



The Shellback

Since 1867

November-December, 2009

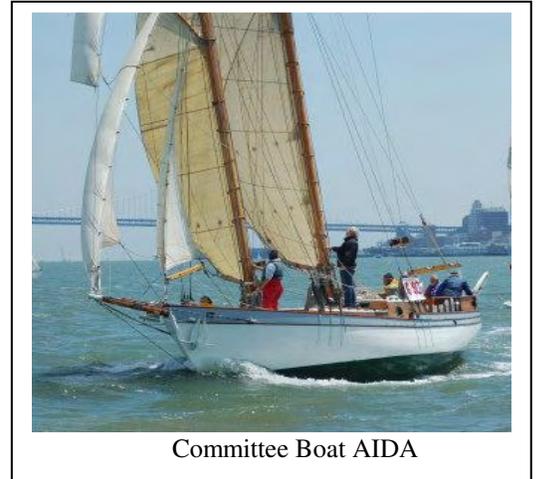
Hans List, Editor

New Years Day Race to the Chili Pot and Tacky Trophy Exchange 2010

In response to an ever diminishing number of requests, the annual New Years Day Race to the Chili Pot will be held on Jan 1, 2010 (New Years Day). The starting line will be a line between the committee boat AIDA and the dock at the Northeast end of Clipper Cove on Treasure Island (the old MMBA regatta finish line). Starting time will be 1100 hours.

Note: In past years, due to inclement weather or boredom, the starting vessel has been known to maintain station for fifteen minutes and then take off for the finish. Vessels intending to start after this elapsed time will have to overtake the Committee boat and pass on the port side in order to be listed as competitors. VHF communication will be tentatively on CH. 71. The starting window will close at 11:45 thus preventing would-be competitors from lying-in-wait for the starting line to pass them.

The course from the starting line will be to circumnavigate Red Rock in any direction and then head into the Richmond Channel to the finish line. The finish will be a line perpendicular to the breakwater from the green channel marker buoy. **Festivities following the finish will be held at the Pt. San Pablo Yacht Club.**



Committee Boat AIDA

All yachts are required to note their finish times precisely. Lying and cheating are discouraged...inventive excuses may be considered. All racing efforts are to cease and desist by 1400 hours.

Extra Points are awarded for the following at the finish line and at the potluck:

Pirate Garb: Including head scarves, boots, cutlasses, eye patches, drinking mugs, flint locks, etc.

Live Music: As befitting a pursuit buccaneer vessel about to close on a victim or prize...Including fiddles, banjos, cymbals, horns, squeeze-boxes, flutes, drums, etc.

Tacky Trophies: Tacky trophies must be awarded in person from skipper or crew to the appropriate other skipper or crew.

The celebration of the finish needs both salads and chili. In the past, the Gaffers brought chili and Marconi brought salads. Since Gaffers are few in number we ask everyone to bring anything to the potluck except...Salamagundi and Slumgullion. Those two dishes have sent many a worthy Privateer to Davy Jones' Locker too early.

Skip Henderson



From the Quarterdeck



The next couple of months our main focus will be on family, friends, and the holidays. Some still find a way to get on the water and combine their passion for sailing with the season – Thanksgiving raft-ups, calm winter sailing with family, pulling the Sou'westers over their heads and just going for it... in other words we may not have a Master Mariners event right away, but we will when you're ready for it. Shake off the sleepy affects of heavy meals and dark nights and jump in like one of those polar bear swimmers on New Year's Day – and don't forget your tacky trophies to bring to the chili potluck after the NY's day race!

While you've got this little bit of free time to think... think about getting more involved in your favorite club and past-time. Volunteering can reward you more than you realize – and you can volunteer upfront for just what you can handle. There is usually one MMBA Board Member in charge of each event and they each would be happy for a little bit of help. We have our 2010 calendar pretty well set (see back cover and website) and if you aren't sailing on one of those days and can help set up or clean up, let us know. Tell us what you'd be up for, your limitations, and we'll find a fit. The benefits are you'll get to know more members faster, feel more at home at events, and see the vessels you love continue on and on. Another aspect of getting involved is helping new members in neighboring berths/marinas get to know the group more and encouraging them to come to events – so let us know if you are interested in this. Our new online forum will be launched soon – we've just been tweaking the set-up a bit. As soon as it is live, an email notice will be sent out to MMBA members and friends.

Ariane Paul, Commodore

Jessica Cup 2009

Each fall the St. Francis Yacht Club invites our membership and other classic sailboats to participate for a full weekend in the Jessica Cup consisting of three races over two days. There was a good turn out again this year with four divisions. Both the dinner Saturday night and the awards ceremony on Sunday saw the "Starting Line" room packed with skippers and their crews having a great time. Here is the list of winning vessels:

Farallon Clipper Division: VIP, Don Taylor
Gaff Rig Division: Brigadoon, Terry Klaus
Lapworth 36 Division: Leda, David James
Marconi 2 Division: Sunda, Bob Rogers

This year I sailed the third race on Sunday on AIDA with Skip and Patty Henderson and Mike and Sue Proudfoot. As many of you



Yankee in hot pursuit of Brigadoon

know, Mike and Sue have been cruising on FARIDA for several years and come home each winter to visit family and friends and knock off a few projects on their home. It is always great to see them and hear their stories. With their warm personalities it seems they are welcomed easily in each country they visit. FARIDA is resting in Falmouth, England until they continue on to the Med next spring.

Here is the StFYC link to the final race results:

<http://www.stfyc.com/Files/2009JessicaCupResults-Final.pdf>

And the biggest set of photos I've found so far for the event is:

Chris Ray Photography: www.crayivp.com,

Jessica Cup 2009

<http://www.crayivp.com/JessicaCup/index.htm>

Ariane Paul



Sunda

Pegasus Celebration / Fund Raiser – Saturday, November 21, 2009

The Pegasus Project will have its annual awards ceremony and first fund raising dinner at the Berkeley Yacht Club on Saturday, November 21st. During the last 15 years the program has taken more than 7,000 youth on to San Francisco Bay for marine education and life-skills training. An award will be presented to a youth to sail on the schooner SEAWARD in the “Call of the Sea” program this winter, and the Master Mariners Benevolent Foundation has made a \$500 donation towards the award this year. During the event there will be a dinner, live entertainment, a raffle, a silent auction, as well as updates on the Pegasus Project's "No Child Left Ashore" initiatives. Advance tickets are \$15 and for BYC members, \$25 at the door. There will be a presentation by Pegasus crew member Rod Witel on "Hot Spots for Cruising in San Francisco Bay," a performance by the Shanty Singers, a local youth group singing sea shanties, and a dockside tour of the ketch Pegasus.

Advance Tickets:

<http://www.pegasusproject.org/celebration.html>

Saturday, November 21, 2009, 5:30 to 9:30 PM

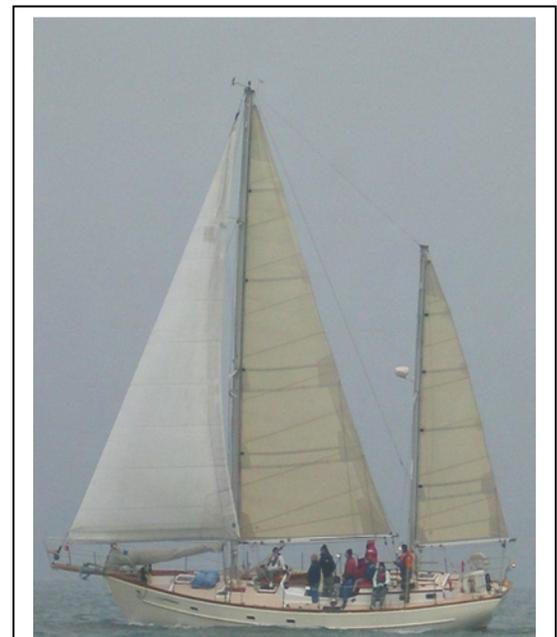
Berkeley Yacht Club, www.berkeleyyc.org

1 Seawall Drive

Berkeley, CA 94710

For more information: (510) 205-1069,

info@pegasusproject.org



Pegasus



Spaulding Wooden Boat Center – all in the water now!

Saturday, November 7th saw all sorts of achievements being celebrated at the Spaulding Wooden Boat Center. A Spaulding 33, AURORAL, that has had a long and thorough restoration went back in the water after many a moon. A big group of happy children saw the Norwegian pram they'd just built, "LIGHTLY SALTED," get



launched and put to use immediately. And a prize jewel of San Francisco bay, FREDa, felt her own rejuvenation gaining momentum as some new planks have just been put on. So many people are putting in time, effort, and resources to these many projects – it's a joy to see. If you are a bit behind in the SWBC activities, please take a look at their website and photo and blog links (listed on the right side): www.spauldingcenter.org



Eight Bells for Noel Duckett



I am sad to report that Noel Duckett died of a heart attack on October 13th. For those of you who may not have known Noel, he was the Commodore of the Master Mariners in the late 90's and past owner of Westerly, a 30' Sparkman & Stephens built in 1939. After Noel's second heart attack, which happened while he was Commodore, he was forced to sell Westerly. He and his wife, Jane

Piereth, then retired to “Gone Away Farm” in Weed and got involved with horses (the only hobby/passion more demanding than a wooden boat).

Although Noel was ending his involvement with Master Mariners just as I started, I first met Noel back in the mid 80’s through the Oceanic Society. Noel was a very active skipper in that organization and taught many people how to sail on Westerly. It was also through the Oceanic Society that he met Jane. They were married in 1989. I will never forget their wedding. They had asked me to take photographs. My Nikon recently had taken a saltwater bath after capsizing a dinghy. So I was using a borrowed camera. I snapped away including the bride dressing, etc. only to discover half way through the ceremony that there was no film in the camera. Fortunately, I was not the only photographer, and they forgave me when I did manage to take a great photo of them coming up the aisle together. After Jane and Noel were married, they both became very active with the Persidio Yacht Club where Noel was head of the Race Committee for many years (practice for the MMBA Regatta). It was also about this time that he became the Master Mariner’s delegate to PICYA and remained in that role even after he sold Westerly.

Noel was a gentle soul (even though he could yell with the best of them on the race course). I liked to watch his face when he was telling a story or talking about something that caught his interest. His eyes would get wide and he would get an impish grin on his face. He will be missed.

Currently, there is a plan to scatter his ashes out in the Ocean on the weekend of June 13th / 14th. More information will be sent out when the plans are solidified. If you were a friend of Noel’s, mark you calendar and sail out to say goodbye. If you would like to send Jane a note, she would love to hear from you. Her address is 9017 Aspen Drive, Weed, CA 96094. Her email address is jpiereth@aol.com.

Dee Dee Lozier

MASTER MARINERS BENEVOLENT *Foundation*

In early June, 2009 the MMBA Board of Directors forwarded to the MMBF Board, a request for financial help that had been received from 19 year old Jena Losch and her 14 year old sister Julie of El Granada, CA. The young ladies had applied to the Call of the Sea to go on a five day offshore educational voyage aboard the 82’ schooner SEAWARD, a regular participant in the MM Regatta each year. After reviewing their request the grant was funded,

Jena has been a Girl Sea Scout and has sailing experience. Julie has learned small boat sailing at Girl Scout Camp. They are home schooled and this trip was to be part of their schooling. Both are interested in oceanography, marine biology and California history. They are very interested in California history and very active with environmental causes like Save the Bay, Coastal Cleanup and helping to save marine animals such as the fish, mammals and birds. They also participate twice each year at the Fort Ross Cultural Heritage Days where they serve as costumed docents, helping with the demonstrations of old time easy for visitors. They looked at the five day sailing voyage aboard SEAWARD along the California Coast as an opportunity to enrich their knowledge of both classic sailing vessels and of the history of California. They boarded SEAWARD in Sausalito on June 15, 2009 for their offshore voyage.



Jena and Julie Losch



Seaward sailing under the Gate

After SEAWARD returned to her berth in Sausalito the students wrote about their experience. Following are the letters that were forwarded to MMBF by Jena and Julie Losch. (The letters were very nicely handwritten but would not reproduce well enough for printing, hence the type written version.) It would appear that the voyage lived up to the young ladies' expectations.

Dear Master Mariners Benevolent Foundation,

This past week I had the amazing opportunity to participate in Voyage Seaward, in which I learned about how to sail a tall ship and also learned about the importance of the bay and the elements in sailing. Too often on land we forget the importance of the weather and the tides, and this was an eye-

opening experience to remind me of the power of the elements.

As I continue my studies in biochemistry at Cal Poly, I will now try to connect what I learned on this voyage about the chemistry of the ocean to what I learn in the classroom. It is experiences and opportunities like Voyage Seaward that inspire young women like myself to protect the bay and the oceans that are such a vital part of our life—even though many do not realize these bodies of water have such an importance in our daily lives.

Thank you for this opportunity for me to go back to the basics as I experienced the purity and exhilaration of a sailing experience. I look forward to other sailing adventures in the future!

Jena Losch

Dear Master Mariners Foundation,

My name is Julie Losch. I want to say thank you very much for making it possible for me to attend Voyage Seaward. I have learned many things this week. I have learned how to navigate, steer, and sail the ship. My favorite part of this week was going under the Golden Gate Bridge and sailing through the rough water. We traveled to a couple of islands and went on shore. This experience has made me want to do more voyages, perhaps for even longer. I want to thank you again.

Julie Losch

This makes three young people that MMBA/MMBF has helped spend a five day educational voyage aboard **SEAWARD**. There is one more voyage scheduled for this year, a 7-day/6-night sea-going adventure from SF Bay south to Los Angeles. The cost is \$750 and is scheduled over the Christmas break, December 27, 2009—January 2, 2010. What a way for a teenage sailing enthusiast to celebrate the New Year! Students will be given increased responsibility as the days pass and by fully participating in all aspects of shipboard life—steering, navigating, standing watch and helping in the galley, the students become one with the rhythm of a ship at sea. This sea educational program for teens packs adventure and learning into a 'rite of passage' that will change their lives. This voyage is geared to teenagers 14-19 who are Sea Scouts, or youth with previous seagoing experience. So, if you have a sailing experienced teenager in your family, or know of one, have him/her contact Call of the Sea at 415-331-3214, and let them know they would like to sign up for the voyage. Then, if financial aid is needed, contact MMBA/MMBF at mastermariners@yahoo.com as soon as possible for an educational grant. Historically these grants have been granted for up to 50% of the cost of the voyage.

Mike Douglas

Taihoa's Trip to the Channel Islands

On July 1, my fiancé Katie and I took off sailing on our ketch Taihoa and headed down towards southern California and the Channel Islands. We took six weeks in all and got to have a great trip.

Taihoa has been our home here in Galilee Harbor in Sausalito for the past five years. She is a Tahiti ketch design built in Christchurch, NZ and launched in 1949. Her hull is planked in Kauri and her framing is bent Apitong fastened with copper. She is very sturdy and makes little water.

We took off on the morning of July 1 with very light southerlies so we motored to Half Moon Bay for a night, before heading down to Morro Bay. It was both of our first times in Morro Bay and we found it was one of the most incredibly alive marine environments we had ever seen and also a pretty neat harbor with a very friendly yacht club (with great showers).



Taihoa

After spending a few days hanging out and enjoying the area, we took off to head around Pt. Arguello and Concepcion. There was a small craft advisory but it didn't look too bad so we took off in the afternoon to go around at night. It ended up being very windy with steep following waves and a lot of whitewater, and when we finally pulled into the lee under Cojo we were running with only our jib. Taihoa behaved very nicely, putting her main boom in the water only once or twice. Tahiti ketches don't have very many good sailing qualities, but running down wind and sea comfortably and safely is apparently one of them.

We headed down to Santa Barbara after a nap at Cojo and after a few days there went out to Santa Cruz island. The sail across the channel was our first true taste of Southern California sailing, with warm light consistent winds. We pulled into Prisoner's Harbor and tucked in behind some rocks. Prisoner's is a nice wide anchorage with a dinghy dock and some trails on shore. We hiked to the top of a bluff and could see Anacapa in the distance.

On our second day at Prisoner's another old woody anchored near us and we got to talking and admiring one another's boats. We soon made friends with Brian Crowe, skipper of The Rouge, a flushed decked cutter built in the thirties, and his son Joel and their friendly crew. The Rouge is a former Master Mariner boat when Brian lived in the bay area, but she now calls Morro Bay her home. We spent most of the remainder of our times in the islands buddy boating with The Rouge, having dinners and drinks and all sorts of stories together.

After a couple of days exploring the North cost of Santa Cruz Island, with it's many caves and little anchorages, we headed around the corner to the South side and anchored at Smugglers Cove. The weather was much warmer here and we swam and tried to catch some of the many fish that jumped out of the water at dusk (With no luck).

After a day or two of this luxury we went down to Catalina and found a descent spot to anchor in Cat Harbor. We enjoyed the fine things in life (cold beer) in the tiny town of Two Harbors. We hiked into the hills and saw wild buffalo. On the weekend the harbor was full of powerboats with generators and TV's. On the weekdays it was quiet and lovely.

Our next stop was in the town of Avalon to refuel and get some supplies. Even though we had read and heard about how big Avalon is we weren't quite prepared for the crowded mooring field and huge cruise ships after so many days of peace and quiet. We enjoyed the people watching and happy hours and took off shortly to start our long trip home starting with a stop in Marina Del Ray.

On our way up the coast we stopped in Ventura to surf and visited friends in Santa Barbara. We also picked up our friend and crew Anton Hottner. The three of us beat our way up the coast over the next week. We had a narrow window going around Conception, and some days of waiting out weather in the serene and very alive San Simeon harbor.

Almost exactly six weeks from when we left we returned to San Francisco Bay and snuck under the gate at three in the morning on August the 11th. The trip was fun, exciting and gave us a renewed sense of appreciation and love for our sixty-year old wooden boat.

Jody Boyle and Katie FitzGerald

Victoria and Port Townsend Boat Shows

One of my favorite junkets is to hang out in the Northwest and participate in the Victoria and Port Townsend boat shows. My very good friend Bill Harpster enables my trips by providing the best company and the good ship Joshua, a faithful copy of Slocum's round the world vessel. Bill moved from Alameda to Camano Island a dozen years back, and now keeps Joshua at Oak Harbor on Whidbey Island.



The Victoria boat show is unique in being closely tied to the Maritime Museum where the very small around the world Trekka and Tillicum both live. Trekka, is a 25' breakthrough vessel designed by Laurent Giles and sailed twice around the world. I always ask dreamers if they would prefer to have made the trip singlehanded or with ones spouse, as she is a very tight vessel both inside and out. Taking all of the dock space in front of the Empress Hotel in the center of downtown, and also commanding the commercial berths, there is plenty of room for large vessels, such as the Pacific Grace, and the show includes steam powered tugs, large power vessels and there is a group of Legendary Gardner Diesel fans. In all there are about 200 vessels, although only 40 are sail.



Pacific Grace

The show is free to the public and non commercial although there are lots of entertainers on the land including a Blues Extravaganza next door on this Labor Day Weekend.

Show participants pay the normal berth rate, and participants are invited to Champaign at the Maritime Museum, a cocktail party on the 90' Olympus, a fully crewed power yacht, a parade, a race and an awards dinner. They have about 25 awards. The Best Sail Boat award once went to MMBA members Mike and Sue Proudfoot on Farida while they were coming home from Alaska. Another

year they gave Bill Harpster the award for Best Replica.

From Sid Skiffs to Steam Tugs, to 90' Schooners, it's hard to find a better way to spend Labor Day Weekend.

A dozen or so boats from the Victoria show also attend the Pt. Townsend Boat Festival on the following weekend. The past few years they have been participating in a Rendezvous at Deer Harbor on Orcas Island. That event is very low key with maybe two dozen boats sail and power. The town marina provides a special rate to boats that are participating. There are placards for the boats and they are assigned dock space together. The event is very informal with a rowing race, a donation salmon dinner, including limited free wine & beer, and desert. The dinner takes place in a little funky boatyard farther up the estuary. There is a sail boat race the last day, but the good ship Joshua usually moves on to an anchorage closer to Port Townsend for crossing the straits of Juan de Fuca, and an early dockside berth at Port Hudson.

The 200 vessels that get together for a 3 1/2 day festival at Port Hudson are surrounded by nearly 80 exhibitor tents and at least seven demonstration areas: Edensaw Woodworking Stage & Boatbuilding, Festool Tool Demonstrations, Sea Marine Boatyard Stage, "Ask a Shipwright", Family Boatbuilding, Kids' Boatbuilding and daily live music on the Main Stage. There are continuous indoor and outdoor presentations from recent cruising

adventures to tips and techniques from builders, designers and do-it-yourselfers; demonstration of skills and tools from the 1700s to cutting edge technology; and a full array of topics and advice by many of regional, national and international boatbuilding, sailing, rowing and maritime experts.



Port Hudson Marina

You can buy a classic vessel of any size or visit MMBA members Bill & Shirley Rickman at American Rope & Tar for a quart of pine tar or some great Le Tonkinois varnish. This year I attended a very nice demonstration of handwork in sail making by Carol Hasse. MMBA members Skip & Patty Henderson usually attend. Skip plays on Joshua's deck, and this year we also had music from a group called Nomadfish. Hopefully the attached pictures will complete this story.

Dick Wrenn

Chicken Ship Regatta 2009

The chickens were out in full force this year as we successfully completed another Chicken Ship up the Petaluma River. We had a turnout of seven MMBA boats show up (almost eight), a couple land yachts, and one guest vessel, the schooner Tillicum of Victoria, B.C. It was a great time to be had by all. There was enough chicken garb being strutted around by all to strike serious concern into the minds of bystanders and dock roamers.

The Petaluma Yacht Club graciously let us use their facilities including their barbeque which we grilled a boat-load of chickens on. On Saturday evening the clubhouse was filled with the smells of good food, the sounds of toasting glasses and the sight of a bunch of drinking chickens wearing anything from chickens feet and hats to the fully dressed chicken mascot (until the chicken head ended up in the bilge dive box). There was a limerick reading contest, the infamous Bilge Dive, and an entertaining awards ceremony.



Team Taihoa takes First Place



do but laze-about the boats (minus running a new haly'rd on Stroma), we ate and drank and played music on the docks and soaked up the beautiful weather. Thanks again to the Petaluma Yacht Club and to all who showed up. We look forward to having another *cluck of a time* next year.

Hans List

We had several old Chicken Ship trophies return to the circuit this year including the ambiguously-perpetual trophy, The Cluck Up, which was awarded to Black Jack who encountered some unexpected obstacles while attempting to make her way up the river.

The remainder of the weekend was equally enjoyable. With not much else to

*There once was a sailing chicken
Who cried when he was stricken*

*The Chef's compromise
Was chicken surprise*

And the dinner was finger lick'n

MMBA 2010 EVENTS CALENDAR

January 1	New Year's Race	Pt. San Pablo YC
March 13	Spring Potluck	Pt. San Pablo YC
May 21	Sponsors Lunch	St. Francis YC
May 29	MMBA Regatta	Encinal YC
June 26	Annual Meeting	Corinthian YC
June 27	MMBA Wooden Boat Show	Corinthian YC
July 17	SWBC BBQ	Spaulding Wooden Boat Center
Aug TBD	China Camp BBQ/Sail-In	China Camp
Sept 4	Chicken Ship Cruise	Petaluma YC
Oct 9	Offshore Cruise	TBD
Oct 16-17	Jessica Cup	St. Francis YC

In this issue...

Coming up:

- New Years Day Race
- Pegasus Fundraiser

Recent Happenings:

- Spaulding Launchings
- Jessica Cup
- Taihoa's Trip
- Northwest Boat Shows
- Chicken Ship Re-cap

and more:

- Commodore's Notes
- Eight Bells

MMBA

2010 Events Calendar

<i>January 1</i>	New Years Race	<i>Pt San Pablo YC</i>
<i>March 17</i>	Spring Potluck	<i>Pt. San Pablo YC</i>
<i>May 21</i>	Sponsors Lunch	<i>St. Francis YC</i>
<i>May 29</i>	Annual Regatta	<i>Encinal YC</i>
<i>June 26</i>	Annual Meeting	<i>Corinthian YC</i>
<i>June 27</i>	Wooden Boat Show	<i>Tiburon</i>
<i>July 17</i>	SWBC-MMBA BBQ	<i>Sausalito</i>
<i>August TBD</i>	China Camp Sail-in & BBQ	<i>China Camp</i>
<i>Sept 4</i>	Chicken Ship	<i>Petaluma YC</i>
<i>Oct 9</i>	Offshore Cruise	<i>TBD</i>
<i>October 16-17</i>	Jessica Cup	<i>St. Francis YC</i>



Hans List
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