

# Gal' Warnings

## COMMODORE'S QUARTERS



By Laura Guggenheimer

April is typically a busy month for sailing and WSA was out there on the water and enjoying every

moment of it. The Sunset Series began April 18<sup>th</sup>, a week later due to harsh conditions on April 11<sup>th</sup>. The Ahmanson Cup Regatta was held in Newport Harbor on the weekend of April 21 and the following weekend, WSA had an all girls crew that participated in the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the World's Largest International

Sailing Event, The Newport to Ensenada Race. Kim Stuart put together the crew on her sailboat, *Voodoo Doll* a Schock 35 Racer. See the race report for more details.

July is fast approaching and I wanted to mention that we will be having our Annual Summer Party during our general meeting during this month. If you are unaware, we have an annual summer party with a barbeque and potluck event where if you bring a dish to



*Fun times daysailing on Chekkers*

**May 8: Keeping Your Cool When  
You Go Overboard**

**By Michael Leneman,  
ASMBYC's 2006 Sportsman of  
the Year**

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

share, the meal is free, if you don't, the cost is \$10 (the normal cost of a general meeting for non-members). This year's event will be a Pirate Party and we are asking people to please dress up in your favorite pirate gear! Also, start thinking of the perfect dish to pass. We will start the sign up sheets at the next general meeting. Please contact Milka Alexandrino for details.

And finally, on May 20<sup>th</sup> we will hold our annual "Intro To WSA" event to be held at South Coast Corinthian Yacht Club (SCCYC). Our friends at SCCYC are generously letting us use there facilities, once again. The event

will be similar to last year but it will begin at 10:30am for a meet and greet session, followed by a dockside "Sailing Basics", a short break for lunch and finishing with a day sail for those guests who do sign up as members, pay the yearly dues and sign the waiver. Diane Larson has flyers so if you have a good spot to post a flyer for the event, please let me or Diane know.

## News from the Race Co-Chair

*By Joan Chandler*

April showers bring May flowers? April comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb?!? No, that's March. Somewhere there must be a comment on April winds.

After two well attended seminars prior to the Sunset Series kickoff, the first Wednesday night racing was set for April 18. My, the wind gods were excited and in their excitement they OVER cooperated on producing wind - and choppy waters. So the start of racing was posted postponed a week until April 26<sup>th</sup>. Looked like a normal amount of wind that evening with many boats and many WSA members out in force .... all of whom ended up drifting across the finish line at Burton Chase as the wind shut off. But the good news is the Sunset Series is now in full force and I predict the wind will be PERFECT this week.

Winds were nice for the Ahmanson Regatta in Newport Beach. Many WSA members participated including Sue Service on the J/105 *Grace O'Malley* and Kim and company (including Chris Tarantola and Laura G) on *Voodoo Doll*.

Closer to home, Kelly Cantley was thrilled to report the outcome of an April Lido event. Her first WIN in her Lido - top of the B-fleet. Congrats!

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, WSA hosted a seminar on mark roundings with speakers including our own Sue Service. The morning chalk talk was to be followed by some on the water practice, but again the winds were over enthusiastic and left the seminar participants on dry land.

The end of the month was the historic Newport to Ensenada Race. Now the wind sadly under cooperated. Due to a light southerly wind (wrong direction and wrong wind speed), only 241 of the 449 boats entered managed to finish. While I have not had a personal report, looks like *Voodoo Doll* managed to finish after many long hours. They

had an all girl crew including our commodore Laura G.

May is going to be another busy month for racing. The first weekend of the month is the Yachting Cup Regatta in San Diego - a major fun event.

May 3<sup>rd</sup> marks the kick off of both the Starlight Series and the Sunstroke Series run by California Yacht Club. The Starlight series is for the beautiful Star class and the Sunstroke is a venue for a variety of dinghies including Capri 14's, Lasers, Lido 14's and Vanguard's.

And, of course, it is time to be thinking about the upcoming WOW regatta. July will be here soon - hard to believe - so it is time to be forming teams and practicing!

Sail fast.

## April General Meeting Presents: Michael Leneman: ASMBYC's 2006 Sportsman of the Year

*By Karyn Jones, Education Chair*

Ever been the one to look up at the rescuing boat? Ever set out to sail to Hawaii and find yourself swimming a good 100 miles offshore? Ever go on an afternoon sail and ended up treading water as the sun slipped over the horizon? Well, unfortunately, ASMBYC's Sportsman of the year for 2006, and also our May 2007 speaker, Michael Leneman has and he's going to tell us stories of these and other adventures. High seas and water rescues.....or how to keep your cool when you go overboard. Should be a great time-don't miss it!

## WSA Summer Party: AARRGGH

WSA's annual summer party will be held on 10 July in conjunction with the general meeting. Come ready for good food and swashbuckling fun, including a treasure hunt. Be sure to dress up, and before arriving, find out your true pirate name, go to [www.piratequiz.com](http://www.piratequiz.com).

## How can I get on a race boat?

By Margaret Pommert



Now that race session is in full swing, lots of WSA members have been asking questions about crewing on a race boat. Here are some suggestions and resources from local racers:

### *“Am I a good enough sailor to crew on a race boat?”*

Yes! Many skippers actually prefer less experienced, but enthusiastic/reliable crew, that they can train in how they want their crew to operate on their boat.

### *“What is there to know about racing? Where can I go to learn?”*

#### **The Simple Answer:**

All you really need to know is the meaning of these racing terms: ‘regatta’, ‘racing’, and ‘crew’. Authoritative definitions from the Sailing Pocket Dictionary:

**Regatta:** Organized sailing competition that pits your skills against your opponents’ luck

**Racing:** Popular nautical contact sport

**Crew:** Heavy, stationary objects used on shipboard to hold down corners of charts, anchor cushions in place, and dampen sudden movements of the boom

#### **The Serious Answer:**

There is lots of great info on how to learn about and get involved in racing in “Racers’ resources” section of the WSA website:

<http://www.wsasmb.org/> WSA also often sponsors seminars on racing, and related topics like sail trim, watch for notices in the newsletter. WSA skippers like Wayne Brandow, Jeannea Jordan, Fran Weber-Melville, John Melville, and others are great mentors for race crew, let them know your interest!

### *“How can I get invited to crew on a race boat?”*

Generally there are three options, each can work:

**Option 1: Find out where the racers are, go to them, and hope they are desperate** (the singles bar approach; good chance for fast results...if you have the nerve)

There are races almost every day of the week in Marina del Rey or Redondo Beach. Show up early and let the organizers, and anyone else who looks friendly, know you are available to crew. There are races for everyone, here are a few examples of the range:

- Are you an athletic sailor, not afraid of capsizing? Skippers of 2-person Vanguards are often looking for dingy race crew for UCLA MAC Tuesday evenings:  
<http://www.macsailing.org/TuesdayNight/index.html>, or try multi-hull racing with the SoCal Hobie fleet (weigh less than 120 pounds? You’ll have many interested skippers!):  
[http://www.hobiefleet51.com/Fleet\\_Chart.html](http://www.hobiefleet51.com/Fleet_Chart.html)
- Hoping for lots of boats, lots of crewmates, excitement, and a big BBQ gathering afterwards? Then it’s Wednesday evening California Yacht Club Sunset series.
- Looking for relaxed, ‘minor league’ racing with less yelling, more enjoying time with friends on the water? Look

for 'cruiser' racing on Tuesday evenings, and the 'cruiser classes' in the Wednesday night CYC Sunset Series.

For more information, the Association of Santa Monica Bay Yacht Clubs site lists most of the keelboat races, and links to the sponsoring club for more information: <http://www.asmbyc.org/>. Or pick up the free 'Race Calendar and Yacht Club Directory' available at boating supply stores.

**Option 2: Post a 'race crew available' ad** (the singles ad approach; for crew and skippers who want to know each other better before committing to an afternoon together) On-line resources to help: These sites let you look for skippers needing crew, or post a notice of your availability to crew: Yacht racers resource center; <http://www.yrrc.com/> Steadycrew; [www.steadycrew.com](http://www.steadycrew.com). Other resources: Most yacht clubs have crew lists, or bulletin boards for 'crew available' postings on 3 x 5 cards.

Example of **Skipper Looking for Crew** ad on YRRC site:

RESPOND	Rusty	Crew	M	J/80	26	4/10/2007 at 17:16:17	SM
Fun one design sport boat/asymmetrical spin looking for crew. NOOD 2007 1st and 2nd in Spring Keel Boat OD 2007. Wed BBQ races start on April 18th along with weekend races. Everybody does somethign on this boat! Picture of J80 can be seen on <a href="http://www.j80-social.com/zonie.htm">http://www.j80-social.com/zonie.htm</a>							

**Option 3: Get a trusted friend to set you up** (the blind date approach). There are many active race skippers and crew in WSA who might be able to help you find a ride, or at least point you in the right direction, including Race Co-Chairs Kim Stuart and Joan Chandler. Ask them!

***"I got invited out to crew for a race! What can I do to get invited back?"***

1. Be able to commit to crew regularly, be reliable and punctual.
2. No matter how good a sailor you are, be trainable, and don't try to tell the skipper how to run his/her boat unless asked. If

you want to be captain, get your own boat ☺

3. Learn by watching and listening during the race. Save long questions for afterwards.
4. See the WSA Racer's Resource site above for lots of other good suggestions

Good luck and have fun!

### WSA 2007 Cruise Schedule

*By Cruise Chair Fran Weber-Melville*

Contact Fran at [cptfran@aol.com](mailto:ptfran@aol.com) for more info and to sign up for these fabulous cruises!

May 5-6 Avalon Harbor/Catalina Island

June 23 and 24<sup>th</sup> Geiger Cove (Catalina Island) with Long Beach Women's group...this may be a ladies only cruise..I need to get some feedback from Holly

July 27,28,29 Cat Harbor with South Coast Corinthian

July 27<sup>th</sup> Happy hour at the Banning House

July 28<sup>th</sup> BBQ on the beach

July 29<sup>th</sup> boat brunch (TBD)

August 3-5 Santa Barbara Island

Sail to the island, kayak, dingy around the seal and sea lion preserve, party on the boats...no human shore life on this trip!

August 31 to Sept 3 Channel Islands/Santa Cruz Hopefully find and play with the South Coast Yacht Club gang! Kayak galore with some hiking

September 26 and 27<sup>th</sup> Emerald Bay with South Coast Corinthian

October 6<sup>th</sup> World Famous Buccaneer Days Cat Harbor mooring or anchor and play pirate the whole weekend!

November 2-3-4<sup>th</sup> Surprise Cruise and good bye to daylight savings time!

**Some pictures from recent daysails:**





### ***Member spotlight: Chris Tarantola***

*By Sue Service*



Chris Tarantola is a relatively new member to WSA, joining in November 2006. She has been sailing on and off since 1989 – starting as railmeat on big boats in St. Thomas. Her biggest sailing disappointment so far was that she never participated in the St Thomas Piña Colada regatta (everyone in the regatta sails nude!).

Back in the US mainland, Chris decided she really needed to learn to sail, rather than just be railmeat. She hung out at a Yacht Club bar asking sailors for advice, and they all sail to sail with Tommy – a 92 year old racer who ritually downed a half gallon of vodka before every race. Needless to say, you had to learn fast on that boat!

Once she moved to SoCal, Chris took sailing classes at UCLA, where she had had experience with the Capri 14.2, the Vanguard 15, and the Laser. Instructors at UCLA encouraged her to join WSA – and here she is today. Her sailing related goals are to become a

well-rounded, competent sailor – the complete package. WSA can certainly help her achieve those goals!

## Upcoming Calendar of Events

### ...May 2007

3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs	Sunstroke Series begins – CYC
4-5 Sat/Sun	Yachting Cup in San Diego WSA Avalon Cruise
8 <sup>th</sup> Tues	WSA General Meeting SMWYC
12 <sup>th</sup> Sat	Mac Jones #2, Berger #3
18 <sup>th</sup> Friday	Sundown Series begins – DRYC
20 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Duke Jones One Design Regatta SMWYC "Intro to WSA" membership drive
22 <sup>nd</sup> Tues	WSA Board Meeting
26 <sup>th</sup> Sat	Corinthian Cup - KHYC

### June 2007

2-3 Sat/Sun	Cal Race Week – CYC
9 <sup>th</sup> Sat	Berger Series #4 – Cat Harbor and Return
12 <sup>th</sup> Tues	WSA General Meeting SMWYC
15 <sup>th</sup> Fri	Sundown Series begins – DRYC
16 <sup>th</sup> Sat	SBYRC Start Clinic
22-24 Fri-Sun	Long Beach Race Week – LBYC WSA Cruise to Geiger Cove (Catalina) with Long Beach Women's Group
26 <sup>th</sup> Tues	WSA Board Meeting
30 <sup>th</sup> Sat	Mac Jones #5 Cruiser 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](mailto:wsadaysails@gmail.com)) for up to date information!**



**Kay Miller is ready to go sailing again after a brief break! Don't miss an opportunity to go on a daysail with her in her beautiful Catalina 38, *Shakalo*!!**

## 2007 WSA BOARD and COMMITTEE CHAIRS

### *Commodore*

Laura Guggenheimer  
[commodore@wsasmb.org](mailto:commodore@wsasmb.org)

### *Vice Commodore*

Sue Service  
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### *Secretary*

Avghi Constantinides

### *Treasurer*

Karen Kuchel

### *J/S Commodore*

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### *Cruise Chair*

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### *Daysail Chair*

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### *Membership Chair*

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### *Education Director*

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### *Communications Director*

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### *Newsletter*

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### *Skipper Liaison*

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### *Historian*

Sandra Canalis

**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**