

Gal' Warnings

COMMODORE'S QUARTERS



By Laura Guggenheimer

July is peak sailing season in Marina del Rey. The month started off with the annual Women On The Water/Women At The Helm Regatta (WOW/WAH) over the 7th and 8th. There was excitement, confusion and contact but the spirit of women on the water was abundant. Special kudos go out to our members Karyn Jones, Stine Cavacas, Patti Eagan and Milka Alexandrino who managed to win the entire event. Nice job ladies! Adding to the excitement to the month of July was the third annual Mayor's Cup Match Racing Regatta held in Long Beach. This international women's sailing event was won in 2005 by our very own, Liz Hjorth. This year Vice Commodore Sue Service, Education Chair Karyn Jones, and WSA member Denise George were crew on the winning boat as skipper Liz Baylis of the San Francisco YC sailed to victory. Congratulations! For more details regarding this race please check out the following link: <http://www.sailing.org/default.asp?ID=ju/Fnlpkw>

Thanks to all members that came out for the Summer Party this month. The dishes were tasty and whoever participated in the treasure hunt knows how much fun we had. Who went home with the gold plastic booty??



WSA member Richard Felipe and friend Steve Leter shot this whale waving goodbye at the end of last June – see inside for more info on this whale of a tail

Aug 14: Kevin Wixom: Sailing through Life: Commitment, Achievement, Teamwork

6:30pm social hour, 7:30 business meeting, 8pm speaker

An Announcement Concerning Name Badges At General Meetings

A new policy has been created for keeping track of those pesky name badges at general meetings. It has become somewhat of a

hassle for us to keep track of the badges, put them away, make them, etc. So the new policy is for you to keep track of your own badges. The paper badges held in a clear plastic badge holder will now be given to you at the next general meeting in which you attend and you will take it home and bring it with you to subsequent meetings. If you should lose the badge, you won't be charged but you will

have to wear a sticky name badge in the meantime. If you would like to order a replacement badge you can email Libby Gill. Libby will periodically reproduce badges when she has enough requests to warrant another print run. Thanks for your compliance with this new policy.

August Speaker: Kevin Wixom: Sailing through life, commitment, achievements and teamwork

By Education Chair Karyn Jones

SAILING THROUGH LIFE is a presentation that illustrates lessons that can be applied to your personal and business life as seen through the experience of competitive sailing.

Pictures, video, and stories from the 2005 Transpacific Yacht Race take you on the race and give you a glimpse of what 2 weeks in the Pacific Ocean is like. Even more importantly, this presentation relates these experiences to daily life – both professional and personal – so that the experiences can be used as motivational lessons for anyone interested in building great teams, overcoming incredible challenges and being successful.

The Background:

Kevin lost his leg in a motorcycle accident 5 years ago and suddenly faced a challenge that most people don't have the opportunity to face. Rather than allow the event to become a life-ending tragedy; he committed to "stay in the game" and pursue his goals. He returned to work, became even more physically active, and began integrating the lessons learned from these experiences into his life.

Kevin has always loved to sail but after his accident he began racing competitively. In 2005 he competed in the Transpacific Yacht Race from Los Angeles to Hawaii as a member of Challenged America's racing team and in 2006 sailed on the U.S. National Disabled Sailing Team.

It's a fluke! Whale sightings

by Richard Felipe



In my 18 years of sailing in the Santa Monica Bay and crossing over to Catalina I have seen some amazing sea life but only 2

whales spouting from a great distance. Last Saturday morning, (6/30/07), sailing over to Catalina with my buddy Steve, about 8 miles out in the Santa Monica Bay the seas were flat and the visibility was good. I first saw one or two whales spouting from a distance and was then on the look out for more. About 20 minutes later I saw 2 more and turned the boat to chase them down. We got within a 100 yards and Steve was able to get these amazing pictures. We estimated these California Grays to be 40-50' long and the fluke, (tail), maybe even wider - well at least 12-15' wide. (photos by Steve Leter) (note added by editor – local marine biologists are cited in this month's "Mariner" as saying they believe Richard and Steve may have sighted blue whales, given their size and the timing of their visit to Santa Monica Bay!)

WSA MEMBERS INVADe the Pinnepeds at Santa Barbara Island

By Cruise Chair Fran Weber Melville

Rosalie Davis-Green on *Green Dragon* (38 ft Catalina) and Jim Albert on *Paradise* (38 ft Erickson housed in Ventura) plus a trusty crew of John Melville, Fran Weber-Melville and Penny Mast had a great time saying "HEY" to all the cormorants, the oyster catchers, seals, seal lions, sea elephants, sea urchins plus all kinds of other creatures too many to name!!! The island was very nice to the gang in terms of weather (no real wind to speak of, it could be 40 knots in a heartbeat), overcast skies allowed a nice cool day time experience and the anchorage was comfortably full with plenty of good anchorages for all boaters. We could not have asked for a more ideal weekend to hang at the island.

We all left on Friday about 10:30 from MDR and arrived at the anchorage around 6pm. We found a great anchorage, had a great dinner while gazing at the island at sunset and shared sea stories (mostly true ones but you all know how that goes). Saturday am. Fran and John jumped in the kayaks and took a spin around the island taking in all the breathtaking scenery of animals, rocks, sea animals, caves, arches that one could pack into one circumnavigation of the island. Then back to *Green Dragon* for great breakfast and Jim decided to join us as well.

Post breakfast, Jim, Rosalie and Penny used the dinghy to do a circumnavigation of the island and again the weather made the trip very nice and they came back with sea stories (again mostly true). After a short rest, John and Rosalie went for a hike on the island and again the weather made their hike a great experience.

Saturday eve Jim joined the *Green Dragon* crew for a culinary extravaganza at dinner and lots of post dinner chat was had by all. Sunday, Jim left early in the morning to return to Ventura while Rosalie and Fran went on a kayak tour to search for the biggest sea lion they could find. On their journey came more birds of many kinds, lots of fish and underwater stuff to look at, caves to explore on the kayaks and rock arches to go under...we kind of forgot about the biggest sea lion with all the other stuff going on!

All in all, it was a very nice cruise to one of the more exotic destinations in the area, great skippers and crew and fantastic weather at the island! Thanks to all who made it happen!

(The cruise program has been busy – on the weekend of July 27-29 two boats went to Cat Harbor on Catalina with a full complement of WSA members as crew – don't miss these adventures if you can help it!)

Save the date for Coastal Clean up Day Saturday, September 15th

Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation is heading up the cleaning efforts this year in the marina...The goal is to clean out trash and debris from the waterways within the marina using kayaks for transportation! They expect about 80 volunteers so save the date and be one of the volunteers to help keep our marina clean!

Boys and Girls Club of Venice starts the fall after school program mid September

Join the kids for the after school sailing program that meets Tues, Wed and Thurs from about 3:30 to 5:30. They sail 20 ft boats and need adult volunteers to help harness all that kid energy!! 50% of the kids are young women, this is your chance to be a role model for a young woman who is interested in sailing. Contact Fran Weber-Melville at 310 738-3205 or email cptfran@aol.com

News from the Race Co-Chair

By Joan Chandler

Yawn. Is this the year of the slow distance races or what? I hear that Transpac was slower than normal - following extremely slow going from Newport to Ensenada. Don't know about those from a direct perspective, but I can personally report more slow going from Santa Barbara to King Harbor.

The WOW regatta was held in early July with 12 boats in the WOW and WAH divisions. Winners in the WAH classes were *Eggemogin* and *Faire Warning* and WSA's Karyn Jones bested the WOW division sailing Martin 242 *Patience*.

A bit further away on Huntington Lake, Kelly Cantley skippered her Lido 14 to 2nd place in the 17 boat Lido B fleet in the High Sierra Regatta. Yea Kelly!

SCCYC held a well attended One Design Weekend in July. There were fleets of Schock 35s, Martin 242s, Open 5.7s and J/80.

Lots coming up in August. The weekend of the 11th and 12th, Cabrillo Beach YC will host the PHRF Championship. And later in the month DRYC will put on the 4th Annual Jennifer Diamond Regatta. This is a fun and fundraising event - good cause to participate in!

Just a few more short weeks of summer evening sailing - sniff. Get out there!

My Ultimate Personal Challenge

By Diane Larson

It was a beautiful morning when I woke up on Saturday, July 7, the morning of the WOW/WAH racing event. I was anxious, but I was so excited about meeting the crew at the slip and actually starting this race...

It was only 1 year ago that I joined WSA and in my first weeks as a member I volunteered to help out at the WOW/WAH event (flipped burgers, sold tickets, etc.). It was that weekend that I discovered racing was something I wanted to get involved with, another assurance that joining WSA was the greatest thing I had done for myself to get to know really great people and to learn how to sail. There was no question that next year I would be out on the water with them for this event.

I had the great opportunity to sail on many day sails through WSA over the last year, and also participated in several races throughout the year on Wayne Brandow's boat, *Aqua Cheetah* (30' Olson) primarily in the Pit. It was an amazing year and I learned so much from so many WSA members!

But when Wayne asked me in May if I would skipper his boat in the WAH, I was faced with a very difficult decision. I wanted to be on his boat, but as a skipper? Was I ready for this? I really tried to talk myself out of it but Wayne had somehow encouraged me to practice with him for the next couple of months during Wednesday and Friday night races (Sunset and Sundown series) to give it a try. Every week, I felt more confident and learned more and more.

I did end up skippering *Aqua Cheetah* without Wayne and sailed the WOW with a crew we named *Cat Attack* (Kim Stuart, Michaela Draper, Andrea Makshanoff, Dianne Christman, Christina Tarantola, Maria Marin, Themis Glatman). We practiced together only a few times - many of us being challenged with new positions on the boat but all quickly learned to work well with each other, which was so amazing.

When I met the crew that Saturday morning, I was so proud to be on this boat with such incredible women that I knew we would achieve our ultimate goal - to have fun!! Although the race did not end well and we experienced a little of everything including the protest room, I had one of the best experiences of my life. I truly experienced what this event is all about to support women in sailing -- camaraderie, encouragement, support, challenging each other and ourselves, empowerment.

I cannot wait to see what next year brings for me at the WOW/WAH, and for each of you!

WOW/WAH trophy presentation

A few photos from the WOW/WAH trophy presentation at MVYC, on July 8 2007. Winner of the WOW trophy was Karyn Jones, with WSA crew Stine Cacavas, Patti Eagan and Milka Alexandrino



Skippers her first regatta was Diane Larson, shown with crew member Chris Tarantola and boat owner and WSA skipper Wayne Brandow



Member spotlight: Diane Destiny

By Sue Service



Diane Destiny has been a member of WSA for about 5 years now, but has been sailing all her life. She is a SoCal native, having grown up sailing in San Diego. She's traveled to both

Australia and New Zealand to watch America's Cup action live and in person, and currently races with Jeannea Jordan on *Chekerrs*, but she is much more than a racer, she enjoys daysails and cruising every bit as much!

Her most memorable sailing adventure to date sounds like a dream come true: she sailed from LA to Tahiti onboard a 106' schooner. It took them 23 days to reach Marqueses, and she stayed in Tahiti 3 ½ months before flying home. Her sailing related goals for the next year are "more sailing!"

When not on the water, Diane is an artist. She is currently working in "encaustics", which is one of the oldest forms of painting. Instead of paint, one uses melted wax to make the image. Diane is combining this very old art form with computer art, by applying the wax to images she has generated using the computer!

News from WORSa

The Women's Ocean Racing Sailing Association publishes a monthly newsletter "The Whistle". The following very informative article was reprinted with permission from WORSa. For more information about this organization, go to www.worsa.org

DSC (Digital Selective Calling)

In an emergency, one push of a button (red emergency) and your DSC-capable VHF radio will send an automated digital distress (May Day) alert consisting of your identification (MMSI) number, and position (if your radio is linked to a GPS receiver) to every other DSC-equipped vessel and rescue facility. When the US Coast Guard receives the unique MMSI number, it will use the information on file (emergency contact number, type of vessel, etc.) to mount a more effective rescue effort.

Obtaining an MMSI is necessary in order to use the DSC functions of the radio. The MMSI number serves as both a nine digit "telephone number" and as a unique identification number for the US Coast Guard to use in order to locate and identify you in an emergency. BoatUS has been authorized to generate MMSI number for recreational boat owners. To obtain your MMSI number online, free of charge, go to www.boatus.com/mmsi/instruct.htm.

Channel 70 has been set aside as the VHF DSC digital call channel. For more information regarding MMSIs visit:

www.navcen.uscg.gov/marcomms/gmdss/mmsi.htm

One important note: depending on the make and model of your DSC radio, it may limit the number of times you can try to program your MMSI number into the radio. If you try to enter an MMSI number too many times, the radio may lock out future attempts, forcing you to send the unit to the manufacturer to re-program the MMSI number.

Typically the radios offer you two opportunities to program your MMSI number, but be sure to read the owner's manual regarding your specific model. Please be careful when initially programming your MMSI number.

WORSa Women's Regatta!

WORSa is sponsoring a women at the helm regatta in Newport on September 16, 2007. There will be 3 buoy races off the Newport Pier, and all boats with female drivers are welcome to enter. Cruise to Newport and then race, sounds ideal! Go to www.worsa.org for more information.

Upcoming Calendar of Events

August 2007

3 rd -4 th Fri/Sat	Santa Barbara – King Harbor Race
10 th Friday	Sundown Series, DRYC
14 th Tues	WSA General Meeting
25 th Sat	Jennifer Diamond Charity Regatta DRYC
28 th Tues	WSA Board Meeting
30 th Thurs	Last night of Sunstroke Series CYC

September 2007

5 th Weds	Last Sunset Series
8 th -9 th Sat/Sun	Harris Series – CYC
11 th Tues	WSA General Meeting
14 th Fri	Sundown Series, DRYC
23 rd Sat	Man/Woman Series #2 "Two's Company"
25 th Tues	WSA Board Meeting
29 th -30 th Sat/Sun	ASMBYC Championship of Champions (by invitation only!)

Racers – be sure to review a copy of the 2007 ASMBYC calendar – you can get a copy at <http://www.asmbyc.org>

Daysails: Daysails take place on Saturdays and Sundays, and are not listed on this calendar – contact Dianne Christman (wsadaysails@gmail.com) for up to date information!



Feelin' that Pirate Love at the July Summer Party!

2007 WSA BOARD and COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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MISSION STATEMENT:

- To promote and support women's Sailing based on the following principles:
- To provide education 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; and
- To enhance networking opportunities.

<http://www.wsasmb.org>.....Women's Sailing Assoc of Santa Monica Bay