

Gal' Warnings

COMMODORE'S QUARTERS



By Laura Guggenheimer

It was yet another great month for WSA members. The month started out with the annual Women's Sailing Convention in Newport Harbor on February 3rd. This is an annual event put on by the legendary female skipper, Gail Hine. The event runs all day starting at sign in at 8:30 in the morning and ending with a dinner banquet and speaker at night. Classes are offered in the morning and afternoon covering an assortment of sailing topics, from racing to cruising to maintaining your head (and I don't mean your noggin). It was another great convention and I was proud to represent our club. The camaraderie and spirit of 300+ women sailors all in one place is infectious. I encourage all sailors of all abilities, to attend this conference at least once. There were many WSA members in attendance including Jeannea Jordan and Fran Weber-Melville who sailed down for the weekend and brought WSA members along as crew. A shout out to Jeannea and Fran for each teaching a class! A great time was had by all and as usual Fran cleaned up during the raffle!



Chekkerrs crew for the 17th annual Women's Sailing Convention

March 13: Taking care of your (boat) bottom

By Dennis Castaneda

Social Hour 6:30, Business Mtg 7:30, Speaker 8pm

We are still looking for a few good volunteers for WSA. We need a cruise chair and a social chair. The cruise chair organizes the cruising aspect of WSA on the water activities by choosing cruise destinations, organizing each cruise (or delegating) and promoting each cruise. This is a rewarding position and a very fun position for someone who

enjoys cruising and would like to see WSA's cruising program take off. The other position is the Social Chair. You would report to Milka Alexandrino, our current Social Director. As the social chair you would help organize people to take care of set up and

clean up at our monthly meetings. In addition, you would help run the desk for check in at our monthly meetings. This is a fun position and an easy one since all the duties revolve around our monthly meetings and nothing else. Our club is run by volunteers, US! So if you have some time and would like to help make WSA a better club, please get in contact with me. We could all use the help.

Newsflash: This just in – WSA's new skipper liason is John Melville! As a skipper himself, he'll surely do a wonderful job interacting with our skippers. Thanks for Marianne Liggett, who filled this important position for 4+ years!

WSA DAY SAILS UPDATE

Hello, my name is Dianne Christman. For those of you who do not know me, I am the 2007 Day Sail Chairperson.

We are definitely off to a wonderful start early in 2007 and I'm certain as spring draws closer, the schedule will be very exciting! The gauntlet has been laid as to who will host the most day sails in 07 and so far, it is a tight race!

Wayne Brandow (*Agua Cheetah*) is already in double digits for day sails (January and February) and John Melville (*Lightning*) is close behind.

Jeannea Jordan and *Chekkerrs* have had one very fun outing. *Chekkerrs* remains so popular amongst the members that the wait list was almost as long as the actual crew who sailed. Hang in there – I'm trying to stay on top of the requests ☺ !

Recently, on a wonderful afternoon on the Santa Monica Bay, aboard *Agua Cheetah*, the crew had a wonderful time, not only sailing (in race mode most of the time) an eating; but also helped a bit to "clean the bay", by picking up **dozens** of balloons that had somehow gone overboard, from who knows where. I must say that Diane Larson, with Wayne's skilled driving, was able to grab these balloons without going overboard herself! Quite a talent!

On board *Lightning*, the crew had so much fun that they were able sail the race course and bake cookies on the downwind leg!. Can you imagine that?

WSA has quite a few day sails planned for the month of March, with some already full! Please let me know if you are interested and I will be sending an update for open spots, as well as scheduling some day sails for the month of April shortly!

Please contact me at WSADAYSAILS@GMAIL.COM and come out and enjoy the wonderful world of sailing. You will certainly enjoy yourself!

News from the Race Co-Chair

By Joan Chandler

Racing season is now officially in full swing with another exciting SCYA Midwinters Regatta completed and in the record books.

My personal viewpoint of Midwinters was from the deck of Schock 35 *Voodoo Doll* - again a bastion of WSA members with skipper Kim Stuart, Mary Stuyvesant, Michaela Draper and

Commodore Laura Guggenheimer aboard. Hey! We should have a contest - highest percentage of WSA members in a regatta crew - 5 of 9 or 56 percent - bet we would have won☺.

Long Beach Yacht Club was one of the SCYA host clubs running races for fleets including the Schock 35's, Farr 40's, 1D48's and two PHRF fleets on the outside course. Conditions at Long Beach were varied and challenging. When we arrived at the boat on the long dock Saturday morning there were strong Santa Ana winds - the gusts rattled the rigging. By the time we left the dock, things had moderated. We started the first race "backwards" with the weather mark toward shore. By the time the second of three races started, things were back to a more normal direction and we sailed in pleasant breezes maybe up to 11 or 12 knots. The convergence of the fleets at mark roundings made for some fun! Being wedged close to the 1D48's and the Farr 40's makes a Schock 35 feel pretty small.

Sunday Long Beach threw more normal conditions at us - breezes of maybe 17 to 20 all day made for two fun and exciting races! Downwind was fun and fast! Glad to report we had consistent finishes and were sixth of nine on points (before a throw out). Top moment of the weekend had to be beating *Power Play*, with Kelly Cantley aboard, by a nose at the finish of the second race on Sunday!

Meanwhile, closer to WSA "home", California Yacht Club hosted another piece of the SCYA Midwinters fun. They had strong showings of one design fleets with 16 Martin 242's, 11 Stars, 6 J/80's and a nice turnout of 6 J/29's. Santa Monica Bay saw much lighter winds than Long Beach with shifty winds gusting to 7 on Saturday! WSA Vice Commodore Sue Service, Marylyn Hoenemeyer and Denise George all reported from the M-242 fleet. Sunday brought a bit more breeze but conditions continued to be unusually shifty and kelp played a strong role. CYC's race committee was assisted by WSA member Avghi Constantinides and ably led by PRO Kellie Fennessy (future WSA member!?!).

Wow! There are a lot of exciting racing events coming up - and that's not even including the WOW. The next month and a half has some excellent racing opportunities, including the following: March 10 DRYC Berger Series #2 -

Topanga, March 17-18 San Diego NOOD's, March 24-25 SCCYC's Les Storrs Regatta, March 31-April 1 CYC Spring Keelboat Regatta and the Ahmanson Regatta in Newport April 21-22.. Don't forget - Wednesday night racing starts soon - April 18th at CYC!

Some dry land events to attend as well: ASMBYC Racing Rules 102 at SMWYC on March 29th and the Safety & Sailing Seminar at CYC on April 4th should provide great information to both new and veteran racers.

Looking ahead a bit further, we are focusing on having some fun for the DRYC Sundown Series - four Friday evenings over the summer - May 18, June 15, July 13 and August 10. These are low key races that start in the channel, go out past the breakwater, turn around SS mark and finish back in the channel. No spinnakers. The thought (as yet not fully fleshed out) is to have some WSA participation, perhaps in conjunction with DRYC's Mentor Program, for new racers and women at the helm boats. Perhaps a bit of a practice for WOW and the chance for some WSA members interested in racing to get involved and take a look. More soon.

Member spotlight: Susan Bonner

By Sue Service



Susan Bonner is one of WSA's skippers, and is in the WSA spotlight this month. I asked her 5 key questions about sailing and WSA, and here is what she had to say:

1. How long have you been a WSA member?

I can't seem to locate a membership card, but in my memory says I joined late in 2001, at a prorated membership fee! My neighbor on the dock where our boat was berthed kept nudging me to come see what was going on at WSA. Christine Stark finally took me along one Tuesday, and I was thrilled to see such a wonderful group of active advocates of sailing,

AND they were mostly women. I joined, did day sails on several boats, I learned something from every sail and sometimes many some things, and then made my debut as Skipper, taking members on day sails on *Misty*, our Catalina 25.

2. How long have you been sailing?

I started sailing back in 1968, after seeing sails on Chesapeake Bay from a lookout point on the Blue Ridge Parkway in Virginia. We moved across country and upon arrival in the San Francisco Bay area, we bought a sailing book, bought a boat and bada bing, we learned to sail on our 16' Snipe on the San Joaquin River upstream from SF Bay.

3. What is your coolest sailing adventure/accomplishment to date?

I have many, many fond sailing memories of excitement, danger, mishap, near disasters, beautiful beaches and keys, but the trip with Fran Weber, doing a boat delivery from Puerto Vallarta, with her all woman crew, stands out as pure delight. The photos are on my wall to remind me daily of what a fun challenge and a good time we had.

4. What are your sailing related goals for 2007?

To do more day sails with WSA members on FYC boats! This year I am Rear Commodore of Fairwind YC, and my goal as keeper of the Fleet, is to have all our boats in prime condition for the sailing season.

5. When you're not sailing, what do you like to do (or have to do, if it's work?)

I'm retired since 1999 from a career in the printing industry. Now I sail weekly, play a little golf, do a little camping, putter in the yard and take it easy. After joining Fairwind in 2003, we sold our boat *Misty*, so I'm always looking for someone else's boat to sail on. I look forward to doing as much traveling as I can manage for the next few years, boats, motorhomes, airplanes, all of it!

March's Program: Taking care of your (boat) bottom

By: Karyn Jones, Education Director

What do you really know about the bottom of your boat? A lot of sailors never ever see the bottom of their boat, but good bottom maintenance is essential for all types of sailboats. At our March program come hear Dennis Castaneda speaking on taking care of your bottom! He is a native of SoCal and

has operated his own boat maintenance business for over 20 years. He started off as a surfer, became a diver - which led to cleaning and repairing boats. Through that business, he was introduced to sailing, and now is a crew on many of the race boats in SoCal. Presently he's crew on the J/105 "Sanity", out of San Diego, which has been very successful in the SoCal circuit.

A message from the Board about the new dinner and guest procedure

It was decided at the February board meeting to change the amount that we charge to guests that attend our meetings. The first two meetings will continue to be free for people interested in checking out our club as our guests. However, we decided to increase the amount charged for meetings attended by non-members following the first two free meetings to \$10. This amount will cover the guest and dinner, even if the guest chooses not to eat.

The 17th Annual Women's Sailing Convention

by Jeannea Jordan

A good woman once suggested erecting a monument to Gail Hine, Chairman and heart of the Women's Sailing Convention. I would second that and raise another monument to Capt. Kathie Ohmer. She is Gail's co-chair who organizes the coaches and donated boats. I'm not thinking of anything ostentatious, maybe just a couple of 50ft. obelisks gracing the Newport Harbor entrance.

Why? Because the WSC has been my personal Mecca since I started sailing ten years ago. I, like so many other women, have been the beneficiary of training by a talented group of women skippers. They have patiently coached me on everything from expert sail trim and safety at sea to diesel mechanics and how to unclog the head. This year I got to give a little back. I volunteered to sail *Chekkerrs* to Newport and be an anchoring and introduction to sailing coach.

Libby Gill, Lindalee Fromm, Karen Kuchel all from WSA and friend Ruthie Wagner were my awesome crew. We were fortunate to have *Lightning* as our buddy boat With Fran Weber Melville, (experienced convention coach), Sue Bonner, (Fairwinds skipper) and Sharon Breitling (rope handler extraordinaire) as crew.

This was the first of February so I checked jack lines, reefing lines and foul weather gear expecting high winds and heavy seas with possible showers and pea soup fog. Lindalee offered to handle the foredeck in heavy weather. Ya'gotta love her. Fortunately, the only pea soup we had was Libby's tasty luncheon fare served on a level table in the cockpit under brilliant sun on a flat sea. This continued for four days. Not the soup, the sun.

We stayed overnight in Shoreline Village in Long Beach Harbor, splurged on a great dinner in Fisherman's Village, tried on funny hats, played foosball and rode the carrousel, typical sailors-in-port-stuff. The bunks on *Chekkerrs* were allotted according to the size of the sailor. For example; Karen got the stern berth because she's the tallest. I want to say that she was an incredibly good sport since she said she had a fabulous trip even though she hit her head several times on the bulkhead getting in and out of that berth.

Friday morning we followed the rhumb line from Shoreline to Newport Harbor entrance buoy. We arrived mid afternoon at the Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club docks and Kathie Ohmer was there to greet us. I had bright blue spring lines and large fenders to do the rafting maneuver. I was pontificating about how these should be rigged between our boats when Sue Bonner said, "Wow, how did you know all that?" I said that we had Chapman's on board, and without the slightest hesitation she said, "We have Murphy over here." It's always a joy, sailing with Sue.

That evening we celebrated our voyage by dining on Balboa Island and walking a lot and playing scrabble. The bars were safe from us once again.

Saturday was Convention day. I was delighted that WSA members, Betsy Lindsley, Pamela Grimes and Leda Whitmer were 3 of my 5 anchoring class participants. They certainly made my "first" class less stress full since they had sailed on *Chekkerrs* before. They were an eager crew, learned quickly, shared knowledge from their own experiences and were just fun to be with.

In the afternoon I took my intro to sailing class out to sea. With up to 17kt winds and choppy seas, this was the best sailing weather of the entire trip and I had the least experienced crew. These women were great. When they yahoed and

whooped with every big wave, I knew they were definitely my kind of people. I had started explaining that the pointy end of the boat was called the bow, but the weather conditions mandated a quick ratcheting up of sail handling skills. Sooner than we might have thought possible, they were helming and wrapping and grinding like pros. It was a challenge for all of us.

But we weren't done yet. Heading back to the harbor we were hailed by two men in a 16-18ft. sail boat asking for assistance. I found they needed sail handling instructions. How opportune! They seemed to grasp the concepts yelled over their transom, and the last we saw of them they had their boat under control.

Lest I had any thoughts about having completed a task reasonably well the sea Goddesses would have their second to last laugh. As we glided to the dock I was surprised to find that the fenders on my starboard side were already down when on the dock behind me came the voice of a young man, trying hard not to sound offensive, saying "Skipper, you might want to pull your fenders up on port! To my utter humiliation, there they were two giant fenders, like double D's not only hanging down but dragging in the water as they must have been for the entire afternoon. I started to laugh as opposed to doing the alternative and asked the fellow if he was sorry he didn't have a camera. To his credit, he joined in the guffaws. No doubt about it Chapman had jumped ship and that old Murphy from *Lightning* had climbed aboard.

You might ask what the last laugh was. Capt. Fran and crew came for a small libation on *Chekkerrs* before we all went up for dinner. I was relating my challenging afternoon with the wind and the seas when Fran says, "What wind? What seas? It turns out that the other 3 intro to sailing classes spent their afternoon in the marina. Well, my sailors had a true to life sailing adventure.

Sunday we motored home in light winds on the nose. Libby and I did running fixes for the fun of it. We saw a few dolphins, shared our convention stories, and the crew took turns helming and cooking. We followed a whale around the entrance to MdR for awhile and then finally docked the boat. If it is true that the sailors who have the most fun are those whose passion takes them beyond what

they are used to, then we qualified for top honors. Lessons learned; keep your fenders up ladies.

The Women's Sailing Association of Santa Monica Bay solicits skippers to lead up to 2 entries in the Linda Elias Memorial Women's One Design regatta

The WSA of SMB 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.

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 emailed to womensonedesign@wsasmb.org or snail-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:

- The skipper's overall sailing experience.
- The skipper's racing history in terms of number of races entered and overall record.
- 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 possibly obtain a crew position.

Opportunity to Sail on a Martin 242

by Lindalee Fromm

The Women's Sailing Convention held in February at the Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club in Newport is a truly special event. It is a time for women sailors to get together and learn valuable sailing skills from very experienced instructors on a variety of subjects – everything from expert sail

trim techniques practiced on the water to how to fix the boat's head.

Besides being exposed to the educational aspects of sailing at this convention, it is an excellent opportunity to meet women from all over the world. In conversing with these adventurous sailors, you broaden your perspective on the vast variety of sailing venues and vessels that one might experience. Often when conveying their excitement for their particular kind of sailing, whether it is day sailing, cruising, racing or a combination of the three, an invitation was extended to join their crew and experience the thrill of sailing in a new place or on a different boat. I treasure these invitations to go sailing. These are not just opportunities to sail, but to make new friends while on an adventure.

When Denise George of MG Marine, Inc., who manufactures the Martin 242, learned I was going to the Convention, she requested that an invitation to test sail a Martin 242 be extended to all the ladies and their family and friends. Well, I just had "too much fun" meeting everyone and extending Denise's offer to sail a Martin 242.

Recently, Denise returned home from sailing the Martin 242 in Vancouver, Canada. She was overwhelmed with the positive response she had received to her invitation to the convention ladies to test sail a Martin 242. She thought that the same invitation should be extended to local sailors in Santa Monica Bay.

So members of WSA, this is your opportunity to sail on a Martin 242 and you don't have to travel half way around the world to do it. Have an adventure. Sail on a different boat than you normally do. Meet new friends in the process and broaden your sailing skills.

Denise is planning a demonstration day of sailing on the Martins in the very near future. In the mean time, if you'd like to schedule a personal ride, give her a call.

Contact Denise to go for a sail.

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email: [denise@m242yachtsusa.com](mailto:denise@m242yachtsusa.com)

phone: 310-645-0196

web: <http://www.m242yachtsusa.com>  
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check out the Martin 242 photo on page 7!

Upcoming Calendar of Events

...March 2007

10 th Sat	Berger Series #2 Topanga and return – DRYC
13 th Tues	WSA general meeting SMWYC
17 th -18 th Sat/Sun	MdR Opening Day
21 st Weds	ASMBYC Racer's Forum – CYC 7pm
22 nd Thurs	NOSA Ensenada Race Seminar – SMWYC
24 th -25 th	Les Storrs regatta SCCYC
27 th Tues	WSA Board Meeting SMWYC
29 th Thurs	Racing Rules 102 Seminar – SMWYC
31 st -1 st Sat/Sun	Spring Keelboat Regatta - CYC

...April 2007

4 th Weds	Safety and Sailing Seminar – CYC
10 th Tues	WSA general meeting SMWYC
11 th Weds	Sunset Series Seminar - CYC
14 th Sat	Mac Jones Inverted Start Race – SMWYC
18 th Weds	Sunset Series Starts – CYC
21 st -22 nd Sat/Sun	Ahmanson Regatta, NHYC
22 nd Sun	Baker Series Race – WSA SBYRC MVYC
24 th Tues	WSA Board Meeting
27 th -29 th	Newport-Ensenada Race

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!



Contact Dennis George
to sail a Martin 242!

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**WOMEN'S SAILING ASSOCIATION
Of SANTA MONICA BAY, INC.
P.O. Box 10034
Marina del Rey, CA 90295**

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