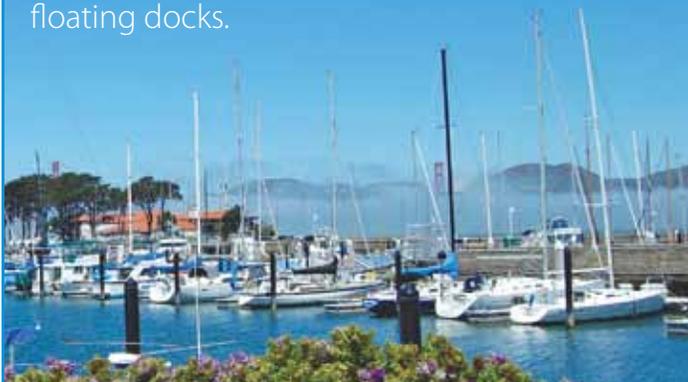
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## LETTERS

my uncle, owned and sailed *Swallow* in San Diego from the early 1950s until the late 1970s. Back then you scrounged up an old engine block and some heavy chain and tires, and made your own mooring. That's what my uncle did in front of my grandfather's La Playa Cove waterfront house, and that's where *Swallow* could be found for about 25 years.

I had my first sailing experience aboard *Swallow* on San Diego Bay at age five — and let me tell you, that was a long time ago. I remember that my uncle made us kids wear life jackets that were made of bulky cork covered with canvas. More than once we had to come about to get out of the way of US Navy sea planes landing in the bay next to North Island. It would be nice to know that *Swallow*, the boat that launched a lifetime of passion for sailing for me, is still going strong after all these years.

John & Debbie Rogers  
Moonshadow, Deerfoot 2-62  
San Diego

*John and Debbie — We're sure you're going to Bash north for more than a Ta-Ta, but it would be great to see you two on the*



LATITUDE / RICHARD

*ocean again. One night when you were passing through St. Barth wasn't enough.*

*Your story about your uncle's setting his own mooring at La Playa Cove is indicative of how quickly and dramatically things have changed along the California coast. If you tried something like that today, we*

*imagine it would only be minutes before the harbor police's phone lines were ringing off the hook with complaints.*

*The matter of 338 foreign-owned boats being impounded in Mexico is about as big a story as we have ever covered in Latitude, as it has a tremendous effect on the marine industry both in Mexico and on the West Coast of the United States. Almost the last half of Letters will be devoted to that subject.*

**↑↓ WALLOWING IN THE MIRE**

The entrance to Treasure Island's Clipper Cove has silted in more than ever recently. With winter's lower tides, I've regularly seen boats getting mired in the muck near the



LATITUDE / LADONNA

*Treasure Island Sailing Center. Our boat draws four feet, and at the extreme low tides we try to heel her way over when entering and exiting the cove. But we frequently still get muck on our keel. After asking for tips from one of the TISC instructors, we got this in reply. Keep in mind that his reference is a*

*J/24, so boats with greater draft will have to adjust accordingly.*

*"At low tide, I have been able to enter and exit the cove by staying very close — two to three boat lengths — to the pier that houses the Google barge. I take this all the way down until I am about two lengths from the corner where*

*Hug the Google barge and pier as you enter Clipper Cove for the deepest water.*

# A New Year, a New Look



January is a time for a fresh start, and so it was for a number of owners of new boats for 2014. Bay Marine Boatworks has been busy commissioning and customizing boats to get them ready

for the 2014 season! New boats recently commissioned at Bay Marine Boatworks include 48', 37' and 25' Beneteaus, a Barracuda 9 and a new aluminum work boat.



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## LETTERS

the small red crane has been living near the west end of the Google barge pier. At this point I am two to three boat lengths from the rocks as well. Here I make a left turn and aim for the tip of the ramp. This strategy lets me enter and exit the cove without heeling the boat over, dragging on the bottom, and other bad stuff. I even used this when I went out on New Year's Day. I got back into the cove with -1.5 tide, as I recall. I hope this helps."

Melissa Litwicki  
*Downtown Uproar, J/24*  
San Francisco

*Melissa — It would be nice if the government would use some of the billions of dollars we use to bribe corrupt officials in Iraq and Afghanistan to do a little dredging at Clipper Cove. Until that happens — look for snow in hell — watch those tides.*

### ↑↓ **PRESSING DRAGONFLY INTO SEA MERCY'S SERVICE**

Fourteen years ago we completed a homebuilt Hughes 60 catamaran that we started in Indianapolis and finished in Florida. Her hulls are similar to *Latitude's Profligate*, although we subsequently stretched her five feet. Based out of Florida, we then spent most winters cruising in the Caribbean. We're now starting a big change and new adventure in our lives.

A few years back we had some guests aboard who had started a nonprofit organization called Sea Mercy. The mission of the program is to provide much-needed medical services and supplies to the remote islands of the South Pacific via boats. The more we heard about the program, the more we wanted to become involved, and soon signed up our *Dragonfly* to be one of the first boats in the fleet. Our cat's large platform is perfect to transport a variety of medical skills and supplies to the remote islands. So after we complete an adventurous 8,000-mile trip from Florida to Tonga, we will become a float-ing health clinic.

With such a demanding trip ahead of us, we needed the boat and all systems to be in great shape, and to have adequate spares onboard. So we replaced the engines, purchased a new DC refrigerator and freezer, and installed more solar panels and a back-up autopilot. As you can imagine, the list of spares is pretty long. We also are changing our navigation system, which now will be based on the iPad and Mac, using WiFi to get data from the instruments.

We left Florida on December 18 and, after a boisterous trip, arrived in Belize on the 22nd. By the time you read this, we should have passed through the Canal. We expect to be in Tonga by mid-June. Our crew for the various legs of the trip consists of people willing to donate their time and share of costs of getting *Dragonfly* to Tonga.

As we say goodbye to the Caribbean, we will miss all those wonderful areas we cruised and the friends we made along the way. But we are looking forward to the adventurous journey and putting *Dragonfly* into service helping those in need. For more info on Sea Mercy, visit [www.seamercy.org](http://www.seamercy.org).

Al & Jill Wigginton  
*Dragonfly, Hughes 65*  
Florida

*Readers — Before having Profligate built, we flew to Indianapolis to see the Wiggintons, who had completed about a hull and a half and were offering to build boats for others. We passed. We didn't see them again until about 10 years later when they anchored in front of us in St. Barth. They not only completed the boat, they have covered a lot of ocean miles since then. We wish them a happy voyage.*



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## LETTERS

*By the way, it's too bad they aren't in Tonga right now, as it needs help following being hit by Tropical Cyclone Ian on January 11.*

### ↑↓ **THE FIRST COUPLE OF CRUISING**

I appreciate *Latitude's* use of 'The First Couple of Cruising' to describe the Lin and Larry Pardey, but I believe that even they would defer that title to Eric and Susan Hiscock.

P.S. Great magazine and superb *Lectronics*.

Steve Hersey  
SeaScape, Union 32  
San Diego/San Carlos

*Steve — We're also sure that Lin and Larry would defer to the Hiscocks. On the other hand, Eric passed nearly 30 years ago and Susan nearly 20 years ago, so the description seems a little dated.*

### ↑↓ **CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?**

Having done last year's Ha-Ha, I have a comment on something that mostly didn't work. All boats were required/asked to report in each morning via radio. Although we tried to comply with this safety feature by monitoring the VHF, for the most part we were unsuccessful. The idea was that boats that only had VHF radios could communicate with other boats in the fleet, who would then relay that information to the committee boat. It sounded good, but didn't work very well for us. Between San Diego and Cabo San Lucas, we were able to make contact only two or three times.

Obviously those boats that had SSB radios had no problem staying in touch. But since I had no plans or desire to continue on across the Pacific, there was no way I wanted to drop \$3,000 for a piece of equipment — SSB — that I would have no use for once the Ha-Ha was over. While it was not something that caused any problems or was a cause for worry, I wonder what other 'VHF-only' boats in the fleet thought about this.

Joe Helfand  
Jolin, Nonsuch 30  
Alameda

*Joe — If you were able to reach other Ha-Ha boats only two or three times between San Diego and Cabo, we think there must have been something wrong with your radio, radio antenna or radio technique. Unless you were sailing courses that were wildly out to sea, there is no way you could have been out of range of 124 other boats that were sailing a relatively straight line to the next stop, particularly with the second and third legs being only 240 and 175 miles respectively. Every year there seem to be three to five boats that are unable to make VHF contact with other boats, even if they are just a few miles away.*

*To give you some examples, our roll call records show that 42 VHF-only boats successfully checked in via relay on day three of the long first leg. That's about 2/3 of the VHF-only boats. On day two of leg two, 47 of the VHF-only boats were able to relay their positions. A number of VHF-only boats were unsuccessful because they didn't try to reach anyone, they overslept, their radio didn't work, etc.*

*When we started doing races to Mexico in the early 1980s, there were no roll calls or weather reports between the starts in California and the finishes off Cabo or other ports. There was simply no contact with the outside world, and only by chance with other boats in the races. If we remember correctly, we didn't have daily weather reports or roll calls when we started the Ha-Ha in 1994 either. When SSB radios became more com-*

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## LETTERS

mon on boats, we instituted the daily roll calls. Owners of boats that didn't have that expensive equipment pleaded with us to still be allowed to participate. Since the Ha-Ha is basically a straight off-the-wind course with so many boats, and because all boats are required to have EPIRBs, it seemed like a reasonable request.

We haven't gotten any negative feedback from VHF-only boats, but we're as interested as you in the thoughts of people without SSB. For what it's worth, while we personally wouldn't get a new SSB radio just to do the Ha-Ha, being able to tune into the daily roll call makes the Ha-Ha a much richer experience.

### ↑↓ 2014 RESOLUTIONS

Thanks so much for all your efforts at *Latitude*. I particularly enjoy the 'Lectronic *Latitude*. You asked about New Year's sailing resolutions. On December 31, 2012, I took off singlehanded from my marina near Annapolis aboard my 1979 Pearson 365 ketch *Evening Ebb*. On February 4, I got a weather window out of Morehead City, North Carolina, and arrived at West End Tortola in the British Virgins on February 15. I spent the spring in the BVIs, St Martin, Antigua — where I crewed on a winning Carriacou sloop in the Classic Regatta — Nevis and the BVIs again. In June I sailed my boat to Grenada, and have been here since. I crewed on a Carriacou sloop in the Mango Bowl Regatta the weekend before last in St. Lucia, and am helping an owner move his Freedom 44 up to Antigua later today.

My plan for 2014? To sail from the BVIs with Tom Postin on his Beneteau 423 *Dancing Bear* to Brisbane, Australia. We plan to be part of the 2014 Pacific Puddle Jump. After a bit of time in Australia and then the States, I'll return to my boat and figure out what to do in 2015.

Dirk Aardsma  
*Evening Ebb*, Pearson 365  
Annapolis, Maryland

*Dirk — Thanks for the kind words. We like to hear from people who are really getting their money's worth from their boats. Enjoy a safe trip to Australia.*

### ↑↓ OUR RESOLUTION

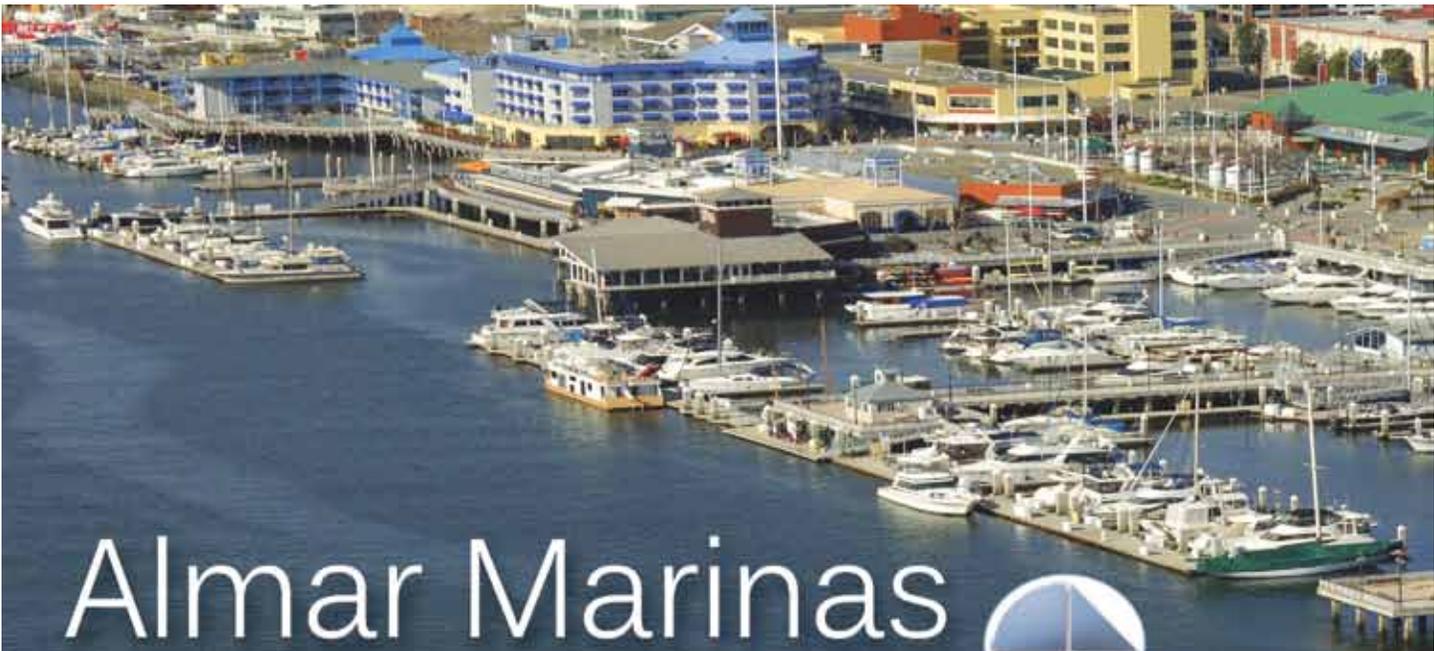
After cruising Mexico, we've been back in Southern California for three years taking care of parents, a privilege that all of us will most likely have at some point in our lives. It was an experience that we will never regret, but it meant that we had to quit cruising and bring our boat north. As I write this, it's late in December and we're very close to heading back to Mexico. It's cold here in Channel Islands Harbor and blowing like stink. We want out of here for the new year!

John & Debby Dye  
*Lovely Reta*, Islander 41  
Channel Islands Harbor, Oxnard

### ↑↓ ELECTRICAL TIPS FROM A PRO

It's been too long since we were in the Baja Ha-Ha in 2004 and in the Puddle Jump in 2006. We made it to New Zealand, where we sold our Whitby 42 — which is now being circumnavigated by her new Australian owners.

We agree with *Latitude* with respect to the enhanced — although not perfect and not guaranteed — comfort and actual aid from sailing with groups, even small ones. When we broke an inner forestay on our trip from Tonga to New Zealand, it was comforting to know we had two buddyboats within 100 miles that we could keep in touch with and who would have



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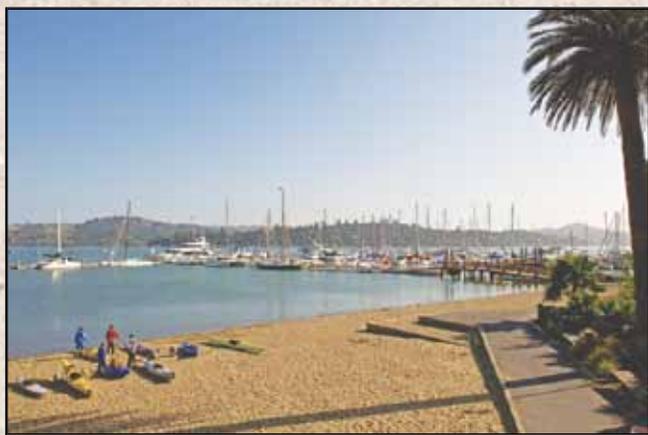
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## LETTERS

come to our aid if we needed it.

Let's talk about AC shorepower cords. I was a certified marine electrician in Anacortes for several years before our cruise started. During that time I saw many, many damaged and unsafe power cords and inlets. Whenever I got on



ROLAND FALKENSTEIN

**Burned-out or discolored shorepower connections should be replaced immediately.**

a boat, whether in the yard or in a marina, I always unplugged the cord — after turning off the power at the pylon to prevent arcing at the boat plug — and gave it a visual inspection. If I saw any discoloration, brown or black, around the female end contacts, I strongly recommended that the owner replace the cord immediately. Ditto on the male boat inlet plug. The shore pylon end should be inspected also, but most problems happen at the boat end.

Discoloration is caused by heat. Heat means that there is a poor, high-resistance connection at the plug/cord. If there is enough heat, a fire will start. I would refuse to work on a boat if the discoloration was too bad. The cords and inlets are very expensive, but so are boats and people. The inlet can be a real pain to replace, too. Even slight discoloration should not be ignored. It is not sufficient to 'clean' the contacts. At a minimum, the cord end should be replaced. But the result is not as good as a new cord since a repaired cord will never be sealed as well.

What causes high resistance? Corrosion caused by salt air, loose plug contacts, arcing by connecting and unconnecting hot cords, and/or loose or corroded wires inside the boat at the shorepower inlet.

We have started looking at boats suitable for cruising again. We totally enjoyed cruising in Mexico and beyond, the most fun being making friends with locals and other cruisers. Money is the only thing stopping us. We did get to spend several days with our friends Terry and Diane Emigh of the *Tayana Vancouver 42 Harmony* (Ha-Ha 2011) out of La Paz in November.

I've also met Rimas Meleshyus in Anacortes. He is attempting an improbable and underfunded goal of circumnavigating aboard his 'new' *San Juan 24*. What an interesting character! The boating community is small indeed.

Joe Barnes  
Anacortes, WA

*Joe — Thanks for the professional advice.*

*Speaking of Rimas, we looked into what's happened to him. "Rimas left Whidbey Island, Washington, at the end of July, 2013 bound for Cape Horn," notes a report on his donation site. "After getting as far south as Mexico, the 40-year-old rigging that holds his mast up began to fail. Rimas was able to improvise to keep the mast up, but diverted to Hilo, Hawaii, for repairs. He landed in Hilo with \$28 in his pocket and is relying on the kindness of friends and strangers to repair his boat so he can continue his adventure." As of early January, Rimas reported he was taking off for the South Pacific "soon."*

*We don't want to be critical, but heading for Cape Horn on a *San Juan 24* with 40-year-old rigging? At what point does something become a manifestly unsafe voyage?*

### ↑↓ NEED REAL-WORLD TSUNAMI DEBRIS REPORTS

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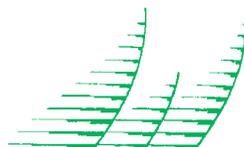
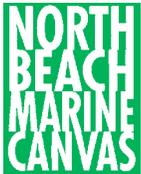


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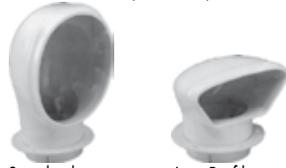
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# LETTERS

land, where we are cruising now, back to Alaska starting in mid-April. We've not been concerned about Tohoku debris for the passage from Hawaii, but *Latitude's* TransPac report got us thinking about it.

We'd sure appreciate hearing from anyone who has sailed in those waters to help us assess the risks. In the case of



WEBB LOGG

**Debris from the 2011 Japanese tsunami is still washing ashore on the West Coast.**

TransPac boats, when did you start coming across the debris, where was there the most, and what was the nature of the debris?

I've done some research and came up with: [bit.ly/1hE4xjV](http://bit.ly/1hE4xjV). As you can see, it looks to us that there is almost no direct physical data across the area of

interest. It's just drift modeling plus the odd yacht report. What is nearly impossible to find are the 'negative reports' from boats that have recently sailed some of our track but encountered nothing dangerous.

Steve & Dorothy Darden  
 Adagio, Morrelli and Melvin 52 cat  
 ex-Tiburon

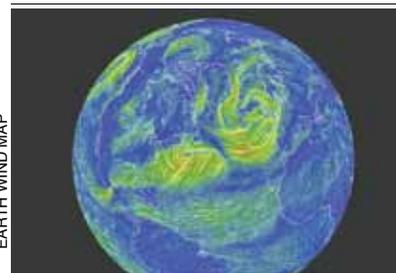
*Readers — Can anybody help Steve and Dorothy with first-hand information?*

*The Dardens love higher-latitude cruising in places such as Tasmania and Alaska. The only problem with high-latitude cruising is that it's a long way between high latitudes, whereas it's a short hop from Northern Hemisphere tropics to Southern Hemisphere tropics.*

### ↑↓ ANOTHER GREAT ONLINE WEATHER TOOL

I really like the earth wind map shown in the January 3 edition of *Lectronic Latitude*.

If anyone is looking for another good weather tool, here's a wave height and direction site I have used for years when planning trips along Coastal Alaska: [oceanweather.com/data](http://oceanweather.com/data).



EARTH WIND MAP

John Schroeder  
 Planet Earth

*John — The earth wind map is one of the most brilliant educational weather tools ever, as it gives an dynamic 'big picture' view of the weather such as we've never seen before. We think it's particularly educational for the ITCZ, the Sea of Cortez, the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean Sea . . . well, just about anywhere in the world. It's mesmerizing.*

### ↑↓ QUESTIONS ABOUT CATAMARANS

We have kept *Talofa*, our boat, in the Caribbean for more than 20 years. Over that time we have seen the percentage of catamarans growing substantially. As I write this, I'm anchored in the Bight of Norman Island in the British Virgin Islands. There are about 50 boats here, and more than 50% are catamarans — mostly on charter! I have made a few ob-

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## LETTERS

servations about catamarans, regarding which I would like to hear the opinions of Max Ebb and Lee Helm:

1) All cruising catamarans have their masts raked aft. Is this, as I believe, due to the fact they don't have real back-stays, but are kept from falling forward by two swept back spreaders, and the raking may provide better stability for the mast?

2) Almost all cats have fractional rather than masthead rigs. Maybe this is related to the raking of the mast.

3) Many modern cruising monohulls have their mains furl inside the mast. I have never seen a catamaran with a furling mainsail. Maybe that's indirectly related to the raking of the mast's forcing an undesirable shape on the main.

I would very much like to hear from the experts.

Cesare Galtieri  
Talofa, Gulfstar 43  
British Virgin Islands

*Cesare — Before we pass your question along to Max and Lee, we'll make a few comments. Some catamaran masts have no rake at all, some have moderate rake, and a few of the smaller Dean cats have masts that are raked so much the masthead is straight up from the cockpit. We'll leave the details of mast rake to Max and Lee.*

*Most cats do indeed have fractional rigs, but there have been quite a few — mostly older ones — with masthead rigs. As we recall, a lot of the Spronk cats in the Caribbean were not only masthead- but schooner-rigged. And many of them have been in heavy service for many years.*

*When catamarans have furling mains, they furl in the boom because it would be hard to furl with a typical cat's rake. The Darden's much-travelled M&M 52 Adagio has in-boom furling; so does Scott Stolnitz's Switch 51 Beach House, which is nearing the completion of a circumnavigation, and so do many others. In-boom furling is reportedly excellent once you figure out the details of how to use it properly, but it is not cheap, which is why you don't see them on charter boats.*

### ↑↓ LATITUDE AS A RITE OF PASSAGE

My eight-year-old son and I want to thank you for *Latitude* 38, which we look forward to each month.



SCOTT ALYN

**Scott's son was disappointed to discover no naked ladies in the December issue.**

After we got the October issue, my son spent hours staring at those three lovely European women sunbathing topless. He then declared his love for *Latitude* 38. I want to acknowledge *Latitude* for being a part of my son's rite of passage.

The accompanying photo shows him studying the current issue of *Latitude* while at Two Harbors, Catalina, searching in vain for what wasn't there.

By the way, we also attended the Wanderer's colorful presentation at California YC last year. A good time was had by all.

Scott Alyn  
X *Cygnets*, Swan 37  
(soon to go to the "dark side" with a multihull)  
Pacific Palisades

*Scott — We suppose it's a better rite-of-passage than he*

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## LETTERS

would get from the Sears catalog. But if we were you, we'd start saving up because it's likely he's going to want to spend his junior year abroad. His junior year in high school, that is.

### LOOKING TO CREW FROM BRAZIL TO FLORIDA

I'm currently on a bicycle tour down to Brazil for the World Cup in July. During my travels in Baja, I encountered many sailors, which is how I came to hear about *Latitude 38*. They told me it's fairly easy to get on a boat as crew.

After riding to Brazil, I would like to sail home to Florida via the Caribbean. I was wondering if there is a sailing crew networking site for the Caribbean. I have basic sailing knowledge and am a seasoned traveler. Please let me know if you have any insights that may help me out.

Henry Flaig  
[www.sustainablysouth.com](http://www.sustainablysouth.com)

Henry — If you were wanting to sail down to Brazil, you'd pretty much be out of luck because the currents and wind direction make it a difficult trip. But coming up is the easy way, and it's on the great highway from South Africa to the Northern Hemisphere, as nobody goes by way of the Red Sea anymore. You need to find out which are the most popular stops for cruising boats in Brazil, then just hang out there.

The only tricky part is that the World Cup doesn't end until July 13, which means it'll be getting on toward hurricane season in the Caribbean, so you're a little bit out of sync. But as hurricanes aren't an issue until you get up to Grenada, you shouldn't have trouble getting a ride there, and there are always a couple of late-season boats making the dash to Florida. As a young strong guy, you're a prime candidate for crew.

### AN UNCONVENTIONAL USE FOR A DREMEL

What do we use our Dremel tool for? To put our HIN (Hull Identification Number) on our boat.

Barry & Kathy Foster  
Tillie, Hans Christian 38T  
La Paz, Mexico

Barry and Kathy — Your letter made us burst out laughing. As many readers know, AGACE, a sub-agency of Mexico's IRS, was reportedly putting some boats into 'precautionary embargo' for more than a month if they didn't have a Hull Identification Number (HIN), not being aware that pre-1974 boats and many foreign boats were never given such numbers. And not being aware that boat hulls get painted, and in the process the HIN number often gets sanded off. The solution for some boatowners? Get a Dremel engraver — even Catalina used to use them to engrave hull numbers in some of their bigger boats. In fact, one marina in Mexico was loaning out a Dremel tool so boatowners could engrave the HIN number in their hull.

But here's something that was new to us. According to Soundings Trade Only, as of 1984 US boats are required to have HIN numbers in two places, one outside on the starboard transom and one inside in an inconspicuous place.

### MEXICO'S REPUTATION TAINTED

I'm sharing the following letter I wrote to officials in Mexico: "I am writing to you about the recent impounding of more than 300 boats by a branch of the Mexican IRS. I have sailed my own sailboat up and down the Mexican coast from Ensenada to Zihuatanejo for more than 10 years. My boat is currently in the United States, for which I am very thankful. My wife and I were planning to purchase a home in La Paz on our next visit to your beautiful country. I am sorry to say that

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## LETTERS

we will not be returning to Mexico, at least not by boat. And after watching what has happened to the boatowners recently, I believe it would be a mistake to buy property in Mexico, where assets can so easily be taken away for no reason. We have cancelled our intention to buy property in La Paz.

"I love Mexico and have made many friends in your country. This incident is going to bring terrible hardship and undeserved consequences to the thousands of workers who derive their living from nautical and other tourism. What a sad, awful mistake Mexico has made. I cannot imagine why. It breaks my heart."

Charles Lane  
Shamwari, Tayana 37  
San Francisco

*Readers — What's not made clear in Lane's letter is that almost all of the boats that have been impounded for more than six weeks have been found to be in compliance with Mexican law or are expected to be found in compliance.*

*Impounding foreign-owned boats — and planes, motorhomes and cars — is nothing new in Mexico. Sometimes it's been done because the owners of these modes of transportation hadn't gotten all the proper papers, but often the owners were in full compliance. Or, as in the famous Moreno case, when Mexico wanted to get back at the US for kidnapping a doctor who had helped torture a DEA agent in Mexico. A friend had a \$30,000 motorhome in Mexico at the time of the kidnapping, and his motorhome, along with a lot of other American assets, was seized. At the beginning of the week, the Mexican IRS was demanding more than a million dollars for the motorhome. By the end of the week they were down to some trifling sum, which was paid and it was all over.*

*According to Tere Grossman, who has been in the marina business in Mexico since 1977 and has been the president of the Mexican Marina Owners Association for most of the time since then, the Mexican government has periodically inspected, impounded and released foreign boats. The impoundments ceased when the TIP program was instituted in 1996. And after President Fox's wildly expensive — and ultimately failed — 'nautical stairway' program to bring more American boats to Mexico was announced following his inauguration in 2000, there hadn't even been any inspections, "and the government has left us in peace."*

*That all changed in late November. "The current program of inspections has been the worst one ever and the most complicated," says Grossman. Why a country eager to fill its marinas, increase the number of tourists, and attract investors would treat foreign boatowners — their best ambassadors — so badly is beyond understanding. It's as if Mexico won't stop punching itself in the face and undoing all the outreach it's spent so much money on.*

*It was too late to get it into this issue, but next month we'll present a history of Mexico's complicated relationship with foreign boatowners, which will demonstrate how things have gotten so much better — until the sudden reversal in late November.*

### ↑↓A HUGE NATIONAL NAUTICAL BRAIN FART

Ours was one of the many foreign boats seized at Coral Marina in Ensenada. We're trying to find other victims of the AGACE attack on boatowners, but it's not easy. I imagine most people are afraid to speak up because they fear revenge on the part of the Mexican government.

We were wondering if *Latitude* could connect us to others who have had their boats stranded in Mexico. Or perhaps



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## LETTERS

you can give us some advice on what we should be doing in this situation. We were even thinking that what we are going through could be the basis of a class action lawsuit.

We don't take the illegal seizure of our boat — which is also our home — lightly. We consider it to be an act of theft or an act of terrorism. After all, there have been no official charges against us or our property, nothing in writing, no legal proceedings, just verbal threats of violence against us if we make noise or try to leave.

Cranky Sailor  
Coral Marina, Ensenada

Cranky — We know that the Marina Owners Association has a list of boats, but we don't know if they have contact information. In any event, they probably aren't authorized to release the names and addresses.

As infuriating as this disastrous episode has been, according to Enrique Fernandez, harbor master at Puerto Los Cabos, it's the fourth time in his 25-year career that he can remember a branch of the Mexican IRS impounding a group of foreign boats without good cause. Thanks to the Internet, such news gets around faster and penetrates more deeply than it did in the 1990s, so AGACE's outrageous handling of the matter has generated worse and more widespread negative publicity for Mexico. In view of this, we expect that all boats that didn't have serious paperwork problems — which was most of them — will be released in less than the 140 days it took in 1996. Our advice is to grin and bear it, and have confidence that the foolishness will be over soon.

That's the same advice that we gave to a woman who phoned Latitude from Ensenada in late January and said that, after their boat had been impounded for six weeks, she and her husband had had enough. Their cruising dreams shattered, all they wanted to do was to get back to the US and sell their boat. They wanted to know what we thought of the idea of their making a run for the border in the middle of the night. We advised against it because if they were caught, the consequences could be severe. Besides, as of the third week in January, some boats had been released and there was a lot of pressure on AGACE to release the rest as quickly as possible. We also suggested that they wait just a bit before giving up their cruising dreams, as this is the biggest national nautical brain fart we can remember in the more than three decades that we've been covering sailing. The president of the Mexican Marina Owners Association agrees. That being the case, we don't expect we'll see anything like it any time soon.

A class action lawsuit in Mexican courts against the Mexican IRS? If you want to spend a couple of hundred thousand dollars and many years in court in a country where you don't speak the language, we think you'd have about a 3% chance of winning — assuming the Mexican legal system even allows for class action lawsuits. But you never know. Some dining companions who own a home at Higuera Blanca, which is near Sayulita, told us that about five years ago the local government was in desperate need of money, so they decided they would fine all gringo owners of waterfront homes that had non-native plants. Among the non-native plants was bougainvillea, which grows wild all over the area. When one homeowner fought the Mexican government in court over a proposed \$5,000 fine, the court sided with him.

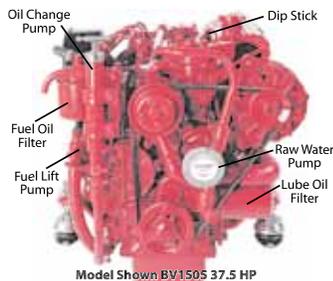
By the way, the woman who called from Ensenada said there was another cruising boat in her marina whose owners have been so shaken by their boat's being impounded that they have a similar goal — get their boat back to the States as quickly as possible and put her up for sale. Another set of



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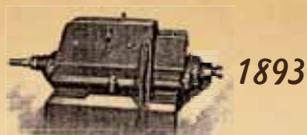
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## LETTERS

*crusing dreams destroyed by AGACE's very poor handling of what could have been a quick, clean and easy process.*

### ↑↓ ONE LONE BRANCH IS KILLING NAUTICAL TOURISM

As I recently wrote in a letter to Mexican officials, I just purchased a Peterson 34 and was planning to sail her from my home waters of San Francisco Bay to Ensenada to have her refitted. I planned on spending about \$30,000 on the refit. I would then continue on to La Paz and the Mexican Riviera, where I wanted to spend the winter and spring before turning right for Polynesia in May. I figure I would have spent another \$20,000 on a vacation with my wife in Mexico before continuing on to the South Pacific.

Why did Mexico spend all these years encouraging visits by nautical tourists — and then shoot itself in the foot like this? Unless this problem is resolved, I will spend my money elsewhere.

Steve Bryant  
Svenska, Peterson 34  
San Francisco Bay

*Readers — Most of Mexico's government is doing all it can to encourage nautical tourism while one small branch is making life difficult and scary for nautical tourists. Once again, one hand of the Mexican government doesn't know what the other hand is doing.*

*One of the most troubling impoundings involves a multimillion dollar yacht that was brought from San Diego to Ensenada to have a few days' work done at a yard. The captain and crew were visited by AGACE agents while in Ensenada, and were left with the distinct impression that there weren't any problems with the boat's paperwork. Yet when they went to check out a few days later, the port captain informed them that they couldn't leave because their boat was on the impound list. Six weeks later the boat was still stuck in Ensenada, despite the owners' having hired a lawyer and enlisting the efforts of Arizona Senator John McCain. The last we heard, the owners were thinking that once they got their boat back, they would bypass Mexico entirely on the way to Panama. Could anyone blame them?*

### ↑↓ ZERO CHANCE OF SPENDING MONEY IN MEXICO

We're in the process of buying a new boat. As she's in Southern California, we were thinking of taking her to Mexico to get some work done on her. There is now zero chance of our doing that. This means there are a few thousand dollars that won't be spent in a Mexican boatyard, along with hotel rooms, air fares, etc. What Mexico has been doing is idiotic, and I have yet to get a reason that these folks would be so stupid.

Beau Vrolyk  
Santa Cruz

*Beau — First Ensenada loses its main highway with Tijuana and the States, and now this. Could it get any worse for what many cruisers have found to be a charming little city? Yes, it can, as it's likely that many potential participants in the Newport to Ensenada Race — once the largest on the West Coast — are having serious second thoughts. After all, they can do a similar race — the Border Run — that ends in San Diego and doesn't have the risk of their losing control of their boat.*

*Mexico needs to release the boats that have complied with their laws immediately, and get serious about making amends to foreign boatowners.*

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**LETTERS**

**↑↓ CHANGE OF PLANS**

I'm sorry to hear about the problems cruisers are having with Mexican authorities. You probably don't remember the 'Nanamukers'. We met the Wanderer in Mexico in 1982. We spent five months in Mexico on that trip, and 30 months in Mexico at the start of our circumnavigation in 1994.

We just spent eight days at the Decameron Resort in Bucerias, dreaming of having *Nanamuk* back on Banderas Bay next season and staying for years. But the change in the way cruising boats are being treated by Mexico will definitely cause us to cancel these plans. Perhaps you can forward our letter to someone who can speed up resolving the problem with impounded boats, because if it drags on too long, we won't be motivated to do all that is needed to return *Nanamuk* to Mexico.

Rob & Grace Dodge  
*Nanamuk*, Endurance 35  
 Nanaimo, BC

**↑↓ STAYING AWAY TILL THE NUTTINESS IS OVER**

I had been hoping to bring my boat back to La Paz this year, but I'm staying away until the latest nuttiness goes away.

Jim Patrick  
 Tortuga, Grand Banks 42  
 San Diego

*Jim — Given AGACE's blow to the reputation of Mexico's nautical tourism industry, members of the Mexican Marina Owners Association tell us they don't believe they will be conducting any similar 'audits' in the near future. As a result, some US boats are coming down to Mexico. Unfortunately, nobody can guarantee there won't be any such raids, which is why it's easy to understand that some mariners are choosing to stay away.*

**↑↓ COMPROMISED A LONG-PLANNED FAMILY REUNION**

I'm a fellow cruiser at Marina Riviera Nayarit in La Cruz with all the proper paperwork whose boat was nonetheless impounded by AGACE. Like all involved, I find this situation quite upsetting, as it has compromised a long-planned family reunion here in Mexico. Like the owners of *Profligate*, the only thing I'm guilty of is not being on my boat during the unannounced inspection by AGACE. Actually, I did get back to the boat that afternoon in time to ask an inspection team if they needed to inspect my boat. They said it wouldn't be necessary but my boat ended up on the impound list anyway.

I hope we can go whale watching again soon.

Steve Wilson  
 Westerly  
 Oakland / Marina Riviera Nayarit

*Readers — There has been a small group of boatowners and former boatowners, most based out of the Vallarta YC, who have scoffed at our reports, saying: 1) Latitude has been making a mountain out of a molehill, and 2) if any boats got impounded, it was the owners' fault. These people seem unaware of how many winter plans have been disrupted, cruising dreams destroyed, and unnecessary expenses incurred — by mariners who did indeed follow all the rules. Nor do these people seem to appreciate the apprehension that AGACE's actions have instilled in the hearts of boatowners whose boats haven't been inspected yet.*

**↑↓ LOCALS ARE THE REAL LOSERS**

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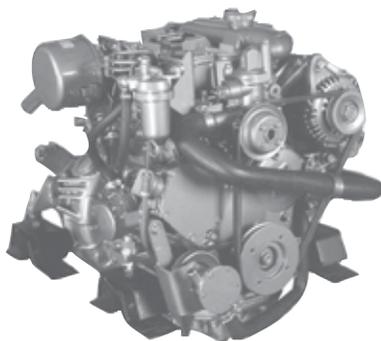
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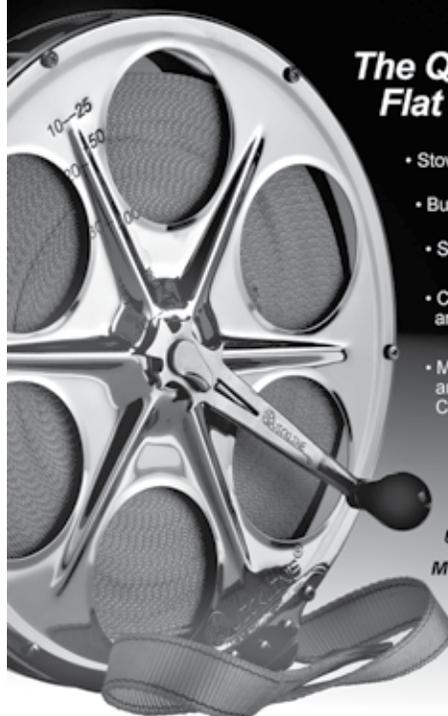
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## LETTERS

ous we love this place. However, if AGACE keeps impounding boats for long periods of time, and mariners either start leaving or don't come down, the real losers will be orphanages, local schools and local merchants that so many *gringo* cruisers and retirees spend so much time and money supporting. They are the ones who have taken the brunt of the hit from those bad raps in the past, and the recent actions by AGACE surely won't help them.

Rod DuFour  
Beachcomber, Lagoon 35  
Oak Harbor, WA / Sea of Cortez

*Readers — That's true, as cruisers are big supporters of many charitable causes in Mexico, from the unbelievably successful SailFest to Subasta to smaller ones such as the Pirates for Pupils Spinnaker Run for Charity. Indeed, had Profligate not been impounded, we would have started our fifth charity regatta in Mexico, which was to be the Tenacatita to Barra Rally with Dino of Grand Marina in Barra. Maybe next year.*

### ↑↓ GET SYRIA-US

If 338 US boats had been impounded in Iraq or Syria, the United States would have stationed 128 ships of war off their coasts firing rockets into their administrative and political offices as well as their military positions. Our planes would have turned their sand to glass by now.

Name Withheld By Request  
Planet Earth

*N.W.B.R. — Yes, well thank goodness that Mexico isn't Iraq or Syria, because nobody needs to be killed over what's been a massive public relations blunder by a newly created sub-agency of the Mexican IRS. A lot of spankings are in order, but not bombings.*

### ↑↓ MAKING A RUN FOR IT

My documented boat was among the many foreign-owned boats seized by Hacienda (the Mexican IRS) in 1997. Marina Palmira in La Paz had misfiled my papers and I wasn't aboard at the time, so Hacienda chained my boat to the dock. I flew down the day after hearing of this, and went to the local office of Hacienda. I told them about the legal status of US-documented boats, but they weren't impressed by it or my fluent Spanish. So I told them I was going to go to the marina, cut the chain securing my boat to the dock, alert the US Coast Guard via Ham radio of my situation, and take off.

I cut the chain, then cast off as armed soldiers marched down the dock toward me. I got away and headed out toward the Cerralvo Channel. After four hours passed without any boats coming after me, I reversed course and headed for Isla Partida. I stayed on the hook at Partida for one week, then returned to my berth at Marina Palmira. I never heard another thing about it, nor did I ever find out why nothing happened to me. But the local head of Hacienda was fired a short time later.

Dane Faber  
WAFI, Vagabond 38  
Sausalito

*Dane — AGACE told one Mexican boatowner that he couldn't leave a marina on Banderas Bay. The owner basically told them to buzz off because he'd not only bought his boat from Hacienda, he was taking off right then for Acapulco, and they could try to stop him. He did take off and they didn't try to stop him. But we're not sure what happened when he got to*

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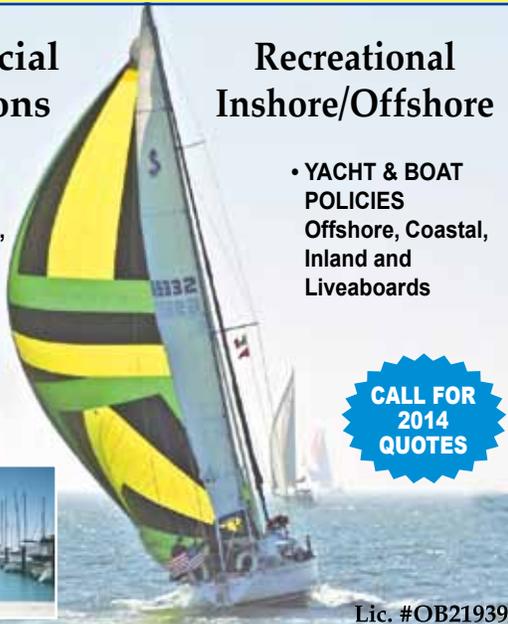
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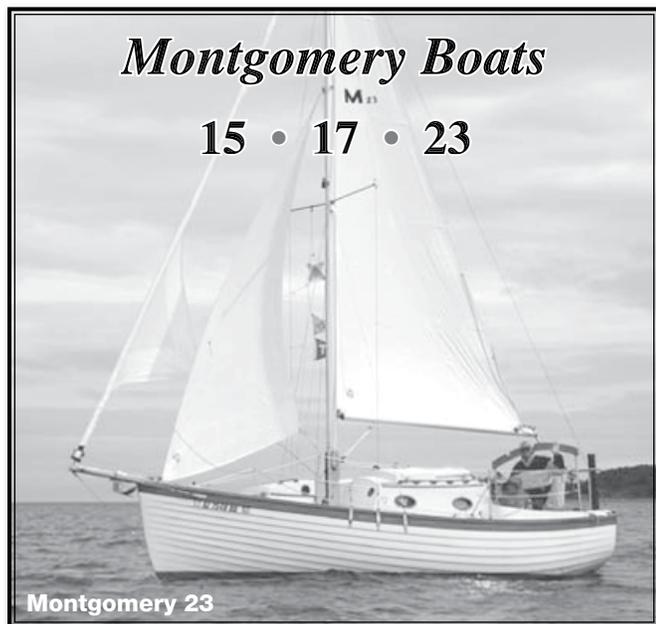
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## LETTERS

Acapulco.

*It was after the ill-conceived impounding of boats in the 1990s that the TIP (Temporary Import Permit) was instituted. Once that was instated, the Mexican government hadn't engaged in the mass impounding of boats — until late November.*

### ↑↓ PAWNS IN SOME POLITICAL GAME

The present situation in Mexico is like the second verse of an old song. *Latitude* will recall that in July of 1995 several hundred yachts were seized by Hacienda. My boat was placed in 'protective seizure' in Marina Palmira along with 12 others. I was given an attorney by the marina, but he couldn't speak English, so I hired another attorney. I contacted the US Embassy, my senators and state reps and the Coast Guard, and placed articles in *The Log*, the *L.A. Times*, San Diego papers and boating magazines.

In the November 1995 issue of *Latitude*, the publisher wrote, "Dr. Hersch [me] made a big stink in all the papers, hired lawyers and raised hell. It's unclear whether making a big stink was a smart move."

It took 140 days to get my boat released.

Since *Latitude's* boat *Profligate* has been seized, the publisher apparently has had no problem mounting a full-scale publicity campaign and making a big stink to get his boat released.

By the way, my papers were 100% in order and we never learned the true reason behind Hacienda's action. We were pawns in someone else's game. I predict that all the boats currently impounded in Mexico will be released, but as they say in Mexico, "not at this moment."

Dr. Robert Hersch  
Huntington Beach

*Dr. Hersch — The difference between 1995 and now is that back then people in the industry advised us against making a big stink, thinking it might be counterproductive. It's hard to say if it was or wasn't.*

*This time around we've received overwhelming encouragement from almost every member of the Mexican marine industry we've talked to, as well as important officials in Mexico's Tourism Department. They all say our reports and editorializing have been critical in putting pressure on AGACE to release boats sooner rather than later, and to encourage them to change their procedures before conducting any future 'audits'.*

*By the way, as we write this on January 20, AGACE seems to have made a distinction regarding which marinas boats are being released from. They haven't released more than 30 of the 338 foreign boats yet, but the only ones they've released have been from marinas that agreed to be depositarias, meaning they would take financial and other responsibility for all impounded boats in their marina. About half the marinas agreed, about half didn't because they are under no obligation to do so. *Profligate* is in Marina Riviera Nayarit, which refused to be a depositaria. So while a few days ago an AGACE agent confirmed that *Profligate* is in compliance with Mexican law, AGACE has refused to say when our cat will be released from impoundment. To us, it looks as though AGACE is using our boat as a pawn in a revenge game with the marina for not agreeing to be a depositaria. But we'll see.*

### ↑↓ ADDING FUEL TO THE BURNING INFERNO

I want to thank *Latitude* for all you've done for cruisers over the years. But according to some cruisers I've talked to via email and the Cruisers' Forum, your latest efforts regarding the situation in Mexico are counterproductive and are

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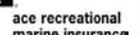
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## LETTERS

making cruisers very scared of what might happen to them. They haven't been nailed by AGACE, but are really shaking in their boots over what actions might be taken as a result of the negative publicity. Please reconsider adding fuel to the already burning inferno.

Steve Bondelid  
ex-owner, *Grey Max*, Lord Nelson 35  
Greenbank, WA

*Steve — Throughout this entire unfortunate episode, we've been in contact with many marina owners/managers in Mexico, as well as the director of Mexico's tourism office in California. Every single one of them has told us the same thing: Latitude's reports and editorializing have been great, and it's critical that we keep the pressure on. Indeed, most of them have been forwarding our writings to elected officials in their respective cities and states and Mexico City. Several of these people have cited the avalanche of negative publicity as the primary reason they believe it's highly unlikely — 99.9% unlikely, said one — that there will be any more 'audits' until AGACE procedures and policies have changed, and their personnel get the training they need to know what they are doing.*

*If we were writing what we've written without any skin in the game, it might be one thing. But our highly visible catamaran Profligate is one of the 338 impounded boats, and is probably worth considerably more than the average impounded boat.*

### ↑↓ A BACKFIRE IS NEEDED TO PUT OUT THE INFERNO

I'm asking *Latitude* to please use your contacts in the international press to make sure the story of foreign boats impounded in Mexico is reported daily in the international media. One problem is that many top officials in the Mexican government, including President Peña Nieto and Luis Eduardo Lara Gutierrez, the latter being the person at AGACE who came up with the stupid 'auditing' idea that created all the chaos, don't speak English. It takes time for the Mexican press to pick up these stories from the foreign press.

The level of stupidity behind AGACE's audit has been so high that the problem is not being resolved as quickly as it should. I read the January 17 *Lectronic* and want to make it clear that this fiasco was not created by the marinas, which along with owners of foreign boats are also victims of the official stupidity of AGACE. It's all AGACE's fault!

Because of varying amounts of experience, some marinas have handled the situation differently than others. Since I started working in marinas 25 years ago, I've always kept a copy of the TIPS, boat documentation and insurance. I didn't do this because the marinas I worked at were obligated to do it, but rather to be sure who was who and what was what. We've had many inspections from different authorities in the last quarter of a century, and our customers didn't even know the inspections had taken place. We tried to handle the most recent inspection as a 'desk audit'. I was successful in working with the authorities again this time, although I have to admit that luck was also an important factor.

I know that several marinas have hired attorneys, not only to keep themselves free of problems, but most importantly to resolve the nightmare for their boatowners. In addition to our Marina Owners Association group, we individual marina operators are putting political pressure on the authorities and state governments to get this problem resolved. We all know that AGACE eventually has to liberate all the boats with TIPS, which is most of those that have been impounded, but that time is our worst enemy because the bad publicity continues. All of us in the marina business understand that even



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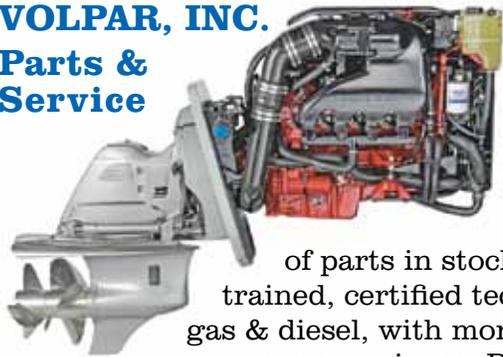
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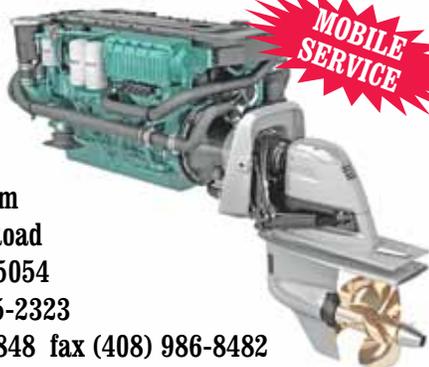
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## LETTERS

if AGACE did not raid our marina, we have to help owners of impounded boats, no matter what marina they are in.

Enrique Fernández del Castillo  
Gerente General, Puerto Los Cabos Marina  
San Jose del Cabo, Mexico

Readers — While all the marina owners we've spoken with have encouraged our articles and editorials on this matter, and say they have forwarded them to various Mexican officials, all but Enrique, who was previously the harbormaster at Marina Cabo San Lucas, have asked to remain anonymous. "If Hacienda wants to, they can create all the problems in the world for a marina like mine," said one marina owner.

To demonstrate how inconsistent the AGACE audit process has been, if some AGACE auditors couldn't find a HIN on a boat, it was grounds for putting a boat on the impound list. Yet at Puerto Los Cabos and some other marinas, the auditors didn't even go down to the boats.

Some members of the Vallarta YC have claimed that boats in some marinas got into trouble because the marina didn't have copies of all their documents. As you can see from Castillo's letter, he says marinas aren't obligated to have them. We were told the same thing by the manager of another marina, who is adamant that there is no law requiring marinas to keep copies of all the documents. Note that this is a marina manager who says things have been working out well at his marina with AGACE, except for a few boats with unique situations. What's a unique situation? The owner of an impounded boat taking AGACE to court for impounding his boat.

Besides, does anybody really believe that a boatowner should have their boat impounded for months because a marina office misplaced or lost copies of the boat's documents, or didn't believe they were obligated to have them in the first place? Since the boatowner has no control or knowledge of the situation, shouldn't that be a matter between just the marina and the Mexican government? Duh.

#### ↑↓KEEP IT UP

Keep up the pressure on Mexico. Money talks. It may take awhile, but when the tourist dollars drop like a winch handle into the Bay, policies will change. But thanks for being the one taking the heat!

Steve Ware  
Lafayette

Steve — Thanks for your support. As easily the biggest supporters of nautical tourism to Mexico for the last 30 years, we have a lot at stake here, and hate to see what AGACE has been doing to Mexico's nautical tourism industry — and to a lesser extent, the real estate industry.

#### ↑↓CAN'T ARGUE WITH THE BARREL OF A GUN

In the late '30s, my grandfather had his property in Mexico seized. His advice after that: "Never own property in Mexico, as you can't argue with the barrel of a gun." After a year in Vietnam, I understood with what he meant. Good luck with your boat, and to the other poor souls as well.

Jim Gunderson  
Next Adventure, Catalina 30  
San Jose

Jim — What happened to your grandfather was 80 years ago, and much has changed since then. But one thing remains constant, which is that Mexico needs to impound boats as a very last resort, not as first resort when they are just verifying

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## LETTERS

documents. At least if they want to keep a nautical tourism industry. Some Mexican officials just don't appreciate how skittish Americans are of having their assets seized or impounded. Foreign boatowners are in need of immediate reassurances by the Mexican government.

### ↑↓JUST THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG

I'm glad that *Latitude* has been keeping up with the impounding of foreign boats in Mexico. I am surprised that the US government or embassy has not been involved, since US-documented boats are considered property of the United States that can ostensibly be requisitioned in time of war or national emergency. In the States, even a simple repossession of a US-documented vessel has to be done by a US marshal who has to 'arrest the vessel'.

Actually, what's happening may only be the tip of the proverbial iceberg. President Enrique Peña Nieto was elected under the promise of going after what have been labeled 'tax cheats', meaning Mexican nationals as well as *gringos*. Currently the Mexican government is concentrating on boats, cars, motorhomes and other objects 'imported to Mexico'. But they will reportedly soon go after *gringos* earning money in Mexico and not paying taxes, especially on the condo/home rentals and sales.

Many Mexican nationals and *gringos* avoid much of the taxes they owe when they sell real estate in Mexico. For instance, if a house should sell for \$100,000, the owner will sell the house for \$10,000, which is taxable, and the furniture in it for \$90,000, the sale of furniture not being taxable. The Mexican IRS claims they are going to crack down on all that now, as well as anyone who earns income from rentals in Mexico. They are also going to be levying a tax on bank accounts and more. The new bank laws took effect January 1.

Mexico says they are cracking down on Mexican nationals also. Supposedly this has all been precipitated by the big drop in revenue from oil, and the fact that almost no one in Mexico pays any taxes — sort of like Greece, Portugal, Italy, etc.

A Mexican-American friend who recently returned from a holiday visit with her family in Cancun claims that everything they bought, even a simple Coke, had doubled in price because now everyone has to pay more taxes. For her it was not a big issue, but for her relatives in Mexico it was a major change.

At the moment the Mexican government seems to be acting more as the Venezuelan government did under Hugo Chavez. As *Latitude* pointed out, it's going to have severe repercussions for tourism, which was just starting to recover after years of *narco* violence. I just talked with Grace Bodle in Richmond this morning, and she told me that she and Bill had planned to take their 110-ft schooner to Mexico this winter, but have cancelled because of the impoundings.

John 'Woody' Skoriak  
Sausalito / San Carlos, Mexico

*Woody* — The US government was slow to get involved in the mess, but that was partly because most of the people who owned impounded boats didn't even know their boats were impounded, and because it was assumed that nothing could be done over the holidays. The State Department and consulates subsequently got involved, but it's hard to know what kind of effort they have made. In any event, sometimes constant mild pressure and patience is the most effective policy.

While it's true that all US-documented vessels are subject to requisition during time of a national emergency — as many great yachts were during World War II — it is not true that the US government is going to leap into action any time there is a problem

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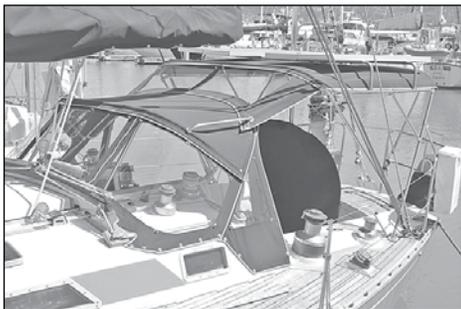
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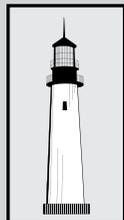
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## LETTERS

with a US-documented boat. In fact, we think documentation of a recreational boat counts for very little except proof — in most countries — of ownership.

For what it's worth, Mexico, which Goldman Sachs projects to be one of the 10 biggest economies in the world by 2020, ranks 53rd out of 189 countries in "ease of doing business" by the World Bank. Tellingly, Mexico ranks 133rd in availability of electricity, 150th in registering property, and 118th in the collection of taxes. As such, it's hard to believe Mexico has been doing as well as it has. Mexico rates best at the ease of starting businesses and resolving insolvencies.

It's hard to tell what's going on with the Peña Nieto administration. As Peña Nieto is a member of the PRI, which ruled Mexico with massive corruption during their 70-year-plus regime, many Mexicans are very suspicious. However, he's done some good things. One is that he's moved to clean up the corrupt Mexican teacher's union by arresting Elba Esther Gordillo, the president of the union, and accusing her of embezzling about \$200 million from the union's funds. During her 23-year reign, most teachers' positions were bought or inherited. Peña Nieto is also opening up PEMEX — Mexico's notoriously corrupt national oil concern — to outside foreign investment so they can reach oil they don't have the money or technology to get to now. And perhaps most importantly, he's also attacking those who don't pay the taxes they owe. Mexico's tax rates are notoriously low, the loopholes are huge, and compliance is poor.

One huge change is that there are no more 'small businesses' that have to pay just 3% of their annual gross in taxes. Now all businesses — even street taco stands — are supposed to have computers and frequently report all expenses and income. We're not sure how that's going to play out in a country where about 20% of the people don't even have electricity.

Personally, we think doing a better job of collecting taxes is essential for the future of Mexico, and some tax rates are ridiculously unfair or in need of being increased. For example, the property tax is assessed on the size of a house, not the value. As a result, there are \$500,000 condos on the ocean where the taxes are \$150, the same as cinder-block-and-tarp hovels a half-mile away. Yet the roads, except for the toll roads, are dreadful. Wait until Bill Gates, who just paid \$200 million for the Four Seasons in Punta Mita, tries to drive the pot-holed mess of a road from La Cruz to Mita. Of course, the big question is if the politicians will stuff all the new tax money in their pockets, or if it will actually be used for the public good.

AGACE, the sub-agency of the Mexican IRS that has caused all the problems for foreign boatowners, was actually created late in the term of Felipe Calderon, the previous president. At this point we believe the gigantic fiasco created by AGACE is a result of a political appointee who didn't know Mexican or US law, but thought he could create a big nationalistic splash by catching hundreds of foreign 'tax cheats'. Our belief is that when word of the fiasco finally filters to the upper levels of the Peña Nieto administration, they will have a fit. After all, they want as much tourism and foreign investment as possible, and are smart enough to know that the worst thing Mexico can do is scare the hell out of nautical tourists and potential investors.

At this point, any comparison between Mexico and Venezuela under Chavez is ridiculous — although Chavez never threatened to impound hundreds of visiting yachts. But we're keeping our eyes open on Mexico. How they handle this fiasco will be telling.

### ↑↓ A DECAL COULD BE THE ANSWER

The main issue in this boat impounding mess seems to be that the owners absent from their boats were judged guilty. The solution is obvious. Mexican authorities should require

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## LETTERS

that foreign-owned boats carry a decal on their bow, a decal that you get with your TIP. Or even with an annual cruising license fee. The decal will at least show compliance. A missing or forged decal means 'goodbye boat'. Here in the US we have such decals to prove that a boat is registered in a specific state. Easy peasy.

Tom Dalgliesh  
Waverly, Islander Freeport 41  
Seattle, WA

Tom — *It's hard to tell what the "main issue" was, as it appears that it was different in different places.*

Newer TIPs come with decals. According to the instructions — and we're not making this up — you're supposed to put the sticker on the boat window next to the "rear-view mirror." That instruction is all too typical of the Mexican bureaucratic (mis) understanding of boats. But one problem is that older TIPs didn't come with decals. The second problem is if you get a TIP online, nobody is verifying what you're claiming.

One solution might be similar to the one Mexico uses for permanently importing cars. You go through about a two-hour process, after which you get paperwork and decal — yes, you put it on your windshield near your rear-view mirror — and you're good. Well, you're good after you go to a different city to get a piece of paper, then a different city a hundred miles away to actually pick up your plate. Alas, Mexico doesn't have the manpower at each port of entry to do this with any kind of dispatch.

Then again Rick Todd, who used to fly corporate clients into Puerto Vallarta on Citation 10 jets, tells us the international check-in process for aircraft was quick and easy. "It took about 10 minutes." So if Mexico wants to come up with a solution, we know they can. It's a matter of whether the country has the political will to do what's in its best financial interest.

### ↑↓ NUMB FROM TRYING TO FIGURE IT OUT

I just read the latest *Lectronic* post regarding the impounding of foreign-owned boats in Mexico. I can't figure out why the Mexican government would impound *Profligate* after all *Latitude* has done for Mexico in terms of the hundreds of positive articles and photos, 20 years of bringing many thousands of people down in the Baja Ha-Ha, and all the various charity regattas you have founded. It's nice to know they didn't single *Latitude's* boat out for special treatment, but don't they have advisors or press agents who have even a little bit of common sense?

Reading the updates in *Latitude* has truly been disheartening, as it completely undermines our faith in the situation down there. Why would we want to risk our yachts and all we have invested to be at the whim of a jack-booted illiterate who knows less about boats than he does about hygiene?

We can appreciate all the good words you put forth on behalf of Mexico for the last 30 years, but what's happening in Mexico sure makes the Channel Islands, Catalina, and California coastal hopping much more inviting. After all, we don't have to worry that we're going to be held hostage by a banana republic trying to flex its position with the United States by using yachts as pawns. I know that cruising Mexico can be fantastic and beautiful, but when you consider that you can get beaten within an inch of your life, have officials impound your boat for nothing, and get your dinghy stolen, I think a trip through a local bad neighborhood on a wheelbarrow sounds like a better plan.

As wonderful as Mexico is, nothing beats seeing Diamond Head rise out of the horizon after 10 days at sea. Maybe that's

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# LETTERS

the future of the Ha-Ha. The Hawaiian Ha-Ha would also make the Puddle Jump less of a jump and more of a skip.

I'm partially numb from trying to understand what's happening down there. By the way, I was very sad to have missed the Ha-Ha this year, as I heard nothing but great stories about it from dock neighbors who went.

Dave Barten  
Ikani, Gecco 39  
Shelter Island, San Diego

*Dave — It's true that we at Latitude have been the biggest promoters of nautical tourism in Mexico for the last 30 years. But as you say, it's nice to know we didn't get any special treatment. We don't like countries where some people are more equal — members of the United States Congress and the political class, for instance — than everyone else.*

*You're right, there's nothing as disheartening as having your boat impounded — without notice — when she's perfectly legal, and when the agency doesn't contact you, and you don't speak the language. It's undermined the faith a lot of boatowners had*



LATITUDE / RICHARD

**What some cruisers have resorted to so AGACE auditors can find the HIN.**

*in Mexico, and Mexico is going to have to hustle to regain that faith. But can we cut the crap about "jack-booted illiterates"? While the excessive military presence was entirely unnecessary during AGACE's audits, our understanding is that the auditors and the marines were firm but pleasant. The "illiterate" business is insulting. AGACE officials may not have known anything about boats or the complexities of maritime law, but it's ridiculous and insulting to say they were illiterate. In fact, one of the nice things about Mexico is that the quality of their civil servants seems to have gotten a lot better in the last 10 years. It's not perfect, but it's been improving.*

*As for personal safety, there are something like a million Americans and Canadians who live in Mexico. Most feel safer in Mexico than they do in most big American cities.*

*Everybody, including many Mexican officials and port captains, is also partially numb from trying to understand the impounding of all the boats that were legal. Our take is that AGACE officials really believed they were going to catch a bunch of tax cheats and find a bunch of stolen boats, and thus be heroes. Unfortunately, they've stuck to their guns and become goats.*

*Readers — We're sorry to have to devote so much editorial space to this single issue, but it's a big one. If Mexico doesn't come to its senses quickly, the ramifications for their nautical tourism industry — and the West Coast boating industry — could be enormous. For the latest news on the subject, read 'Lectronic Latitude.*

*In a typical month, we receive a tremendous volume of letters. So if yours hasn't appeared, don't give up hope.*

*We welcome all letters that are of interest to sailors. Please include your name, your boat's name, hailing port and, if possible, a way to contact you for clarifications.*

*By far the best way to send letters is to email them to [richard@latitude38.com](mailto: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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## a thoroughbred returns to her roots

News of *Alaska Eagle's* permanent exit from the West Coast last month struck a heavy emotional blow to many who'd sailed offshore aboard her during her 31-year tenure as the flagship of the Orange Coast College School of Sailing and Seamanship in Newport Beach. She was sold to Dutchman Diederik Nolten for \$350,000.

Since 1982, when the school acquired this aluminum-hulled, S&S 65, roughly 3,000 sailors have honed their offshore sailing skills aboard her during countless long-haul sail-training voyages and 10



After polishing their skills during a Ha-Ha rally on 'Eagle', Rina (horizontal) and her husband Allan (tank top) took their own boat on a South Pacific circuit.

stints as the TransPac communications vessel. With student sailors aboard, she logged nearly 300,000 miles, zig-zagging all over the Pacific Basin and elsewhere, to make exotic landfalls at places such as Tahiti, Hawaii, New Zealand, Australia and Antarctica.

"Looking back, what we did was amazing," says Karen Prioleau, who served as a relief captain and one of several *Eagle* program coordinators.

"When most sailors head offshore they pick crew that they know well. But we took bunches of people who didn't know each other at all, and transformed them into cohesive teams, working together on long ocean voyages."

We know from the many first-hand reports we've received over the years that participating in those voyages gave 'student' sailors both the skill sets and the self-confidence to later cruise the world on their own boats. If you count yourself among those lucky passagemakers, and have funny, dramatic, or life-changing memories of time spent aboard *Eagle* we'd love to hear about them for possible inclusion in an upcoming feature article. Email: [andy@latitude38.com](mailto:andy@latitude38.com).

As offshore racing buffs will recall, this custom S&S thoroughbred, then named *Flyer*, first came to international prominence in 1978, when she won the second Whitbread Round the World Race ('77-'78). She'd been commissioned by Dutch businessman 'Conny' van Rietschoten specifically to race in the Whitbread. *Flyer* was built at the Netherlands' renowned Royal Huisman Shipyard, with no expense spared. That race, which *Flyer* won, marked the end of the era when race boats actually had relatively comfortable accommodations and interior amenities — including well-stocked wine lockers.

The boat, then owned by Alaskan businessman Neil Bergt, competed in the next Whitbread under the name *Alaska Eagle*. She was the first American entry in the Whitbread (the precursor to the Volvo Ocean Race and others), finishing a respectable 9th out of 29 entries. But Bergt could see that she would no longer be truly competitive against newer speed machines, so he made the decision to donate her to the U.S. Naval Academy. Before that happened, however, watch captain Mike Farley (an OCC alum) alerted his friend Dave Grant, who was an instructor and later Dean of OCC. Grant made repeated pleas to Bergt to steer the donation to OCC, and he eventually acted on his amazement, he did. It was quite a coup.

Rich Crowe was sent out to London to bring the prize back to SoCal and he finagled a ride for his girlfriend Sheri to come along as the cook — even though she was 'culinarily challenged'. The pair made it back to Newport successfully and went on to serve as *Eagle's* primary crew for decades — with school director Brad Avery and a few others occasionally subbed in. So long, *Eagle*, it's been great to know you.

— andy

## latitude 38's

You'll undoubtedly notice a couple of changes to *Latitude* starting this month. Hopefully the biggest change you'll see is that the overall quality of the print job is much better — especially the photos.

While we prefer long-term relationships with printers, we felt the quality had deteriorated and was getting worse by the issue. So we're now working with a new printer, Western Web of Samoa, CA. They have a much newer press than the one we'd been using, which results in much better quality. We hope you notice the difference. It's true that Western Web is located a long ways away, but a number of other Northern California publications have made the switch and are reported to be happy.

Then there is the binding. For years

Both male and female sailors of all stripes have elevated their seamanship skills during 'Alaska Eagle's' many offshore voyages. Sadly, she is now returning to her European roots under new ownership.



## quality boost

*Latitudes* were saddle stitched, which means they are held together by three staples. Then we had them 'perfect bound', which means the ends are squared and glued. Now we're back 'in the saddle' again. Hope you like it.

By the way, we polled readers recently to gauge whether our unconventionally small type (8.5 point) was too small. The majority of respondents urged us to bump it up a tad, but some said not if doing so meant less content. As John Guido put it, "At 61, I'm starting to feel the pinch/squint of smaller type, but if it means getting fewer words per issue — even one word — then NO!" So, like it or not, we'll stick with our long-established format. Sorry if it makes you squint.

— richard

## clipper race arrives in april

Two Bay Area residents who may never have crossed paths sailing on San Francisco Bay found themselves racing across the Atlantic Ocean together aboard *Henry Lloyd*, one of 12 70-ft racing boats participating in the 2013-2014 Clipper Round the World Race. What's even more remarkable is how completely juxtaposed their sailing resumes had been until they started training for the race in late 2012.

Both Elaina Breen and Tony Pohl live in the East Bay and had signed up for two legs of the Clipper Race. Each raced Race 3, Leg Two across the southern Atlantic Ocean from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil to Cape Town, South Africa. From there Tony went on to sail Race 4, Leg Three to Albany, Australia. Elaina will rejoin *Henry Lloyd* in April to take part in Legs Seven and Eight (of Races 11-14), from San Francisco to New York via Panama and Jamaica.

Elaina had never taken a sailing lesson prior to deciding to participate in the Clipper Race. It was March 2012 and she'd interviewed some of the women who'd just finished the Clipper's China-to-San Francisco leg. Right after that a thought crept into her mind. "I wasn't willing to admit it to anyone," she says, "not even myself." In

continued on outside column of next sightings page



# SIGHTINGS

## clipper race — cont'd

fact she was two weeks away from her first OCSC sailing lesson: "I set participating in Clipper 2013-2014 as a 'stretch goal' for what I intended to learn with sailing." That's akin to deciding to race the Tour de France just months before learning to ride a bicycle. Elaina thinks of it in terms of being deployed into a war zone, much as her father had been during World War II. Especially for newcomers like Elaina, completing several Clipper legs will be a truly remarkable feat.

In stark contrast, English-bred Tony Pohl has been racing on San Francisco Bay since the early 1970s. He's owned at least six sailboats and he presently campaigns the Farr 40 *Twisted*. Yet the decision to join a Clipper crew came through his professional business career

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## auction to liquidate

In the aftermath of the abrupt closure of Nelson's Marine last May, a wide variety of boats and marine equipment remained unclaimed within the former boatyard's site at 1500 Ferry Point, Alameda. All these items will be auctioned off on February 8, beginning at 1 p.m. (The event was rescheduled from January.)

Acting on behalf of the city of Alameda, Michaan's Auctions will handle the liquidation, which is said to include approximately 50 vessels. In addition to



CLIPPER VENTURES

## nelson's leftovers

a variety of sailboats from 20 to 45 feet, there will be motor yachts from 40 to 70 feet, plus various runabouts.

As the date draws nearer a complete list of auction items will be available on Michaan's website.

Auction items can be previewed per the following schedule:

- Thursday, 2/6, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Friday, 2/7, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Day of sale, beginning at 10 a.m.

continued in middle column of next sightings page

**When the Clipper Round the World Race came to the Bay in 2012 it generated much excitement within the sailing community. The fleet's departure beneath the Golden Gate was quite a sight.**



## clipper race — cont'd

when he spoke in depth with some well-known world-class sailors about crossing the Southern Ocean. "I had a hankering to race in the Southern Ocean," Pohl says. "As I had semi-retired three years earlier, this seemed a perfect vehicle for me to accomplish that goal. I'm pretty active. Last year I climbed Kilimanjaro and I'm looking at the Everest base camp next year. For each of the last three years I've done the Death Ride out of Tahoe. I'm not going to sit around in a rocking chair on my porch!"

You'd have to be as driven as Elaina and Tony to compete at a level like this because without the drive, (and a significant amount of pre-race training), the rigors of the race would leave lesser individuals crumpled in a heap somewhere in the belly of the boat. "It was unquestionably the most physically demanding thing I've ever done," says Elaina. But in the end, it was the teamwork that made it possible.

Without a doubt, teamwork is how Clipper racers get through the most challenging circumstances and continue to finish each leg. Tony's first leg almost ended before it began: An injury he sustained just two days after stepping onto the boat left him with four cracked ribs and in a great deal of pain. Undeterred, he soldiered on with his team's help. Tony initially questioned his teammates' abilities — just as they may have questioned his. "I really had some doubts about going into the Southern Ocean with people I hadn't met." But after a successful first leg, he was fully confident in his teammates' abilities, so he continued racing on to Australia.

For Elaina, competing on this scale isn't so much about achieving personal goals. She's actually using this experience as an opportunity to raise money for Tragedy Assistant Programs for Survivors, or TAPS. This nonprofit organization is dedicated to supporting the families of military personnel who've lost their lives in duty — a cause very close to her heart. When a mother or father is lost in the line of duty, their spouse and children don't necessarily have the equivalent of a team of sailors there to support them, making the future all the more daunting.

Race 8 (Leg Five), which begins at Brisbane, Australia, should be finishing at Singapore at the end of the first week of February. Race 9 begins February 15 and ends in Qingdao, China. Race 10 begins there March 13 and the fleet is expected to arrive at San Francisco in early April — after sailing more than 5,000 miles.

After seven races, *Henry Lloyd* is one point behind first-place *One DLL*, with *Derry-Londonderry-Doire* in third (seven points). No pressure Elaina.

— ross



Elaina Breen



Tony Pohl

## remembering ramona

As Keith Fullenwider explained in a December *Letter*, when he was a grade-schooler in Sausalito during the mid-1950s, he and his buddies used to fish off a downtown pier. Anchored within their view was a beautiful, well-kept schooner named *Ramona*. Thinking back on those happy days, Keith wrote in to ask if we or our readers knew whatever happened to the two-masted beauty.

After receiving letters last month from both Dave Dennick and Skip Allan about this classic gaffer, our education continued when Margaret 'Pinkie' Pomeroy dropped by recently with a folder of spectacular photos of *Ramona* from her glory days. As Dennick pointed out in *Letters*,

continued on outside column of next sightings page

# SIGHTINGS

## remembering ramona

Pinkie's dad, Bill, owned *Ramona* during the years when Fullenwider used to gaze out at her from the Sausalito waterfront, and it was Bill who skippered her to Hawaii in the '55 Transpac, famously setting a 24-hour run record during the trip: 303 miles. (At age 11, Dennick got to crew on the trip back to the Bay, as his dad was the delivery skipper.)

Pinkie tells us *Ramona* was a Herreshoff design, commissioned for New Yorker Karl L. Tucker and launched as *Ohonkara* in 1920. She was a virtual sistership to *Mariette of 1915* (originally *Kebyar*), once owned by venture capitalist Tom Perkins of Belvedere. *Ramona* raced out of the New York YC and won many squadron races.

"*Ramona* was built of quarter-inch steel plate," explains Pinkie, "all hand-flanged and hand-riveted, with double laps and double riveting. Her overall length from the end of the bowsprit to the end of the main boom was 148 feet, and her sail area, uppers and lowers, was 16,000 square feet."

Pinkie tells us she took the name *Ramona* when sold in 1929. Five years later she was sold again and brought to the West Coast. Before Pinkie's dad purchased her in '52 and based her at Sausalito, she had two other West Coast owners — one of whom lent her to the Navy during WWII for an eight-month stint of coastal patrolling.

As Pinkie tells it, the year after Bill Pomeroy brought the lovely schooner to Sausalito "he took the entire family — my mother, two brothers and me — on a six-month voyage to the Hawaiian, Society and Marquesas islands." On a later family cruise to the Pacific Northwest she remembers sailing into Princess Louisa Inlet to see Chatterbox Falls. But sadly, *Ramona*'s 16-foot-deep keel grounded her en route.

After the Pomeroy's stint of stewardship, the boat appeared in the movie *A Summer Place*, then was sold again in 1959 and eventually ended up in the Eastern Caribbean.

As Skip Allan correctly pointed out in his January *Letter*, the lifespan of this spectacular schooner was cut short tragically in 1967, when she hit a reef off Bermuda and sank, causing the death of five crew. Longtime schoonerman Bill Bodle (currently of *Eros*, and formerly of *Nordlys*, *Grace* and *Panda*) fleshed out that part of the story. *Ramona*'s last owner was Walter Boudreau, a Canadian who'd been stationed in the Caribbean during WWII. He apparently fell in love with the place, because when the war ended he chose to muster out at St. Croix, then took his pay and bought Marigot Bay — the harbor and the headland — in St. Lucia, now home to resorts and charter bases. (Yeah, Caribbean property was a bit cheaper back then.)

Boudreau built an inn or hotel there, and to entertain guests he bought both *Ramona* and *Mariette*. According to Bodle, who, with his wife Grace, was a pioneer of early Caribbean yacht chartering, business was slow for Boudreau, so he eventually sold *Mariette* to a Frenchman who took her to Tahiti. With the money, Boudreau sailed *Ramona* up to the famous traditional shipbuilding port of Lunenburg, Nova Scotia for a refit with substantial upgrades. It was on the way back to the Caribbean that the splendid schooner met her untimely end.

But here's the little-known footnote to that tragedy: According to

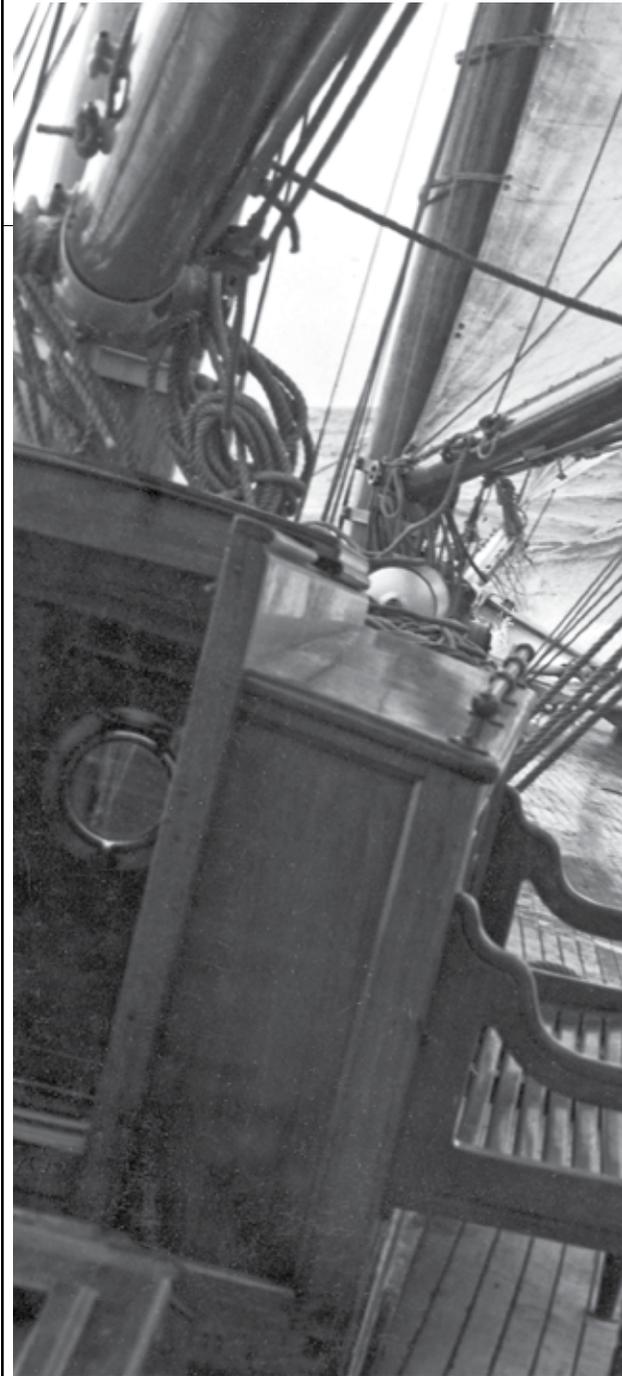
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## nelson's auction

• By appointment: (800) 380-9822 or (510) 740-0220

Although the city of Alameda's closure of Nelson's marked a sad end to one of the Bay Area boating scene's most well-known institutions, a potential silver lining may be that auction 'winners' could breathe new life into many boats that have been long neglected or abandoned.

The list (available on Michaan's web-



COURTESY PINKIE POMEROY



The Herreshoff-designed 'Ramona' was launched in 1920 and had 16,000 square-feet of sail area.

## — cont'd

site) includes not only all sorts of sailboats and motorboats, but also such things as small motorhomes, sailing dinghies, bare hulls, outboard and inboard engines, trailers for dinghies, powerboats and daysailers, rolling metal staircases, and lots and lots of boat stands.

If you're looking for a new project, you won't want to miss it.

— andy

## ramona — cont'd

Bodle — who keeps track of such things in that encyclopedic brain of his — Boudreau's insurance company insisted that their own captain pilot *Ramona* back to St. Lucia. And it was he — much to Boudreau's protests — who incorrectly assessed the approach to Bermuda and drove the renowned schooner onto a reef.

Here's the kicker: With his insurance settlement, Boudreau went to Tahiti and bought *Mariette* back from the Frenchman. And, as many schooner aficionados know, she is still racing and cruising today — the ultimate compliment to Nate Herreshoff's nautical artistry.

— andy



COURTESY PINKIE POMEROY

# SIGHTINGS

## kiss my hin!

As aggravating as the impounding of hundreds of foreign-owned boats in Mexico has been — including *Latitude's Profligate* — it's had its funny moments, too.

For example, no matter what you do in 36 years of writing, you're not going to be able to please everyone. So a small group of dislikers have taken the opportunity of the impoundment of *Profligate* to take all kinds of potshots at us. One of the potshots making the rounds of various cruiser forums is that *Profligate* had been impounded because her 20-Year Temporary Import — the precursor of 10-Year Import

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## eight bells

We rarely run obits as part of our editorial mix, but we couldn't help bidding farewell in print to one of the West Coast's most colorful characters. Merl Petersen, longtime captain of the 74-ft schooner *Viveka* passed over the bar last month at the age of 91.

Upon hearing the news, those who knew him well were probably more likely to crack a smile than shed a tear, as he



LATITUDE / RICHARD

## for merl

was a light-hearted prankster who was associated with all sorts of crazy antics back in the good old days before political correctness. One of his more famous stunts was a mock sea battle in 1961 off the Sausalito waterfront between *Viveka* and Enrico Banducci's lovely 60-ft Alden ketch *Shearwater*. The smoke and noise from cannon fire created gridlock on

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Permits — had expired.

In fact, we and our harbor master got a sincere email from a reasonable-sounding fellow cruiser asking about the veracity of the forum rumor. Having nothing to hide, we responded that it wasn't true, but if the gentleman wanted, we would be happy to welcome him aboard *Profligate* so that he could check out the expiration date on our TIP, our boat document, our HIN (hull identification number), our document number in the hull of the boat, our insurance policy, and whatever else he wanted to see. But he took us at our word and declined.

But the more we got to thinking about the rumor-mongers, the more we decided that they should either put up or shut up — which gave rise to the 'Kiss My HIN' challenge. Under such a program, we're happy to invite anyone who wants to come aboard to check all our documents and such for compliance. But the catch is that if *Profligate* has all she needs, you — even if you're a guy — have to let Doña de Mallorca paint thick, smeary, Rocky Horror Show type lipstick on your lips, and then you have to kiss *Profligate's* HIN and get your photo taken doing it. Perfectly reasonable, right?

Because Jane Roy of the Portland-based Columbia 43 *Adios* is fun-loving and enjoys seeing her photo in *Latitude*, she took us up on the challenge. First, she inspected our TIP to confirm that it doesn't expire until 2018, and then she went through all the other documents. Having lost the challenge, it was time for her to kiss our HIN. We feel a little cheated, however, as she used non-smearing lipstick. We're not going to let anyone get off so easily in the future.

Like some other boat owners, we have not only outlined our HIN number in blue tape, we sanded the paint off that part of the rear crossbeam so anyone and everyone could better see the HIN numbers pounded into the beam. Before sanding, the numbers were not as obvious, as the beam was painted over several times in the last 17 years. We did the taping and paint removal partly because we were told that AGACE inspectors had been looking for *Profligate's* HIN near the top of her rear starboard steps, 13 feet from the back of the boat, an area which in any event had been painted over three times in the last five years. Had they only asked the owner of *Profligate*, we could have pointed out the numbers to them, saving everyone a lot of trouble.

So, anybody still want to take the 'Kiss My HIN Challenge'?

—richard

## having a baby . . . in mexico?

In June 2012, Max and Elizabeth Shaw of Nova Scotia, then both retired after 23 years as engineers in the Canadian Air Force, sold their house and bought *Fluenta*, a Stevens 47, that happened to be on the other side of the continent in Washington. Their goal was to do the 2012 Ha-Ha with their daughter Victoria, then 8, and son Jonathan, then 6. Four months wasn't a lot of time to get familiar with a new-to-them boat, but they had a great Ha-Ha, during which time they met several other 'kid boats' that they have remained friends with.

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LATITUDE / RICHARD

Jane Roy inspects *Profligate's* documents as part of the 'Kiss My HIN' challenge.

## having a baby — cont'd

Max and Elizabeth had often thought about having a third child, and oddly enough one of the deciding factors was being told by friends that their Stevens 47 had proven to be a large enough boat for them and their three kids. Elizabeth discovered she was pregnant at the end of the Banderas Bay Regatta last March.

The couple decided that Elizabeth should do a water birth — what else would you expect from a couple who named their boat after the

Latin word for 'flowing water'? And they were thrilled to find Dr. Antonia Vargas, who specializes in such things at her Hacienda Libre Clinic near the cruise ship terminal in Puerto Vallarta. "Tony," says Elizabeth, "is a mid-wife at heart, but she's also a GP. Her husband, Augustin Audulo, is a pediatrician. And they are backed up by two obstetricians."

Elizabeth wasn't going to let her being pregnant stop the family from doing an early summer cruise in the Sea of Cortez. "I got the basic prenatal care, and had baby's heartbeat and other things checked from

time to time. But I did a lot of self-care. I felt confident, as I do yoga, eat well, felt healthy, and had already had two children."

The Shaw parents and children had a great time cruising in the Sea, as they met up with the six other 'kid boats' in La Paz, and cruised from April until June. "I don't want to leave out any names, but there were 10 parents and 10 kids. It's was ideal for the kids, as they had plenty of playmates and things to do, and ideal for the parents, as we'd take turns caring for the kids, and thus get lots of free time to ourselves we wouldn't have otherwise gotten. We enjoyed bonfires on the beach and lots of other activities."

*Fluenta* was put in a marina in Mazatlan in June while the Shaws returned to Canada to visit family and friends. They returned to Mazatlan in October. "It's really too hot to be pregnant in Mazatlan in October," says Elizabeth. They then moved *Fluenta* down to Marina Riviera Nayarit in La Cruz near Puerto Vallarta. "It's really too hot to be pregnant in La Cruz in November," says Elizabeth. So the family rented an air-conditioned condo in La Cruz for the duration of her pregnancy and beyond.

Elizabeth spent the last week of her pregnancy living in the birth house in Puerto Vallarta. "It worked really great." She gave birth to Benjamin, a healthy young boy, in late November. Not only were the parents delighted, but the kids have been, too. "I have to wait my turn to hold him," laughs Elizabeth.

She notes that women living on boats or who have taken a brief leave from living on boats have given birth to at least six babies in the Vallarta area in the last year. As you might expect, the Shaws are going to take a break from cruising until Benjamin gets a little older. Oops, check that! Max and Elizabeth aren't taking a break from

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LATITUDE / RICHARD

Once the Shaws realized 'Fluenta' was big enough, they decided to expand their crew list with a new recruit.

## merl

Bridgeway.

Merl was proud of such silliness — don't get us started about the waterskiing elephant — but undoubtedly even more proud of his seven-year circumnavigation, westabout, via the Suez and Panama Canals. It started when Merl entered *Viveka* (she was then 60 years old) in a 1989 race from Honolulu to Hiroshima, Japan. She took third.

All in all, he and his beloved schooner (which is now being meticulously renovated by Jeff Rutherford for a European owner) logged roughly 150,000 miles during Merl's 54 years of ownership. Together, they weathered a Mexican hurricane at sea, another on the way back from Tahiti,



**Elizabeth cradles her newborn outside Philo's bar and restaurant — a favorite cruiser haunt in La Cruz — while Victoria and Jonathan take a pretend test drive on a BMW 650.**

CRUISE SIDE R...  
Huan...  
Cruisers Co...  
YOUR HOME ON THE...  
Less than \$5... buys...  
• Private cruisers' lounge • Unlim...  
• Showers, towels provided • Unlim...  
• place to leave stuff • Unlim...  
• brook swaps • Plus...

## — cont'd

and a third while in Japan. *Viveka* also outran at least one boatload of pirates.

The backstory to this final anecdote is a bit hazy, but years ago when a flamboyant salt named Spike Africa passed away, Merl somehow inherited his lofty nickname: President of the Pacific Ocean. So now we were wondering who deserves that moniker next. Nominations?

Farewell to a truly fun-loving friend.

— andy



**Mischievous Merl**

## having a baby — cont'd

cruising at all, as they are planning to make the 2,800-mile Puddle Jump to French Polynesia in March.

"Our goal is to do the Puddle Jump," says Max. "We have no goals beyond spending a couple of years exploring the South Pacific."

The Shaws have already connected with "three or four" other 'kid boats' that will be doing the Puddle Jump. "Naturally kid boats gravitate toward each other," says Elizabeth, "but we're all agreeing that we're going to leave on our own schedule and cross at our own speed. The attitude is 'We'll meet up again when we get there.'"

What do Victoria and Jonathan think about the cruising life? "They love it," says Elizabeth. "We all go through moments of wistfulness for friends and places back home, of course, but we love it. And there are lots of jobs the kids can do on the boat. For example, Victoria and I took the bus from Mazatlan to Puerto Vallarta, while Max, another adult, and Jonathan sailed the boat down. With supervision, of course, Jonathan was able to sail a compass course and stand watch."

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LATTUDE / RICHARD

# SIGHTINGS

## having a baby — cont'd

The Shaws have very specific safety rules for the kids. The kids have to ask permission to leave the center cockpit, they have to be clipped in if they leave the cockpit when sailing and after dark, they have to wear PFDs, and so forth.

In addition to being home-schooled, the Shaw children are getting an additional kind of education. "Kids on boats get along very well with adults. They look people in the eye when they talk to them, and they can explain all kinds of things you wouldn't expect, such as 12-volt systems."

What's the difference between a family living nearly 24/7 on a boat and normal life in Nova Scotia? "It's less frenetic, for wherever you go, there you are," says Elizabeth.

Being pregnant while cruising the Sea of Cortez with two other kids, and happy to head to the South Pacific with a nearly newborn baby, Elizabeth sounds like an earth mother to us.

"Real earth mothers think I'm too mainstream," she says, "and mainstream mothers think I'm too much of an earth mother."

— richard

## old guys

Sailing industry analysts often point out that our sport's demographics — pertaining to racing and cruising as well as daysailing — are trending upward. While it's probably true that fewer young people are getting into sailing than did several decades ago, the other reason for this trend is that modern sailors are staying physically active far longer than previous generations did.

Take, for example, participants in last fall's Baja Ha-Ha rally: there were at least 18 entrants who were 70 or older, many of whom were skippering. At the awards ceremony at Cabo Marina, we called them all up for an 'old guys — and gals — portrait'

The 'youngsters' among them were



Sorry, with all these gray beards we can't remember who's who, but in no particular order the 2013 Ha-Ha elders were: Joe Helfand of 'Jolin', 70; Walt Frickie of 'Dulcinea', 73; Babe Lambert of 'Simpatica', 70; John O'Day of 'Dulcinea', 73; Nick Gibson of 'Serendipity', 73; Lynn Miller of 'Four Choices', 72; Fred Hazzard of 'Fury', 71; Mala Laurin, 74, and Dane Laurin, 75, of 'SeaQuester'; Bill Noonan of 'Rocket Science', 71; Fred Delaney of 'Scout', 71; Mike Stafford of 'Hotel California', 71; Bob Seddig of 'A Good Day', 72; Bob Gray of 'Trial Run', 73; plus Wayne Hendryx, Ingemar Olsson, Maureen Gray and Jim Tantillo (mentioned above).

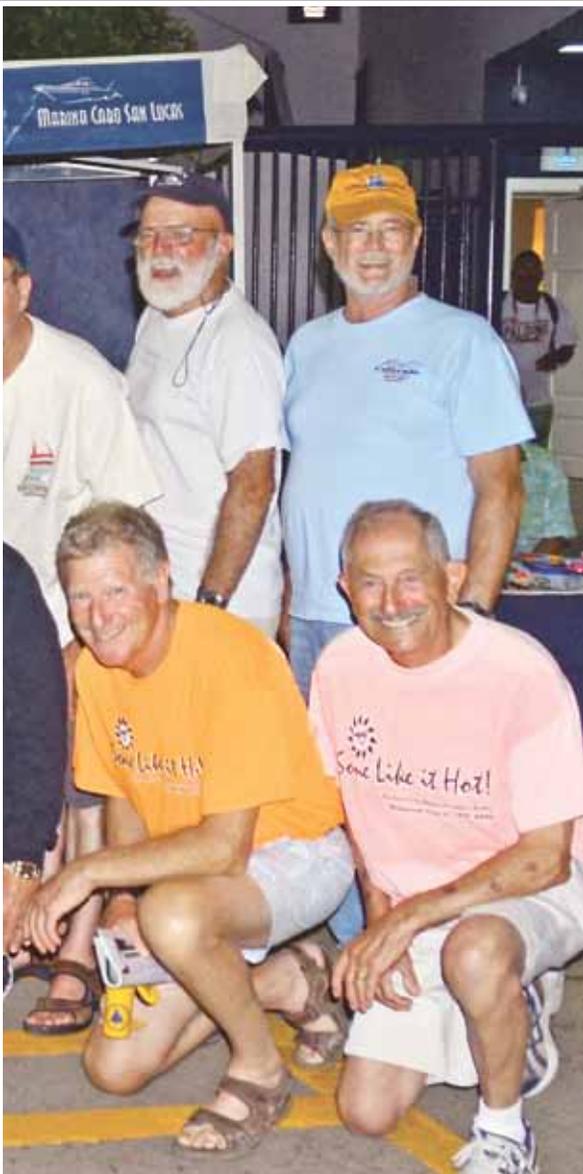
PHOTOS LATITUDE / ANDY

## (& gals) rule

Wayne Hendryks of the Brisbane-based Hughes 45 cat *Capricorn Cat* (front left with arms spread) and Ingemar Olsson of the Seattle-based Nautic 43 *Fool's Castle* (kneeling with blue jeans). Both had just turned 70.

The 'most senior' were Jim Tantillo, 80, (far right kneeling) who was crewing aboard the Ventura-based Nordic 40 *Seaquel* for blind skipper John Berg, and Maureen Gray, 86 (pink shirt), of the Newport Beach-based Islander 55 *Good News*. We think she probably set a new Ha-Ha benchmark for elder-but-active, as she insisted on provisioning the boat and cooking all the meals for her son Gary and the rest of her boatmates.

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## a hypnotically fascinating tool

The Information Age has been a boon to mariners in more ways than we can count, providing innovations such as GPS, chart plotters, AIS and GRIB files, all of which greatly enhance the safety of travel on the ocean. But a new graphical development called the Earth Wind Map has set a new standard for combining fascinating imagery with (near) real-time wind information. Check it out online at [earth.nullschool.net](http://earth.nullschool.net) and we think you'll agree that the 'wow' factor is off the chart.

Developed by software engineer Cameron Beccario from data gathered by the US National Weather Service's Global Forecast System, the interactive map allows users to monitor wind patterns virtually anywhere on earth. The Google Earth-style display lets you adjust the globe's image to wherever you want, and zoom in for a more detailed analysis. Data are updated every three hours.

While flow patterns indicate wind direction — almost hypnotically — all over the planet, a subtle color scheme indicates wind strength, with gentle breezes represented by thin green lines, stronger winds by bright yellow, and extreme winds by red.

One look at the central North Pacific (top image) and it will be obvious to you how all that rubbish ends up in the North Pacific Gyre. And why Tahiti-bound cruisers need to pick their route carefully as they head west.

Take a look at the Atlantic and you can see how Columbus easily found his way to the West Indies — and how he made it back to Europe on a contrary wind pattern with relative ease. Despite what we think about many government expenditures, the National Weather Service's work certainly represents money well-spent — especially in the hands of a visionary like Beccario.

— andy

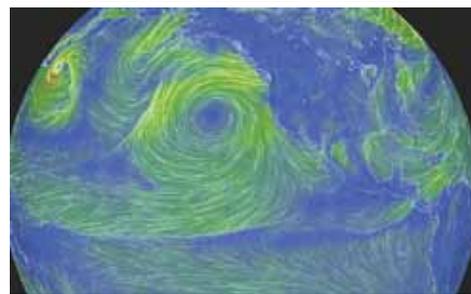
## new ditch in financial logjam

Considering the legendary difficulties that both the French and Americans endured while building the original Panama Canal a century ago, it's not surprising that construction of a new set of locks — originally slated to open this summer — has fallen substantially behind schedule. But recent news reports indicate that the colossal construction project has much bigger problems than meeting a theoretical timetable.

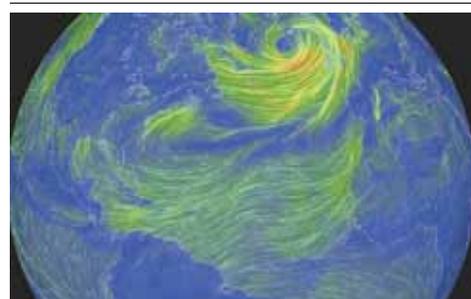
The whole issue is intensely complicated, but in a nutshell the multinational contracting group GUPC (United for the Panama Canal Group) has run out of funds to continue the multi-phase project, and is demanding — but so far has not received — an overrun payment of \$1.6 billion in order to continue, which is more than a third of its original \$3.2 billion bid. It's been reported that a complete work stoppage could come this month.

When proposed in 2006, the project received overwhelming support from both the Panamanian government and its citizenry, 76%

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The North Pacific



The North Atlantic

EARTH WIND MAP

EARTH WIND MAP

# SIGHTINGS

## new ditch in financial logjam

of whom showed their approval in a national referendum. When — or if — completed, the new locks will accommodate 'New Panamax' class vessels, which are up to 1,400 feet long and 180 feet wide, as compared to the current maximums of 950 feet x 106 feet.

The root of the problem today, however, seems to be that the project was massively underbid, which many now claim was obvious at the outset. Allegations of corruption are rampant. According to *The Panama News*, "The US Embassy and every credible independent business observer identi-

fied the winning bid as a grossly unrealistic lowball offer at the time that the contract was awarded to GUPC, with the Americans suspecting that there was a hidden subsidy from the Spanish government at the time." The key players in that government are now out of office, however, and Spain has enormous financial problems of its own.

The further you dig into the controversy the more tangled this web appears to be. But construction is so far along already — and so critically important to Panama's future — that we have to believe it will be completed one way or another. Indeed, The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) is considering a plan to finish the work with its own resources, while (again, according to *The Panama News*) the "US-based Bechtel corporation [is] waiting in the wings."

Meanwhile, 500 miles to the north, it was recently announced that Nicaragua will break ground this year on its own Pacific-to-Caribbean waterway. The project, expected to take five years to complete, will traverse 170 miles across Central America, and is largely being funded by Chinese telecom billionaire Wang Jing.

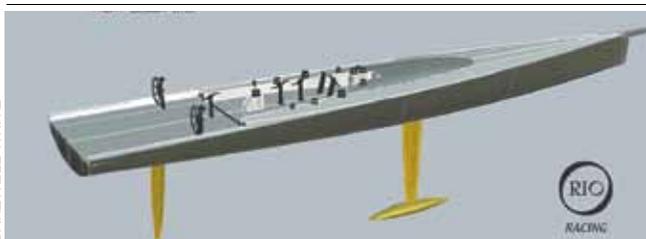
What will the bottom-line impact be on sailors? That's anybody's guess. When and if Panama's new lane opens it could make small boat transits easier. But that's not a sure bet. And while Panama has a mandate to allow (annoyingly) small vessels through, it remains to be seen if Nicaragua will follow suit or simply shoo them away in deference to massive cargo traffic.

— andy

## hawaii race update

The bi-annual Pacific Cup race to Hawaii now has over 70 entries in four divisions including cruising, doublehanded, fully crewed and multi-

hull. One recent stand-out entry is Manouch Moshayedi's *Rio 100*, a Bakewell-White-designed, Cookson-built sloop from



BAKEWELL-WHITE

**The yet-unlaunched 'Rio 100' will be the definition of sleek and sexy.**

Corona del Mar. Although it is still being finished in New Zealand, it should put on quite a show.

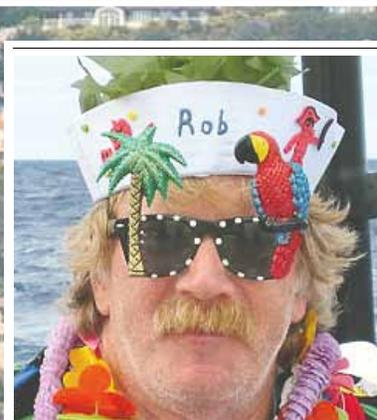
If you are planning to race, be sure to go online to [www.pacificcup.org/seminars](http://www.pacificcup.org/seminars) and dive into the variety information, including written

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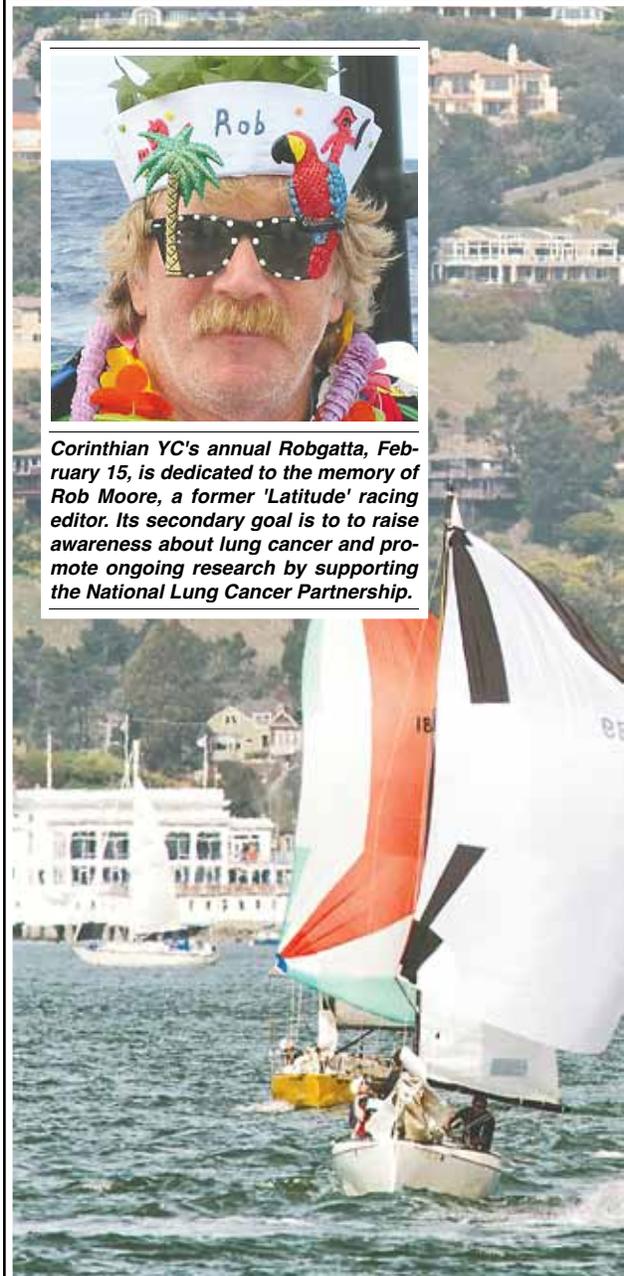
## old guys & gals

Likewise, Tantillo has been an inspiration to us ever since he crewed aboard *Profligate* in 1999 (then a youngster of 66), and earned the nickname "Twinger" because he would tirelessly fiddle with the big cat's running rigging in an effort to maximize her performance. Since then, he's crewed on five other Ha-Has, and we hear he'll be looking for a ride this fall too.

"My six Baja Ha-Ha trips were all good," says Tantillo, who often coaches would-be cruisers on proper preparation before they head south. "No broken bones, lots of new friends, and lots of new experiences."



**Corinthian YC's annual Robgatta, February 15, is dedicated to the memory of Rob Moore, a former 'Latitude' racing editor. Its secondary goal is to raise awareness about lung cancer and promote ongoing research by supporting the National Lung Cancer Partnership.**



## — cont'd

But sailing with John Berg was a standout: "He is completely blind and did more on his boat than any sailor I have seen. What I learned from sailing with John is that all of us humans are so much more capable of doing anything than we can imagine."

Our hats are off to all of these spunky seniors, although we probably shouldn't be so surprised to see so many fit, active oldsters cruising offshore because, as someone cleverly noted: "Old is the new young!"

— andy

## hawaii race update — cont'd

material and videos that provide valuable details on many aspects of Pacific Cup racing. There is also one last public seminar on March 16. The half-day event is suitable for anyone interested in long-distance racing and/or cruising across the Pacific. Sign up online for \$20.

Look for further updates on this 2,070-mile contest both here and in *Lectronic Latitude*. Starts for the various classes of the 2014 Pacific Cup will run July 6-12 off the St. Francis YC.

Meanwhile the biennial Singlehanded TransPac is also holding seminars at the Oakland YC. On Wednesday, February 12 at 7:30 p.m., the evening's topic will be about returning from Hawaii, and how you can ship your boat home or what you should consider when planning to race. For more information, go online to [sfbaysss.org](http://sfbaysss.org). Racing starts June 28.

— ross



LESLIE RICHTER / WWW.ROCKSKIPPER.COM

# A MAGIC CARPET RIDE —

When Alice Woods' husband Steve passed away suddenly in 2010 — just two weeks after being tested for cancer — she was left with a soul-searching decision to make, in addition to dealing with the weight of her grief: what to do with her own life now that her partner of 36 years was gone.



**A twilight 'selfie' of the happy crew: Anne (left) Alice and Mary. This threesome sailed together from Hawaii to Darwin, Australia.**

The British Columbian couple had bought *True Blue III*, a well-found Vancouver 38 cutter, earlier that year with the intention of doing an extensive Pacific cruise, if not a complete circumnavigation. "Luckily," says Alice, "Steve had had a good life, and was able to say so without remorse." They had sailed together, fished commercially together, raised two kids together, and for 21 years they'd lived a seemingly idyllic lifestyle together as keepers of the Chatham Point Light on the remote northeast coast of Vancouver Island.

"What I witnessed in my husband's approach to death was more enlightening than anything I've ever experienced. It was a lesson to us all to seek out your dreams; find a way to make them happen."

At that point the boat was Alice's only home, as she and Steve had left their lighthouse gig to prepare for cruising. After considering her options, Alice decided to carry on with her cruising plans — "*True Blue* was tugging at her lines, ready to go" — following the route and philosophy that she and Steve had

evolved together: It would be a fast lap around the "belly" of the planet, stopping only when necessary.

Before Alice, now 60, began her search for appropriate shipmates, she decided that she'd like to take an all-female crew,

if possible, thinking that might have a healing effect on her. "It wasn't so much to exclude men, but to give the opportunity to women, if I could find them." But it proved very difficult to find women who wanted to go offshore.

She finally recruited Kate Cecys and Ryan Chadwick in Port Townsend, shortly before her planned departure date in August 2011. The threesome had a wonderful cruise to Hawaii together. But

they arrived too late in the season to continue on through the Pacific, so the couple flew home and Alice was left on her own again. She explains that in the idle hours of waiting until her planned springtime departure, "grief caught up to me." She wasn't finding appropriate crew, and began to consider abandoning her long-range voyaging dreams.

Meanwhile ex-professional surfer Anne Bayly, 54, of Santa Cruz had been going through some soul-searching of her own. She'd taken a hiatus from designing and building homes to explore the possibility of doing some bluewater cruising. While visiting her

kids and grandkids in Hawaii, she had bought a stout little Cal 30, but after six months of sailing frequently to hone her seamanship skills, she came to the realization that

she just didn't have the technical know-how to maintain her boat's systems while voyaging offshore. "I'm a risk taker," she says, "but I'm a *calculated* risk taker."

Just as she was coming to grips with those doubts, someone offered to buy her boat right out of the blue, and she took the deal. Three days later, a friend insisted that she meet Alice. Turned out, of all the boats in Honolulu's Ala

Wai Marina, *True Blue* was the sailing craft Anne admired most during her stay there.

The two spunky women hit it off immediately, and Anne had no objections to Alice's 'expeditionary-style' approach to circumnavigating: extremely long ocean passages with few stops. "I'm not a very good tourist," admits Alice, "I didn't want to break it up in small bits. Instead, I wanted the feeling of continual motion, and an understanding of the distance around the belly of this planet." Anne was totally in sync with that plan. She'd already traveled much of the world on the pro surf tour and had seen lots of tourist sights. What she sought now was something more spiritual: "It wasn't just that I craved going around the world, I craved being in the wilderness: quiet, unplugged and completely submerged in nature."

Having grown up on the Southern California coast with a view of Catalina, Anne recalls, "I always wanted to just take off and go. I actually tried to build

ALL PHOTOS ANNE BAYLEY



**Spread: 'True Blue' glides across the Atlantic in light air. Inset: in every photo of Anne, she seems to be smiling.**

# AROUND THE BELLY OF EARTH

a little raft when I was a little kid to get to Catalina." She had grown up sailing Hobie cats and small boats, and surfing, so what she brought to the table — in addition to an upbeat attitude — was "expertise and understanding of the ocean, swells, wind and waves." Her background seemed ideally complementary to Alice's rugged character: she and Steve had lived in a fish camp until her first baby was born, and he had delivered her babies.

With the addition of Mary Campbell from Olympia, WA, whom Alice recruited through *Latitude 38's Crew List*, the threesome set sail from Hawaii, appropriately, on Mother's Day, May 13, 2012, bound for the Solomon Islands — a rhumbline distance of roughly 3,200 miles. After a short stay, it was off to Thursday Island, at the end of Australia's York Peninsula, then a hop to Darwin for some welding repairs.

Mary flew home from there, so it was just Alice and Anne during the longest passage of the trip: 51 days before making landfall at the remote French island of Réunion, which lies 400 miles east



of Madagascar in the Indian Ocean. Although such a journey might be some sailors' worst nightmare, it was the sort of passage this pair cherished — most of it, that is. Unfortunately, during the 4,400-mile trip Anne came down with a completely debilitating case of dengue fever that she'd apparently contracted shortly before they set sail.

"I eventually just collapsed — extremely sick — making it a very challenging situation for Alice to handle the boat by herself." The gut-wrenching, energy-sapping illness was at its worst

when they were still a week out of Réunion — in the middle of nowhere. As if that weren't challenging enough, the earliest recorded Indian Ocean cyclone was also headed toward Réunion at the same time. Luckily, Anne rallied before they made landfall and was able to give Alice some relief.

While at Réunion, the two voyagers met a young British couple, Laura James and Stuart Woodger, who were eager for an adventure, so *True Blue* set sail around the south end of Madagascar toward the Cape of Good Hope with a crew of four.

Despite all the scary stories you hear about harsh winds, swells and currents when rounding South Africa, *True Blue* made it around with relative ease — thanks, in part to receiving excellent weather updates from the volunteer Peri Peri Net. "Your decisions are only as good as the info they are based on," says Alice. "When approaching from the east, the net volunteers tell you when it's safe to approach and when to hold back. If you can pick your weather, the Agulhas Current will give you a good ride south. The trouble is there are systems that come through every two to five days and they back against the current. So if you can jump ahead — like playing hop-scotch — going from one protected port to the next, you're all right. We happened to get from Durban (on the east coast) all the way to Simonstown (on the Cape Peninsula) without much trouble."

The Brits got off when *True Blue* stopped at Richard's Bay, but Alice and Anne picked up two female sailors to replace them before heading up the South Atlantic: American Mariana Urban from Washington state and South African Christine Farrington.

The game plan was to sail straight



# A MAGIC CARPET RIDE —



**Equipped with solar panels, a wind generator, a windvane steering device, this cutter-rigged cruiser was well-prepared and reliable.**

to St. Helena (1,700 miles), then on to the Eastern Caribbean Islands (3,700 miles), but their otherwise glorious trip up the South Atlantic was hampered by a succession of three rigging failures.

Five days after leaving St. Helena, where Christine got off due to health issues, Anne was alone on deck at midnight when all of a sudden she heard a startling *bang!* It was a lower shroud giving way. "Alice was up on deck in a flash with her headlamp on," Anne recalls. They brought in the jib, and at first light Alice went up the mast and improvised a jury rig. Under shortened sail, they limped into Ascension, 150 miles away.

Luckily, they were able to have the parts they needed flown in from London by the Royal Air Force, and Alice thought to buy spare parts as well, just in case. That instinct soon proved prophetic. Two weeks later another lower failed, and two weeks after that a third let loose. Before they left British Columbia all the

***Soul sisters. Anne and Alice shared the same hunger to spend long periods in the open ocean, immersed in the magic of nature.***



ALL PHOTOS ANNE BAYLEY

standing rigging had been replaced, so one suspicion is that the lowers were drastically over-tightened when inspected at Cape Town.

"The Atlantic is such a beautiful ocean," recalls Anne, "and the wind is so sweet, it was a shame we had to limp along at 3 knots — cripplingly slow — afraid that something else might blow."

They eventually made it safely to Grenada, where they rerigged and did a bot-

tom job before making a beeline across the Caribbean Basin to Panama. They arrived exactly a year after leaving Hawaii. There Mariana said goodbye. After transiting the Canal, Alice and Anne made their plan for the homeward run up to Hawaii.

Their intention was to visit the Galapagos Islands en route (600 miles off the mainland), but the wind gods were uncooperative. So after 10 days of struggling to make westing, they diverted to Esmeraldas, Ecuador for a break. Up the Central American coast at that time, hurricanes were brewing off Costa Rica.

They had a pleasant stay in Ecuador, but when they were ready to set off again in search of the trade winds, the friendly Ecuadorian officials showed their concern for the two women's safety, as there had been reports of piracy off the Colombian coast. With no guns aboard, the only possible defense Alice and Anne could come up with — other than sleeping with knives near their bunks — was to put canisters of gasoline all around the cockpit. If attacked, the plan was to throw them into the pirate's vessel and shoot them with flare guns.

"We're both very kind, loving and compassionate people," says Anne, "so I can't tell you how heavy it was to have to have a discussion about how far we would go to protect each other; how strong we would have to be to keep someone off *True Blue*."

They both stayed up for the first 24 hours, and by sunrise they thought they were probably out of the danger zone. But when Alice went below she saw on the radar that a boat was shadowing them, 12 miles off their stern. "We

thought, This is it." recalls Anne. They called a friend via satphone, gave their lat and long, and said if they didn't call back in an hour to call the Ecuadorian Navy and tell them they were a boat under siege.

"A while later we saw a boat off our bow that looked like a Colombian fishing vessel." But then they heard chatter on the radio. An authoritative voice asked, "What is your port of origin?" "Colombia" was the answer. The vessel was ordered — apparently by the boat behind, on the radar — to leave those waters immediately. The globetrotting grandmas give "huge kudos" to the Ecuadorian Navy for watching out for them.

**A**s Jimmie Cornell and others recommend for that time of year (June), once they finally got into the trades, the hardy voyagers steered *True Blue* across latitude 2°N to about longitude 130°W, then angled up to Hawaii, and were back



**A splendid English-built cruising yacht with a cozy interior, 'True Blue' had been designer John Dandridge's personal yacht.**

at the Ala Wai on August 2, 2013.

Spanning only 15-and-a-half months, it had been a very fast lap, and was undoubtedly the greatest experience of either Anne or Alice's life. Thinking back on the experience now, their impressions are poetically heartfelt.

As Anne explains, "To have those lengths of passages was absolutely magic for me. It's gonna sound kind of funny to describe it, but nights and days were seamless — from morning to evening to the stars — and we seemed to travel along in this quantum world between worlds. We were thousands of feet above the earth floating on a thin surface of water, and yet we were below a myriad of heavens and stars.

# AROUND THE BELLY OF EARTH

To sail in the trade winds on a downwind run was to sail on a magic carpet ride; surreal and absolutely stunning."

Not every offshore sailor gets so philosophical. But then not every passage-maker stays offshore so long. Alice says, "It almost takes two weeks to get into that state (where days meld seamlessly into night). So many cruisers do not experience it. It really is an altered state — part of it is sleep deprivation, of course.

"It's so beautiful out there. When

*"The earth is so much smaller than we thought, so much more lovely."*

the stars are reflected in the sea with the phosphorescence, and the air is the same temperature as the sea, you can't tell where you leave off and the world begins. There is no separation. It's really quite magnificent. Talk about living the dream, that is it."

Time will tell what adventures this pair will tackle next, apart from sailing *True Blue* back to Vancouver Island this spring.

One idea that's grown out of the trip is to share their experiences and enthusiasm for voyaging with other women. "That would be a great encore," says Anne with a laugh.

"I think it could be encouraging to women in general to step out and seek their dreams;" says Alice, "to fulfill their wishes and not limit themselves."

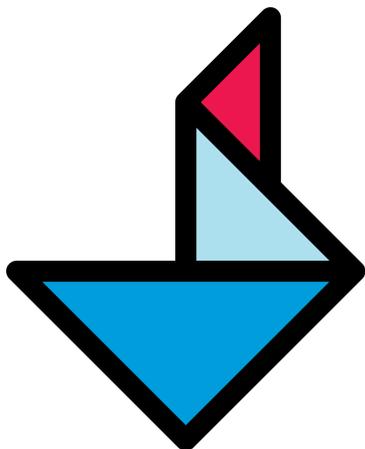
Although proud of what she and Anne accomplished, Alice regards the trip as a pilgrimage rather than a conquest. On her blog she wrote thoughtfully: "This pilgrimage around the belly of this beautiful planet has helped us to understand just



*Half a world away, Alice takes a long look at the Cape of Good Hope as 'True Blue' passes beneath the African continent.*

what it is we sit upon. The earth is so much smaller than we thought, so much more lovely. She spins in an ocean of air, floats in a sea of stars. This sanctuary in space offers us all that we need and concedes to most of our desires. May we never forget to respect all this."

— **latitude/andy**



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# GOLDEN GATE MIDWINTERS —

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**T**he third segment of the Manuel Fagundes Seaweed Soup Regatta hosted by the GGYC reminded everyone in attendance what midwinter racing is all about — patience with more than a dab of frustration.

What had so far been a series with reasonable and, at times, ample wind

offsetting the season's strong currents turned quite a bit more traditional on January 4. A diminishing morning breeze vacated the start line completely by the scheduled first warning signal at 11:30 a.m. and PRO Matt Jones raised the dreaded "cat in the hat" flag signaling a delay. It took about another hour

before the breeze returned and Jones was able to get everything rolling. That's about as consistent as things ever got.

"Gotta love midwinter racing in the Bay," relates Sherry Smith, who sailed aboard the Antrim 40 *California Condor*. "We rounded the leeward mark, doused the kite, went upwind until the wind



# SLOW-MO' BALLET

started to die, hoisted the Code Zero, then put the anchor out to keep from drifting backward with the tide, and then put the spinnaker up to get to the 'upwind' finish!"

Despite Sherry's clear sense of frustration, which was most certainly shared by others, it must have been more fun

than repairing a leaking faucet, trimming a hedge, washing the family car, or finishing some other household project that an individual might have been putting off for the last 18 months. After all, the temperature was practically t-shirt-

wearing warm and it was a strikingly sunny day. Who wouldn't have wanted to be out sailing anyway? The most likely candidates were arguably those on the 22 boats that got DNFs.

— **latitude/ross**

*When the air is this light, concentration is key. Early last month the 1D35 'Dark and Stormy' led her class over the starting line at the Golden Gate Midwinters.*

# GOLDEN GATE MIDWINTERS —

ALL PHOTOS LATITUDE / ANDY EXCEPT AS NOTED



# SLOW-MO' BALLET



ZAC TURPIN



ZAC TURPIN



ZAC TURPIN



# SOUTH PACIFIC PRIMER —

The chiseled volcanic mountains, turquoise lagoons and fragrant gardens of the South Pacific islands have inspired some travelers to describe them as paradise on earth. But cruising the South Pacific is not for everyone.

From the West Coast you not only have to sail across 3,000 miles of open

mittee boat, and no daily roll call. But we maintain a database of info about registered boats, which can be made available to SAR (search and rescue) organizations during emergencies.

We hold annual PPJ send-off parties in Panama (March 1) and Nuevo Vallarta (March 7), and we help our Tahitian partners put on the annual three-day Tahiti-Moorea Sailing Rendezvous (July 4-6), which serves as a celebration of the fleet's arrival, as well as an introduction to revered Polynesian cultural traditions in music, dance, cuisine and sport.

## The Basics

Needless to say, in order to safely venture out into the vast South Pacific you need a solidly built offshore cruiser — whether large or small — that is set up for week after week of rigorous bluewater sailing. Standing rigging should be new or near-new, and the newer your sails the better.

You definitely don't need every single item on the shelf at your neighborhood chandlery, but certain necessities should be pretty obvious: redundant GPS nav systems, be they chartplotters, iPads, handhelds or laptops; a reliable watermaker; solar panels and/or a wind generator; a liferaft; beefy ground tackle plus a powerful windlass; and redundant radio systems.

You may be surprised to learn that not every South Pacific cruiser has an HF Radio. But an SSB or Ham unit gives lots of security in regard to potential emergencies,

it acts as your daily conduit to cruiser nets and marine weather, and when linked to a Factor modem can supply daily email and weather graphics. These days, though, some opt to spend their money on satphones instead, which can give you real-time voice communications to land lines anywhere — an inestimable bonus during emergencies — as well as acting as a conduit for email and even graphics (although the latter is pricey).

Autopilots, windvane steering devices and radar are also great to have, but many cruisers sail without them. If you're on a budget, it sometimes comes down to 'doing it' now or waiting another year or two until you can afford your full laundry list of gear. It may sound odd to us comfort-obsessed North Americans, but even refrigeration is optional for some hardy cruisers.

One thing to consider is that the more complex systems you have, the more things you will have to repair — and find parts for. Some would argue that keeping things simple is ultimately better, as it leads to fewer worries and greater peace

*The Tiburon-based Powell family enters majestic Opunohu Bay on Moorea in 2011. They eventually sailed home via Hawaii.*



PEREGRINE

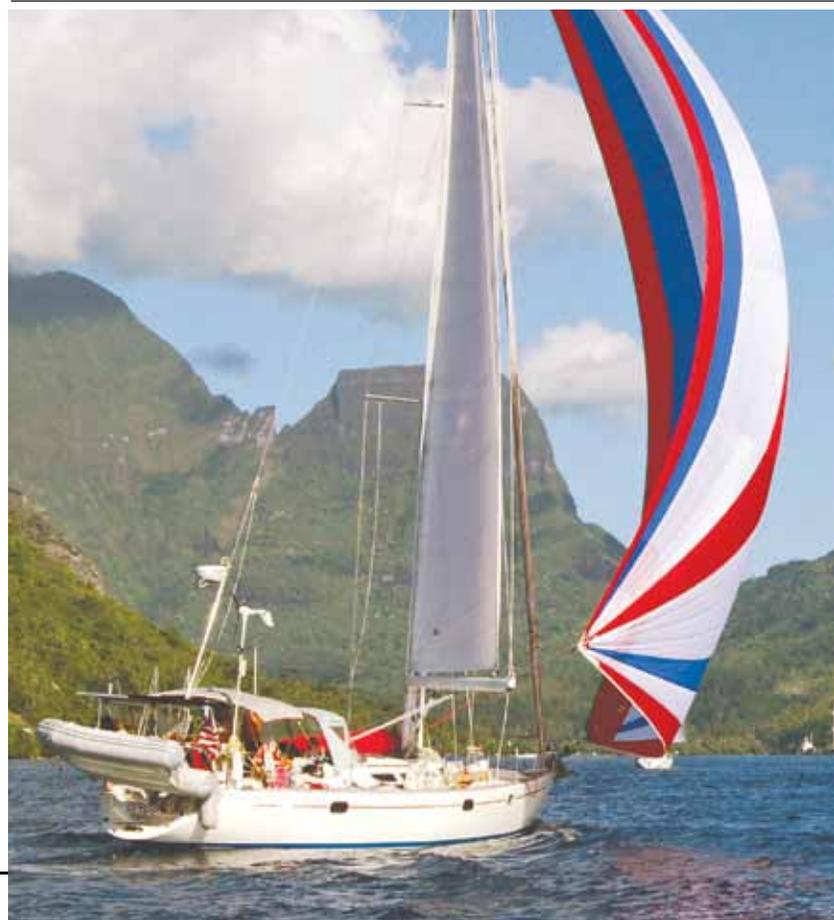
*Last year, Puddle Jumpers Bill and Maria of 'Peregrine' had great fun mapping out the route to their next exotic landfall.*

water before arriving at the first possible landfall, but once you're out there, you'll face typical passage lengths of 500 to 1,000 miles between island groups. And repair facilities for complex systems can be thousands of miles away.

We like to think of this as 'varsity-level cruising', as both you and your boat need to be much better prepared and more self-sufficient than for harbor-hopping in California, Mexico or the Caribbean. That said, many small boats with Spartan accommodations, and only basic communications and nav gear, cruise successfully through these islands. And compared to the cost of living in a West Coast city, vagabonding through the Pacific can be a real bargain.

Although we've sailed in various parts of the South Pacific, we don't pretend to be the ultimate experts on Pacific voyaging. But during the past 20 years we have learned a thing or two from running our annual Pacific Puddle Jump rally and interviewing countless veterans of SoPac cruising. So hopefully you'll find the info and insights presented here to be useful in mapping out your own Pacific cruise.

For the uninitiated, we should explain that the Pacific Puddle Jump is a rally only in the loosest terms. It includes international cruisers who set sail from various points along the West Coast of the Americas, anytime between February and June. There is no cost to enter (at [www.pacificpuddlejumps.com](http://www.pacificpuddlejumps.com)), no com-



# THE WONDERLAND AWAITS

of mind.

## Crew Conundrum

If you've become accustomed to cruising as a 'mom and pop operation', say, during several seasons in Mexico and Central America, you might ask why

*The more complex systems you have, the more things you will have to repair — and find parts for.*

you'd want to bring extra crew on a passage to French Polynesia and beyond. But rotating watches of three hours on and three hours off for 20 to 30 days can be incredibly exhausting. Add one more warm body and now you're doing three on and six off — enough time to actually get some REM sleep.

Consider also what would happen if you got badly injured or became seriously ill. Having extra crew along can be good insurance against total fatigue — which, of course, can lead to very bad decision-making.

Needless to say, though, picking appropriate crew can be tricky. Ideally, you'll choose someone whose moods you've observed after they've endured several days of sleep deprivation offshore. But that's not always possible. If you're tempted to pick up a couple of fit, young travelers for the long crossing to French Polynesia, as some cruisers do in Panama and Mexico, we suggest you be sure they have enough money to support themselves and fly home after making landfall. Some foreign authorities consider private boat captains to be responsible for crew that they bring into the country, just as captains of commercial vessels are under international maritime law.

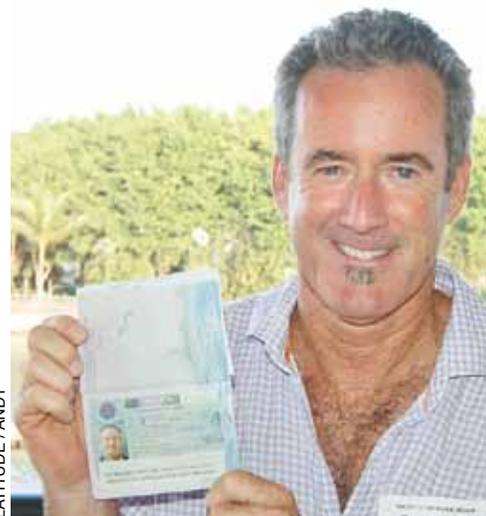
Many singlehanders cruise the South Pacific successfully, but at the risk of getting some very capable solo sailors pissed off at us, we have to say that the majority of offshore emergencies we can recall during our years with the Puddle Jump have involved singlehanders.

## Formalities

We're not aware of any South Pacific countries that require Americans and Canadians to obtain visas in advance of arrival. You can simply show up and get a short-term visa. (*Noonsite.com* is an excellent world cruiser website where you can check requirements, country by country.)

In French Polynesia you can stay 90 days within a six-month period — and there is absolutely no way to extend this after you arrive. But the *boat* can stay 18 months. So some cruisers fly out and leave their boat on the hard, in a marina or even on the hook inside a lagoon, and return at the beginning of the next season to retrieve it and sail onward. Tahiti can get hit by cyclones, but major storms are rare, so some cruisers roll the dice and take their chances.

If you are willing to jump through some hoops before leaving the West Coast, it's possible to get a "long stay visa" of six months. We highly recommend this, as there is so much to see between the Marquesas, Tuamotus



LATITUDE / ANDY

**Michael Bowe of 'Patanjali' was thrilled to get a long stay visa last year before heading west. That gave him six months to play in Fr. Poly.**

and Society Islands (Tahiti and her sister isles), that 90 days flies by way too fast. See the detailed explanation of what is required at [www.pacificpuddlejumps.com](http://www.pacificpuddlejumps.com).

Although French Polynesia welcomes private yachts — and its people are often exceedingly friendly — it has one rule that we've never seen elsewhere: Every visitor arriving by private yacht must deposit in a local bank a cash bond that is equivalent to the cost of a return air ticket to that traveler's home country. It serves as sort of an insurance policy in case that person gets in trouble with the law, has debilitating medical issues, or whatever.

Most cruisers consider the dreaded bond requirement to be a major pain, not only because they have to tie up so much cash — consider a family of four — but also because they typically lose money on the exchange when the funds are returned to them (in French Polynesian francs) the day they clear out.

For nearly a decade *Latitude 38* has been working with Tahiti Tourism and a number of Tahitian partners to make cruisers feel welcome there. One result is that a Tahitian agency now offers a special package to registered Puddle Jumpers that includes clearance in and out, bond exemptions for crew and a duty-free fuel certificate that saves them roughly \$2 a gallon, all for a reasonable fee. (See the PPJ website for details.)

## Routes & Weather

As mentioned earlier, the prime season for jumping west from the Americas is between February and June, thus avoiding both the Mexican hurricane season and the South Pacific cyclone season. One thing that has always



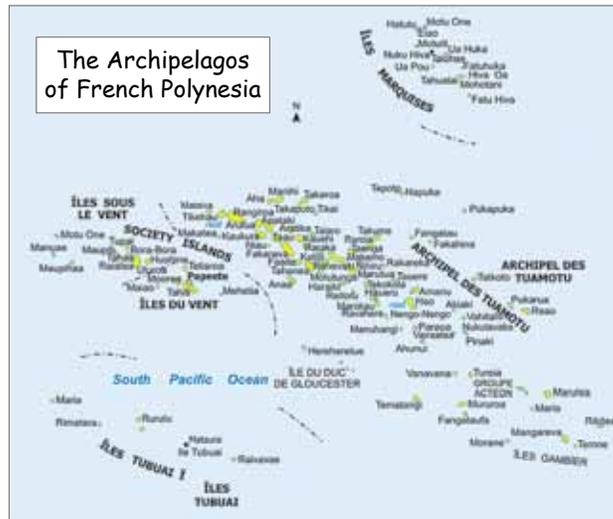
LATITUDE / ANDY

# SOUTH PACIFIC PRIMER —

baffled us is that some folks will spend 20 years or more dreaming about a South Pacific voyage, but when they finally pull the trigger and go they race across nearly 6,000 miles of open ocean in a single six-month season in order to reach New Zealand before the South Pacific cyclone season kicks in.

This has always seemed crazy to us, as there are so many wonderful places to linger. And once you hook into the trade winds and sail west of a given group of islands, you're not likely to get back there unless you visit again on your next lap around the planet.

As Dave McCampbell of the Florida-based CSY 44 *Soggy Paws* pointed out in his excellent February 2012 article on *South Pacific Cruising Strategies*, there are a variety of ways to dodge the cyclone belt for a few months without giving up too much westing, i.e. wintering in Hawaii (due north of Tahiti) or in the Marshall Islands, which is a US territory where Americans can easily find work,



The Archipelagos of French Polynesia

**The five archipelagos of French Polynesia occupy an area bigger than Western Europe. And they're just the beginning of what's out there.**

buy US products, and utilize US postal services. (Dave's article is archived on the PPJ site.)

Many cruisers also extend their stays by lingering in Neiafu, capital of Tonga's Vava'u group of islands, which has a natural hurricane hole with almost 360°

protection, or in Fiji, where the proven method of surviving even powerful storms is to haul your boat and cradle its keel in a car-tire-lined ditch.

## Getting Home

There's no two ways about it, once you make your first landfall in the Marquesas, you are a long, long way from home. Before all the murder and mayhem in the Gulf of Aden, many boats elected to simply keep on going around the world once they reached Tonga or Fiji. But now that the Red Sea route has been effectively cut off to cruisers

by Somali bad-boys, the only way to the Atlantic is via South Africa, and that's a bit too ambitious for many cruisers.

If you count yourself in that group, you're left with several options: You can sail north to Hawaii from French Polynesia — with wind aft of the beam much of the way if you're lucky — then circle back to British Columbia or the US mainland. Sell your boat in New Caledonia, New

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# THE WONDERLAND AWAITS

Zealand or Australia after having savored many island groups on your way west. Sail north to the Marshalls and west through Melanesia, up to Japan, then a long, long way across the North Pacific back to the West Coast. If your pockets are deep enough you can ship your boat back to the West Coast from Australia or New Zealand aboard a specially equipped freighter. Or, if you're really ambitious, you can sail east from New Zealand

*You're not likely to get back there unless you visit again on your next lap around the planet.*

through the low latitudes, eventually angling up to Tahiti — as Gene Dennis and Gloria Watson did this year aboard their Island Packet 44 *Pincoya* — then work your way home from there. But I'm not sure even they would recommend doing that.

If none of those options sound good to you, perhaps you should revisit the idea of going around the Cape of Good Hope, which lies close to San Francisco's latitude, but in the Southern Hemisphere (as compared with Cape Horn, at 56°S).

Despite the possibility of nasty weather while rounding South Africa, modern, accurate weather forecasting makes the trip around much less challenging than it used to be. And once you get into the South Atlantic, you may find the long ride up to the Caribbean to be glorious — as many circumnavigators have reported in the pages of *Latitude 38*. (For one example, see *Magic Carpet Ride* in this issue.)

**W**e realize we've only scratched the surface of this complex topic, but we hope we've given you some worthwhile food for thought.

In all the years we've been reporting



SOGGY PAWS

*If you're into diving and snorkeling, as Dave and Sherry of 'Soggy Paws' are, South Pacific waters will amaze you.*

on South Pacific cruisers, we can't remember any who completely regretted making the trip. It is truly a vast wonderland of fascinating cultures, breathtaking topography and underwater beauty. We sincerely hope you get a chance to experience it firsthand someday.

— **latitude/andy**



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# NAUTICAL NIGHTMARE —

As of January 22, over 300 foreign-owned boats, most of them from the United States, remained impounded in eight Mexican marinas after more than 45 days. It's one of the most incomprehensible, self-destructive government actions we can recall for two reasons:

1) The overwhelming number of impounded boats have been found to be in compliance with Mexican law — yet are still being held. And, 2) making life miserable for and/or scaring the bejesus out

*Over 300 foreign owned boats, worth tens of millions of dollars, remain impounded in Mexico*

of owners of foreign boats is diametrically opposed to Mexico's natural and stated best interests. After all, nautical tourists stay for months if not years, spend lots of money, and become Mexico's best word-of-mouth goodwill ambassadors.

The Mexican government's unfortunate actions have been described as "ridiculous" by Jorge Gamboa, director of Mexico Tourism in Los Angeles, who vowed to fight to the end on behalf of boat owners. Enrique Fernandez, harbor-master at Puerto Los Cabos Marina wrote, "It was a stupid idea by AGACE that created this stupid chaos." Mild-mannered Neil Shroyer of Marina de La Paz, whose marina was not raided, said the appointing of uninformed people to positions of authority is "what's keeping Mexico a Third World country." "We're all scared," said Geronimo Cevallos, harbor-master at El Cid Marina in Mazatlan and another on Isla Mujeres, speaking for all harbormasters. Neither of his marinas has been raided.

The near-tragic series of events started in late November, when AGACE,

*"Appointing uninformed people to positions of authority is what's keeping Mexico a Third World country."*

a newly created sub-agency of Hacienda, the Mexican IRS, conducted audits/raids on eight marinas in various parts of Mexico: Opequimar, Nuevo Vallarta and Riviera Nayarit in the Vallarta area; Marina Coral and CruisePort Marina

in Ensenada; Marina Cabo San Lucas and Puerto Los Cabos in the Los Cabos area; Marina San Carlos in San Carlos, as well as a facility in Acapulco, and a sister facility to Marina Cabo San Lucas in Cancun. These represent about one-quarter of the marinas in Mexico.

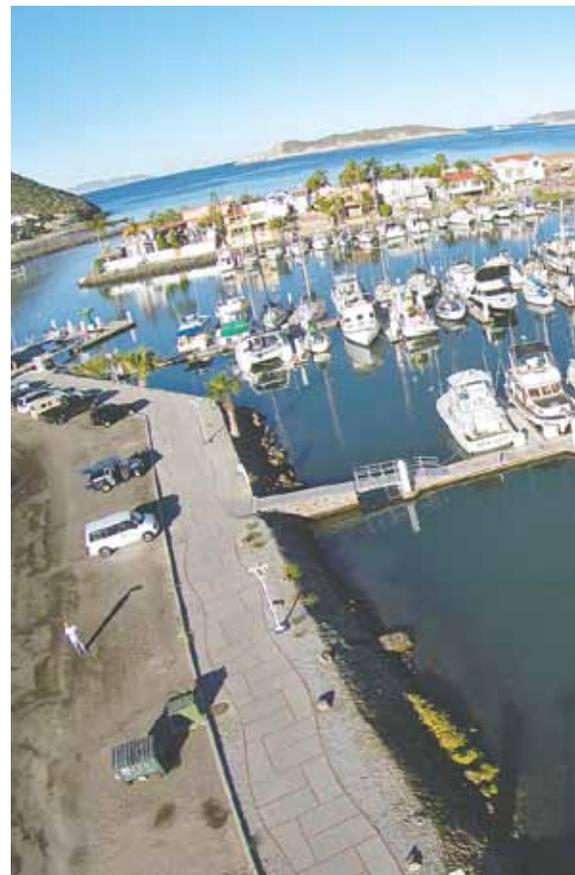
A little more than 1,600 boats were inspected by auditors from AGACE, who inexplicably were accompanied by teams of marines armed with machine guns. Some teams even brought prison buses. Boat owners who were on the scenes said they thought they were about to observe a major narco bust. In a number of marinas the inspections continued through the night until dawn. Creepy.

That 338 of the boats inspected — 21% of the total — supposedly had to be impounded should have been a wake-up call to AGACE that the problem was with their methods rather than the boat owners. But they blindly charged ahead, oblivious to the damage they were doing to the nautical tourism industry and Mexico's already shaky reputation.

According to AGACE, there were two goals of the raids. The first was to search for stolen boats, and was thus being done for the "safety" of nautical tourists. There is nothing wrong with checking for stolen boats, which could have been done quickly and easily using a Coast Guard database. But no, the bureaucratic ways of AGACE meant the process for each boat would have to involve: 1) the US Embassy; 2) the US Consulate, and 3) the US Coast Guard. AGACE said the process shouldn't take much more than a month, during which time the boats were impounded.

AGACE's second stated reason was to make sure that all foreign boats complied with Mexican tax law, which required that they each have a \$70 TIP (Temporary Import Permit.) As Mexico is awash in unregistered cars, stolen cars and cars with fraudulent papers and plates, our belief is that the appointed AGACE official behind the raids thought he was going to catch countless "tax cheats" and thus become a national hero.

As noble as AGACE's goals might have been, their execution was a disaster. In the first place, the auditors — who were from either Tijuana, Mexico City or Guadalajara — didn't know the first thing about boats. For example, they carried simple diagrams to show them the difference between the bow and the stern and other parts of the boats. They



didn't know the difference between the brand names of boats and the names of marine components, such as Garmin and Volvo.

The raids were carried out differently depending on where they were conducted. For example, when agents raided Puerto Los Cabos and Marina San Carlos, they didn't even go on boats. Yet in places like Ensenada, if agents couldn't find the HIN (hull identification number), the boat was put in impound. And at Riviera Nayarit, inspectors told some boat owners they didn't need to see HIN numbers at all. Gross inconsistency has long been a hallmark of law enforcement in Mexico.

At Marina Riviera Nayarit, where *Latitude* keeps *Profligate*, a major factor in a boat's ending up impounded seemed to be whether the owner was aboard when the agents made their unannounced visits. In the case of *Profligate*, we've been using the exact same paperwork — and TIP — for 17 years, and had used professional ship's agents to check in and out of Mexico three times in the previous two months — with no difficulty. Yet now our boat was impounded. We're convinced that had we been aboard when the AGACE came around, our boat would not have been impounded. How could

# MEXICO CONTINUES TO EMBARGO BOATS



**Some boaters were lucky, as their marinas were effectively immune. Pictured is Marina Real in San Carlos, where no boats were inspected.**

she have been? For as AGACE would later verify, everything was in order.

Having examined AGACE's paperwork for Marina Riviera Nayarit, we noticed that agents wrote "not visible" in many of the boxes that needing checking on their inspection sheets. Unless the agents came aboard, how were they going to verify the boat's TIP, boat document, engine serial numbers, HIN number, and insurance policy? Much of Mexican law is based on the 'guilty until proven innocent' concept of Napoleonic law. So if you weren't aboard to show the inspectors some document, they couldn't verify that you had it, and thus your boat was impounded for having been assumed not to be compliance with Mexican law.

It got even more ridiculous. After being surprised to learn their multimillion-dollar boat had been impounded in Ensenada, one couple's lawyer was told it was because their boat didn't have a HIN number on the transom. Yet the boat clearly did have a HIN number. Ironically, before agents had left the boat, they had assured the captain and crew that everything was fine.

**I**n the case of *Profligate*, even now, 45+ days after our boat was impounded, we have absolutely no idea why. Like the hundreds of other owners of impounded boats, AGACE has never made contact with us! Last week Doña de Mallorca had a chance to speak with a pleasant AGACE agent in person.

"Is all the paperwork and everything else with *Profligate* in order?" she asked.

"Yes, it is," said the agent after looking through the files.

"Great, then she's no longer impounded?"

"No, the boat is still impounded," the agent said pleasantly. He added that he didn't know how much longer *Profligate* would remain

impounded.

To summarize, AGACE impounded boats even though there was nothing wrong with the boats or their paperwork. Then, five weeks later, after verifying everything was in order, still wouldn't release the boats. It's unbelievable but true. And it's true for most of the 338 boats that were impounded.

It is correct that a small minority of boats didn't have a TIP or their TIP had expired. There was then some back-and-forth about whether not having a TIP was like a fix-it ticket in the States. Marina Owners Association lawyer Maria Elena Carrillo argued that it was a 'fix-it' situation without any fine. She said she knew, because she helped write the law when she worked for Hacienda. In any event, AGACE did allow boats in some marinas to retroactively get TIPs, and didn't even put them on their impound list.

**T**here has been confusion about what 'impoundment' means. AGACE uses the term 'precautionary embargo,' an embargo being defined as when a vessel is not allowed to enter or leave a port.

After 'impounding' all the boats,

AGACE put great pressure on the marinas with impounded boats to become *depositarias*, which meant they would become financially responsible if the boat owner fled the country with the boat or otherwise made the boat unavailable for future judicial proceedings. It was sort of as if AGACE wanted the marinas — and later the port captains — to be the bail bondsmen for the boats. Some marinas agreed, some agreed only under the threat of their businesses being shut down, and about half the marinas flat-out refused.

In the case of marinas that agreed to be *depositarias*, the marina operators could decide if boats could leave the dock and go for daysails — although they usually wouldn't be allowed to leave the port captain's jurisdiction, and surely not the country. *Profligate*, however, was in Marina Riviera Nayarit, one of the marinas that steadfastly refused to become a *depositaria*. As a result, AGACE itself was the default *depositaria*. Since violating an embargo is a federal offense, and AGACE didn't contact us, let alone give us permission to leave the dock, *Profligate* hasn't left the dock.

To clarify things further, there are two kinds of embargoes in Mexico. The lesser one is where the owners are still allowed to go onto their boats, and if the *depositarias* agree, take them out. The greater one is where boats are circled in yellow tape and sometimes chained to the dock, nobody is allowed to go aboard, and the boat is not permitted to leave the dock. To our knowledge, none of the boats in this episode have been subject to the greater embargo.

Unfortunately, Mexico has a long history of seizing foreign-owned assets, be it real estate, airplanes, motorhomes, boats and the like, and often without cause. There are two letters in this month's *Letters* from boat owners who had it happen to them. But until November, it hadn't happened on a large scale since 1996.

After the fiasco of 1996, when the boats were released after 140 days, the Fox administration, after much work with Tere Grossman, president of the Mexican Marina Owners Association, came up with the TIPs. This was an important step forward, as previously boats had always been attached to the owner's tourist visa. Under Mexican law, the boat couldn't stay in Mexico for more than six months without being taken back to the States, and even worse, the owner of the boat couldn't return to the States for even a day without taking his/her boat along. This part of the law had

KURT ROLL

# NAUTICAL NIGHTMARE —

been widely ignored, but the TIPs finally made it legal.

(Despite this recent episode, Mexico has consistently been making cruising easier for foreign boat owners, which is why the recent action is so baffling.)

There are two schools of thought about the recent inspections/raids/impoundings. One of them is that it's part of the PRI political party of new President Peña Nieto returning to its bad old ways: 70 years of massive corruption, if not rigged elections, before they were voted out in 2000. "The impoundings are a money grab," say some.

More optimistic people, ourselves included, think the whole mess is a result of bureaucratic incompetence, and one hand of Mexican government's not knowing what the other hand is doing. For while Peña Nieto comes from an admittedly once — and perhaps still — corrupt political party, he's actually been doing a lot of seemingly good things.

For example, he got rid of teacher union president Elba Esther Gordillo, a king-maker of politicians who had embezzled \$200 million from the union to start a real estate empire in the United States. Control of the school system was also taken back from the union by the government.

Peña Nieto has taken on some of the biggest monopolies in Mexico, many of which were either created or greatly assisted by the Russian-style privatization process under President Salinas between 1988 and 1994. Among the biggest beneficiaries of Mexican monopolies was Carlos Slim — Peña Nieto's godfather! Slim became the world's richest man through a ridiculous privatization deal of Mexico's phone system, and by charging among the highest telecommunication prices in a country with one of the poorest populations. To put it in context, minimum wage in Mexico, after a 4% raise last year, is about \$5.10 day! A family of four with a monthly income of \$800 is considered to be 'middle class.'

Nieto also has been instrumental in breaking the 75-year monopoly of the notoriously corrupt state-owned Pemex oil company. According to a Bloomberg sustainability report, the reforms are going to result in, "North America being flooded with oil." Peña Nieto has also taken on the powerful television, cement and brewery monopolies. Further, he's called corruption "the albatross around Mexico's neck."

Perhaps most importantly, Peña Nieto also has been attacking Mexico's ex-

tremely low taxation rates and even lower levels of compliance. Mexico's mostly ridiculously low tax rates generally favor the rich over the poor. Not paying taxes in Mexico is common.

As of January 1, many tax laws had changed, with a new 16% tax on junk food, sugary drinks, pet food and many other things. In addition, there are no longer any *pequeño* businesses, which paid just 3% of their gross. Now all businesses, even front-room taco stands, are supposed to have computers to record all

*Peña Nieto has taken on some of Mexico's biggest monopolies — including the one owned by his godfather, Carlos Slim, the richest man in the world.*

them every few weeks to Hacienda. How this is supposed to happen in a country where a large percentage of the population doesn't have electricity is unclear.

All this sounds great, and conceptually we're all in favor. But it won't be easy to accomplish. And many wonder if all the new money collected won't be kept by corrupt PRI members.

One big problem is the Mexican bureaucracy, which can move very slowly, such as AGACE, and can't see or understand the big picture. Blindly following laws it doesn't completely understand has been a disaster for Mexico. Furthermore, Mexico has a long history of passing laws that people and the bureaucracy can't possibly comply with. Just one small example: When boat owners attempted to get TIPs online in November, the program asked them to identify what brand of boat they had. Alas, it only listed a few names, all of which were powerboats. The program later asked for follow-up documents to be sent to an email address. The email address then shut down. Everybody in Mexico has countless similar stories.

Let's get practical. Because AGACE's action has been so destructive to the nautical tourism industry and to Mexico's reputation, it's our expectation that most of the impounded boats will be released before long. Indeed, a few own-

ers — in full compliance — have already been told they can apply for release, a procedure expected to take two weeks. Talk about adding insult to injury!

If your boat is already in Mexico, do you have to worry that she might be inspected and impounded? While there can be no guarantees, Tere Grossman, Neil Shroyer and other marina owners tell us that, given the horrible publicity to date, it's very, very unlikely.

If your boat is in California, should you risk coming south? As with boats already in Mexico, the terrible publicity generated by previous raids makes it highly unlikely AGACE will strike again, at least until it radically changes its policies and procedures. After all, one of the reasons cited for canceling the Cabo Race was "events in Mexico," and potential participants in March's Puerto Vallarta Race and MEXORC have been seeking reassurances. If you do head to Ensenada, we highly recommend that you check with Fito at Coral Marina or Jonathan at Cruiseport Marina on the current situation and learn exactly what officials are asking for now. As everyone has seen, it can change from day to day and without warning.

Having your boat seized after complying with Mexican law is no fun at all, so we understand those who say they are leaving Mexico as soon as their boat is free, and never, ever coming back.

We're taking a longer view, in part because we do lots of sailing anyway, and we've already been most everywhere in Mexico, and thus have primarily been inconvenienced. Our view is that all this has been a colossal mistake on the part of one sub-agency, and once they save face, they won't repeat it.

As we said in the beginning, Mexico is a fabulous place to cruise for so many reasons. Check out *Changes in Latitudes* later in this edition and you'll see that the folks aboard *Starship* liked it better than any country in the South Pacific. And after a circumnavigation, the Milskis on *Sea Level* said Mexico had as good cruising as anywhere they'd been.

Absent a complete additional screw-up by AGACE, we anticipate that there will be a 21st Baja Ha-Ha in the fall, that *Profligate* will be back in Mexico next winter — and best of all, this whole disastrous incident will lead to Mexico doing a much better job of making nautical tourists feel welcome and secure than before. Sort a revisiting of what happened in 1996.

— latitude/rs

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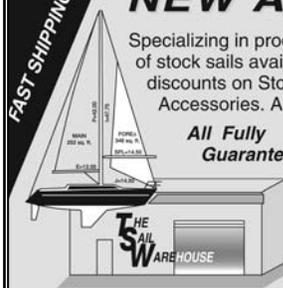
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# MAX EBB

"The nautical flea market isn't till next month!" I joked as I carefully stepped around a huge display of boat gear spread out on the dock.

I knew my dock neighbor wasn't really trying to sell his gear at the flea market, but it was a little strange to see the entire contents of his boat piled high on the main walkway.

"My boat was in the big weigh-in for the new Certified PHRF rating," he explained, "and everything had to come out. Now I'm putting it all back in — or at least, putting everything back in that my 'weight Nazi' crew over here will allow.

"Duplicate socket wrench sizes!" came the unmistakable voice of Lee Helm from the other side of a large pile of sail bags. She was sitting on the dock sorting through an assortment of tools and spare parts. "You don't need two 9/16ths sockets. This one goes overboard!"

"NO!" cried the boat owner. But it was too late. A shiny steel part went sailing through the air and plopped into the harbor.

"Like, I warned you about this after the last race," scolded Lee. "Duplicate, redundant and superfluous tools get tossed in the drink."

"She's so strict," sighed the owner of the discarded socket.

"Okay, now you only have one 9/16th socket left. What does it fit?"

"It fits any 9/16ths nut," said the

owner.

It's just a socket.  
"This stuff all adds up. Each pound will cost us seven seconds at the finish line. If we can strip out, say, 300 pounds of crapola — and I think we can — then we finish 36 minutes sooner. That's almost six miles at ten knots, and lots of races to Hawaii have been won or lost by a lot less than that."

"Don't worry, I know how to handle this," I whispered to my friend.

"Lee," I asked, "how'd you come up with seven seconds per pound?"

"Oh, hi, Max. It's just a simple calculation of how wetted surface and frictional resistance change with increased displacement."

"Isn't it going to be completely different for each boat on each different race?" I asked, trying to formulate a question with a sufficiently complicated answer to keep Lee's mind off the weight of the boat gear on the dock, at least for a few minutes.

"Let's see, what can I write on," she said as she grabbed a slightly water-logged boat cushion. "This is one is headed for the dumpster."

Just as I had hoped, Lee walked around to my side of the sail bags, sat down with the boat cushion on her lap, and took out a marking pen. She started to draw on the cushion. The owner of the boat, seeing his chance, moved to where Lee had been sorting tools.

"To keep it simple," Lee explained, "let's start with hull shape like a log: Circular cross section, waterline at the equator, constant section bow to stern. Now, like, what happens to displacement and to wetted surface if some weight is added, and the draft increases by a small amount? Let's call the radius of the section

X, the draft Z, and the length L. Displacement is the volume below the waterline, which for our purposes is the same as weight, which we'll call W. And so, W is going to be the area of the half-circle times length, or length times pi-X-squared over two."

She wrote out the formula:  $W = L\pi$



$(\pi)X^2 / 2$

"Fair enough," I said. "I'm with you so far."

"What happens if we add enough weight for the pi draft to increase by a small amount, which we'll call dZ? How does W change?"

She drew a new waterline and shaded the newly immersed part of the cross-section, labeling it dW.

"Let's see," I stammered. "The new section area, dW, will be length times beam, which is 2X, times dZ, and added displacement will be that added section area times length."

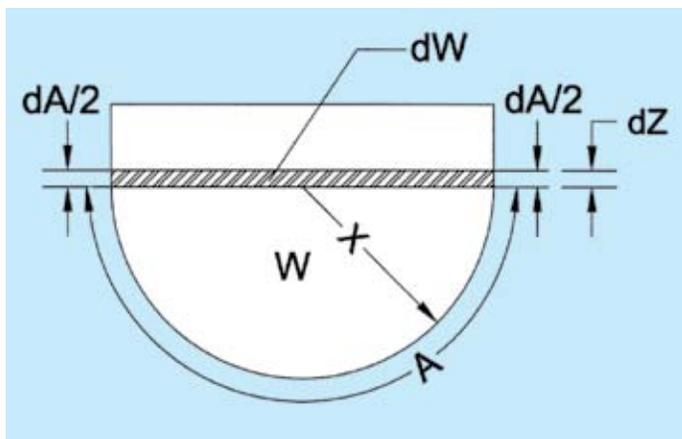
As I spoke, Lee was writing  $dW = 2 X dZ L$ .

"What about wetted surface area?" asked Lee. She answered without giving me a chance. "Area equals pi times X times L. Change in area is just dZ times 2 times L."

Lee wrote out  $A = \pi X L$  and  $dA = 2 L dZ$ .

"Now the good part," Lee continued. "Let's look at change in weight compared to weight, and change in area compared to area. She scrawled on the old boat cushion, now writing smaller because she was running out of space:

$$dA/A = (2 L dZ) / (\pi X L) = (2 dZ) / (\pi$$

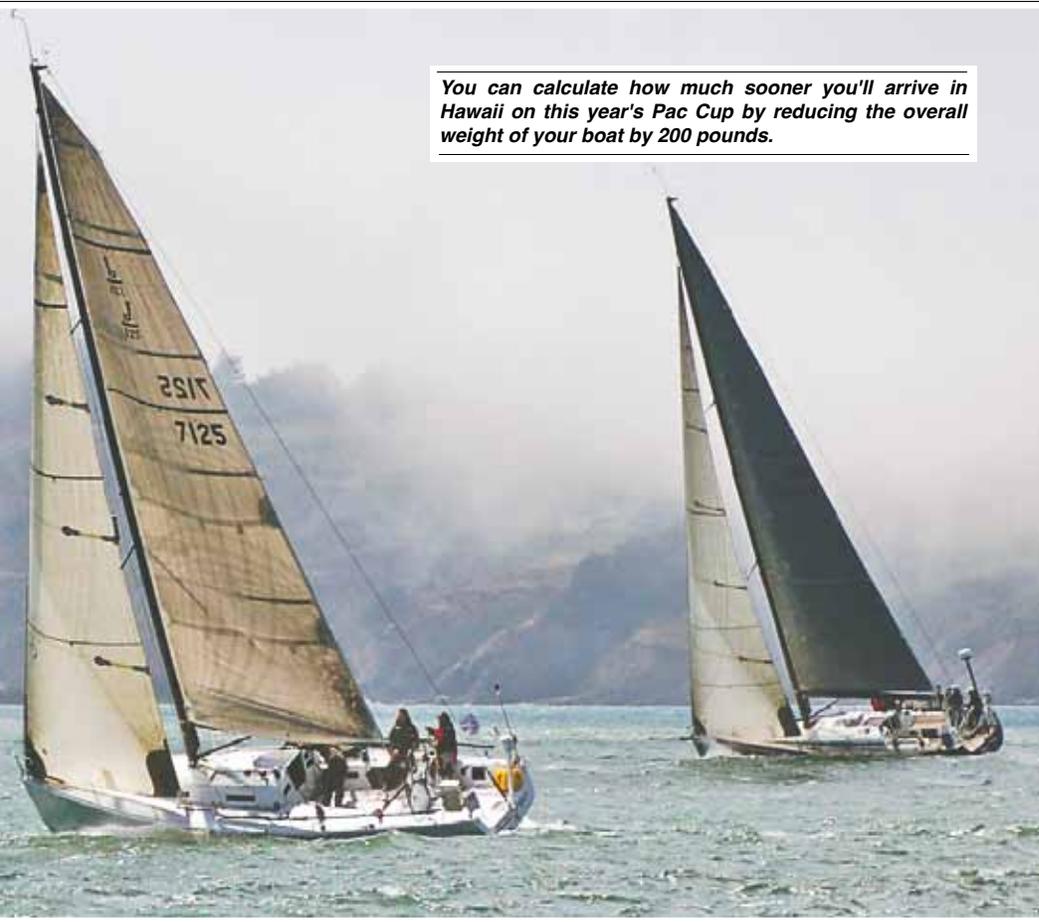


A relatively simple diagram puts all the variables into place.

owner.

"Show me one on the boat. Otherwise it goes for a swim to join its sister. There's no reason to slow the boat down with heavy tools that don't even fit anything on board."

"Oy!" he held his head in both hands, totally exasperated. "It's not a heavy tool.



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change in speed will be one-third of the change in wetted area, and, like, in the opposite direction, which makes sense because when area increases speed goes down."

I feared that Lee was about to look up and discover what her skipper was up to with his boat tools, so I quickly added "but that's not a rule of six, that's a rule of three."

"For sure, almost forgot," said Lee. "We started by showing that the change in wetted area is half of a small change in weight. The change in speed is one-third the change in wetted area, so multiply them together and you find that the change in speed is one-sixth the change in weight. Hence the rule of six: Add six percent additional weight, and the boat goes one percent slower or takes one percent more time to get to the finish line. That means that for a 20,000-pound boat that takes 10 days to get to Hawaii, each pound saved shortens the elapsed race time by one part in 120,000. For a 10-day race that's 7.2 seconds. Three hundred pounds will save 36 minutes, and taking off 1,000 pounds equals a whopping two... Hey, where are you going with that tool box!"

LATTITUDE / ARCHIVES

X)  $dW/W = (2 \times dZ L) / (L \pi X^2 / 2) = (4 dZ) / (\pi X)$

"And now, compare  $dA/A$  to  $dW/W$ , and you get:"

$$\{(2 dZ) / (\pi X)\} / \{(4 dZ) / (\pi X)\},$$

"and it all cancels except we're left with 1/2. Cool, huh?"

"I suppose," I said, still trying to catch up with Lee's algebra. "But how do you get from there to..."

"It's a no-brainer," she answered. "What I just proved is that for circular sections, when draft increases, area increases only half as fast as displacement. That's the same as saying that, for example, a two-percent increase in weight causes only a one-percent increase in wetted area and a one-percent increase in drag. But, like, what we really want to know is, how much will the boat slow down?"

I noticed that the owner was quietly loading most of his tools back into a large toolbox over on the other side of the sail bags, and stashing some of the smaller items in his pockets.

"Viscous drag is proportional to speed

squared," Lee continued, oblivious to everything else. "And power is proportional to drag times speed. And resistance is proportional to wetted area, so power equals wetted area times speed cubed. Like, approximately, anyway." She wrote  $P = A V^3$

"Or,  $V^3 = P/A$ . And since power is constant, we can rewrite this as being  $V$ 's proportional to one over area cubed, or  $V = 1/A^{1/3}$  or  $V = A^{-1/3}$ ."

"Okay, I can buy that," I allowed.

"We really want to know how much speed changes for a small change in wetted area, so we, like, throw in a little calculus. Differentiate to find  $dV/dA$ , and we get:

$dV/dA = -1/3 A^{-4/3}$  via the usual rule for finding the derivative, multiplying by the exponent, and decreasing the exponent by one. And now it gets tricky. Write it as

$dV = -1/3 A^{-4/3} dA$  and now divide both sides of the equation by  $V$ , so we have

$$dV/V = -1/3 A^{-4/3} dA / V, \text{ but since } V = A^{-1/3}$$

$$\text{we now have } dV/V = -1/3 A^{-4/3} dA / A^{-1/3} = -1/3 dA / (A^{4/3} A^{-1/3}) = -1/3 dA/A$$

And this just says that if there's a small change in wetted area, the small

Lee finally looked up from her calculations long enough to see the owner of the boat climbing back up the steps to his boat with a heavy metal toolbox in one hand and a large canvas bag full of spare turnbuckles and spools of electrical cable in the other hand.

"Okay, okay," said the owner, reversing course down the steps. "But at least I'm taking them home. No more of my tools on the bottom of the harbor."

"Lee can justify that seven-second-per pound hit," I said. "Although I'm not so sure about some of her assumptions, especially the circular cross-section."

"For sure, there are, like, other ways to compute this," she said. "If you consider a hull shape more like an actual sailboat, with overhangs and flare, then we can assume that the shape is similar in proportion but larger as the displacement increases. In other words, geometrically similar, just bigger in all dimensions, and keeping the same proportions. Then area is simply displacement to the two-thirds power. That just follows from the fact that volume increases by size cubed while area increases by size squared."

"Is it still a rule of one-sixth?" I asked.

"No, it's a rule of two-ninths. Same

# MAX EBB

derivation, really. Start with

$$A = W^{2/3}$$

Differentiate, and  $dA = 2/3 W^{-1/3} dW$ .

Divide by A, and now we have

$$dA/A = 2/3 W^{-1/3} dW / A,$$

but this time sub in  $A = W^{2/3}$

$$dA/A = 2/3 W^{-1/3} dW / W^{2/3} \text{ or } dA/A = 2/3 dW/W$$

and since

$$dV/V = -1/3 dA/A$$

we can sub in  $2/3 dW/W$  for  $dA/A$  and get

$$dV/V = -1/3 \cdot 2/3 dW/W = -2/9 dW/W."$$

"That's an even bigger effect than one-sixth," I noted.

"Nine point six seconds for each pound," added Lee. "But the wetted area doesn't really change like a geosym, because the keel and rudder are always fully immersed and their contribution to wetted area doesn't change with changes in displacement. On the other hand, there are other sources of drag that vary more sharply with weight. A heavy boat that's sailing up against a hull-speed limit might be in the regime where power is proportional

to speed to the fifth power instead of speed cubed. Then the rule of six becomes the rule of ten for constant circular cross-section, or the rule of two-fifteenths for geometrically similar surface area."

"You see?" said the owner. "For a heavy boat that goes hull speed, it's not so important to take off those last few pounds."

"Even a 30,000 pound crab-crusher," Lee answered, "is going to lose 2.9 seconds for every added pound. And that's if they finish in 10 days — more time lost if they go slower."

Lee put the thoroughly defaced boat cushion in the "discard" pile, and got back to sorting gear and arguing over deadweight items with her skipper. I decided it was a good day to swing by the local chandlery.

Now, if only they could combine the nautical flea market with the measurement days, we could really find some bargains.

— max ebb

## Summary of rules of thumb for estimating the effect of a small weight change on speed

### Rule of six 0.167

Speed change is one-sixth of weight change. Applies exactly to constant circular cross sections subject to quadratic frictional drag only (rowing shells). But also a good estimate for light modern boats with short overhangs and fin keels, and a mix of frictional and wave drag.

### Rule of 2/9 0.222

Speed change is 2/9th weight change. Applies to boats with geometrically similar shape as draft increases, and frictional drag only. This might be a better number for older hulls with more flare and long overhangs, especially in light air when frictional resistance dominates.

### Rule of ten 0.100

Speed change is one-tenth weight change. Constant circular cross section, heavy boat at hull speed. A good estimate for a modern heavy-displacement boat with short overhangs sailing upwind or downwind in the trades, when speed is limited by hull speed.

### Rule of 2/15 0.133

Geometrically similar shape, heavy boat at hull speed. Might be better for a more traditional hull with overhangs and flare, upwind or downwind in the trades.



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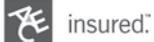
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# THE RACING

December was like no other we've seen in more than a generation. Unseasonably warm and dry weather made midwinter racing seem more like fall, with less breeze. But there was still some excitement, even if you had to go all the way Down Under to find it at the **Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race**. Closer to home see who the **Wylie Wabbit Season Champion** is, take notice of the new date for **The Great Vallejo Race**, and then read about the **Richmond YC Little Daddy**, **Berkeley Midwinters**, **Coyote Pt. YC Midwinter Beercan Series**, and of course the **Sequoia Redwood Cup Series** in the South Bay.

## Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race

The Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race has a well-earned reputation as one of the most challenging and competitive races in all of offshore sailing, and the 69th edition completely lived up to the pre-race hype and historic lore. Ninety-four yachts including five 100-footers, three Volvo 70s and a plethora of maxis, mini-maxis and production yachts lined up for the annual 628-mile romp to Tasmania, in what experts claimed to be the most competitive fleet ever assembled. In an apparent homage to the quality of the fleet, Mother Nature served up classic Sydney-Hobart conditions in a big way, with a beautiful sunny reach out the Sydney Heads, a northerly that built to 40 knots, and a southerly buster that brought upward of 50 knots in Bass Strait for the slow boats and a boat-breaking bash up Storm Bay for the front-runners.

Perennial line honors contender *Wild Oats XI*, owned by wine magnate and AC 35 Challenger of Record Robert Oatley, did what she came to do and beat all others to Hobart to earn a record-tying seventh line-honors victory in nine tries. To do so, she had to overcome a more-than-formidable challenge from Anthony Bell's new 100-footer *Perpetual LOYAL* (ex-*Speedboat/Rambler 100*), which was navigated by Bay Area superstar Stan Honey. *LOYAL* and *WOXI* played a game of cat and mouse where *LOYAL* went offshore early to stay in better pressure and current, jumping out to an early lead while *WOXI* and new navigator Tom Addis stayed closer to shore, allowing them to reach the building northerly first and taking the lead they built through to

the finish.

To win the Sydney Hobart race requires a combination of many key elements — skill, luck, navigation and a well-found boat — and this year's overall winner *Victoire* exemplified these qualities in spades. Sydney-based surgeon Darryl Hodgkinson's canting-keeled Cookson 50 sailed masterfully in her first race under new ownership to claim the victory by an hour over the Melbourne-based Elliott 44 *Veloce*. Having placed second in the race twice as *Jazz*, the 50-footer survived an accidental jibe 100 miles into the race and braved the challenging conditions off the Tassie Coast and Storm Bay to shoot up the leaderboard just as she crossed the finish line in Hobart.

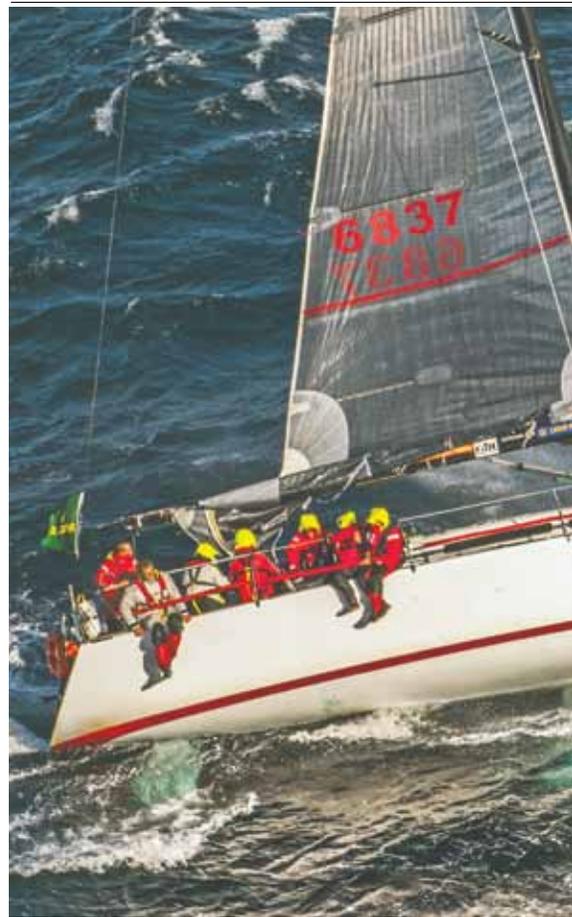
Setting their stopwatches as they hit the dock, the crew waited anxiously to see if previous overall leader *Wild Rose* (originally *Wild Oats*) would be able to correct out on top. A much slower boat, *Wild Rose* was thwarted by the elements as she hit the southerly front earlier in

the race, spent more time sailing upwind as a result, and eventually encountered light air before reaching Hobart. *Rose* ultimately slipped to 11th overall on IRC. As challenging as this year's race was, there were just 10 retirements in the entire fleet despite a significant amount of carnage, injuries and torn sails — a further testament to the depth, quality and experience in the fleet.

— ronnie simpson

## ROLEX SYDNEY HOBART YACHT RACE

LINE HONORS — 1) **Wild Oats XI**, R/P100, Robert Oatley; 2) **Perpetual LOYAL**, Juan-K 100, Anthony Bell; 3) **Ragamuffin 100**, Elliott 100, Syd Fisher; 4) **Black Jack**, Volvo 70, Peter Harburg; 5) **Beau Geste**, Botin 80, Karl Kwok. (94 boats).



Complete results at <http://rolexydneyhobart.com>

## Wylie Wabbit Season Champion

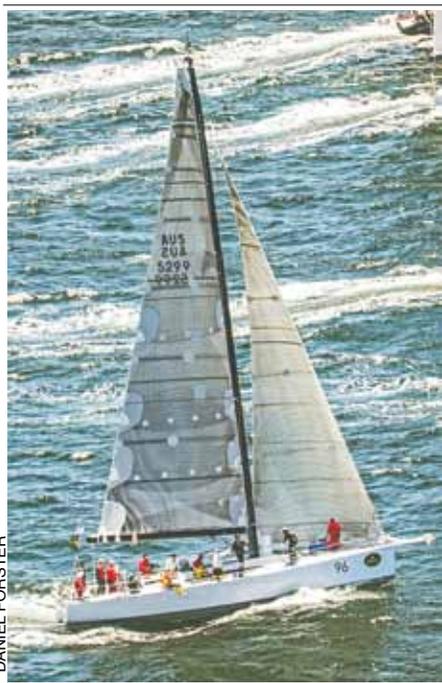
The seasoned Wylie Wabbit crew on board *Mr. McGregor* take their success in good stride, suggesting that there's



COURTESY KIM DESENBERG

## Kim Desenberg (pictured) & boat partner John Groen

always room for improvement. "We have won several season championships, although not as many as Colin Moore on



DANIEL FORSTIER

Darryl Hodgkinson's *'Victoire'* at the start of the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race.



A Dolphin pod escorts Timothy Cox's 'Minerva' toward Tasmania Island in heavy air during the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race.

DANIEL FORSTER

*Kwazy*," said co-owner Kim Desenberg.

The *McGregor* crew have more than just a bit of history in the Wabbit fleet. Desenberg's been a partner in the boat since it was built in 1982, and his company at the time was North Coast Yachts, which built the Wabbits. John Groen, who became a partner in the boat in 1990, was one of the boatbuilders on the Wylie Wabbit project, and his father Gene owned *Willow's* prototype.

Disenberg said *McGregor* benefits from a regular, talented and steady crew with Groen doing the trapeze and foredeck work, and their middle person, Terry White.

Their secret for success? "Showing up for the races, having the fleet captain aboard who is the one keeping the scores, and having fun sailing and racing our boat!" Desenberg said.

"After 32 years we still love sailing these exciting and fun little boats, which we think of as early sportboats," he continued. "We plan to be out defending our title next year (unless the boat falls apart!)"

— michelle slade

### **The Great Vallejo Race Rescheduled**

The Great Vallejo Race dates have changed to April 26-27. Mark your calendars! The YRA Spring #1 will be May 3, and other race dates may change as well. Look for any announcements here in *Latitude 38*, or in *Lectronic Latitude*.

### **Richmond YC's Little Daddy**

On January 11, the Richmond YC hosted their annual Little Daddy High School Regatta. The overcast weather didn't dampen anyone's spirits as the 63 teams enjoyed a steady but consistent breeze aboard their Flying Juniors. The Gold Fleet's 31 boats and the Silver Fleet's 32 boats each completed six races for the day. For the first time in the Northern California high school sailing scene, series organizers split the two fleets into two separate courses, which made a big difference to the young competitors.

#### **RYC LITTLE DADDY**

**GOLD FLEET** — 1) Will Dana/Nicholas Marwell, 13 points; 2) Jackson Wagner/Mark Power, 23; 3) Tristram Craig/Elizabeth Rowedder, 35. (31 boats)

**SILVER FLEET** — 1) Charlotte Lenz/Olivia Beers, 32 points; 2) Noell Sirot, 41; 3) Chad Farell/Isha Tomita, 48. (32 boats)

Complete results at  
<http://rycjuniorprogram.wordpress.com>

### **Berkeley YC Midwinters**

It's been said that you can't predict one day's weather based only on the day before. The weekend of January 11 and 12 proved this in spades. Saturday we almost saw rain, and the wind was mostly from the south. On Sunday there were no clouds and the wind was primarily from the north.

Fifty-four boats in nine divisions came out to race in the mist on Saturday. We decided upon a southerly focused course, eight miles in length for the first division. The wind seemed quite light and so for the second and third divisions, we chose a shorter 5.8-mile course.

At one point during the race, the mist (which never quite turned into rain) shrouded the fleet, leaving the Race Committee feeling almost alone. But then, the sun peeped through the clouds shining only on the RegattaPRO fleet racing just west of the Circle. Had they worked out something with the weather gods?

With only one race to go in the series, there are some divisions with clear winners and some others that are way too close to call. In Division A only two points separate the top four boats. Division B has a three-way tie for first and the Olson 25s and Division D both have two-way ties for first. February's racing should be fun and competitive!

Sunday appeared to be the better day to come out and race. In fact, two boats registered only for Saturday's races showed up to race on Sunday also. It was a tad chilly, but no one seemed to mind.

In contrast to Saturday, the wind was mostly northerly. The 7.6-mile course

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

#### ***January's racing stories included:***

- Midwinter racing opportunities
  - Season Champions, Part III
  - Audi Melges 20 Worlds
- Midwinter racing wrap-ups from Berkeley YC, RegattaPRO, Richmond YC's Small Boat series, Sequoia YC, South Beach YC, Island YC, Santa Cruz YC, and more!

# THE RACING



The Corinthian YC's Midwinter Regatta on Saturday, January 18, could have used a bit more wind. For many it was all they could do to reach Blossom Rock. Clockwise from upper left: 'Racer X' prepares to hoist; 'Tai Kua'i's foredeck hopes for a little wind to fill their spinnaker; 'Deception' and others struggle against the current; 'Uno' looks good heading across to Blossom; 'Quiver' and 'Inconceivable' find a breeze; Gordie Nash appears to lead the pack; the new J/88, 'Inconceivable' tailgating Steve Stroub's 'Tiburon.'

was comfortably completed before the anticipated drop in wind occurred. All this and the 49ers won too!

— bobbi tosse

## BERKELEY YC MIDWINTERS SATURDAY

### SERIES STANDINGS (3r.Ot)

DIVISION A — 1) **Lightspeed**, Custom Wylie 39, Richard Elkins, 10 points; 2) **Ragtime**, J/90, Trlg Liljestrand, 11; 3) **Always Friday**, Antrim 27, John Liebenberg, 11. (12 boats)

OLSON 30 — 1) **Hoot**, Andy Macfie, 3 points; 2) **Chaos**, Raymond Wilson, 7; 3) **Yankee Air Pilot**, Donald Newman, 8. (3 boats)

DIVISION B — 1) **Flexi Flyer**, Soverel 33, Mitchell Wells, 7 points; 2) **Baleineau**, Olson 34, Charlie Brochard, 7; 3) **Ahi**, Santana 35, Andy Newell, 7. (5 boats)

EXPRESS 27 — 1) **Motorcycle Irene**, Will Paxton, 5 points; 2) **Abigail Morgan**, Oliver Kell, 11; 3) **Libra**, Marcia Schnapp, 11. (15 boats)

SF 30 — 1) **Jane Doe**, Olson 911s, Robert Izmirian, 7 points; 2) **Shameless**, Schumacher 30, George Ellison, 8; 3) **Wind Speed**, J/30, Tony Castruccio, 10. (6 boats)

OLSON 25 — 1) **American Standard**, Bob Gunion, 6 points; 2) **Synchronicity**, Steve Smith, 6; 3) **Shark on Bluegrass**, Falk Meissner, 10. (6 boats)

DIVISION C — 1) **Phantom**, J/24, John Guliford, 3 points; 2) **Achates**, Newport 30, Robert Schock, 6; 3) **Harry**, Newport 30, Dick Aronoff, 10. (3 boats)

DIVISION D — 1) **Ypso**, Cal 2-27, Tim Stapleton, 6 points; 2) **Critical Mass**, Mancebo 24, John Dukat, 6; 3) **Huck Finn**, Bear, Margie Siegal, 10. (6 boats)

CAL 20 — 1) **Can O'Whoopass**, Richard von Ehrenkrook, 4 points; 2) **Raccoon**, Jim Snow, 10; 3) **Coyote**, Dave Gardner, 10. (6 boats)

## BERKELEY YC MIDWINTER SUNDAY SERIES STANDINGS (3r.Ot)

MULTIHULL — 1) **Foxtrot**, Corsair 24 Mk II, Todd Craig, 4 points. (1 boat)

DIVISION 1 — 1) **Stewball**, Express 37, Bob Harford, 5 points; 2) **Lightspeed**, Custom Wylie 39, Richard Elkins, 8; 3) **Always Friday**, Antrim 27, John Liebenberg, 9. (7 boats)

OLSON 30 — 1) **Hoot**, Andy Macfie, 4 points; 2) **Yankee Air Pilot**, Donald Newman, 6; 3) **Chaos**, Raymond Wilson, 8. (4 boats)

EXPRESS 27 — 1) **Motorcycle Irene**, Will Paxton, 3 points; 2) **Libra**, Marcia Schnapp, 7; 3) **Bobs**, Anthony Murphy, 12. (8 boats)

DIVISION 2 — 1) **TMC Racing**, J/24, Michael Whitfield, 4 points; 2) **Frogflips**, J/24, Richard Stockdale, 6; 3) **Two Irrational**, Moore 24, Anthony

Chargin, 12. (8 boats)

DIVISION 3 — 1) **Antares**, Islander 30-2, Larry Telford, 3 points; 2) **Critical Mass**, Mancebo 24, John Dukat, 7; 3) **No Cat Hare**, Catalina 22, Donald Hare, 11. (4 boats)

Complete results at [www.berkeleyyc.org](http://www.berkeleyyc.org)

## Coyote Point YC Winter Beercan Series

January 12 proved to be unlike most winter days: there was actually a fair amount of breeze so that competitors could get around the course in a timely manner. In fact, it was about as perfect of a winter sailing day as possible. The sky was very clear, bright and sunny, with a cool but steady 10- to-12 knot breeze.

Rarely seen in midwinter races around the Bay, this one had a rabbit start, led by Mike Haddock on his C&C 110, *Hot Ice*. The fleet of eight boats got off to a pretty good start with just a few smaller boats lagging behind the faster big boats by the end of the first leg. Things changed a bit when *Hot Ice* dropped out of the race unannounced, putting the J/29 *Smokin'*



ALL PHOTOS LESLIE RICHTER / WWW.ROCKSKIPPER.COM

*J* out in front.

It was a great sight watching three boats racing side by side, the smaller but quick J/32 *Sweet Grapes* with her big 150% genoa, *Vita e Bella*, once again flying the bright blue and red asymmetrical kite, and *Smokin' J* holding onto the lead. *Smokin' J* maintained her pace and entered the channel enough ahead of *Paradigm* to stay in first place after applying the three-second-per-mile handicap. *Sweet Grapes* took third, followed by *Vita e Bella*, *Moriah*, *Liquid Kitty* and *Escape*. Another wonderful day on the South Bay.

— mark bettis

#### COYOTE POINT YC WINTER BEERCAN SERIES (1r, 0t)

PHRF — 1) **Smokin' J**, J/29, Mark Bettis, 1 point; 2) **Paradigm**, J/32, Luther Izmirian, 2; 3) **Sweet Grapes**, Ericson 36, Alan Orr, 3. (8 boats)

Complete results at [www.cpyc.com](http://www.cpyc.com)

#### **Sequoia Redwood Cup Series**

The Sequoia Yacht Club continued its Redwood Cup Series with race three on January 18. This is a five-race series that's run in pursuit format, where each boat's start time is based on its PHRF rating. In spite of light air forecast, 18 boats

turned out for winter racing on the South Bay. Fleet captains called for a relatively short 5.44-mile course because of the conditions.

Optimistic racers attempted to cross the start line just after 1:30 p.m. and sailors desperately looked for any sign that might indicate a whisper of wind. The left side of the channel offered what little wind there was, and thanks to the building ebb current, racers made forward motion along the course. The wind stayed light all day long, with a maximum of eight to nine knots of breeze by mid-afternoon. The key to success was rounding the windward mark early and setting the spinnaker to get back to the start/finish line. The second-half of the race was a run back down the channel, where the building ebb soon became a considerable factor. Many were treated to a colorful view of the low winter sun lighting the spinnakers of the lead boats, but as the afternoon came to a close many of the slower boats lowered their sails and motored back to the marina.

— tim petersen

#### SEQUOIA YC REDWOOD CUP SERIES

##### STANDINGS (3r, 0t)

PHRF — 1) **Head Rush**, Antrim 27, Charlie Watt, 3 points; 2) **Relentless**, J/92, Tracy Rogers, 7; 3)

**Magic**, Express 27, Mike Reed, 12. (9 boats)  
Complete results at [www.sequoiayc.org](http://www.sequoiayc.org)

#### **More Race Results**

##### ENCINAL YC JACK FROST MIDWINTERS STANDINGS (4r, 0t)

PHRF <105 — 1) **Twisted**, Farr 40, Tony Pohl, 4 points; 2) **Snowy Owl**, Express 37, Jens Jensen, 8; 3) **Peregrine Falcon**, Corsair F-27, Phil Gardner, 14. (6 boats)

SPORT BOATS — 1) **JetStream**, JS9000, Daniel Alvarez, 6 points; 2) **Outsider**, Azzura 310, Greg Nelsen, 8; 3) **Flight Risk**, Thompson 650, Ben Landon, 13. (5 boats)

WYLIECAT 30 — 1) **Crinan II**, Bill West, 10 points; 2) **Whirlwind**, Dan Benjamin, 12; 3) **Green Onions**, John Tuma, 14. (4 boats)

PHRF >106 — 1) **Elusive**, Olson 911s, John Schoenecker, 8 points; 2) **Gig**, Humboldt 30, Gil Sloan, 10; 3) **Blue Passion**, Tartan 3400, Al Leonard, 17. (6 boats)

SANTANA 22 — 1) **Pariah**, Mike Kennedy, 8 points; 2) **Oreo**, Garth Copenhaver, 14; 3) **Meliki**, Deb Fehr, 14. (7 boats)

##### REGATTAPRO WINTER ONE DESIGN SERIES STANDINGS 1/11 (6r, 1t)

J/120 — 1) **Chance**, Barry Lewis, 9 points; 2) **Mr. Magoo**, Stephen Madeira, 11; 3) **Desdemona**, John Wimer, 13. (4 boats)

J/105 — 1) **Wonder**, Thomas Kennedy, 13 points; 2) **Cuchulainn**, Kevin Mullen, 15; 3) **Jam**

# THE RACING SHEET

**Session**, Adam Spiegel, 15. (18 boats)

MELGES24 — 1) **Personal Puff**, Dan Hauserman, 10 points; 2) **M1**, Ian Collignon, 15; 3) **Nothing Ventured**, Duane Yoslov, 19. (7 boats)

J/70 — 1) **Javelin**, Norman Davant, 6 points; 2) **Small Craft Advisory**, Mark Howe, 9; 3) **Sugoi**, Mark Nelson, 16. (5 boats)

Moore 24 — 1) **Banditos**, John Kernot, 7 points; 2) **White Trash**, Pete Trachy, 17; 3) **Gruntled**, Simon Winer, 24. (11 boats)

J/24 — 1) **Snow Job**, Brian Geoptrich, 6 points; 2) **Broadside**, Jasper Van Vliet, 21; 3) **Frogflips**, Richard Stockdale, 22. (11 boats)



'Pariah' leads this trio of Santana 22s competing in the Encinal YC's Jack Frost Series.

**Hawkeye**, IMX-38, Frank Morrow, 7. (5 boats)

PHRF 4 — 1) **Youngster**, IOD, Ron Young, 5 points; 2) **Shenanigans**, Express 27, Bill Moore, 14; 3) **Nancy**, Wyliecat 30, Pat Broderick, 14. (7 boats)

CATALINA 34 — 1) **Queimada**, David Sanner, 9 points; 2) **All Hail**, Page Van Loben Sels, 9; 3) **Amandla**, Kurt Magdanz, 11. (6 boats)

KNARR — 1) **Fifty/Fifty**, Brent Crawford, 5 points; 2) **Knarr 134**, Eric Gray, 10; **Narcissus**,

John Jenkins, 11. (8 Boats)  
FOLKBOAT — 1) **Polperro**, Peter Jeal, 4 points; 2) **Thea**, Chris Herrmann, 7; 3) **Nordic Star**, Richard Keldsen, 8. (5 boats)

Complete results at [www.ggyc.com](http://www.ggyc.com)

## SAUSALITO YC MIDWINTER SERIES STANDINGS (1/9)

SPINNAKER A — 1) **Streaker**, J/105, Ron Anderson, 3 points; 2) **Escapade**, Express 37, Nick Schmidt, 6; 3) **Q**, Schumacher 40, Glenn Isaacson, 6. (5 boats)

SPINNAKER C — 1) **Youngster**, IOD, Ron Young, 2 points; 2) **Cattitude**, Tartan Ten, Deana Maggard, 6; 3) **Nancy**, Wyliecat 30, Pat Broderick, 6. (6 boats)

NON-SPINNAKER D — 1) **French Kiss**, Bene-teau/Oceanis 350, Dave Burton, 3.5 points; 2) **California**, Islander 36, Tim Bussiek, 4; 3) **La Mer**, Newport 30, Randy Grenier, 4.5. (4 boats)

NON-SPINNAKER E — 1) **Raccoon**, Cal 20, Jim Snow, 2 points; 2) **JustEm**, Cal 20, Sally Clapper, 4; 3) **Inshallah**, Santana 22, Shirley Bates, 7. (5 boats)

## GGYC MANUEL FAGUNDES SEAWEEED SOUP SERIES STANDINGS (1/4)

PHRF 1 — 1) **California Condor**, Antrim 40, Buzz Blackett, 6 points; 2) **TNT**, Tripp 43, Brad Copper, 8; 3) **Bodacious+**, 1D 48, John Clauser, 10. (6 boats)

PHRF 2 — 1) **Ragtime**, J/90, Trig Liljestrand, 11 points; 2) **Outsider**, Azzura 310, Greg Nelsen, 11; 3) **Symmetry**, J/111, Howard Turner, 13. (10 boats)

PHRF 3 — 1) **Yucca**, 8-Meter, Hank Easom, 6 points; 2) **Uno**, Wyliecat 30, Brendan Meyer, 6; 3)

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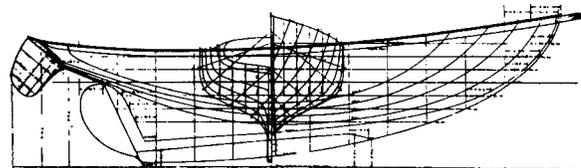


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With a report this month on **Two Diehard Sailors' European Cruise Aboard the World's Largest Tall Ship.**

## **A Different Sort of Sailing: A Clipper Ship Worthy of Royalty**

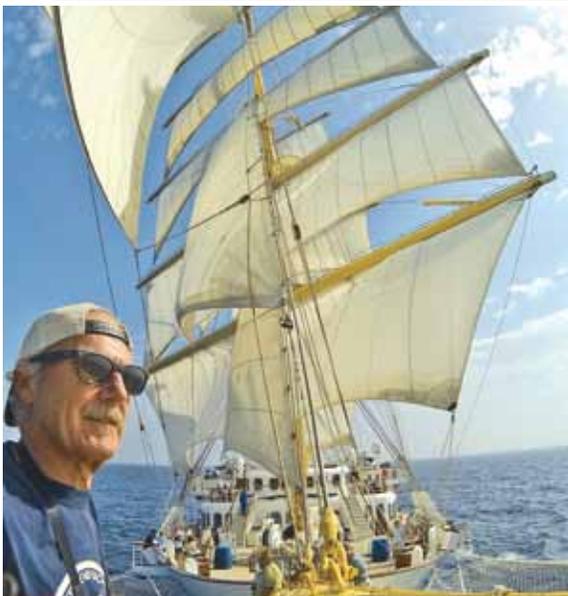
My wife Marta and I have always been of the 'wouldn't-be-caught-dead-on-a-cruise-ship' persuasion, but we finally did a cruise last October — however, not on your typical 'floating city' cruise ship.

We were among 197 passengers aboard the sailing ship *Royal Clipper* for a 10-day cruise from Venice to Rome via Croatia, Montenegro, Greece and Sicily. We'd wanted to take a trip on the *Royal Clipper* ever since we first saw pictures of her in a sailing magazine when she was launched in Rotterdam in 2000.

Her lines were inspired by the clipper ship *Preussen*, built in Germany in 1902. As *Preussen* was then, *Royal Clipper* is today the largest fully-rigged sailing ship in the world. The two are the only five-masted clipper ships ever built. *Royal Clipper* is 440 feet overall with a beam of 54 feet, and draft of 19 feet. Her five square-rigged steel masts, bowsprit and boom carry 42 sails: 4 foresails, 26 square sails, 11 staysails and a gaff-rigged spanker — with an impressive 56,000 square feet of sail area.

She carries a maximum of 227 passengers in deluxe and standard staterooms and a crew of 106. Any sailor who maintains his own boat might enjoy our personal favorite 'world's-largest-sailing-ship' statistic: she has 19,000 square feet of teak decks! *Royal Clipper*

**When conditions were right, the sailing was glorious, with all 42 of 'Royal Clipper's' sails harnessing the breeze.**



is the flagship of the Star Clippers fleet, which also includes two identical 360-ft four-masted barquentines, launched in 1991 and 1992 by Swedish owner Mikael Krafft. (Check them out at [StarClippers.com](http://StarClippers.com).)

*Royal Clipper's* square sails are hydraulically roller-furled into and out of their yardarms so there's no need for crew to go aloft. All 42 sails can be raised from the deck in about half an hour without anyone breaking a sweat. The foresails and staysails are all raised on their massive wire stays the old fashioned way, with their halyards led to hydraulic reel winches or huge bronze hydraulic drum winches that are tailed by the crew or willing passengers, then cleated to traditional belaying pins. The sheets, downhauls and other lines are all led to the deck and controlled by the same bronze winches.

The standing rigging is set up in the traditional clipper ship manner. The wire and turnbuckle dimensions are reminiscent of what you might find on the Golden Gate Bridge, and there is an amazing amount of wire overhead — many tons of it, I would think. Lying on a deck lounge or in the bowsprit netting and looking up into the maze of rigging wires and running lines to figure out what they were all there for was one of my favorite pastimes on lazy afternoons.

I learned the names of all 42 sails the first night aboard, figuring that knowledge would come in handy at some point, but I only got to show off my expertise for Marta.

Whenever leaving a port of call, *Royal Clipper* performs a ritual raising of at least some of the staysails, with Vangelis' *The Conquest of Paradise* blasting from loudspeakers so loudly that no one on shore or aboard any other vessel in the vicinity misses the show. Some of the passengers find this exercise very inspiring, others think it's kind of corny, and most probably think the former the first time and the latter by the fifth or sixth time. In any case, every passenger is always eager to see if conditions will be right for the world's largest sailing ship to actually *sail!* Our captain pointed out in his introductory remarks the first night aboard that there are other cruise ships with

sails, but they don't have "real keels" and are not really sailing ships. He promised to use the sails as often as conditions permitted, but we ended up motorsailing most of the time with staysails.

On the passage from Corfu to Sicily we were finally under full sail without engine power for a good twelve hours or so, making about eight or nine knots on a beautiful sunny day. That day gave a slight hint of what a two-week trans-Atlantic trade-wind passage from Lisbon to St. Lucia on *Royal Clipper* might be like. That would be the trip to book if you really wanted to immerse yourself in the ultimate sailing ship experience and commune with the sea, very comfortably.

We had some pretty nasty weather the first couple of nights out — 30 knots on the nose and heavy rain. The motion of the ship was bad enough that the steward deployed the bunk boards when making up our stateroom. We had one of the 14 main deck staterooms with an outside balcony, and I took a perverse pleasure in venturing out there at night to 'stand watch'. I took in the sounds and smells of the sea below and the rain above just long enough to get slightly cold and wet — so I could then jump into our marble whirlpool tub to warm up while contemplating what a miserable night it would be out there on the type of "sailing ship" we're used to cruising on.

We met some other passengers who, like ourselves, had never done a cruise before, but wanted the sailing ship experience, plus many who were repeat passengers on *Royal Clipper*, and a few who got seasick and might have been happier on a traditional cruise ship. Most were active retired types with long travel resumes — senior among them was the



# OF CHARTERING



ALL PHOTOS DAVID TURPIN

**The old salt strikes a pose in the bow netting of the world's largest sailing ship, 'Royal Clipper'. Inset: The five-master at Kotor, Montenegro.**

85-year-old widow we met at dinner the first night who was on her fifth *Royal Clipper* cruise!

About a third of the passengers were Americans, a third Brits, and the final third were other Europeans, mostly Germans. All formal announcements and written materials are provided in English, German, and French. We saw a lot more passengers passing the time with books than with iPads or Kindles.

The captain is Estonian, the first officer Italian, the junior officers mostly Eastern European and Indian, the engine room/maintenance/sailing crew are Indian, and the galley/dining room/bar staff and cabin stewards are Filipino. The cruise director, purser, and ship's store keeper were young German women and the "sports team" was comprised of three young Swedish men. The ship's owner is Swedish; his company, Star Clippers, is based in Monaco; and the ship flies the

flag of Malta. The ubiquitous Hungarian piano player, who is always on duty at the grand piano in the "Piano Bar" or the electric piano in the "Tropical Bar," completes the diversity discussion.

*Royal Clipper's* amenities are very limited by typical cruise ship standards — no casinos, nightclubs, sports bars, theaters or shopping malls. No elevators, and lots of stairs. No shuffleboard either (ask an old person what that was). A small ship's store with logowear and other souvenirs, the modest spa, and three bars are the only places on board where one can spend money!

The decor is classic 1920s-era luxury yacht: gleaming brightwork, polished brass, raised paneling, a royal blue and gold color scheme, portraits of sailing ships everywhere, and those 19,000 square feet of teak decks for strolling. There is a library with a fireplace and overstuffed leather chairs. When admiring her as a work of shipbuilding

art, the word "magnificent" continually came to mind.

The deluxe stateroom that we splurged on — the Golden Gate stateroom, in fact — was as luxurious as any four-star hotel room, with living space and a marble bathroom the likes of which you probably wouldn't find on a charter yacht until you got up to the 100-foot range. Breakfast and lunch were served buffet style in the elegant multi-level atrium dining room and dinner was from a menu of five courses with five or six varied entrees. The dress code is very informal and you sit where and when you want to. A couple of times we enjoyed having a room-service dinner on our balcony. We found the food and spirits to be excellent, with the exception that, being from Santa Barbara, we were rather disappointed to find that the tequila selection was limited to a bottle of Cuervo Gold! Be warned, though, that bringing your own liquor onboard is strictly *verboten*, as on all cruise ships.

Social life centers around the Tropical Bar on the main deck where there is some form of amateur entertainment or game provided nightly after dinner for those who wish to participate. The cruise director doubles as emcee and many crew members join in. The highlight, of course, is pirate night, when you're supposed to put together whatever costume you can with what you have on hand. Having read about this on a cruise website prior to the trip, I was fully prepared with my six-time Baja Ha-Ha-veteran pirate outfit. But when pirate night came along we were so mellowed out by that day's excursion to Taormina, Sicily's 2,000-year-old amphitheater, that we opted for a moonlit walk on deck instead

**Marta strikes a pose at the Tropical Bar, where the international clientele often gathers to relax and share travel tales.**



# WORLD

of the party.

Cigarette, cigar and pipe smoking is grudgingly permitted in one corner of the outdoor bar, and the few smokers among us quickly bonded. There are three small pools filled with sea water and deck lounges for all, and when the sun is out the Pool Bar on the sun deck is open and busy. At such times the sports team is usually occupied running the swim platform that lowers from the stern, and passing out the dive gear and kayaks.

On our late-fall trip, the swim platform wasn't put to much use and the young Swedes spent most of their time leading early morning exercise classes for the inspired, and belaying the passengers who wanted to climb the rigging to the crow's nest. I was bugging them about that from the moment we got on board, but the weather was too wet the first couple of days. We finally got to go up on the fourth morning's misty approach to the ancient fortress of Kotor, Montenegro. The view and photo-ops from the first yardarm were impressive,



ALL PHOTOS DAVID TURPIN

*The 'Royal Clipper' is a class act right down to her dimpled Swedish figurehead. The passengers seen upper left give a sense of scale.*

but I wished I could send my GoPro up to the topgallant yard — another 160 feet above — for some really epic 'point-and-hope' wide-angle shots.

The inability to dependably upload web posts and photos, and keep up with email was one of the few complaints we heard from our fellow passengers, as the *Royal Clipper* has only a spotty satellite

Wi-Fi system that really needs to be upgraded. It often proved easier to take care of those matters in a tavern or cafe when ashore.

Likewise with television. We happily accepted the ever-changing view from our giant windows and the balcony as our in-room entertainment for ten wonderful, television-free days. There was a little TV in a cabinet at the foot of the bed, and you can borrow DVDs from the ship's store, but if keeping up with current TV programming is important to you, this is probably not the ship for you.

We spent a lot of time studying the upcoming ports of call and the various optional and moderately pricey shore excursions. Examples are a short guided walking tour of an ancient cathedral, an all-day bus tour with a lunch stop at a local farm or vineyard, more athletic pursuits like mountain bike and kayak tours, or a trek to the crater of Mount Etna. The one we most wanted to do, a daysail through the islands around Hvar, Croatia, was rained out, but we



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# OF CHARTERING

particularly enjoyed a guided tour of the magnificent gardens and art of the Achillion Palace on Corfu. At several places local cab drivers served as both tour guide and entertainment as we went off exploring on our own.

While wandering around in the rain at the island port of Hvar, we took refuge in a humble tavern and were delighted to enjoy a lunch of soup, salad, bread and beer, while being the only *gringos* among several hearty groups of commercial fishermen, recreational sailors, and other locals who were also pinned down by the storm.

At the opposite extreme, our lunch a week later on sun-drenched, upscale Capri was taken at a sidewalk cafe surrounded by the most exclusive European designer shops. One of my personal highlights was walking the walls and cobblestone streets of Dubrovnik again after having done so last in 1973. I channeled memories of that visit as a 23-year-old wannabe expat, arriving by land in a Volkswagen camper. That evening we

took a walk with a well-traveled guide who had survived the 1991 bombings, and could fill us in on the 40 years of history since my first visit.

'Standing watch' on the bridge for the nighttime passage from Sicily to Capri through the narrow Strait of Messina and past the volcanic island of Stromboli, which was in fiery eruption, was another highlight.

We would heartily recommend the *Royal Clipper* experience to anyone with a fascination for tall ships and a romantic view of the golden age of sail. Touring historical replicas or training ships at the dock is one thing, but cruising aboard the world's largest sailing ship is a truly unique experience. If you wouldn't be caught dead on a traditional cruise ship, but can't afford to charter a luxury crewed yacht for your next Mediterranean adventure, a berth on the *Royal Clipper* or one of her sister ships might provide the best



***It takes a 100-person crew to run the 'Royal Clipper,' but motorized yardarm furlers lessen the sail-handling workload substantially.***

of both worlds, as it did for us.

Now, having realized the goal of a voyage on the world's largest sailing ship, we just need to catch a ride on *Maltese Falcon*, a J-Class boat, and an AC72, and our sailing bucket list will be complete!

— david & marta turpin

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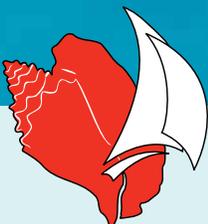
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# CHANGES

With reports this month from **Bula** on their solar oven; from **Privateer** on a long cruise through the South Pacific; from the **Wanderer** on a return to **Mazatlan**; from **Starship** summarizing a two-year cruise; from **Points Beyond** on Cartagena, Colombia; and **Cruise Notes**.

## **Bula — Seawind 1100 Ken McLaughlin and Kerry Dunlop Cooking With the Sun (Redondo / Two Harbors, Catalina)**

If you're only using the sun to get power from your solar panels, you're not taking full advantage of Old Sol. As Ken and Kerry — he of Northern California, Redondo and Two Harbors, and she of Redondo and Two Harbors — told us, they do most of their cooking with a Global Sun Oven.

The 21-pound oven was made with the Third World and the environment in mind. Two billion people in the world cook with wood, charcoal or dung, which is not good for their health or the environment.

The Global Sun Oven is said to be the alternative for 70% of their cooking, as food can be boiled, steamed, roasted or baked at temperatures up to 360°. "You need to wear oven mitts when you open the oven so you don't burn yourself," says Ken.

What can you cook in a solar oven? The better question is, what can't you cook? Meat, fish, chicken, stews, vegetables, pies, cakes, beans, pasta — the list of things to cook goes on and on.

"I just throw in a bunch of frozen chicken parts and veggies and let it cook all day, just as you would with a crock pot," says Kerry. "It won't burn. It's suggested that you add a cup of water, but

**Ken and Kerry aboard 'Bula' with their solar-powered oven. The couple do most of their cooking with the solar oven or the BBQ.**

we've found that's not necessary."

"And the meats are slow-cooked-juicy and delicious," says Ken. "We've made ribs several times, and the meat falls right off the bone. We also did a roast. Another favorite is hard-boiled eggs. You take the top off the carton and put the rest in the oven, and in a little more than an hour you have perfect hard-boiled eggs. And the shells come off easily.

Depending on the model stove you get, they run from about \$125 to \$300. Ken and Kerry got the more expensive one, which comes with its own set of pots and pans. "Using the special stacking pots and pans, I can do things like cook meat and make corn bread at the same time. It's great. For things like cookies and cakes, the oven is not a slow cooker at all. They bake in the same amount of time as in a conventional oven."

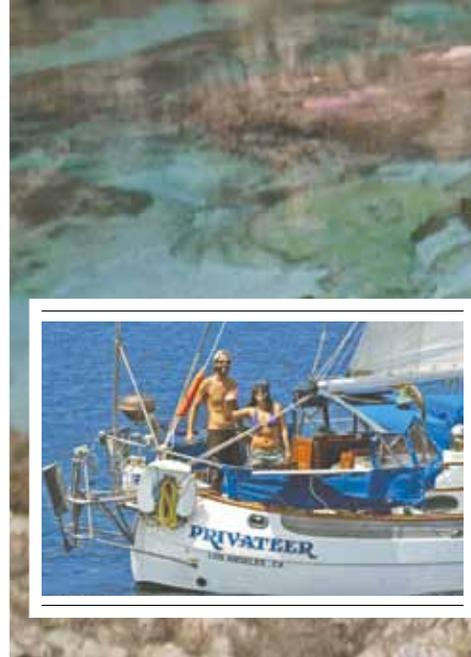
The saloon in a Seawind 1100 is relatively small, so Ken and Kerry don't like to use their normal stove too much, as it overheats the saloon. "We do make our coffee with a regular stove and use a pressure cooker for things like artichokes, but our propane consumption is way down," says Ken.

The only downsides the couple could think of were that in situations where changes in the wind direction give the boat a different orientation to the sun, it might take a little longer for food to cook, and it's not as efficient on cloudy days. "It doesn't have to be a hot day for the stove to work, but it can't be too cloudy," says Ken.

The couple's more expensive stove came with a dehydrator for meat and fruit. If you want to get further off the grid and prepare healthier foods, the solar oven could be the ticket.

Ken and Kerry tried to take off cruising a year ago, but things — such as the house taking longer than expected to sell and Ken's daughter having a baby — set them back. They ended up spending eight months in Ensenada.

The truth be told, downtown Ensenada looks a little tawdry. Nonetheless Ken says he had "a fantastic time", and Kerry says, "I loved it." But the couple realized it didn't make sense for them to pay for a slip in Ensenada when Ken still had a free mooring at Cat Harbor. So they returned to Two Har-



bors — where Kerry had been a harbor patrolwoman for years and where the two first met — last summer.

They headed south a second time in December. After spending a month in Ensenada, they continued south to Cabo shortly after Christmas. You know how great the run down the coast of Baja is? Well, it wasn't for them. Either there was no wind or it was blowing up to 35 knots on the nose. "We didn't get to sail more than 10% of the time," said Ken, who, having owned 15 boats, obviously likes to sail.

The two figure they will spend hurricane season in Paradise Marina in Nuevo Vallarta, then head down to the Canal. After that the picture gets a little fuzzy, but they can see *Bula* — "a perfect boat for us" — in the clear waters of the Florida Keys and the Bahamas. Solar-cooked conch anyone?

— latitude/rs 01/15/2014

WINTON YEE



**It doesn't matter if you like white or green asparagus, you can cook either one in a solar oven.**

LATTITUDE/RICHARD





**Spread; Chris and Lila in a limestone cave at Niue. Inset top; Making a new headstay in Samoa. Inset bottom; The heavy HC was great.**

**Privateer — Hans Christian 33  
Chris John and Lila Shaked  
The Young and Restless  
(Redlands and Tucson, AZ)**

Since the majority of cruisers are in their 50s and 60s, we thought we'd pick the brains of a couple of young cruisers to better understand their perspective. The subjects of our interview are Chris, 29, and Lila, 32, who have recently finished a 2½-year, 16,000-mile cruise from California to New Zealand and back to Hawaii.

**38:** Did the two of you know each other well before you took off cruising?

**Chris:** Not really. Lila came around the night I was concluding the sale of my Islander 30 to a friend of hers. Three months later, she and I set sail for Hawaii aboard *Privateer*.

**38:** Where did you go from Hawaii?

**Chris:** Fanning Island, which is about 1,000 miles to the south. We then set sail for French Polynesia. Unfortunately the headstay broke, so we had to turn back to Fanning. Fortunately, we had a back-up swage fitting and were able to jury-rig some anchor chain to the bottom of the stay. The repair worked well enough for us to make a 1,300-mile, 13-day passage to American Samoa. After getting the headstay repaired, we stopped at the little island of Niue, which turned out to be our favorite place.

**Lila:** It's such a beautiful little island with awesome people.

**38:** You must have heard about *Blue Marble*, the F/P 46 catamaran that tied up to the fishing boat buoy at Niue that failed, allowing the cat to go on the reef.

**Chris:** Yeah. Maybe there's a jinx at Niue. When we were there in 2012, a baby humpback that had been swimming through the anchorage hit a mooring ball that the Hunter 46 *Knotty Lady* was tied to. It resulted in the cleats being ripped right through the deck of the boat. The force had been so swift that it melted some of the lines. Insane!

**Lila:** Fortunately, the boat's anchor and Code Zero got wrapped in the mooring line, so she didn't drift away.

**Chris:** After Niue we continued on to Tonga. Man, that place is paradise! It's better than Niue in the sense that it's much larger and has hundreds of islands, and there are lots of good anchorages instead of just one lousy one. We spent time at the three main areas: Vava'u, which gets lots of cruising boats; the Ha'apai area, which is a gem because it only has a small airport and the anchorages aren't very good, so it doesn't get many visitors; and the Southern Group, which is where we jumped off for New Zealand.

**Lila:** We actually took off for New Zealand twice. After getting about 200 miles down the line on the 1,100-mile passage, Chris noticed an approaching low. He got a bad feeling about it, so we and three other boats turned back.

**Chris:** That was the blow that knocked down the Beneteau 38 *Windigo*, resulting in *Just months before setting sail for Hawaii, Chris pretty much assumed that he'd be singlehanded across the Pacific.*



**After landing this mahi, they stopping fishing.**



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# CHANGES

in the crew's having to be rescued by the navy. It blew about 40 knots where we were back at Tonga, so it was better to be behind a reef than on the open ocean.

PRIVATEER



Chris with a generous gift from locals.

the entire Southern Hemisphere summer. And we both found jobs.

**38:** Because you were both under 30?

**Chris:** Well, I was, so only I was legal.

**Lila:** Young cruisers need to know that they have to get to New Zealand before they turn 31, not 30, in order to be able to work legally. I made it there by two or three days, but you still have to apply for working status in time.

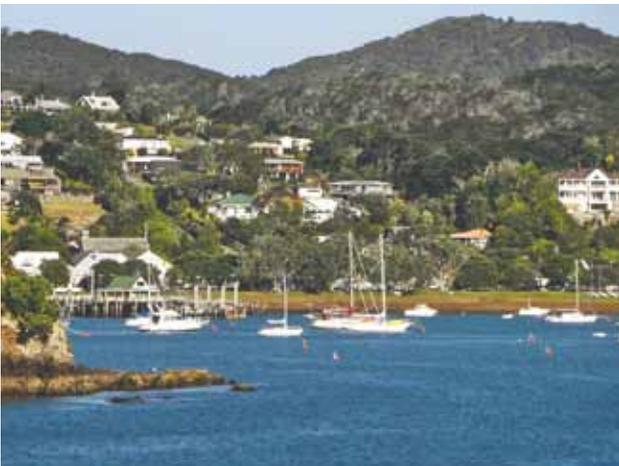
**38:** What did you do?

**Chris:** I worked as crew on boats while Lila worked in a cafe in Paihia. I later got a job as a cook at a beach bar where I could look out the window and see *Privateer*.

**Lila:** New Zealand doesn't have enough young workers, so it's not hard to find work. You can pick fruit, work in hostels, do all kinds of things. It's the same in Australia, except they pay even

**Cruisers can find decent jobs legally in both New Zealand and Australia — if they sign up before they turn 31. Age discrimination much?**

NEW ZEALAND TOURISM



better.

**Chris:** Americans can also work in American Samoa because it's an American territory. Just put on a hair net and go into a tuna cannery. *[Laughter.]*

Had I known about the legal opportunities to work between Hawaii and New Zealand, I would have taken off a lot sooner. But I'd assumed that I could only get spot work doing things like cleaning bottoms and stuff. What we learned is that you can easily get legal full-time gigs in Hawaii, American Samoa and New Zealand, socking money away for six months, then cruising for six months.

**Lila:** You just have to stay on the hook instead of in marinas, and make your own meals instead of dining out.

**Chris:** We lived on about \$400 a month, including all expenses. We'd save money by doing stuff like brewing our own beer. Everybody in New Zealand brews their own beer because otherwise it gets expensive — even for folks who, like us, who don't drink that much.

**38:** New Zealand is usually decision time. Do you go around the world with following winds, which is much longer, or do you head back to the States, which isn't as long but is a more difficult sail?

**Chris:** Even if you're going to return to the States, you have to make the decision if you're going to do it by going all the way around the Pacific via Micronesia and Japan, which takes 18 months, or sail back to Hawaii. We had to make that decision in the spring of 2012.

**Lila:** We decided that we didn't have enough money to complete the Pacific circuit, so we took the southern route back to French Polynesia. It was the worst trip ever, which is why so few cruisers try it.

**Chris:** We had bad luck. It took us nearly a month to cover the 2,500 miles, and it blew 30+ for days on end. We replaced the main with the trysail for two weeks!

**Lila:** We had to put out our drogue, too, and had many days where waves were breaking over the boat.

**Chris:** We knew what we were getting into, but we had a little bad luck with the weather. We ended up in the Austral Islands, which were great.

**38:** How did your heavy Hans Christian hold up in rough conditions?

**Chris:** I'd gotten a heavy full-keel boat specifically for



heavy weather. It's true that there were many times during our cruise when I wanted more wind to move her, and we flew the spinnaker a lot to accomplish that, but on the trip back to French Polynesia I was very happy with our 'little pot of tea'. She and her little engine just did their thing.

We continued up to Tahiti, then spent a month at Toha, which is just north of Fakaraha in the Tuamotus. Only eight people live there. The cargo boat with staples like rice and flour only comes once a month, and there is no airport.

**38:** What was the attraction?

**Chris:** That only eight people live there. In our opinion, the fewer the people, usually the better the experience.

**38:** It's long been our contention that it's easier for locals to identify with low-budget cruisers than those on larger and more luxurious boats. What do you think?

**Chris:** I agree 100%. If you're living a humble lifestyle, it's easier for poor locals to relate to you. You see it in the

get to cruise Mexico in a year or two.  
 [We'll continue with Part II of our interview with Chris and Lila in the March issue.]

— latitude/rs 12/15/2013

## Return to Mazatlan The Wanderer

It had been about five years — way too long — since we'd been to Mazatlan, and upon our return we were shocked by the changes. As most of you know, Mazatlan, Mexico's second largest coastal city and home to the biggest shrimp fleet in the world, is located in Sinaloa, one of the most active narco trafficking regions in the world. A few years ago there was a much-publicized shooting in a nightclub, and after a street robbery two years ago, most of the cruise ships pulled out. So we expected a lifeless city in decline. What we found instead was what appeared to be a booming, safe city with lots of happy locals and expats. We've never seen Mazatlan looking so good.

We were in Mazatlan as part of a road trip from Tucson to Puerto Vallarta with a newly imported Honda Element — the choice for discerning motorists — so we pulled off the *auto piste* at a seemingly seldom-used turnout overgrown with weeds to the beach area at the north end of the city. Minutes later we were flabbergasted by the string of new high-rise hotels and condos lining the beaches. Then there was a big new shopping center a short distance away. Somebody obviously believes in the vibrant city.

Our first stop was El Cid Hotel and Marina, where we visited with Harbor-master Geronimo Cevallos. It's easy for new hotels to look good; the real test is how they are maintained over time. Whoever owns El Cid deserves a medal — along with Graziano, the owner of Paradise Resort and Marina — for doing such

**The excellently maintained El Cid Hotel and Marina is just inside the breakwater from the Sea of Cortez. Deer Island is in the background.**

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**Spread; Chris burning trash. There are few garbage cans — or restrictions on beach fires — in the South Pacific. Insets left, from top: Lila with a nice mahi landed between Hawaii and Fanning. Locals included Chris and Lila in many of their activities and adventures. Fun at sea with Chris and Lila.**

way people interact. We got along really well with everyone — although in French Polynesia it certainly helped that Lila speaks French. I stumbled with my French, but they appreciated my trying.

**38:** Not all French are so appreciative of such efforts.

**Chris:** The Tahitians are. They always want to bring you into their homes and make you part of their family.

**Lila:** After the Tuamotus, we returned to Tahiti, Bora Bora, and then kinda had to hide because our visas had expired.

**Chris:** If you have to hide out, it's smarter to stay at the smaller islands such as Maupiti and Mopelia. We made the mistake of going to Raiatea to provision and got caught. But we smiled a lot and the officials were nice about it. They didn't fine us or anything.

**Lila:** But we heard horror stories about boats that had overstayed their visas in Tahiti and some of the other big

islands. The three-month time limit is hard on cruisers because we have to wait for the end of hurricane season before we can safely move on.

**Chris:** Anyway, we just got back to Hawaii in November after a hard 6,000-mile trip back from New Zealand. We plan to stay on Oahu for awhile.

**Lila:** It's the first time we've stayed at a dock in three years!

**Chris:** It's nice. I was so happy to see the breakwater at the Ala Wai Yacht Harbor. The Ala Wai is still Hawaii-funky, with some very good slips and some really bad ones. But that's sort of why you like Hawaii. There's also good racing on Friday nights, they've got fireworks, and we're having a blast there. I have a job waiting for me at West Marine, where employees get super discounts. But we hope to



DRONE 38

# CHANGES

a great job of maintaining and constantly improving his property in Mexico. El Cid



**Mazatlan is the shrimp capital of the world.**

looked great, as everywhere you looked someone was sweeping, scrubbing, painting or improving. The staff was very friendly without being obsequious. Despite the fact it was between Christmas and New Year's and nearly sold out, we got a spacious one-bedroom fronting the marina for just over \$100 a night. We liked the room,

El Cid, and Mazatlan so much that we extended our stay for another night.

There are four marinas in Mazatlan. Ed Cid and Marina Mazatlan are the largest, while the Fonatur Marina and Isla Marina are smaller. All are accessed from the same channel on the north end of town. There is a sharp and narrow dogleg at the entrance, so if a huge swell is running, it's safer to go to the old harbor at the south end of town.

El Cid is the closest marina to the entrance, and thus is sometimes subject to considerable current. This needs to be taken into account when entering or leaving a berth. El Cid has a lovely setting, however, with a bunch of swimming pools, and is ideally located for strolling to restaurants in the upper scale Dorado (Gold) Zone. The other three marinas are farther up the channel, and while their facilities aren't quite as nice, they are still very pleasant.

A number of years ago, Fonatur, Mexico's tourist development agency, came up with the quarter-baked 'nautical stairway' plan, which would feature **Of the nine Fonatur marinas in Mexico, the one in Mazatlan is the most successful, thanks to excellent service providers.**



stops every 60 miles down the coast of Baja, as well as the creation of nine Fonatur marinas. The reality has pretty much been an expensive flop because of the of ridiculous assumptions made about the number of U.S. boats that would travel to Mexico each winter. Nonetheless, the nine marinas and facilities still were built. To the best of our knowledge, the only one that has been a big success is the one at Mazatlan. A big factor in the success has been the onsite presence of Total Yacht Works, which has a stellar reputation for engine repair and replacement throughout Mexico, and other service providers in the area.

Total Yacht Works' reputation is so good that La Cruz-based friends John and Gilly Foy of the Alameda-based Catalina 42 *Destiny* think nothing of making the 222-mile round trip to have engine work done on their boat in Mazatlan. In addition to engine work, they got a gorgeous set of new faux leather salon cushions, with new bot-

tom foam, for about \$1,000.

One of Mazatlan's signatures is her lovely six-mile *malecon*, which is a magnet for physical-fitness buffs and others. While walking there, we came across five young at heart *gringo* senior citizens taking a rest from hill climbing on their bicycles. We asked them what they liked about the city. The whole bunch of them, half from Canada and half from the States, reported they spend about six months a year in Mazatlan and like it most because, "It's not a tourist town like Puerto Vallarta." One gentleman explained to us that agriculture and fishing are economic engines numbers one and two, while tourism is just number four. "Did you know," he asked us, "that the propellers for U.S. Navy ships are made here in Mazatlan, and have been for decades?" We didn't know that.

All five seniors agreed that the cultural offerings in Mazatlan are superb, the weather great, and the cost of living a quarter of what it is "back home".

Yeah, but what about all the narco





ALL PHOTOS BY LATITUDE 38 AND DRONE 38



*Clockwise from above. The El Cid Hotel and Marina, near the breakwater to the Sea of Cortez. Mazatlan's busy six-mile 'malecon'. Upscale dining and Mazatlan-loving expats on bikes. Mazatlan's old port at the south end of town. El Cid pools. "Why me?" wondered the pig in the 'mercado'.*

violence? You ever hear five guys snort in unison? We did.

"I've been here 10 years and haven't seen as much as a fist fight in Mazatlan," said one, with the others nodding their heads in agreement. "The violence business got blown out of proportion and sensationalized in the U.S. and Canadian press. You know why? Because our home countries are mad because so many of their Social Security checks are being cashed down here in Mexico."

It's estimated that one million American and Canadian citizens live in Mexico.

There is one street in Mazatlan near the central *mercado* where vendors sell nothing but shrimp. The shrimp are sorted by size and kept in big tubs along the street. It's not the most appetizing display, but the deal is you buy a kilo or two, then you walk into one of the nearby restaurants that specializes in cooking them for you. We and friends

bought a kilo of medium large ones — which is about two pounds — for 200 pesos — which is about \$17 U.S. It cost another 50 pesos for preparation of each style and the use of their facilities, which included the near-mandatory karaoke jukebox at ultimate volume.

"The shrimp cost twice as much as they did a year ago," said Gilly, "but it's still about half of what they cost in the States." And because the shrimp are so fresh, they taste noticeably better.

After stuffing ourselves with shrimp and saving some for lunch the following day, we took a stroll to the old central *mercado*. While the arrival of Wal-Marts and such has reduced the importance of the *mercado*, it's still vital and still the real deal. This is particularly obvious at the various *carneceria* stands. When we looked down at a display case, we saw three

severed pigs' heads looking back at us with baleful expressions. "What did we do to deserve this?" they seemed to be asking. Hang around the *mercado* long enough and you'll become a veggie.

It's only a short stroll from the *mercado* to the beautiful main cathedral and then the theater district. The latter is on a very lovely square with restaurants in colonial-style buildings and spilling into the street, and hip new boutique hotels. After the sun goes down, the crowds appear and the fun begins.

So now you're on the other side of town, stuffed, and bushed. How much is a taxi back to the El Cid and the other marinas? Who cares? All you have to do is wait for a green bus, which will take you right back to your marina for about \$1. How convenient!

The old harbor of Mazatlan is much closer to Mazatlan's Old Town, which is home to the shrimp district, *mercado*, cathedral and theater district. It's possible to anchor out there and come ashore at the so-called Mazatlan YC, which is looking a little down in the dumps. We tried to ask for info, but the gate was locked. The downside of the area is that there was an outboard theft or two in recent years. The same is true for Stone Island, which is outside the harbor and about a mile south.

We like surprises, particularly good surprises. Mazatlan was one of them.

— *latitude/rs* 01/12/2014

## **Starship — Islander 36 Chris and Anne-Marie Fox Our Two Years of Cruising (Victoria, Canada)**

After two years of being sea gypsies, Anne-Marie and I, now 30 and 29 respectively, are back in Canada and settling into life as landlubbers. Ours was an amazing two years of cruising, filled with a lot of emotional highs and lows, and

***After participating in the 2012 Ha-Ha, Chris and Anne-Marie found themselves on the rocks — the dramatic rocks at Cabo San Lucas.***



STARSHIP

# CHANGES

lessons learned. We would like to recap some interesting figures and lessons learned from our journey in the hope that it may help those who are about to leave Mexico and follow in our wake.

## Decisions We Were Happy About:

1) *Spending a Year in Mexico.* Anne-Marie and I agree that the best single decision we made was to spend a year in Mexico before doing the Puddle Jump. After all the countries we have visited, Mexico remains

our favorite for several reasons. The amount of time we spent there allowed us to really get to know the people and places, and at a very relaxed pace. Given how quickly we had to rush through the countries of the South Pacific, it was impossible to develop the same affection that we have for Mexico. Sailing was also generally easy in Mexico, especially in the Sea of Cortez where all but the hardcore motored a lot. There were only short hops between amazing anchorages, and it was easy to find secluded spots.

2) *Not Getting a Watermaker.* Thanks to our boat's 100-gallon water capacity, and our conservative use, we found that not having a watermaker wasn't a problem. Indeed, it was a luxury, as we would have had to get additional electrical power from solar, wind or a Honda generator, or else use our main engine. The main hassle was carting water to the boat, since we rarely went to a dock. It's true that a watermaker would have given us more freedom in places such as

**A dramatic anchorage in the Sea of Cortez. After two years of cruising, including across the Pacific, Mexico remains the couple's favorite.**



STARSHIP



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**Swimming with big rays in Mexico.**

the Tuamotus if we wanted to stay for extended periods of time.

3) *Not Replacing Our Bent Boom.* The boom was bent when we bought our Islander, and this caused us some concern before we left San Francisco. Yet it served us well across the South Pacific,

4) *Having a Third Crew Member for the Puddle Jump.* A third set of hands for the 2,800-mile jump from Mexico to the Marquesas made a huge difference. Jonathan Busby, our crew, was the best.

## What We Would Do Differently:

1) *Not Fly a Spinnaker at Night!* That ended poorly for us — and it could have been much worse.

2) *Go to Vanuatu.* We heard nothing but great things from the people who paid Vanuatu a visit.

3) *Minimize Our Time in the Societies.* We would just reprovision in Tahiti and head straight for the Cook Islands. Especially since we were doing a single-season crossing, our time would have been better spent in Tonga or Fiji.

4) *Spend More than One Season Crossing and in the South Pacific!* I'm coining the term 'Single Season Syndrome' or SSS for short. It seems nearly every cruiser we met who was trying to get to Australia in a single season became exhausted and just wanted to be done with the trip. From what we surmise, we had a rougher weather year than most, which may be partially responsible for cases of SSS. In a perfect world, we would spend a season in just the Marquesas and Tuamotus, then haul the boat in the Tuamotus for the cyclone season. We'd then spend another year or two in the Tonga/Fiji area. Unfortunately, we didn't have the ability or desire — because of SSS — to extend for a third year.

For further proof of the cause of SSS, note that we spent 27% of our time in the South Pacific doing passages! No wonder we developed a case of SSS. This is one strong reason to have a faster boat. Our friends with the First 40 *Hydroquest* spent about 21% in passage, which is less, but still quite a lot. Contrast that with our time in Mexico, where we were able to spend 22% of our time on 'vacation' from cruising, leaving our boat in storage. This amount of downtime really made our time in Mexico that much more enjoyable.

## Our Statistics:

12,000 — Total nautical miles traveled.

0 — Number of times we plugged



our boat into shore power. Thanks to 270 watts of solar panels, we didn't plug in after San Diego.

20 — Number of nights in a marina or at a dock. We don't like marinas. Of the 20 nights, seven were spent in Puddle Jump preparations, five were spent when guests visited, and just two were in the South Pacific.

79 — The number of nights at sea. Nineteen of them were in Mexico, 60 were in the South Pacific.

420 — The number of nights we spent at anchor. Of these, 299 were in Mexico and 121 in the South Pacific.

96 — The number of nights our boat was in storage.

46 — The number of nights on a mooring, all in the South Pacific.

## Favorite Countries/Island Groups:

1) *Mexico.* It will always hold a special place in our hearts!

2) *Fiji.* We would have loved to spend a few seasons in Fiji. In a lot of ways — beautiful anchorages and super-friendly people — it reminded us of Mexico.

3) *Suvarrow, Cook Islands.* This is a

# IN LATITUDES

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY STARSHIP

especially on passages. There was also the benefit of weather forecasts. We were also surprised at how much we enjoyed the SSB nets.

*Our Most Exciting Personal Accomplishments:*

Learning to surf, learning to spearfish, learning Spanish — thanks to Vincente, our hot dog vendor in La Paz — learning how to repair an oil leak in our diesel, outfitting *Starship* for offshore cruising, and repairing her while under-way.

*Some of Our Favorite Experiences:*

All the amazing sea life we saw firsthand, the amazing sunsets and sunrises, the interesting people we met along the way, and getting our tattoos from Felix, the local tattoo artist in the Marquesas.

*Our Advice?* Get out of your comfort zone. Aim for the stars. Chart your own course. Stay focused and make it happen. Live your best life possible!

P.S. We sold *Starship* in New Caledonia for nearly what we'd paid for her via Raiatea Yachts in Tahiti. However, we did not recover the amount of money we put into her, which was considerable. The buyer in New Caledonia had no conditions on the purchase of the boat and didn't even do a survey. That was great. The buyer even paid the import fees for New Caledonia, which were high.

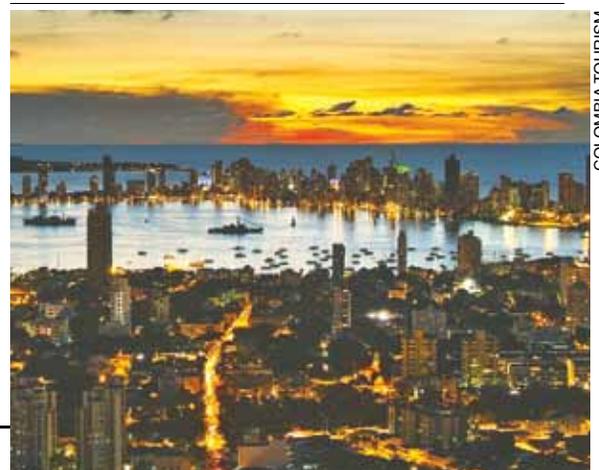
We crewed aboard a friend's Privilege 39 catamaran for the last leg to Australia. It was an interesting experience.

— chris 01/12/2014

## Points Beyond — Shannon 38 The Mullins Family Cartagena (Newport Beach)

Last August we — Devan, Alisa, Brady, 12, and Jamie, 8 — spent a month exploring lovely Cartagena, Colombia, during our family's six-month

*Cartagena has many attractive historical areas by night, but it's at twilight that she appears to be a real gem of the Caribbean.*



COLOMBIA TOURISM



From the 'Sanctuary' scrapbook, starting above and moving clockwise. Chris gazing at Moorea. Learning to spearfish was a plus. Fixing a diesel leak. The South Pacific waters are warm and clear. A Mexican sunset. Carpentry work. Cruising friends on 'Lolo'. With the ranger at Suvarrow.

very worthwhile pit stop on the way to Tonga or Samoa.

4) *Vava'u Group in Tonga.* There is a lot to love there — friendly locals, short hops between anchorages, and great snorkeling and kitesurfing.

5) *Tuamotus.* This is another spot where we would have liked to spend more time. Amazing kitesurfing, snorkeling and secluded anchorages.

6) *The Marquesas.* A great place to make landfall after 24 days! We would spend more time here if we did it again.

7) *New Caledonia.* We didn't get to explore New Caledonia as much as we would have liked since we were selling *Starship*, but we enjoyed what we did see.

8) *The Societies.* Is it a coincidence that all the French Territories were at the bottom of our list? Our French-speaking friends seemed to enjoy these countries a lot more.

*Favorite Cruising Gear:*

1) *Rigid-Hulled Inflatable Boat for a*

*dinghy.* Our compact 310 RIB dinghy did everything great but row.

2) *Four-stroke 9.9-hp outboard.* Compared to two-strokes, the four-strokes are quieter, smell less, and are much more fuel-efficient.

3) *270 watts of solar panels.* This was the perfect amount for us. There were only a few times when we had to run our engine to generate electricity, and those were when it had been excessively cloudy for long periods of time. We ran the fridge for our entire trip without power issues. If we'd had a watermaker, we would have needed more solar power or a generator.

4) *Xantrex Link Pro battery monitor,* which helped us get a grip on our power usage.

5) *Jiggle Tubes!* These revolutionized the way we filled our water and fuel tanks.

6) *SSB Radio with Pactor Modem.* Being able to email family every day was really great for us,

# CHANGES

cruise from Key West to Panama via the Bahamas. We're lucky Cartagena is such a great destination, because our six-day, 750-mile passage from the Bahamas to Cartagena wasn't so pleasant. The weather was Caribbean-rough, and we had to hand-steer because the autopilot wouldn't work. It was several



**Colombian women, it seems, prefer blondes.**

months before we realized that the problem was that a rat had chewed through the wire between the autopilot and the compass!

We anchored off Club Nautico, because at that time it still had no facilities. The facilities may have been completed by now. But there was also quite a bit of surge at the docks because the tourist-laden pangas screamed by at Mach 6. When it got really bad, masts would touch. I think we paid about \$30 a week to use the dinghy dock.

Theft had previously been a big problem for boats anchored off the club, but apparently no more. Officials cracked down on the local outboard shops, not allowing them to repair any outboards unless they had proof of who owned them. We didn't hear about any dinghy thefts either, but everyone still lifted their dinghies at night.

During the colonial period, Cartagena served a key role in the administration and expansion of the Spanish Empire. Cartagena's most significant structures remain the forts that were begun in the 17th century, some of which took over 200 years to build. Just under seven miles of walls and other fortifications surround the city. Cartagena's fortress

***It took over 200 years to build, but the gigantic San Felipe de Barajas fort has stood the test of time. It has miles of tunnels.***



COLOMBIAN TOURISM

and walled city were designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1984.

Cartagena is also the city most associated with pirates. Willie Sutton robbed banks "because that's where the money is". Pirates attacked Cartagena because that's where much of the booty looted from the Americas was kept prior to shipment to Spain.

Our family wandered all over the old walled city, the skyscraper district, and the hotel-ridden Boca Grande peninsula. The Castillo San Felipe de Barajas fort is so big, and has so many miles of caves, that it took us an entire day to see. Our other explorations had us walking the walls around the old city, ogling the beautiful colonial architecture, and checking out some of the emerald/jewelry stores. Colombia produces 75% of the world's emeralds. We even sought out a dentist, who took care of a dental issue for Brady for far less than it would have cost in California.

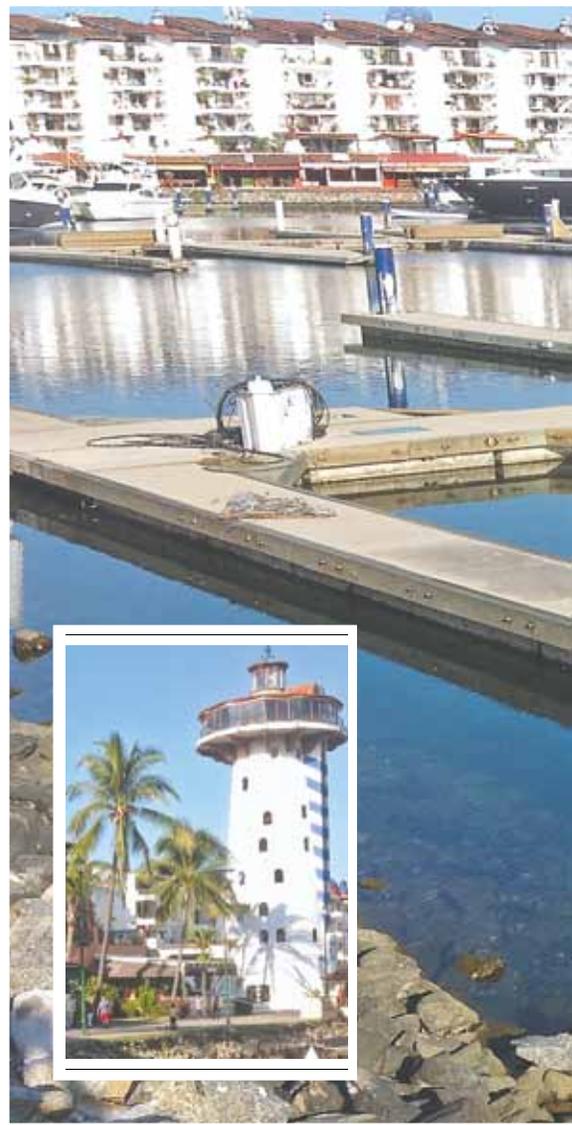
During our wanderings, the boys, especially Jamie, quickly developed a Colombian fan club. It must have been their blond hair. Everywhere we went, people stared, pointed, and smiled. Sometimes they touched Jaime's hair and asked if it was real. A teenage girl begged the boys to pose for a photo with her. Some of the older women appeared to want to gobble him up. We think he's pretty cute, too.

By far the easiest way to get around Cartagena is by taxi. The ubiquitous cabs are tiny, cheap, and easy to hail. In fact, driving a taxi seems to be the number one type of employment in Cartagena. And they all got the same memo: drive as fast as possible, use your horn at every opportunity, and make three lanes out of two at every intersection.

We felt absolutely safe the entire month we were in Cartagena and had no anxieties whatsoever. We loved it!

The water quality is terrible at Cartagena, as it's both dirty and a breeding ground for big barnacles. We paid Dumb, Dumber and Dumbest \$80 to clean our bottom, but the joke was on us. After we left, we stopped at an island where the water was clear and discovered that the three had only cleaned parts of the bottom and hadn't done anything to the prop. I had to clean it. And after just one month, our anchor chain had become one long barnacle. Bottom paint? It does nothing in Cartagena. But that was the only downside.

— alisa and devan 10/15/2013



## Cruise Notes:

On January 14, Andrew 'Droopy' Connell, a good friend from winters in St. Barth, reported that he'd been advised that his lovely Standfast 40 sloop **Corcovado** had disappeared from her mooring at St. Barth. Connell, who has done close to 50 trips between the Northeast and the Caribbean, more than anybody else we know, was in Puerto Rico doing a delivery when he got the bad news.

"It has been blowing 30 knots for weeks now, and there have been huge seas," Connell wrote on Facebook. "I'd left *Corcovado's* forward shower hatch open for air, so the waves would have filled the boat as she drifted at two to three knots to the southwest. Unfortunately, the authorities have no info for me. Losing my boat is the hardest thing I've ever had to accept. I hope to earn enough money soon to purchase another

# IN LATITUDES



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*Marina Vallarta, after deteriorating badly for many years, was bought by Bayview Grand Hotels. Harbormaster Christian Mancebo says 60 of the 375 slips will be replaced by February 15, and the remainder of slips in three to four months. It's the closest marina to downtown and the airport.*

boat, because owning a sailboat and cruising the islands of the Caribbean is not only a way of life for me, it's the thing that keeps me smiling from day to day."

A day later there was some good and bad news. The good news is that a Dutch Coast Guard helicopter had spotted *Corcovado* from the air, and she looked to be in fine condition. The bad news was that she had drifted to a position 120 miles west of Guadeloupe and was still headed west — to the wide-open spaces of the Caribbean Sea — at a couple of knots. Given that Droopy had no insurance, the question became whether he has the means to recover his boat. We, like a lot of others, have offered to chip in. We'll have to wait and see.

"Funnily enough, our first passage of 2014 will be one of the longest of the

season, even though it will only be 85 miles," write Scott Stolnitz and Nikki of the Marina del Rey-based Switch 51 cat **Beach House**. "We're just going from Trinidad to Prickly Bay, Grenada, and the rest of the season will be sailing up and down the islands of the Eastern Caribbean. You can almost always see the next island before leaving the one you're at. The long voyages and mammoth provisioning requirements of the last few years — when we sailed across the Indian and Atlantic Oceans — are for the most part a distant memory. The next long passages won't be until after the boat goes through the Panama Ca-

nal, most likely next year. We started this year with the boat on the hard for her bi-annual bottom scrape and paint, in addition to transmission and thru-hull maintenance. Then we had an unscheduled delay due to having to go back to the States for a week or so to get some medical tests. No worries, it was all good. And now we're off."

"After six weeks out on the reefs of Venezuela, I am back in civilization at St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgins," reports Steve Schmidt of **Hotel California, Too**, the only cruising version of a SC70 ever built. "I haven't firmed up my racing schedule for this season in the Caribbean, but I definitely will do the **Around St. Croix Race** in late January, the **St. Thomas Rolex Cup** in late March, the **BVI Spring Regatta** also in late March, the **Guadeloupe to Antigua Race** on April 25, and the **Around Antigua Race** a few days after that. Doing the **Voiles de St. Barth** in mid-April will depend on who wants to crew. If I don't have adequate crew to race, I might just take people sailing during the Voiles."

All these racing plans from Schmidt, a former resident of the South Bay, who only got into racing in the Caribbean to meet people! We sailed with Steve in last year's Voiles and had a blast. By the way, the Caribbean sailing season is just starting to come to a full boil, with lots of great events between now and when the season ends with **Antigua Sailing Week** in early May. Not mentioned by Schmidt were the **St. Barth Bucket**, the **Bequia Easter Regatta**, the **Antigua Classic Regatta**, and the **St. Martin Heineken Regatta**, the latter probably being the biggest of them all.

Much to the disbelief of many in the Mexico cruising community, Dave and Kim Wegesend, the delightful couple who have berthed their Catana 42 catamaran

*Dave and Kim, duded up for Christmas, briefly occupy the slip that 'Maluhia' was in for so many years. Paradise won't be the same without them.*



# CHANGES

**Maluhia** at Paradise Marina in Nuevo Vallarta for two weeks shy of forever, really did take off, as they've been promising to do for so many years. "We left on New Year's Eve, and have been sailing down the coast," writes Kim. "Thank goodness that very unusual week of rain finally stopped, as we were beginning to think it was a sign. But we're in Barra now, enjoying ourselves immensely. Our loose plan is Panama, the Galapagos, and French Polynesia, but we all know about plans."

People **complain about officialdom** in Mexico, and oftentimes it's justified. But when Dan Orlando of Marina Iguana in Puerto Vallarta delivered the Maple Leaf 78 pilothouse **Breathless** through the Panama Canal to St. Petersburg, Florida in late November, he says U.S. officials were baffled when he attempted to clear into the country. Eventually they sent him to the Tampa International Airport, where officials didn't know much more. "It took nine hours for me to check into the United States because none of the U.S. officials knew what to do." Orlando had a more enjoyable time in the



DAN ORLANDO

**It's hot in Panama, so who can blame a smart egret for doing a Canal transit on the top of the rudder on a big ship.**

Panama Canal, when he took the accompanying photograph of what appears to be an egret hitching a ride through one of the Miraflores Locks.

In the December issue we wondered

how long an idealistic group of four young people — Eric, Pam, Tyler, Kevin, and a dog — who planned to do a circumnavigation together, could last on the 31-ft Columbia 9.7 **Connect**. After all, she's a small boat, and new sailors have different desires and needs. It turns out the four made it to La Paz from Southern California, which we think is pretty good. But having done 1,000 miles, the near-inevitable changes are taking places.

According to Kevin, Eric and Pam are unsure if they want to continue attempting the circumnavigation with *Connect*, or travel up the Sea of Cortez, or go back to the States for a bit. But he and Tyler like cruising so much — and "becoming part of the *Latitude 38* community" — that Kevin decided to buy his own boat. She's **Destiny**, a CT-35 pilothouse that was available for a very good price, but needs quite a bit of work. Fortunately, he says there are a lot of experienced cruisers around La Paz who seem interested in helping them.

We're hoping that none of these four young folks don't feel bad that things

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Bill and Conni on SV Wings, their Passport 40, in Nuku Hiva, Marquesas, after completing the Pacific Puddle Jump in April 2013. Bill writes: "Don't leave home without one!"



Wayne on SV Dante, his Harmony 42, in Suva, Fiji. Hydrovane mounted off-center to preserve the swim platform.



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didn't turn out as planned, as they need to realize that by having 'gone for it', in many ways they've already gotten a real-world education. When you're young and putting your heart and soul into chasing dreams, there is no such thing as failure, just lessons learned. And because you learn them firsthand, they stick better than what you learn from a book or in a classroom. So please don't stop pursuing your dreams, as the world needs risk-takers such as you.

"Hey now!" shouts German Stefan Ries of the nowhere in particular-based Triton 28 **Mitaka**, currently in Panama. "I picked up two Belgian ladies in Panama City, and we sailed out to Santa Catalina. We broke the trip into parts, with two overnights at Playa Benao, where we caught some fun waves and did some reprovisioning. The wind was on the light side, so the whole trip took six days. We spent New Year's Eve drifting off the Peninsula de Suero, safely inside the busy shipping lane, and were able to watch the fireworks at Cambutal. We did a lot of drifting the next day, which

allowed us to swim with the dolphins. It was a great trip, as nothing broke, we didn't starve, and the Belgian girls adjusted well to life aboard. I'm now waiting for a swell to surf Santa Catalina, my favorite spot in Panama."

We know that Ries paid \$5,000 for his boat, but were curious what it costs him to cruise. "In a good month, I can live well on \$200 to \$300 a month," responded Ries. "I hardly ever stay in marinas, and sailing without an engine saves a lot of money, too." The old time versus money tradeoff.

"We made it!" report and enthusiastic Charlie and Cathy Simon, with crew Andy, of the Spokane and Nuevo Vallarta-based Taswell 58 **Celebrate**. What they had done is complete Leg 1 of World ARC, from St. Lucia to Porvenir in the San Blas Islands of Panama. "We finished in six days and two hours, and



MINTAKA

*One of Ries' Belgian girls paddles to a surf break. A question we've pondered is whether women surfers wearing thongs have any idea of how much of their 'female bits' are exposed to innocent males paddling directly behind them. Ignorance, flirtation or exhibitionism?*

were the 10th boat to finish in the fleet of 35. What a wonderful experience it's been so far! Aside from the occasional breakage and reluctant Autohelm, all went smoothly. And what a beautiful place the San Blas Islands are! The 365 islands are very small, dotted with small Kuna villages, and the people get around the crystal-clear waters in dug-out canoes, some of which are powered

“We know it’s the right publication...”

## MICHAAN'S AUCTIONS

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When it came time to promote an auction of the contents of the Nelson's Marine boatyard, the auctioneer chose one publication: *Latitude 38*. "We had great response and lots of calls from *Latitude 38*. Callers said things like, '*Latitude 38* is the only publication I read.' And all were clearly fans of the magazine. We got calls from all over – area codes 707, 831, 801, 530, 503, and, of course, 415, 510, and more. We know it was the right place to advertise a marine auction and will use it again when we have the right product in the future."

– Talesa Eugenio, Michaan's Auctions

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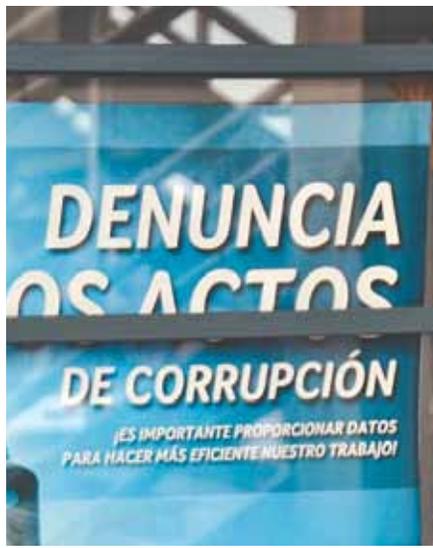
# CHANGES

by sail. What's amazed us is the number of cruising boats that apparently come to spend the entire season here. It's truly a remote community of cruising sailors. We and the rest of the World ARC boats will meet up at Shelter Bay Marina, Panama, before passing through the Panama Canal as a group on January 28."

Seven of the 35 World ARC boats are from the United States, but we believe that **Celebrate** is the only one with a West Coast connection.

Alex Hasenclever of the M/V **Maitai-roa** wants all Mexico cruisers to know that this year's La Paz Bayfest, hosted by the Club Cruceros of La Paz, will be held on April 3-6. During the four days of fun there will be cruising-related seminars, wine tasting, dancing, good food, lots of socializing — and a fun day race for sailboats. "Don't miss it!" says Alex. "It's a blast," say a lot of sailors who have done it in the past.

While at the **Fonatur Marina at Mazatlan** in December, we came across an interesting poster on the front door of the harbormaster's office. 'Denounce Acts of Corruption', it read. That would



LATITUDE/RICHARD

*In Mexico, you can file a 'denuncia' against anyone — including another American. And it supposedly has to be investigated.*

be a great thing, wouldn't it? We wonder if they have any posters left to put on the doors of Congress in Washington, D.C.

"My idea is to build a **full-service marina at Mag Bay**, featuring about

100 slips, a 100-boat dry marina, and a hotel and condos, and be open for business sometime in 2015," writes Federico Pani. "Does *Latitude* have any idea how many U.S. boats, sail and motor, come to Mexico every year? I need to know to better plan my marina."

We at *Latitude* do not know how many boats "come to Mexico" every year. In terms of the number of boats that go up or down the Pacific Coast, we'd guess somewhere between 750 and 1,200. It seems to us that the most successful marinas in Mexico are close to population centers and airports, so we think your projections might be a little optimistic. But we wish you the best of luck.

We've always wanted to spend more time aboard **Profligate** at Mag Bay, which is about 25 miles by 11 miles (not counting adjacent Bahia Almejas, which is 11 miles by seven miles), and is located about 150 miles northwest of Cabo San Lucas. Better still, we've always wanted to take *Profligate* the 25 or so miles up the 'inside passage' to Lopez Mateo, where we've been told it's possible to pop

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back out into the Pacific. Last month we spent a few days with Bob Voit, owner of **Mag Bay Outfitters**, who knows all about the waters between Mag Bay and his home at Lopez Mateo. "There would be no problem bringing *Profligate* up, as the waterway is plenty deep and wide," advised the longtime friend of the Ha-Ha. "And if you're careful, you could easily get back out into the ocean with all the fishing boats," Sounds good to us.

Something else that sounds good is Fausto Beltran advising that the marina that is part of the 5,000-acre **Isla Cortes** nautical, golf and residential development at Nuevo Altata will be having their grand opening on February 22. Nuevo Altata is at the same latitude as La Paz, but on the east side of the Sea of Cortez, tucked inside a relatively large bay. The closest big city is Culiacán, about 20 miles inland, where the Wanderer and Doña de Mallorca found themselves spending last Christmas. Culiacán is a very affluent agricultural region, as well as home to the powerful Sinaloa Drug Cartel. Until now, the local

owners of big yachts, mostly motor yachts, have had to keep their boats in Cabo, La Paz or Mazatlan. But Beltran and new harbor-master Bill Hempel hope to bring them back 'home' to join the smaller local boats at the 50-berth marina.

And they want foreign yachties to know they are most welcome, too.

Beltran says the entrance to the big bay is a little tricky, but the government keeps it buoyed for all the commercial fishing boats that are based out of the area. The bay itself is said to be 20 feet deep, and the marina area has at least nine feet of water at low tide. Isla Cortes Marina has gas and diesel, and will soon have a restaurant and other facilities.

If you stop by, we suggest a side trip to 30-minute-distant Culiacán, which is an interesting and suprisingly cosmo-



**Isla Cortes Marina is part of the huge new development on the shore of Bahia Altata. It's primarily being marketed to Mexicans.**

politan city. It has three rivers flowing through it, and among other attractions, an orchestra that has a 42-week season of symphony, pops, opera, ballet, and chamber music, featuring musicians from all over the world.

As if that weren't enough marina news, the **Vista Encantada** development has announced it's planning a 150-slip marina "to the south of Chacala", which is about 25 miles to the northeast of Punta Mita. This might be the same marina that was previously announced for

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# CHANGES

the Rincon de Guayabitos. We hope so, because cruisers would have a fit if anybody destroyed the cherished anchorage at Chacala itself.

"I'm reading the bad news out of Mexico for cruising folks and others looking for some fun in the sun," writes **Malama Robinson** of Hanalei Bay. "Unfortunately, all good things come to bad endings when you factor in human greed, such as had so much influence for decades now here in Hawaii. Yep, it looks like the party is over in Mexico and you'll need to pay the piper — i.e. the corrupt bastards running the show. It seems as though there is nowhere to go but home to a gated condo. Oh, well. Some of us saw the writing on the wall, but the ca-ca is only now hitting the fan. Sailing is not fun here in Hawaii any more due to all the vagrants and thieves living in and around the water, because of the horrible conditions of the marinas here and the stupidity of the people employed by the harbors. Oh, well, after losing my lifetime retirement in the 2008 financial fiasco, I was banished to the sea in small sail-



KAUAI TOURISM

*Lovely Hanalei Bay, Kauai. It's a great summer anchorage, but where do people like Malama go with their boats in the winter?*

ing vessels of one sort or another, until I found an old Cal seaworthy enough to eventually make my way home to Hanalei, Kauai. I guess I'm a bit hardened to the plight of folks in Mexico and owners

of big boats, as I see more and more megamillionaire yachts headed our way. The writing on the wall is that we owners of vessels under 70 feet are expendable. But I wish everyone well."

We've recently talked to some folks with boats in Hawaii who say that while things can be a little funky, they are loving it. That said, Hawaii has never been particularly friendly to out-of-state or foreign boat owners, and it's particularly hard on those who don't have a lot of money. There are, however, still plenty of places in the world where it's easy to cruise very inexpensively. See the earlier *Cruise Note* from Stefan Ries.

Fred Roswald and Judy Jensen of the Seattle-based Serendipity 43 **Wings** report that having spent the last year in the Caribbean, they are now anchored off the Rosario Islands of Colombia, and expect to transit the Canal soon and head up to Mexico. We remember when they sent us a report on the Queen's Birthday Storm in the South Pacific. That was in June 1994!

Happy cruising everyone!



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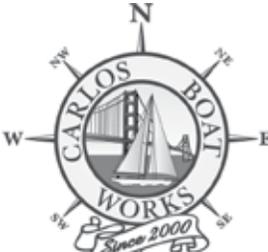


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**24-FT J/24, 1978.** \$6,500. TP built, vermiculite job, main bulkhead replaced, Dyform standing rigging, calibrated turnbuckles, windward sheeting, roller stations all at minimum height, 8-1 boom-vang, Ullman class sails and two-axle trailer with gear box. Fun fast boat. (209) 603-7991 or ccorbin@costco.com.

## 25 TO 28 FEET



**25-FT CAL 2-25, 1978.** Stockton. \$12,500. Excellent condition. Bay and coastal cruiser, 5'10" headroom, bottom paint, furling, rigid vang, reefing, self-tailing winches, new dodger, bimini top, 8hp remote control electric start, autopilot, compass, multi instruments. Can't list everything. (209) 451-0061.

**28-FT ISLANDER, 1979.** Alameda. \$14,900. Well maintained Islander 28, smaller version of Islander 36. Volvo diesel, new rigging, haulout April 2013, Pineapple main and roller-furling jib in very good condition. See photos at: www.flickr.com/photos/sailauklet. Contact (925) 828-9448 or sailauklet@gmail.com.

**28-FT BRISTOL CHANNEL CUTTER.** 1977. Park City, Utah. \$38,000 (reduced!). Bristol Channel Cutter project on custom trailer. Stored inside, almost everything included to finish. Additional details and photos at link: <http://www.samlmorse.com/forum/read.php?4,12504>. Email/call with questions. (435) 503-2879 or calderstratford@gmail.com.



**CATALINA 28 MK II, 1999.** Sausalito. \$43,000. Clean, well maintained, diesel low hours, 2 jibs, dodger, Dutchman, spacious fully equipped cabin, stereo, Autohelm, windpoint, auto meter, depth sounder, autopilot, Garmin chart plotter, zinc saver. Can email photos. Contact (415) 897-3210 or (415) 250-1968 or rtoller@comcast.net.

**26-FT PEARSON, 1976.** Brickyard Cove. \$8,500. Beautiful, clean, new rudder, new main, new lines. Won Valjejo twice. Perfect bottom, no blisters, all receipts. Email for pics or appt. to see. (510) 517-8600 or (510) 437-4725 or klugert@mac.com.

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## 29 TO 31 FEET

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## 32 TO 35 FEET

**34-FT CATALINA C-34, 1990.** Alameda. \$49,000. Classic boat with "walk through" transom, furling jib, refrigeration, VHF, cockpit table and cushions, new batteries (July 2013), bottom painted June 2013. Very clean, well maintained. Photos are available by email, [billsailbay47@hotmail.com](mailto:billsailbay47@hotmail.com).

**35-FT ALBERG, 1962.** Richmond, CA. \$32,500/obo. Full keel sloop, pocket cruiser. New rigging, new lifelines, liferaft, Vari-Prop, electric windlass. Great condition, loads of extra equipment. (707) 485-5218.

**33-FT CAL, 1972.** Emery Cove Yacht Harbor. \$19,500. Moving sale. Fewer and prettier than 34. Modified stern. Skeg rudder. Tiller. Volvo diesel under 400hr. Newer rigging. Surveyed in December. Build equity and buy it with 40' slips for \$54,000. Contact (626) 410-5918 or [ngolifeart@gmail.com](mailto:ngolifeart@gmail.com).

**34-FT TARTAN 34C, 1973.** Pier 39, SF. \$27,500. Sailed a-plenty for 11 years: from and to Eureka and Santa Barbara, throughout the Gulf of Farallones, day-sailed the Bay from Delta to Coyote Point. Time to live ashore! (415) 377-5172 or [johnpaul3145@yahoo.com.au](mailto:johnpaul3145@yahoo.com.au).

**34-FT CATALINA, 1994.** Richmond Marina Bay YH. \$61,900. This Catalina has the best mix of features: 30hp <1800hrs Universal, keel-stepped mast, walk-thru transom, 4-year standing rigging, newer full batten main, 90 and 110 jibs, 2 owners, refridge, microwave. (530) 305-0129 or [suezz3@yahoo.com](mailto:suezz3@yahoo.com).

**33-FT DEHLER OPTIMA, 1985.** Brickyard Cove Marina. \$16,000. Only sailed in Bay, 16hp Yanmar 192hrs, rigging recon 2008, self-furling jib, lazy jack, new spinnaker, bottom paint 2010, pedestal steering, new cabin windows, great interior, sleeps 6, dinghy w/motor, no dealers. (775) 829-2002 or [vaperry@aol.com](mailto:vaperry@aol.com).



**32-FT PEARSON 323 SLOOP, 1978.** Berkeley. \$21,000. Berkeley berth, great Bay boat, new prop in 2012, sails in good condition, excellent maintenance records. Contact (510) 282-3316 or (510) 868-0228 or [mikecdolan@gmail.com](mailto:mikecdolan@gmail.com).

**32-FT DREADNAUGHT, 1974.** Costa Mesa, CA. \$12,000/obo. Builders, looking for a project boat? A dream that needs to be completed after an unexpected death. 32-ft Dreadnaught double-ender sailboat, with almost everything needed to finish. The boat is approximately 85-90% completed. The deal includes a brand new Yanmar diesel engine, 3-bladed propeller (2) each, custom self-steering stainless hardware, stainless deck and running riggings hardware, custom built stainless blocks, carbon fiber mast, Monel drive shaft, custom headsail roller furling, custom S/S masthead fitting and boom ends, new chain rodes, the tankage is installed. There are 100s of miscellaneous quality yacht hardware items included. (949) 642-4909 or (714) 815-7245 or [mchan1023@gmail.com](mailto:mchan1023@gmail.com).



**35-FT BENETEAU OCEANIS 351, 1995.** Ventura, CA. \$69,500. Cruise ready in sail away condition. 3-cabin layout - most roomy 35' you've ever seen. Well maintained, numerous upgrades. Furling main and jib, asymmetrical spinnaker, Yanmar diesel, Raymarine autopilot, radar, chartplotter, electric head, new running rigging. Great condition. More at <http://Beneteau351forsale.com>. Email [kaya1000@gmail.com](mailto:kaya1000@gmail.com).

**32-FT WESTSAIL, 1975.** Pillar Point Harbor, Half Moon Bay. Best offer. Launched in 1980. Original owner. 3 headsails, one driver, Perkins 4-108, propane stove with oven. Recent haulout, June 2013. Come see, make an offer. (650) 303-3901 or (650) 712-1425 or [pgclausen@gmail.com](mailto:pgclausen@gmail.com).

**32-FT SAMSON C-MIST.** \$4,000/obo. Professionally plastered and cured. Westsail cutter-rig. aluminum, stainless, 6 Dacrons. Needs new cockpit and major overhaul. Lively to windward at 5 knots. Gordon Strassenburgh, 275 N. Broadway, #304, Coos Bay, OR, 97420.

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**33-FT PEARSON VANGUARD, 1966.** Bodega Bay. \$5,000. Yanmar diesel. Clean bottom. (707) 539-6897.

**32-FT O'DAY, 1987.** Monterey. \$32,000. Roller furling, dodger, lines led aft, self-tailing winches, wheel, autopilot, radar, Yanmar diesel, high-output alternator, 12-volt fridge, inverter, TV, stereo, propane stove. Good condition, except dodger. With transferable slip in Monterey. See photos on Craigslist. (831) 512-6842.

**35-FT CORONADO, 1973.** Monterey. \$18,500. *Moonraker*, a 35-ft ketch, good condition, transferable Monterey City Harbor slip at the end of A Dock. Great liveaboard with large V-berth, stern cabin, head with shower and full galley. Contact (559) 288-1396 or (831) 236-5905 or kfa1@aol.com.



**35-FT NAUTICAT, 1993.** Portland, OR. \$165,000. This unique two-cabin pilothouse with a sloop rig and fin keel was designed by Nauticat of Finland to emphasize sailing capabilities. It has a beautiful teak interior rarely found in boats of this era, but with limited exterior woodwork and molded nonskid decks, you will have more time for sailing. It is loaded with coastal cruising gear: 50hp Yanmar 4JH2E, 630 amp hours of AGM batteries, Hydrovane self-steering, Icom M710 SSB. New main and genoa, watermaker, Furuno radar, chartplotter with AIS, new thru-hulls and bottom paint in 2013. (503) 289-6306 or marge@passion-yachts.com.

**32-FT COLUMBIA 9.6, 1979.** Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. \$13,500. Yanmar 2QM15 diesel, dodger, West Marine VHF radio, wheel steering, radio Sony AM/FM/CD, autopilot Autohelm wheel mount, teak interior, new paint and nonskid topsides. Email for photos. Make offer. (916) 390-2332 or saillar77@hotmail.com.



**35-FT WAUQUIEZ PRETORIEN, 1983.** Roche Harbor Resort, San Juan Island, WA. \$77,500. Hard-to-find high quality blue water pedigree cruiser. Lightly used, always professionally maintained. Same owner of 17 years has invested over \$80k in upgrades, too many to list. (206) 920-7337 or sailsmantf@gmail.com.

**33-FT HOBIE, 1983.** San Diego. \$25,000. H-33 in great shape, newer 3DL sails, kelp cutter, LED nav lights, Dyneema running rigging. Fun daysailer, race winner. Plan your assault on Transpac 2015 now! Many pictures on blog: <http://hobie33forsale.blogspot.com>. Contact (619) 405-9349 or h.33.sdy@gmail.com.



**33-FT JEANNEAU SUNFAST 3200.** 2009. San Diego. \$139,500. Veteran of Pacific Cup doublehanded, Transpac and Cabo. Turnkey ready for 2014 Pacific Cup doublehand or SHTP. Excellent condition with many extras. Full details and photos on website: [www.mechdesign.com/3200](http://www.mechdesign.com/3200). Contact sail@mechdesign.com or (435) 640-0587.



**CATALINA 34 MK II, 1997.** Berkeley Marina. \$78,000. Fin keel, lightly used, well maintained/equipped. Dodger, bimini, 12 volt fridge, cruising spinnaker w/dousing sock, custom V-berth mattress, diesel, 2013 bottom and batteries + more. Contact (559) 905-2633 or (559) 433-6436 or jgsatterberg@aol.com.

### 36 TO 39 FEET

**37-FT JEANNEAU SUN ODYSSEY 37.1.** 1995. St. Croix, USVI. \$76,000/offer. Original owner. Well maintained, beautiful inside and out. Furling main/jib, Yanmar 3GM30F, low hours. Zodiac/6hp Tohatsu. Recent canvas. Full electronics. Email for photos and equipment list. (516) 582-9342 or stxboater@yahoo.com.



**37-FT PEARSON 365 SLOOP/CUTTER.** 1978. Sausalito. \$49,500. Well maintained, upgraded, sailed, and lived on for 22+ yrs. Recent LPU topsides, Mainsail, much more... Come see, make offer. (415) 297-4080 or art\_epstein@yahoo.com.

**36-FT ISLANDER FREEPORT "B", 1978.** Loch Lomond, San Rafael. \$60,000. New full batten main, staysail, roller furling jib, Espar heater, Isotherm refrigeration, LectraSan, rebuilt Perkins, new electrical panel, new dodger, sail cover and wheel cover. 2000 watt inverter. Pullman berth. (510) 410-5401 or tgrady7889@msn.com.

**39-FT JEANNEAU SUN ODYSSEY.** 2007. Sausalito. \$164,900. Boat's in great shape and includes the following features: furling mainsail, furling genoa, inverter, VHF radio, teak cockpit, E80w/GPS, Tridata & wind, electric winch, autopilot, spinnaker pole, and three sails. (415) 505-9614 or miami.hood@sbcglobal.net.



**38-FT CONTEST 38S, 1986.** S.France, Marines de Cogolin. \$99,000 VAT Paid. A premium center-cockpit sloop by Cony-Plex Yachts Holland, US flag, VAT paid. Always professionally maintained with tens of thousands of \$ in upgrades past 12 years. Teak decks and Selden roller furl mast 2002. Volvo 2003T 47hp turbo and tankage for 400 NM. Rod steering. Custom electric system with 75 amp Balmar alternator. Recent Raymarine instruments w/direct drive Autohelm. Radar/Navtex, Liferaft, EPIRB, Icom. Custom cabinetry. This safe and comfortable ocean cruiser sits in beautiful Marines de Cogolin walking distance to St.Tropez. A difficult-to-find berth with a six-year lease is also available. Heaven awaits. Contact (650) 637-7791 or terryshari@yahoo.com.

**36-FT HANS CHRISTIAN, 1975.** Oyster Point Marina. \$31,000. Proven cruiser from Alaska to New Zealand. *Good Bones*, needs new sails and little TLC to restore her to offshore condition. Monitor windvane, dinghy and more. USCG documented. (415) 337-5303 or svtekin@gmail.com.

### 40 TO 50 FEET



**40-FT C&C AFT CABIN, 1983.** Marin. \$58,900. Rare aft cabin 40 model. All standing rigging, instruments, roller furling, hydraulic backstay, and many other improvements less than five years old. Absolutely the most boat for the money. (415) 516-1299 or cc40sailboat@aol.com.



**45-FT MAURITIUS, 1993.** San Blas, Mexico. \$138,000. Powerful steel ketch, gentle motion. Aft stateroom, center cockpit. Charming wood craftsmanship interior. Hard dodger, davits. Comfortably equipped galley. 6 solar panels. Superb Isuzu Pisces 60hp. Excellent sails. A happy cruiser! See more at [www.drsteveblake.com/Sojourn](http://www.drsteveblake.com/Sojourn). Email [steve@drsteveblake.com](mailto:steve@drsteveblake.com).



**40-FT BRUCE ROBERTS.** Cutter-rigged sloop. 1984. Bradford Island, CA. \$23,000. Price reduced! *Windy*: Documented, 37-ft LOD, bluewater, custom built, classic design. Hull is 1-1/8" fiberglass, laid with Seaflex matting with integrated reinforcing fiberglass rods. Heavy-duty windlass, 4 anchors including 45lb CQR. Flush deck, hard dodger, 36hp diesel. Very sea kindly; proven Mexico cruiser. Comfortably built solid wood interior/mahogany, teak, maple. Bosch on-demand hot water heater, Queen bed. "Little ship". *Windy* will be on the hard at Marine Emporium Boatyard, for your viewing and inspection during February. Bring all offers. 5993 Bethel Island Rd., at Bethel Island, CA. Brad. (209) 406-0965 or (209) 855-4085 or bnrtdeltadreamer@aol.com.



**47-FT VAGABOND, 1982.** Brisbane, CA. Entertaining pre-listing offers. *S/V Natural High* is for sale. 1982/95/99 Vagabond 47, 56' LOA. Too many details to list, see website for more details and photos: <http://svnaturalhigh.com>. Email [info@svnaturalhigh.com](mailto:info@svnaturalhigh.com).

**43-FT CAL, 1970.** San Pedro, CA. \$15,000/offer. Documented. 4-108 diesel, GPS plotter, inflatable, New Signet instrument panel, fireplace, Navtex rod. Many sails.



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**43-FT SPINDRIFT CENTER COCKPIT.** 1980. Honolulu, HI. \$130,000. Rugged full-keel double-ender, 80hp Lehman-Ford, large tanks, autopilot, radar, 2 SSB's/Sailmail, VHF/AIS, triple-reef main (new), Profurl jib, hanked on staysail, nine 2-speed self-tailing winches. 60-lb CQR, 300' chain, electric windlass; EPIRB, liferaft (new), sea anchor, two dinghies, two outboards, 2kw Honda generator, cockpit enclosure; 6'-10" headroom below; 4-burner propane stove, freezer/frig, watermaker, two heads, shower, copious storage. Extensive features and equipped. One-owner/skipper boat, proven ~35,000 miles doublehanded cruising - California to Mexico, Hawaii, BC Canada, Central America, Panama, Galapagos, Marquesas, Tahiti, Cooks, Samoas, Tonga, Fiji, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, and New Zealand (twice). Owner/skipper (now 81) says that's it! Boat ideal for experienced couple +1. Details and photos: [www.sywindcastle.blogspot.com](http://www.sywindcastle.blogspot.com). Contact (808) 398-6703 or [nashsail@aol.com](mailto:nashsail@aol.com).



**45-FT GARDEN YAWL.** One-off double ender, 3 years in restoration, 98% completed, cold-molded over original strip planking. \$30K as is, or \$? to finish renovation. Contact [steve@paradigmpilgrim.com](mailto:steve@paradigmpilgrim.com) or (916) 847-9064.

**47-FT PASSPORT, 1984.** Grenada, BWI. \$185,000. Aft cockpit, 2 staterooms, 2 heads, Perkins 4-236, generator, watermaker, plus more. Excellent bluewater cruiser. An experienced world cruiser. Visit our website for photos and cruising history: <http://musetta.us>. Contact (360) 378-1188 or (360) 298-4044 or [js15@musetta.us](mailto:js15@musetta.us).



**40-FT SWIFT CENTER COCKPIT.** Fiberglass ketch, 1978. San Francisco. \$76,000. Sparkman & Stephens design, hull No. 1, Lloyds certified construction. Pisces Marine (Isuzu 3AB1) 3-cyl 40hp diesel. Substantial deck hardware upgrades and improvements. Strong, stable, sea kindly. Berthed Pier 39 Marina. Email [challengesea@yahoo.com](mailto:challengesea@yahoo.com).



**40-FT PASSPORT, 1980.** Nadi, Fiji. \$99,000. Start living your dream in Paradise. Renowned bluewater cruiser currently based in Fiji, actively cruising the South Pacific. All rigging and systems are less than 10 years old. 4200 engine hours. More at <http://sites.google.com/site/1980passport40forsale/home>. Email [svboldspirit@gmail.com](mailto:svboldspirit@gmail.com).



**45-FT FASTNET 45, 1974.** Portland. \$75,000. Beautiful boat, many compliments on her lines. Recently sailed to Australia and back. Very seaworthy, comes with a lot of equipment. Considerable locker space and storage for extended cruising. (503) 327-6750 or [lighthouse45@yahoo.com](mailto:lighthouse45@yahoo.com).



**46-FT HYLAS, 2000.** Coronado, CA, USA. \$380,000. Ready to bluewater cruise. Superb condition, boat interior reconditioned in 2013. New hull and bottom paint. 2 cabins, 2 heads, A/C, heating, washer/dryer, full canvas, in-mast furling, dinghy with 6hp outboard, 6-man liferaft. More at [www.seasilk.us](http://www.seasilk.us). Contact (619) 995-9085 or [raig@seasilk.us](mailto:raig@seasilk.us).

**47-FT CATALINA, \$249,500.** Customized bluewater ready. Extra fuel capacity, 110 or 240v, watermaker, chartplotter, radar, AIS, coldplate refrigerator/freezer. Custom cabinets and workshop, dive compressor, in-boom furler, staysail, autopilot, wind vane, new hard dodger, heat-air, auto prop. Much more. See <http://adream2sail.publishpath.com>. Call (916) 607-9026.



**42-FT CASCADE, 1972.** Redwood City. \$40,000. New sails, watermaker, Autohelm, new rigging, ice maker, marinized Westerbeke and more. Needs work on deck. Spent a lot, asking for less. (650) 704-2302 or [galaxaura@gmail.com](mailto:galaxaura@gmail.com).



**48-FT SPARKMAN & STEPHENS, 1970.** Marina del Rey, CA. \$310,000. Beautiful steel circumnavigator. Recent 18 month total refit 2010-2012! Dutch-built S&S/Koopman's design, completed by Royal Huisman. *Lola* is a beautiful, fast, seaworthy, circumnavigating machine! No expense was spared in bringing her back to "new" condition from top to bottom! Electronics, rigging, sails, mechanicals, electrical, and paint. All NEW! She is very unique, sails like a dream, and must be seen to be fully appreciated! More at [www.sailinglola.com](http://www.sailinglola.com). Contact (707) 509-9096 or [mjboucher76@hotmail.com](mailto:mjboucher76@hotmail.com).

**43-FT J/133, 2005.** Redwood City. \$349,000. Excellent condition, fixed carbon sprit and emergency rudder, B&G instruments/pilot, Raymarine radar/GPS/AIS, Icom SSB/VHF, liferaft, EPIRB, 3DL sails, new faired bottom, etc. (408) 234-4402 or [john@castlerock.com](mailto:john@castlerock.com).



**44-FT TARTAN 4400, 2003.** Channel Island Harbor. \$319,000. Major price reduction! Dark green hull, low hours, bow thruster, electric winches, VacuFlush heads, spinnaker, new batteries, new LP and bottom paint, numerous other options/upgrades. See more at: [www.showcaseyachtsusa.com/tartini\\_time/tartini\\_time\\_home.html](http://www.showcaseyachtsusa.com/tartini_time/tartini_time_home.html). Contact (530) 318-0730 or [amgjohn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:amgjohn@sbcglobal.net).



**48-FT MAYFLOWER KETCH, 1985.** Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. \$139,500USD. Sleek and graceful bluewater cruiser properly equipped can fly up to five sails with a crew of two. Designed by third-generation naval architect George Stadel III, the *Oriana* has proven performance, good construction, and detailed appointments. The deck, hull, and spars were repainted in 2013. With its ample captain's cabin, attractive, roomy salon, and fully equipped galley, the boat is a comfortable liveaboard in any of the world's ports. Powered by the proven Perkins 92M, the craft cruises comfortably at 7.5 knots. Equipment includes roller furling on all masts, self-tailing winches, 300 ft. chain anchor rode, three sturdy anchors, watermaker, and more. See more at <http://TheOriana.com>. Contact (480) 447-7316 or [info@theoriana.com](mailto:info@theoriana.com).



**47-FT 473 BENETEAU, 2006.** Marina Village, Alameda, CA. \$240,000. Cruise ready. White hull. Deep keel. Teak decks, 3 cabin. 75hp Yanmar, 7.9 Westerbeke generator, Spectra Newport watermaker, air conditioning, custom upholstery, Cherry wood interior, bow thruster. Much more. (530) 545-9540 or [jmbtathoe@yahoo.com](mailto:jmbtathoe@yahoo.com).



**HUDSON FORCE 50, 1974.** \$70,000. Perfect liveaboard or ocean cruiser pilot-house ketch, cutter-rigged. 50-ft redesigned vessel. Lots of room, storage and living. New rigging, new main and mizzen sails, 2 full heads, 2 bunk rooms, 1 master berth, 78hp diesel Ford Lehman engine, 5K diesel genset, new batteries, plenty of tankage, lots of extras. Needs finishing work, but is ready to sail anywhere. Call, serious cash offers only. (650) 589-8821.



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**41-FT CT, 1976.** Vallejo. \$55,000/obo. Veteran cruiser. Owned by the same owner since 1976. It has many cruising extras. Sails, anchors, and ground tackle. Set of world charts. 75hp Volvo diesel. (415) 726-3322 or maspragg@aol.com.



**47-FT CATALINA, 2000.** Long Beach, CA 90803. \$198,000. Beautifully maintained and priced to sell. Call or email for more information, specs and photos. (626) 705-4561 or sailboat470@gmail.com.



**CATALINA 42 MK II, 2002.** Friday Harbor, WA. \$167,000. Pristine condition, meticulously maintained, and ready to go cruising! Fully enclosed canvas cockpit great for affordable Northwest adventuring. Full specs and photos on website: <http://CatalinaSailboatForSale.blogspot.com>. Contact (360) 370-5976 or (360) 298-2627 or ahampton06@yahoo.com.

## CLASSIC BOATS



**25-FT FOLKBOAT, 1948.** Coyote Point, San Mateo. \$3,000. Good structural conditions. Sailed regularly. Great Bay Area boat. Requires deck re-canvassing. Full cover. Optional electric outboard. More at <http://elcaleuche.net/Folkboat>. Contact (650) 387-5342 or jnavarro@gmail.com.



**36-FT BILL GARDEN.** Fellows and Stewart ketch, 1965. Sausalito. \$12,000. Professionally built mahogany/oak, 90% restored, beautiful lines, bright and cozy below. USCG documented for 6-pack chartering. We have sadly outgrown her and purchased bigger boat. Priced accordingly. Contact (415) 730-0849 or sailingvesselchi@gmail.com.



**58-FT STAYSAIL SCHOONER, 1925.** Port Townsend, WA. \$159,000. Suva, 1925 staysail schooner designed by Ted Geary. A gorgeous and sound classic yacht that sails wonderfully! Teak. Financing available. [www.schoonersforale.com](http://www.schoonersforale.com). (360) 643-3840 or schoonersuva@gmail.com.

## MULTIHULLS



**30-FT HEDLEY NICOLE.** Cruising trimaran, 1969. Marina Bay Yacht Harbor (Richmond). \$12,500. Excellent seaworthy trimaran. Custom-built and cold molded hulls. Newer standing rigging, mast painted, etc. Topsides, nonskid decks, interior and amas painted (LP) Sept. 2013. Lots of storage area. Great Bay, Delta, or offshore boat. Rare for her hull design, interior layout, and condition. Custom dodger, etc. Call or email for more information. (805) 760-8540 or seb101498@hotmail.com.

**40-FT MANTA CATAMARAN, 1998.** La Paz, Mexico. \$240,000. Fully equipped performance cruising cat. All lines to powered winch at helm, self-tailing jib. Complete electronics, watermaker, washer-dryer, solar, genset, enormous fridge/freezer, liferaft, dinghy, many upgrades. [www.svdamiana.com](http://www.svdamiana.com). Contact (415) 987-6477 or mverdery@gmail.com.



**40-FT FUSION CATAMARAN, 2012.** Vancouver, BC. Composite performance cruising catamaran. Yanmar 30hp saildrives, hydronic heating, LED Garmin instruments, Harken equipped. 3 cabins, 2 heads, stove/oven, fridge and freezer. Teak/ holly flooring, cherry cabinets and plentiful storage throughout. Sail away in comfort and style. Contact (604) 600-1386 or (604) 465-1662 or [hellparts@bladesaviation.com](mailto:hellparts@bladesaviation.com).



**38-FT CHAMBERLIN CAT, 1992.** Nevis/ St. Kitts, Caribbean. \$80,000. Custom 38-ft OSTAC performance cruiser: composite Vac-bagged Divinycell/Vinylester/Biax. Strong and lightweight. Two doubles, galley/settee berths up, bridgedeck with seated headroom. 30,000 ocean miles. See specs: <http://Sydeva.blogspot.com>. Pics at <http://picasaweb.com/sydeva>. Email [sydeva@gmail.com](mailto:sydeva@gmail.com).

**48-FT TRIMARAN.** Sacramento. \$9,999. In the water, project boat. Has new sails, 60hp Japanese diesel. Some damage to hull, interior partially completed. Call (916) 205-1912.



**38-FT FONTAINE PAJOT ATHENA.** 1995. San Francisco, CA. \$164,000/obo. Our beloved ocean cruising vet *Family Circus* is for sale. New LPU in the salon, new canvas, new trampoline, dual Yanmars, one just rebuilt. 4 cabins, two heads. Radar, GPS, plotter, etc. Ocean gear - drogue, liferaft, autopilot, spares, etc. Fantastic sailing platform for Bay and ocean fun. Ready to go! Our family keeps growing- the boat needs to as well! More at <http://htzortzis.wix.com/family-circus>. Contact (925) 878-9659 or [ctzortzis2014@gmail.com](mailto:ctzortzis2014@gmail.com).



**49-FT OUTREMER CATAMARAN, 2011.** Ft. Lauderdale. \$780,000. Excellent condition Outremer 49. Carbon mast, Kevlar rigging, lithium batteries, electric winches, B&G and Raymarine electronics, KVH mini-VSAT, US voltage, US duties paid. In San Diego from April 2014. Contact (408) 234-4402 or [john@castlerock.com](mailto:john@castlerock.com).



**42-FT FONTAINE PAJOT VENEZIA.** 1996. Pier 39, San Francisco. \$249,000. True comfort either docked or in the ocean. Large salon, four double cabins, 2 bathrooms each with a shower, heater in each cabin, refrigerator and hot water heater. While docked, perfect on board apartment living. Two 30hp Yanmar diesel engines, autopilot, GPS, plotter, radar, dinghy and much more. (704) 516-4422 or [bmartonffy@live.com](mailto:bmartonffy@live.com).

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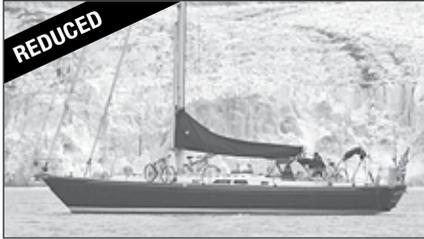


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**39' C&C CC, 1985**  
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**30' CATALINA, 1983**  
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**41' SCHOCK GRAND PRIX,  
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**43' HUNTER 430, 1995** Boat's in nice shape inside and out with spacious and thoughtfully laid out three stateroom/two full head interior with 6'6" headroom through most of the vessel, and lots of light and storage. Lying Oxnard. **\$97,000**

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**35' HINCKLEY YAWL, 1966**  
Only two owners, nice original condition with roller furler jib, new sails in 1999, Westerbeke diesel rebuilt in 2007, striking gray Awlgrippped hull. **\$62,000**

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**35' MAXI 105, 1983** High quality Swedish-built yacht in excellent condition with an interesting 3/4 aft cockpit configuration. She shows much newer than her actual age. Built largely by hand and showing bristol, she's a must-see. **\$59,000**

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**30' FAIRCHILD SCOUT, 1979** Unique vessel looks like a classic 1920s bridgedeck cruiser but with a fiberglass hull, modern systems, an updated interior, and a diesel engine. Only 3 owners since new, shows beautifully inside and out. **\$54,000**

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**36' CANADIAN SAILCRAFT, 1986** Classic one owner CS in beautiful shape with rebuilt Westerbeke diesel and new standing rigging, and much more. Designed by Ray Wall of Camper and Nicholson, she's perfect for the Bay! **\$53,000**

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**36' CATALINA, 1987** Very nice inside and out, interior showing much newer than actual age. Family obligations necessitate sale. Will make a great first boat or step-up from a Catalina 27 or 30. Potentially transferable Sausalito YH slip. **\$42,000**

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**32' DREADNOUGHT, 1978** Classic William Crealock-designed, California-built cutter. These stout double-enders have sailed all over the world and have all the charm in the world! In a potentially transferable Sausalito YH slip. **\$24,500**

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**30' ALBIN BALLAD, 1978** Solidly built by Albin Marine, they are still very much in demand as a sporty family cruiser or cost-effective club racer. She's never been cruised and is in very nice shape inside and out. Over \$30k spent on upgrades. **\$24,500**

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**34' CATALINA** Full cruise equipment. Baja Ha-Ha veteran and ready to go again. Aft and forward double staterooms, solar panels, radar and full electronics. Lots of gear. Dodger and bimini, spinnaker. Great condition and MORE! Asking **\$38,950**



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**29' CAL 29** Sloop. Solid, classic Lapworth design in sailaway condition. A fast fin-keeled beauty with a nearly new auxiliary diesel! Handles well and is a great daysailer or weekender - or for limited cruising. Roller furling, new LPU & MORE! Asking **\$16,500**



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**31' LIEN HWA SEAHORSE** Trawler. Nice, clean boat. F/G w/varnished teak appointments. Economical dsl, 2 dbl berths, AP, H&C pressure water, swim platform w/transom door, windlass, Bimini, settee/ship's table, F/B & P/H helms, dinghy davits. MORE! Asking **\$39,500**



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**35' BENETEAU 350** Sloop. Diesel, roller furling, dodger, wheel steering, autopilot, double lifelines/pulpits, self-tailing winches, lines led aft, full galley, shower, two double staterooms, wing keel and more! Asking **\$44,950**



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**30' CAPE DORY** Cutter. Alberg design. One of the finest smaller bluewater cruisers ever built. Famous for comfort, durability, seaworthiness & stout construction. Dodger, near-new dsl, RF, radar, GPS, MORE! Asking **\$29,950**

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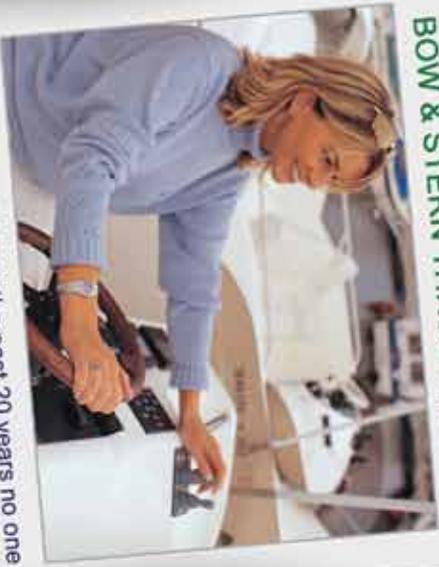
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