

Gal' Warnings

The Monthly Newsletter of the Women's Sailing Association of Santa Monica Bay

March 2011

Volume XXVI, Issue 3

Commodore's Corner

by Christina Tarantola

While this should be a time of joy and excitement for all sailors – the weather is improving, Opening Day celebrations are underway up and down the coast, and the cruising and racing seasons are in full swing – we are brutally reminded that sailing involves risk for even the most prepared boats and crews.



I was sickened and horrified as the story of the S/V "Quest" carrying owners Scott and Jean Adam and two others unfolded, ending in the senseless and tragic deaths of all aboard at the hands of Somali pirates. Although I did not know the Adams personally, they were long-time members of this community and WSA members may remember Jean's presentations at WSA meetings before the Adams began their around-the-world adventures in 2004. They were friends with many people I know and their story will haunt us all for a long time to come. My deepest condolences go out to the family and friends of both the Adams and their fellow travelers.

(Continued on page 3)

March's Speaker: Denise George and Skipper Panel—Get racing!

by Midge Costin, Education Chair

At our March 8 meeting, WSA member Denise George and chair of the Wednesday Night Sunset Series kicks off race season by discussing this race series, which starts April 13. She will talk about the race course, race committee, scoring system, and all of the perpetual trophies.

We will also have a panel of skippers looking for crew for race season. There will be a sign-up sheet for all who are interested and we will do our best to get everyone on a boat. Calling all skippers who are interested! Come to the meeting with photos of your boat and what you need to be competitive on the race course. Lets get as many women participating as possible! Finally, don't miss the March 8 WSA meeting! (March 8 also happens to be International Women's Day.)

April's speaker will be Judy Rae Karlsen, director of the Long Beach "Sea Gals" program. Judy has a great series of clinics and instructional sails planned for 2011, all using the Long Beach Sailing Association's Catalina 37's. See page 4 for the 2011 schedule. This program is a great way to ramp up your sailing skills, check it out!

The Dragon Sails Again



Gary and Rosalie with crew aboard their new 44.7 First, *Green Dragon 2*.

Photo credit: John Nelson

Women's Sailing Convention



WSA SMB was well-represented at this year's Women's Sailing Convention in Newport Beach. See Coco's report on Page 3.

Photo credit: Fran Weber Melville

Meeting Agenda for March 8, 2011

6:30 pm — Social hour

7:30 pm — Dinner

8:00 pm — Speaker: Denise George and Racing Panel

Remembering Jean and Scott Adam

By Nicola Lamb and R. Peery Forbis

In August, 1995 I flew down to La Paz, Mexico to rendezvous with *Significant Other*, a C & C Landfall 39, and its owner Scott Adam. Scott and I had met several years earlier and found that both of us sailed.

Several weeks earlier Scott came to WSA looking for crew to cruise the Sea of Cortez, sail down to Cabo San Lucas, then return the boat to home port, MDR, making stops along the way... And off I went. Another eager sailor was Peery Forbis, who volunteered his family.

Two young children, parents Peery and Sandy, Scott, and I set sail for the Sea of Cortez. Sailing, swimming, laughing and eating, then on to Cabo. I was at the helm for great night sail down to Cabo San Lucas — just me, the stars, and two sleeping people on deck. I will always remember that night — quiet, clear, a good wind. Scott pointed out the Southern Cross.

At Cabo, wife and children jumped ship as we prepared for the journey north. Scott and I went jewelry shopping for a gift for a woman he had just started dating named Jean. I helped him pick a necklace for her and one for his daughter.

A trip to the lumber yard, drilling holes, lashing yellow gas cans to the wood, which was now on the lifelines — we waited for a good weather report and we were off, the sun rising at our backs. The plan was to motor sail up the coast, staying inland of Cedros Island.

I asked Scott if he had any music aboard. He said he had some show tunes. All I could picture was us sailing up the coast singing "Oklahoma" for the rest of the trip.

Scott was thorough and thoughtful in our preparations plotting our course, checking in with other sailors. We stopped at Magdalena Bay where I shot roll after roll of film trying to get the perfect picture of the whales. Scott was patient.

And Scott was generous... another sailor, single-handing his boat north, asked he could sail in tandem with us so we could keep an eye on his boat while he slept. We ended up giving the majority of the gas we had provisioned on deck to this man. Here we are in the middle of the ocean with lines coming and going to the other boat as we shift the gas cans over to his boat. Of course I took a picture. Now we had to tack out from our course, and adding two days to our time, so we would have enough gas.

This was a new boat and the first time Scott had raced *Significant Other* down to Puerto Vallarta. There were leaks, so most of our stuff was damp... water maker had stopped working... microwave barely worked and no bow light. A lot of fisherman in pangas at night, freighters without running lights and heavy seas. Sometimes no visibility. When we made Ensenada we were exhausted. Scott had stories and I am sure this was another he added to repertoire. We will all miss the pictures and ad-



Scott and Jean in happier times, Huatulco, Mexico, 2005

Photo credit: R. Peery Forbis

ventures he and Jean shared along with their joy of sailing. Fair winds, calm seas. Farewell.

I flew to Oaxaca so that Scott and Jean Adam would have an extra person to stand watch on the "Quest" for their next leg to Barillas Marina, El Salvador. They were moving "Quest" back to start their extended cruising voyages in the South Pacific.

Scott and Jean were lovely, generous friends. I was honored to be invited on several voyages over many years. I have known Scott for over 30 years. Despite my tepid interest in racing, our mutual love of sailing allowed us to be occasional shipmates on interesting trips.

When Jean and Scott married, he finally found someone to match his love for the sea. Jean ignored her problems with seasickness, and pitched in for the huge project of designing and building the "Quest" in New Zealand. When they sailed "Quest" back here for the first time, I met them in Hawaii. Four of us sailed her all of the way from Waikiki to Sitka, Alaska. I think we only tacked once in two weeks. It was a wonderful experience. Now that they both are gone, the world is a poorer place.

R. Peery Forbis



Peery, Nicola, and Scott sailing in Mexico

Photo credit Nicola Lamb

(Commodore's Corner continued from page 1)

On Friday, Feb. 18, the same day the "Quest" was hijacked, "Powerplay", the Schock 35 Season Champion for both 2009 and 2010, was destroyed on its way to Long Beach for the SCYA Midwinter Regatta. Owner Steve "Sparkle" Arkle of SCCYC told Sail-World.com, "I had a boat delivery guy bringing it over from Marina del Rey. He had just passed Point Fermin and was outside the breakwater by Cabrillo Beach when the engine quit. There weren't any sails up, the wind and waves washed the boat up on the breakwater. The lifeguards got him off the boat but the wind and surf were too strong to pull the boat off the rocks." Luckily no one was injured, but "Powerplay" and everything on board were destroyed.

Having sailed with Sparkle on numerous occasions, I know him as a great and gracious sailor and an experienced skipper who consistently builds a strong and versatile team. The Schock fleet and the entire sailing community will miss "Powerplay" a great deal. Sparkle and crew, my heart goes out to all of you.

Luckily, these tragedies are rare. Normally, as now, the calendar is filled with wonderful cruising, racing and special events. Opening Day for MdR yacht clubs will be March 12 and 13. This is always a glorious weekend of festivities as we honor our clubs and welcome a new year of boating in a sea of blue blazers. WSA is also

thrilled to begin the process of selecting up to two skippers for sponsorship in the LEMWOD regatta scheduled for Oct. 22-23. This fantastic women's regatta is hosted by LBYC on the Catalina 37s. These are the same boats used for the internationally coveted Congressional Cup (men's match racing) and Mayor's Cup (women's match racing). You can sail and race on these boats, too! Sea Gals, under the direction of Judy-Rae Karlsen, offers a series of clinics on the Catalina 37s for interested women sailors of all abilities. For more information, email shesails00@yahoo.com.

Join us at our March General Meeting as we welcome ASMBYC Yachtsman of the Year Denise George and a panel of skippers who will help prepare us for the CYC Sunset Series, more affectionately known as our Wednesday night beer can races.

I wish all of you safe and happy sailing.

MEMBERSHIP NOTE:

Effective with next month's April newsletter, only current WSA members who receive the monthly newsletter via email will continue to do so. If you are interested in joining or renewing, please follow the instructions provided at www.wsasmb.org (just click on "Join WSA Today"). Once you have established your membership, you will be added back on the distribution list. Thank you!

Review of the 2011 Women's Sailing Convention

By Coco Leigh, Vice-Commodore

The 22nd Annual Women's Sailing Convention took place on Saturday Feb. 5, 2011. This is an incredible event that promotes women's sailing and includes a full day of workshops followed by a dinner with a fabulous Keynote Speaker who was informative and entertaining. There were land-based workshops on everything from Knots to Navigation to Cruising to Racing Rules and Tactics to Diesel Engine Maintenance. There were On the Water Workshops on Anchoring, Docking, Man Overboard, Intro to Sailing and much, much more. Our own Captain Fran Weber-Melville was honored as the recipient of the Peggy Slater Award. Captain Fran and Captain Jeanne Jordan were also Instructors for On-the-Water workshops. There were women sailors there from all over the country. Also there were about twenty participants from our WSA. Here's what a few of them had to say:

Susan French of Bateau Frowe: "I had a great day on the water with two excellent instructors, Captains Patti Garfield and Diane Murray. In the morning we practiced Man Overboard retrieval and in the afternoon we practiced reefing and heaving to. Gems of wisdom from the afternoon session included:

- ◆ "Loosen, loosen, loosen" before you hoist; "tighten, tighten, tighten" after you hoist

- ◆ Never turn into the wind to unfurl, reef, or furl the jib — blanket it behind the main
- ◆ Never turn into the wind to reef the main when you're going down wind — turn up to take the pressure off, but only to about a 90 degree angle

We also saw Capt. Patti warp out from the dock and heard marvelous tales of adventure from our two Captains, who set a record by being the first women to sail double-handed in the Transpac."

Betsy Lindsley: "It was a wonderful experience — as always. All those savvy, competent, fun women. The guest speaker was a hoot, but also very touching and insightful."

Midge Costin: "It was fabulous and so fun to meet and take classes with women from all over the U.S. I got some good potential speakers. Coco was asked to give an impromptu talk as a representative of WSA SMB and she was great! Gail Hine gave all WSA representatives an opportunity to say a few words and it felt really supportive and a nice connection of all these different areas and women. She introduced WSA SMB first and really gave lots of credit to our group as being the first and leading the way. It was cool."

The Women's Sailing Convention is held every year on the first Saturday in February. Mark your calendars for next year; it's not to be missed!

(Photo selection on Page 6)

Race News

By Mary Ho, Race Chair

There are two exciting races I'd like to cover in this article. The first is a Southern California tradition — the Newport-Ensenada race, held this year on April 15th-17th. This 125 nautical mile race from Newport Beach to Ensenada, Mexico, has been a tradition in Southern California since the first race in 1948. That year, it was expected that perhaps 25-35 boats would participate. 117 showed up and race organizers began to think that they were on to something. This year marks the 64th consecutive Ensenada race. There are classes for all sizes and types of boats, from the ultra-light sleds to cruising boats. Consider entering your boat or finding a boat to crew on. Let's help keep this Southern California tradition alive!

The Border Run is another long-distance race being held on April 9-10th. What started out two years ago as an alternative to the Ensenada race has become its own racing phenomenon. This year they are offering three courses: a long course of 91 miles from Newport Beach, around Coronado del Norte, and ending in San Diego; a short course of 70 miles from Newport straight to San Diego; and a 14-mile sprint course from Newport to Dana Point for sailing dinghies, windsurfers, kitesurfers, stand-up paddleboards, and kayaks. Race organizer Randy Reynolds, in keeping with the race's "all-inclusive" attitude, created the new 14-mile sprint course this year so that the smaller racing dinghies and other small watercraft could participate. There's something for everyone! This will be one of the happening events of the year.

I would also like to announce two upcoming racing clinics. Santa Monica Windjammers Yacht Club is putting on a Starting Clinic on Sunday, March 20th. The clinic starts at 10am with a chalk talk, followed by an on-the-water session and debrief at the club afterward. Food and drinks will be available for purchase after the clinic. The event is free, so just show up and be prepared to sail.

The South Bay Yacht Racing Club is having an Advanced Racing Tactics Seminar on March 26th. I don't have details beyond that, but there will be more information as the date gets closer on SBYRC's website: <http://www.sbyrc.org/club/>.

- ◆ The Border Run: <http://www.theborderrun.org/>
- ◆ The Newport-Ensenada Race: <http://www.nosa.org/>

Long Beach Sea Gals 2011 Program

Here are the steps to securing your spot on Sea Gals events.

1. Check your schedule now and pick the date(s) you can join us. There will be spots for every level of sailing.
2. RSVP to me and tell me what Event(s) you want.

3. To register and secure a spot you must prepay for the event. Every event is \$50 (payable to LB Sailing Foundation).
4. I will forward payment instructions (Credit Card, Check or Paypal) and send you a confirmation.
5. You will receive reminders on event times and what you need to bring with you.
6. Priority goes to those who reserve and prepay- so get your RSVP to me ASAP..
7. You can cancel up to 48 hours prior to events and up to 24 hours if I have a sailor to fill your spot.

Events: Date / Time

1. Friday, April 01, 2011 5:00 - 7:30 pm
2. Sunday, April 03, 2011 12:00-4:00 pm
3. Saturday, April 23, 2011 12:00-4:00 pm
4. Sunday, May 08, 2011 12:00-4:00 pm Mother's Day Cruise (4 boats)
5. Friday, May 13, 2011 5:00 -8:30 pm
6. Saturday, May 14, 2011 12:00-4:00 pm
7. Saturday, May 21, 2011 12:00-4:00 pm
8. Friday, June 10, 2011 5:00 -8:30 pm
9. Saturday, June 18, 2011 12:00-4:00 pm
10. June 24-26 Long Beach Race Week (racing)
11. Friday, July 15, 2011 5:00 -8:30 pm
12. Saturday, July 23, 2011 12:00-4:00 pm
13. Sunday, July 24, 2011 12:00-4:00 pm
14. Friday, August 05, 2011 5:00 -8:30 pm
15. Saturday, August 13, 2011 12:00-4:00 pm
16. Sunday, August 14, 2011 12:00-4:00 pm
17. Friday, August 19, 2011 5:00 -8:30 pm
18. Saturday, September 17, 2011 12:00-4:00 pm
19. Sunday, September 18, 2011 12:00-4:00 pm
20. Sunday, September 25, 2011 9:00 am-5:00 pm Charity Regatta (racing)
21. Sunday, October 09, 2011 12:00-4:00 pm
22. October 21-23 Linda Elias Memorial Women's One Design (racing)
23. Saturday, November 05, 2011 12:00-4:00 pm

Oh, one more thing... there is no limit to the number of events you can join. It's up to your schedule!

I am looking forward to sailing with you on the Catalina 37's this year!

Judy-Rae Karlsen
Sea Gals Program Director
562-355-8500 (feel free to call with questions!)

Website at:

http://www.lbycsf.org/LBSF/LB_Sailing_Foundation.html



WSA is Recruiting Skippers for Linda Elias Memorial Women's One Design Regatta Entries

WSA of Santa Monica Bay intends to promote Women's Sailing and the Linda Elias Memorial Women's One Design (sponsored by the Long Beach Yacht Club and the Long Beach WSA), through seeking to maximize opportunities for participation in this event, by both existing members and potential members that may choose to join the WSA. Further information about the regatta can be obtained from www.lbyc.org. This year the regatta will be held October 22-23.

The WSA of SMB plans to budget funding for up to 50% of the cost for up to 2 entries to include boat charter and entry fee, which will be open to any qualified skipper to apply. Final decision on funding will be at the sole discretion of the board. The skipper and/or crew will need to fund the remaining balance of the boat charter and entry fees, the damage deposit and any incidentals.

Should only 1 boat qualify for funding, at the discretion of the board, the balance of the budgeted funds may be donated to an organization or cause which promotes women's sailing such as the Linda Elias Scholarship fund, which provides funding to qualified women skippers to participate in other sailing events. Should more than 2 qualified boats apply for funding, it will be at the discretion of the board to define selection criteria and decide which entries will receive funding.

Interested skippers must submit a written request, including the skipper's racing resume, to the WSA board to qualify for consideration of funding. Requests will be accepted beginning 30 March; no requests will be considered after 15 August. Only applications from current WSA members will be considered. More information about the WSA of SMB, including a membership application, can be found at www.wsasmb.org. Requests for funding can be mailed to The Women's Sailing Association of Santa Monica Bay, PO Box 10034, Marina del Rey CA, 90295.

The WSA board will evaluate requests based on the following factors: (a) The skipper's overall sailing experience. (b) The skipper's racing history in terms of number of races entered and overall record. (c) The skipper's ability to recruit and train crew.

Requests for funding will be reviewed at each month's board meeting (the 4th Tuesday of every month), beginning with the April board meeting. Exceptional candidates may be accepted for funding at any board meeting. Skippers accepted for funding will be notified on the 30th of that month. Requests that are not accepted at a monthly board meeting are held over to be reviewed in upcoming board meetings, along with any newly received requests.

The last possible date to submit a request for funding is 15 August, and the last review of requests will occur at the August board meeting. Should 2 skippers be selected

for funding prior to 15 August, however, no further applications will be accepted after their acceptance. Final authorization for funding from the WSA is contingent upon approval of the skipper(s) by the Long Beach Yacht Club Sailing Foundation, the organization administering control of the boats used in this regatta.

The skipper is entirely in charge of who will be on her crew, with the sole proviso that all crew members be members of the WSA at the time of the regatta. Skippers who have been accepted for funding by the WSA board will be announced to the general membership by email announcement, in the following month's newsletter and at the following month's general meeting (the second Tuesday of each month). WSA members are encouraged to contact skippers in order to seek a crew position.



Scenes from the 2010 Linda Elias Memorial Women's One Design Regatta

SMWYC Clean Up—Volunteers Needed!

As Opening Day approaches, our gracious host club, Santa Monica Windjammers Yacht Club, is pulling out all the stops to make the club look its best. SMWYC's annual club clean-up day will be Saturday, March 5, from 9am until noon. The clean-up crew will be helping out with chores such as trophy cleaning and polishing, furniture polishing, window-treatment clean-up, etc.

SMWYC will serve lunch on club clean-up day for all volunteers.

If you can help make the clean-up day a success, please let me know. RSVP to commodore@wsasmb.org.

Also, SMWYC has generously invited all WSA members to attend the Opening Day ceremony and brunch on Saturday, March 12th at 9 a.m. (no reservations necessary).

Photos from the 2011 Women's Sailing Convention Weekend





together
with

Long Beach / Los Angeles

Women's Sailing Association Seal Beach Yacht Club

proudly present an evening with



Lin & Larry Pardey

Sunday March 27th at 6:30 pm - Seal Beach Yacht Club

**Tickets \$15 - seating is limited so purchase your tickets today at
www.sailingchicks.com**

About Lin & Larry

Lin & Larry have been continuously wandering under sail since 1969 when they launched their first self-built 24' Lyle Hess designed cutter.

With over 40 years of cruising to more than 66 countries, Lin & Larry have the equivalent of five circumnavigations under their keel.

Come hear their exciting tales of adventure and exploration!

Join us for dinner!

The grills will be hot and serving up burgers, hot dogs and chicken

please join us between 3-6:00 pm

Cost for dinner is \$7



Upcoming Calendar of Events

<i>March 2011</i>	
5th Sat	Berger/Stein #2 DRYC
8th Tues	WSA General Meeting
9th Wed	ASMBYC Racer's Forum Seminar CYC
10th Thurs	Ensenada Race Seminar
12-13 Sat/Sun	Opening Days MdR
22nd Tues	WSA Board Meeting
19th Sat	Les Storrs Regatta SCCYC
22th Tues	WSA Board Meeting

<i>April 2011</i>	
6th Weds	Sunset Series Seminar—CYC
9th Sat	Border Run Regatta
12th Tues	WSA General Meeting
13th Weds	Sunset Series Begins—CYC
14th Thurs	Safety and Sailing Seminar ASMBYC
15th Fri	Ensenada Race Start
16-17 Sat/Sun	Spring Keelboat Regatta—CYC
23rd Sat	Chuck Stein Series and Dr. Robert Baker Regatta PMYC/MVYC
26th Tues	WSA Board Meeting

Racers: Be sure to review the 2011 ASMBYC Calendar at www.asmbyc.org
Day Sails: Day sails are usually on Saturdays and Sundays, but they are NOT listed on this calendar. Contact Dianne Christman at wsadaysails@gmail.com for up-to-date information!

WSA Website: www.wsasmb.org



Sunny days, snow-capped mountains — Picture-postcard sailing weather, February 2011

Photo credit: John Nelson

2011 WSA Board and Committee Chairs

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**WOMEN'S SAILING ASSOCIATION
OF SANTA MONICA BAY, INC.**
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MISSION STATEMENT

To promote and support women's sailing based on the following principles:

- To provide educational opportunities;
- To provide information on gaining access to races, cruises and other Santa Monica Bay activities;
- To support "Youth in Sailing" community service programs;
- To support established sailing programs for women;
- To enhance networking opportunities