

Gal' Warnings

COMMODORE'S QUARTERS



By Laura Guggenheimer

The 2007 year is drawing to a close and there are some great end-of-the-year events that are in the works for WSA members. The first

event is the Installation Dinner that is coming up in December. The installation dinner is in replace of our normal general monthly meeting held December 11th, 2007. Instead of our normal format we will be having a sit down meal prepared by Santa Monica Windjammers Yacht Club's very own, chef Conrad. The menu will be a choice of either Pork Tenderloin or Orange Roughy with a Dill Cream Sauce, Rice Pilaf, Roasted New Potatoes, and Roasted Vegetable Medley and finished off with Assorted Desserts and coffee. If you have ever had one of Conrad's meals you know how good they are and if you haven't, you don't want to miss out! In addition to a fancy and tasty meal we will be giving awards, making speeches, having a raffle, bidding good bye to our current board and installing the new board for 2008. You don't want to miss this event. The only thing is that we need you to RSVP! This dinner is the only dinner you have to pay for this year and believe me it is worth it. An invitation with this information will be mailed to your house. The invitation has an



WSA's bow #6 off to a great start at the 2007 Linda Elias Memorial Women's One Design Regatta

Nov 13 Gail Hine tells us about the Women's Sailing Convention

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

RSVP slip on it. Please RSVP by mailing the slip in with payment (check made payable to Women's Sailing Association \$25 per person) included by December 3rd to the normal WSA address:

WSA
P.O. BOX 10034
Marina del Rey, CA
90295.

Seating is limited, so get your RSVPs in as soon as

possible. There will be an opportunity to RSVP at the general meeting in November.

Other news... The 2008 Elections will be held during the November meeting. I have emailed the

membership informing you of the 2008 slate and I have provided you with a ballot. If you are unable to attend the November meeting please mail in your ballot to the same address above.

The deadline for voting by proxy is November 13th. Please if you would like your vote to count please have your ballot postmarked by November 13th. The new board will be installed during the Installation Dinner in December (see above).

There are a few board positions that we still need to fill. We need a Secretary, and a Social Director. Below is a description of the duties for these two important board positions.

Job Description of Secretary:

The Secretary takes the minutes at each WSA board meeting, prepares official correspondence,

and retains all documents presented by Board members and attendees during the meeting. The Secretary prepares the minutes for presentation at the following board meeting.

Job Description of the Social Director

The Social Director is in charge of overseeing the activities of the Membership/Database Chair as well as the Social Chair. Management of the duties of these chair positions is vital in making sure our general meetings are run smoothly. (name tags, guests, food, etc).

Additionally, we are still in need of the following chair positions (with a brief job description):

- Cruise Chair – Organizes and plans the multi-day cruises.
- Social Chair – Organizes the food for the general meetings.
- Membership/Database – Maintains information on all members by managing an excel spreadsheet with all member relevant data.

Volunteering is a vital part of our club. WSA does not exist without volunteers. If you are new to WSA being on the board or holding a chair position is a great way to get involved in the club, meet people and get the most out of your membership. Please volunteer, it's fun!

Race Report

By Joan Chandler, Co-Race Chair

Well, my personal highlight for the month of October was the Linda Elias Memorial One Design Regatta in Long Beach. I had a blast sailing with a great bunch of WSA women! Details can be found in an article by team member Margaret Pommert.

Other October events included the Star Olympic Qualifying Regatta. Although there were no WSA members racing ... the scenery was good. Eerrr..... OK – back to racing.

October saw a successful kick off of Del Rey's "Saturday Night" three race series which included both keel boats and dinghies. I was fortunate enough to hop a ride on a big boat for the last race. Saw a lot of WSA'ers out there including Margaret Pommert on the J/80 *Avet*, and Julie Donovan on Mark Sand's Martin *Sand Box* (Mark – supporter of the LEMWOD team – provided us with sandwiches

for the regatta – thanks Mark!) and Monica Antola was out on her new Mumm 30 *Clockwork*.

The weekend of October 20th and 21st was a busy one in MDR, including the 4th day of the Man/Woman Series, the Two for One Sail put on by SCCYC. I understand that the participation was light – probably as so many women were down racing in Long Beach that weekend☺ And also that weekend, SMWYC Oktoberfest Regatta and the Heather Perkoff Series. Plenty of opportunities to get out on a boat and race.

November will be a bit calmer perhaps, but there are some other great events coming up. The first weekend is November is Matchless Match racing put on by SBYRC (I am guessing Kim Stuart will be out there after her recent adventure to the Caribbean to study up on this skill). And another great favorite – the Home Port Regatta on November 10th. This is a terrific event – put a new skipper at the helm and go out and have fun!

Not certain of the date, but watch for the first of CYC's Sunday afternoon events. Should be fun – watch for more information.

Other than that – Happy Thanksgiving and get ready for the boat parade in December! Sail fast!

Member Spotlight: Margaret

Pommert By Sue Service



Margaret Pommert participated for the first time in the Linda Elias Memorial Regatta in Long Beach last month (see her article in this edition of the newsletter). While it was her first time in that regatta, Margaret has been sailing since college

and has been a member of WSA for ~5 years. She has benefited from terrific sailing instruction, having taken classes through OCSC in Berkeley, OCC in Newport Beach (where she learned about cruising), J World in San Diego (where she learned about racing) and UCLA's aquatic center (where she learned about dinghies). Her most exciting

sailing adventure to date is one I don't want to experience: trying to cross the bow of a huge freighter, while flying a spinnaker, at night, double handed, in strong wind – the freighter blew 5 horns ... 'nuff said! She says that recently the most fun she's been having is racing Hobie Cats on Monday nights with the Fairwind crew, where they take turns making up the course. When it was her turn, she made the fleet sail backwards the entire final leg!

In the next few years she hopes to do more local cruising around Catalina and the Channel Islands, and wants to join friends that own a 50 ft cat and take it through the Panama canal this spring! She also dreams of cruising the Greek Isles (well, don't we all ☺).

When not sailing, she likes scuba diving, backpacking, snowboarding and Latin jazz. When she needs money, she works in IBM business consulting.

Gail Hines, a SoCal sailing legend

By: Karyn Jones, Education Director

Our Nov 13 speaker is Gail Hines. The Women's Sailing Convention, traditionally held at Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club in Newport Harbor, has outgrown its host club and is moving to Del Rey Yacht Club in our very own Marina del Rey. To celebrate this momentous occasion, Gail E. Hine will be drumming up support and diving into the history of this outstanding event. Skippering for the past 37 years, with a passion for racing on her 24-ft sloop, *HUMMER* (with an excellent performance record), Gail has been a leading force in promoting women's sailing for many, many years. She began these efforts in 1975. She has spearheaded the SCYA Women's Sailing Committee for the past 20 years. Gail conceived, created and produced all of these annual Conventions, come to the meeting and see how exciting they are!

Buccaneer Days Cruise *By Karen Kuchel*

It had been a successful Sunset Series for skipper Jeannea Jordan and her almost all-woman racing team (big thanks to Sam and Brennan) of Penny Mastt, Carolyn Cohen, Donna Haro and me. This was our second year in the Series and we were

happy to improve from 7th to 5th place overall. In celebration of our hard work, we planned to escape to Catalina for Buccaneer Days on October 6th.

Our trip to the island started early Thursday morning as we motored through increasingly larger swells against a steady headwind. After six hours we neared the island. We needed to decide whether to head to the Isthmus and a possible mooring or to Cat Harbor, another hour away, and a sure mooring. Given that one of the crew had discovered why the word "sea" appears in nausea, we decided to head for the calmer waters of the Isthmus.

As luck would have it (we thought), there was an open mooring available for us at the Isthmus. It was, however, at the far eastern end...a bit distant from the dock, but quiet. We were glad to get settled, inflate the dinghy and kayak, and relax a bit. To our pleasant surprise, Penny whipped up a gourmet meal on the two-burner stove. She was to gain the title "Princess of the Propane" over the next three days...a new Food Network star in the making. Her scrambled eggs, chorizo, beans and cheese with tortillas are a winner.

At around 6 am on Friday morning we all awoke to an incredible amount of rocking and rolling. We went topside to find ourselves in the surf zone. The winds were gusting and the sea was churning along with our stomachs. The best plan was to head for shore in the dinghy. Given the weight restrictions of the dinghy, there was no way all five of us were going ashore at once. Jeannea took the helm and made two trips to get us all to safety. Once ashore, we learned the severity of the weather. Folks arriving on the Catalina Express told stories of 35 knot winds and 15 foot swells swamping the boat. Our best hope was to find a new mooring in the calmer western end of the harbor. Thanks to the great guys of the harbor patrol, we were able to move that afternoon to a wonderful spot about 50 feet from the dinghy dock.

Saturday arrived with warm sun and clear skies. The island was coming alive with assorted pirates and wenches. Skipper Jeannea donned her tri-cornered captain's hat and kayaked around the harbor amid sporadic and deafening cannon blasts. By nightfall, the party was in full swing. We all dressed our parts and headed to the dinghy dock. With dinghies tethered 3 or 4 deep to the dock, the test is to crossover and stay dry. It felt like being on

“The Pirates of the Caribbean” movie set watching folks in some amazing and fun costumes.

The trip home Sunday was much calmer than our trip over. The seas were flat and wind was light. We were disappointed that we could not sail. However, a pod of dolphin jumped and danced for us as we left the island. Midway home while crossing the shipping lane we spotted a large white floating object. As we neared to make rescue, it became clear the object was the dreaded balloon monster. Carolyn, in true Wayne Brandow fashion, successfully snared the more than dozen balloons tied with fishing line. We felt good to return a favor to our dolphin friends. As we neared the marina, several of the crew spotted a small whale to welcome us home. Once again, our team enjoyed a fun and successful adventure together. ***Check out page 7 for an awesome shot of incarcerated pirates***

LEMWOD 2007 Report

By Margaret Pommert

The Linda Elias Memorial Women’s One Design Challenge was held Oct 20 and 21 in Long Beach. The event is named after the late Linda Elias, one of Southern California’s most successful female sailboat racers. Each of the six all woman teams sail identically prepared and equipped Catalina 37s owned, managed and maintained by the Long Beach Sailing Foundation.

Joan Chandler’s crew from our club included: Cheryl Brazier, Julie Donovan, and Lisa Saperstein trading off on the bow, myself at the mast, Laura Guggenheimer taking care of us from the pit, Monica Antola, Sue Service, and Tina Claps trimming jib and guy, Mary Stuyvensent trimming spinnaker, Stine Cacavas on main, and Gwen Abel calling tactics.

WSA was represented by not only our team from Santa Monica Bay, but also by a team from Long Beach-L.A WSA.



WSA’s LEMWOD team had the coolest team shirts EVER

In the Saturday morning skipper’s meeting, race officials told the competitors they would not race in sustained winds of 20 knots or above, as it was too much for the boats. Close racing and afternoon breezes of 5-7 knots that built to 14-15 by late afternoon kept all the teams alert. We finished 5-5-4 for the day, which put us in 5th place. Back at the dock at the end of the day, we enjoyed Laura’s homemade cookies, and a bit of Mary’s flavored tequila tasting bar, and made our strategies for moving up the fleet in the last 2 races on Sunday. (I think part of the strategy involved inviting the skipper and tactician of the first place boat over to sample tequila)



Sunday morning as we rigged the boats, it was dead calm. As we motored out to the racing area, the winds suddenly started to build. At Sunday’s scheduled noon starting time, the principal race officer declared that racing was postponed with easterly Santa Ana winds of 22-24 knots and gusts to 35 blowing across the race course. When they finally gave up and sent us back to the docks, the winds were consistently about 30 and right on our bow. This was almost too much for the engines of the race boats, and so it was a long, wet slog back. As we entered the harbor, we saw the Gale Warning flags flying.

As the new girl on the team, I had a great time and learned a lot. Like what it means to ‘sail fat’. When I first heard the expression, I got excited and reached for another handful of Laura’s cookies. But Sue yanked the bag away from me and explained that it means sailing off the wind a bit to get better VMG than pointing as high as possible.

The best part of this experience for me was meeting, and getting to know, so many of the other local women sailors. We often see each other at

racers. But since we each tend to hang with our own crew, I've not had a chance to meet most of them until now.

Our skipper, Joan summed up her feelings, "It was my pleasure to sail with this crew of great women. Everyone put their all into sailing the boat well and having fun while doing it! I was just disappointed that we didn't get to go out and race on Sunday."

WSA DAY SAILS

By: *Dianne Christman*

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Thanks Wayne Brandow, Jeannea Jordan, Lenny Tyminski, Kay Miller and Karyn Jones for **twenty six (26)** wonderful day sails during the months of August, September and October. Some of these day sails are so popular that I have developed my very own "lottery" system to make sure that everyone gets a chance to participate!

I encourage everyone to sign up for future day sails, especially our newer members (you get first dibs!). You never know what you will see out there. There are reports of lots of dolphins, including some that have been spotted inside the breakwater, and this is highly unusual from my personal experience.

Nothing is better than to have new members (and not so new members) out there who have, only for the very first time, sailed with a spinnaker flying. It's a lot of fun, a bit of teamwork; and always a great opportunity to learn and grow as a sailor! It only gets easier with hands on experience.

What a priceless gift these skippers offer to the WSA members and I'm sure all who have shared day sails with them will agree that a good time is always shared on board our day sails.

As always, a very special **THANK YOU** to all the skippers who participate in this wonderful program and thanks to the members for their participation, patience and understanding so that all can enjoy day sailing!

I look forward to upcoming months and 2008 to arrange lots of wonderful day sails for WSA members!



Sandy Penrod and Jag Soni aboard *Agua Cheetah*



Lenny Tyminski enjoying the view

WIMRA Match Racing Clinic Getting Down to Business in St Maarten

By *Kim Stuart*

So last month we recapped the crazy "practice" day before the WIMRA Match Racing Clinic began, and this month we're going to talk about the clinic and some of the lessons learned.

Liz Baylis is currently the US Womens Match Racing Champion, and she's currently teamed up with North U to produce clinics around the world. Locations have included Europe, North America, South America, New Zealand and the Caribbean. WIMRA is encouraging the worldwide Olympic committee to field womens match racing as an event in 2012, which would be exciting!

The clinic is divided into classroom and on water drills, progressing from the basics to "racing" against other teams by the end of the clinic.

Day 1 – classroom. We all introduce ourselves and settle in to listen to Liz and Bill Gladstone go over the syllabus and define the goals of the program. We start by discussing some of the basics that have to be mastered – stopping and starting the boat in the dial-up, doing circles in the pre-start, and learning how to watch and gauge your opponents maneuvers relative to your own. There are several significant changes to the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) for match racing events as well. I'd been studying both the rules and the Match Racing Callbook for a month before we left, and much of it was bewildering and confusing to me. I'd also gotten a copy of the North U Match Racing textbook, and was really struggling to understand the reasoning behind some of the lessons about the pre-start.

We head down to the parking lot of Budget Marine and practice the drills we'll be doing on the water with sticks instead of boats, and we look pretty silly. It's very hard to get the drills into your head without a boat to tune against, much less without a boat!



After the on the water work, we head back to the classroom (the same thing we'll do the next two days also) and add small blocks of knowledge a couple at a time to our pile. Then it's back to the boats to work on slightly more complex drills, and against other boats! Unfortunately one of the participants fell and had to be taken to the hospital, which left us without "adult supervision"; although we'd all been told not to get close enough in the drills to cause accidental contact, there were a few tense moments before Bill got back to the course and started taping the drills again.

Days 2 and 3 were more of the same, and the erratic winds in Simpson Bay Lagoon, coupled with

the seeming instability of the Sun Fast 20s, meant that every evening when the boats were put away and debriefing complete, we were ready to crawl into a corner and pass out.

Sunday (Day 3) we spent the most time on the water, rotating through several mock flights of racing, and some close calls with both the rules and the other boats. Learning to keep an eye on your opponent, and an eye on the umpire, while keeping yet another eye on the racecourse – yes, I know, we've all got to find our third eyes – is very challenging, and requires the entire team to really be able to work in tandem, and almost be able to read each others' minds.

The day after the clinic ended, Carey, Michaela and I had the opportunity to get out on the water with Liz and Bill, and do some racing against each other. I have to say that Liz has the most incredible boat handling skills I think I've ever seen, and her awareness of the boat's volume around her is simply amazing. While I didn't get the opportunity to sail with Bill (only against him, more successfully than I had hoped with Liz calling tactics!), watching him set up in the other boat for maneuvers was also a tremendous learning experience.



The highlight of the last day was getting a perfect example of Ump Call 30 in the Match Racing Callbook, something Bill had told me early in the week to learn, and that I was having a terrible time figuring out. He also made sure the pre-start sequence that confused me so mightily in the beginning.

I would definitely say that if you get a chance to attend one of the clinics, jump at it!

Upcoming Calendar of Events

November 2007

2 nd -4 th Fri-Sun	WSA Surprise Cruise (destination TBD!)
3 rd -4 th Sat/Sun	Matchless Match Racing
10 th Sat	Homeport Regatta
13 th Tues	WSA General Meeting
27 th Tues	WSA Board Meeting

December 2007

8 th Sat	Marina del Rey Boat Parade
11 th Tues	WSA Installation Dinner and Holiday Party

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!

Jeannea's motley Krewe at Buccaneer Days



2007 WSA BOARD and COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Commodore

Laura Guggenheimer
commodore@wsasmb.org

Vice Commodore

Sue Service
vicecommodore@wsasmb.org

Secretary

Avghi Constantinides

Treasurer

Karen Kuchel

J/S Commodore

Patti Eagan
jrstaffcommodore@wsasmb.org

Cruise Chair

Fran Weber-Melville
ptfran@aol.com or
cruising@wsasmb.org

Daysail Chair

Diane Christman
daysails@wsasmb.org or
wsadaysails@gmail.com

Membership Chair

Libby Gill
membership@wsasmb.org

Education Director

Karyn Jones
education@wsasmb.org

Communications Director

Diane Larson
pr@wsasmb.org

Newsletter

Sue Service
newsletter@wsasmb.org

Race Co-Chairs

Kim Stuart & Joan Chandler
racing@wsasmb.org

Social Director

Milka Alexandrino
events@wsasmb.org

Webmaster

Laura Guggenheimer
webmaster@wsasmb.org

Skipper Liaison

John Melville
skippers@wsasmb.org

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