



SPLINTERS

WOODEN HULL YACHT CLUB NEWSLETTER

March / April 2004

A VIEW FROM THE HELM



The Wooden Hull Yacht Club (WHYC) has always been a labor of love for its members. Founded on a passion for sailing, the club survives only because of its members' deep devotion to the preservation and celebration of our boats and other classic wooden-hulled sailing vessels.

Like any love, the WHYC requires a degree of commitment, dedication

and – may I say – sacrifice to keep it alive. We can only get out of our club what we're willing to put into it; the greater our investments, the greater our rewards.

Currently, the WHYC needs to fill two board positions. Will Durant currently serves as Secretary and Vice Commodore, so one of these positions can be filled by another member, and the position of Rear Commodore also remains available. This is your chance to assume a leadership role and help determine our club's direction for the coming year. Your contributions can help ensure that the WHYC remains lively and vital, and that its activities truly serve your needs as well as the needs of your fellow members.

What is required of a WHYC board member? Here is what we ask:

- Dedicate 3-5 hours per month to support, coordinate and execute club activities
- Attend one board meeting per month at the Newport Harbor Nautical Museum (NHNM) in Newport Beach
- Contribute your ideas, creativity and enthusiasm to the organization

Interested? If so, call me at 949-721-8686 to learn more.

COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

In addition to new board members, the WHYC needs members to volunteer on its various committees. Specially, we're looking for enthusiastic members for:

- WHYC Race Committee
- WHYC Social Events Committee
- WHYC Cruise Committee

- NHNM events, including:
 - Heritage Regatta and Seaport Festival (June 26)
 - Family Boat Building Weekend (July 24-25)
 - Boat Donation and Restoration Program (Ongoing)

Just a little time will make a big difference in the benefits our club is able to deliver. If you have even just a few hours a month to volunteer, call me at 949-721-8686.

THE MEANING OF CAMARADERIE

We often speak of the "camaraderie" we enjoy as club members. But just what does that mean? Here's a recent personal story I'd like to share:

I was planning to sail my 40-foot sloop, Zephyrus, from Newport Beach to Marina del Rey to participate in the One More Time Regatta on Saturday, February 28th. That Friday, the winds began to blow at 25 knots-plus and gale warnings were raised up and down the coast. That evening, both John Duff and Denny Peitso called me to ask if I'd like assistance sailing the Zephyrus up to Los Angeles. With conditions being what they were, I took John up on his generous offer. He volunteered to meet me at 3:00 a.m. Saturday morning. Together, we made the five-hour motor-sail trip up to Marina del Rey. This small but meaningful event illustrates why the Wooden Hull Yacht Club exists, and why we choose to dedicate so much of our time and resources to the club – and to each other.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DRIVE EXTENDED

Still going full force, our membership renewal drive is scheduled to end in the next few weeks. To date, 46 members have sent in their renewal forms and checks. If you haven't yet done so, please send form and check in ASAP, or contact Erin Scherfenberg or myself at 949-721-8686 for more information.

Alan M. Peterson, Jr., Commodore

Alan M. Peterson, Jr.
Commodore
949-721-8686

Will Durant
Vice Commodore
and Secretary

Denton Porter
Treasurer



Photo courtesy, Jean Alexander

Comments or Suggestions? Please email us at whyc@go4tgp.com.



WOODEN HULL YACHT CLUB OPENING DAY – MAY 8TH

Bring your boats, family and friends to the Club's Opening Day Ceremonies.

On Saturday, May 8th, from 1100 - 1700, join your fellow WHYC members, members of other SCYA yacht clubs and public guests at the Newport Harbor Nautical Museum. This is an opportunity to gather socially, share our boats with each other and members of the public who will take advantage of this special opportunity to tour our boats and appreciate the hard work each of us invests in our "special" (and sometimes questionable!) passion. The Newport Harbor Nautical Museum will have temporary docks to accommodate our classic wooden hulls and all wooden hull vessels are invited to tie up for the day or weekend! Reservations are required to ensure adequate space is available. Please plan to attend and support our Opening Day Ceremonies. Members of the public will be invited so let's be sure to have a good showing of our member boats! Lunch and beverages will be available! RSVP to Alan Peterson at 949-721-8686.



JOINING THE FLEET

A Hearty "Ahoy!" to Our Newest Members

The WHYC would like to acknowledge and welcome our club's newest members:

Vincent Joliet

Boat: "Roques March"
Type: Cutter/Herreshoff
Length: 33 Ft.
Berth: Marina del Rey

Ariane Campagnone

Boat: "Richmond II"
Type: Cutter/Atkins
Length: 32 Ft.
Berth: Marina del Rey



LOG ENTRIES

News of the WHYC and Its Members

February, March and April were busy months. Accomplishments included:

- Organizing the WHYC membership database
- Continued our 2004 Membership Renewal Drive
- Developed the new WHYC brochure
- Developed the new WHYC literature card
- Coordinated the One More Time Regatta, the first race of 2004
- Solidified the 2004 WHYC Event Calendar

The 29th Annual One More Time Regatta was held on Saturday, February 28th (See separate story). Special thanks to WHYC



member Denny Peitso and Pacific Mariners Yacht Club member Andy Kapetski for spearheading this exciting event. Their enthusiasm and dedication were instrumental to its success. And thank you, of course, to the entire Pacific Mariners Yacht Club for hosting our Club.



On February 16th, WHYC members Shelly and Jody Ward left Southern California for a 985 nm sail to Mazatlan, Mexico aboard their boat "Eros." The two-week-long voyage was highlighted by encounters with playful dolphins, stalking orcas,

breaching grey whales and amorous sea lions. Although briefly threatened by a violent storm, the Wards docked safely in Mazatlan on March 1st. Both are now enjoying the Mexican hospitality while they prepare for their return voyage.

The 2004 Membership Drive will end shortly. To date, 46 WHYC members have renewed. You must submit your renewal form and check as soon as possible to be included in the 2004 Membership Roster. For more information, contact Erin Scherfenberg or myself at 949-721-8686.

Do you have news? If so, please let us know by emailing us at whyc@go4tpg.com.

May the wind always be at your backs!



CHARTING THE COURSE

A Preview of Upcoming WHYC Events:

- WHYC Opening Day – May 8
- Eric Erickson Oil Island Race – May/June (TBD)
- Heritage Regatta and Seaport Festival – June 26-27 – Newport Harbor Nautical Museum
- Family Boat Building Weekend – July 24-25 – Newport Harbor Nautical Museum
- Clark Sweet Cruise – August 21-22
- Christopher Columbus Regatta – October (Date TBD)
- Iron Man Race – November 6
- WHYC Annual Awards Dinner – November 20 – Newport Harbor Nautical Museum



SKIPPER OF THE MONTH



Danny Peitso of the “Bluenose”

Twenty-five years ago, Danny Peitso had a choice. He could buy a modern motor-powered watercraft not unlike those he grew up with on the lakes of his native Minnesota or he could purchase a Seabird, a classic wooden-hulled cruising yacht designed in the early 1990s as one of America’s first family-style sailing vessels. Captivated by the wooden-hulled boat’s elegant lines, he ultimately chose the Seabird – and it was a choice he’s never regretted.

“If a boat doesn’t look beautiful to the eye, it can’t deliver a beautiful sailing experience,” Peitso said. “The lines of a wooden-hulled boat are things no motor-powered boat can match, which is why these boats have remained my passion.”

Peitso has owned a succession of boats since he bought his Seabird in 1978, including his current pride and joy, the “Bluenose,” a 42-foot Chappelle Gaff Schooner he purchased in the mid-1980s. The boat was built in Costa Mesa in 1960 and has spent most of her life cruising up and down the California coast. This includes numerous summertime cruises through the channel islands with his two sons, now age 22 and 19. “Bluenose” is currently berthed in Marina del Rey.

Peitso, who has grown organic vegetables on his farm in Agura since the 1980s, joined the Wooden Hull Yacht Club in 1984 and has been an active member ever since.

“I once sailed from Havana to Mexico and then down to Belize,” he said. “And once I sailed from Taiwan to Hong Kong. You name it, I’ve probably sailed there. And if I haven’t, I hope to soon!”

-Danny Peitso

“The club is a great group of people,” Peitso said. “I really enjoy sailing with them. John Duff and I have been putting on the One More Time Regatta for about 10 years now. Andy Kopetzky and I did it this year. It’s a great race and, I’m proud to say, this year I finally won!”

He also belongs to the Master Mariners Benevolent Association, the San Francisco counterpart of the WHYC.

In addition to sailing the “Bluenose” in California waters, Peitso often sails his friends’ boats in waters all around the world.



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A MESSAGE FROM THE NEWPORT HARBOR NAUTICAL MUSEUM

The Newport Harbor Nautical Museum (NHNM) remains available to the Wooden Hull Yacht Club and its members for meetings, events and other club functions. WHYC are also welcome to use the museum's docks when space is available.

For those WHYC members who have not yet visited the NHNM, we're located in the "riverboat" standing at the mouth of Newport Beach's Back Bay at 151 East Pacific Coast Highway in Newport Beach. The Museum first opened in 1986 on Balboa Peninsula and then acquired the entire riverboat in 1995. The

museum features a wide array of exhibits celebrating Newport Beach's nautical history as well as the nautical aspects of the West Coast and Pacific region. NHNM boasts one of the best ship models galleries and a historic photo collection that has over 58,000 classic yachting images. The museum also sponsors numerous events, which WHYC members are encouraged to enjoy.

For more information on our events and the benefits of museum membership, please call us at 949-673-7863 or visit our website at www.nhnm.org.

The NHNM looks forward to partnering with the WHYC in its upcoming events, which include:

BOAT DONATION AND RESTORATION PROGRAM

Several Albatross sailboats have already been donated to the museum, and we are looking to obtain more of these classic wooden hull vessels before they disappear forever. In the months ahead, we will be recruiting individuals to help us restore these



vessels to their original pristine conditions... and sail them! To facilitate these restorations, we will be holding periodic demonstrations on woodworking, varnishing, etc. Please look for announcements of specific times in future newsletters.

FAMILY BOAT BUILDING WEEKEND JULY 24-25



This annual event brings families together to enjoy the unique experience of building their own sailboats. The exact date for this year's event is to be determined. Please look for more details as summer approaches.

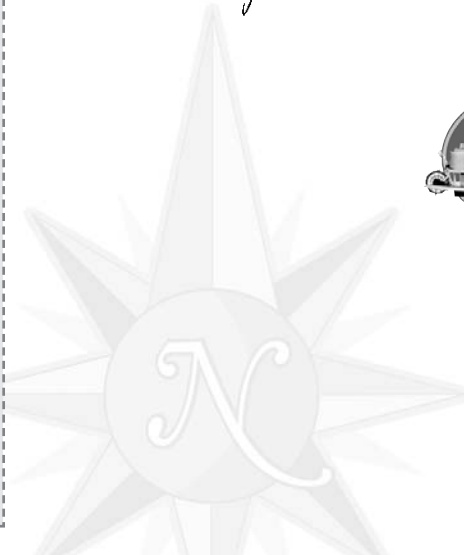
HERITAGE REGATTA & SEAPORT FESTIVAL – JUNE 26



This annual event is the ultimate get-together for sailing enthusiasts here in Southern California. The Regatta features the great wooden sailboats of the Southern California area and the Festival activities include wooden sailboat displays

and races as well as seaside booths and demonstrations by woodcarvers, model-makers, surfing enthusiasts, etc. An awards dinner climaxes the event. Volunteers are needed! Please call the NHNM at 949-673-7863 for more information.

- Glenn A. Zagoren, President & CEO





2004'S ONE MORE TIME REGATTA SAILS INTO THE RECORD BOOKS

The 29th annual One More Time Regatta was held on February 28th. Despite high seas and winds frequently hitting 20-plus knots, 9 of the 10 boats entered finished the 15.5 nm course and all the participants reported having a great time. The One More Time Regatta is the only race of its kind held annually out of Marina del Rey.

The race's trophy winners were:

- "Bluenose" – owned by Danny Peitso. Won the trophies for Best Corrected Time (Overall), Best Corrected Time (Split Rigs, Class B) and First Place (Split Rigs Class B). "Bluenose" averaged 6.2 knots over the course.
- "Zephyrus" – owned by WHYC Commodore Alan Peterson. Won trophies Line Honors (First to Finish Overall), Best Corrected Time (Sloops & Cutters, Class A), and First To Finish (Sloops & Cutters, Class A). "Zephyrus" average speed was nearly 7 knots.
- "Rogue's March" – owned by Vincent Joliet. Won First Place (Sloops & Cutters, Class B)
- "Richmond II" – owned by Ariane Compagnone. Won 2nd Place (Sloops & Cutters, Class B)
- "Cannibal" – owned by Karl Lindblom. Won 3rd Place (Sloops & Cutters, Class B)
- "Web Foot" – owned by Jerry Klein. Won 2nd Place (Split Rigs, Class B)
- "Amethyst" – owned by Mack Steagall. Won 3rd Place (Split Rigs, Class B)

Andy Peitso's "Blue Chip" won the "coveted" Turtle Trophy for last place.



WHYC MEMBER GOES FOR THE GOLD WITH BRONZE

Necessity, it is said, is often the mother of invention. It was also the impetus for a booming home-based business for WHYC member Julia Gombert.

In 2003, Julia and her husband Michael Stocks went looking for brass fittings for their classic 32-foot Atkin Dragon, "Heron," which they had purchased in 1997. They were shocked to not only discover that no fittings for the boat were available for sale, but that the salespeople they encountered reacted to their request with scorn.

"Nobody took us seriously," Julia reported. "They thought we were crazy for wanting bronze when everyone was selling stainless steel. I took it personally because they thought our boat wasn't worth it. We had tried steel and it was hideous. It would rust almost overnight. It wasn't the proper material for a boat like the "Heron".

Frustrated and angry with the treatment they had received; Julia and Michael decided to start a custom bronze-fitting company of their own. Heron Bronze, named after the boat that started it all, officially opened for business late that same year.

Their first customer was the owner of an 87-foot Baltic Trader who needed a set of bronze chain plates. These were large pieces that couldn't be found on the retail market. Julia made castings from the boat's original chain plates and delivered a new set of shiny brass plates two months later.

"All of our pieces are made-to-order, so there's no catalogue," Julia explained. "Each piece is hand-made, so the turnaround time can be anywhere from 6 to 10 weeks. But for boats that can be 50 years old or more, investing a few months in quality fittings is more than worth the wait."

For more information on custom-made brass boat fittings, contact:

Julia Gombert/Michael Stocks
HERON BRONZE
6218 Springvale Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90042
323-258-9613
Fax: 323-344-1484
Email: stockbert@earthlink.net



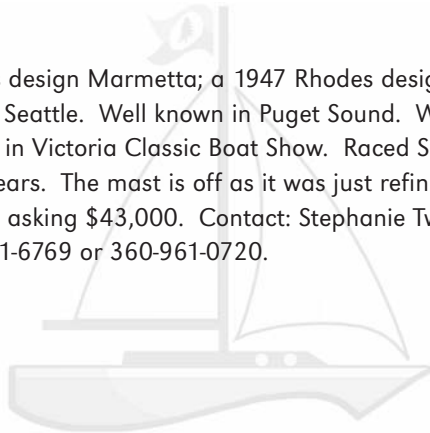
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YACHT BROKERAGE

Coast Rhodes 33, 33' Sloop, #41, Madness, is available! Includes sails, full cover, miscellaneous rigging and gear. Boat is in Shoreline Marina, Long Beach. Needs some work, but could be sailing soon! FREE to a good home. Call Alan Peterson for details 949-721-8686.

Rhodes design Marmetta; a 1947 Rhodes design Blanchard built in Seattle. Well known in Puget Sound. Winner "Best in Sail" in Victoria Classic Boat Show. Raced Swiftsure in early years. The mast is off as it was just refinished. We are asking \$43,000. Contact: Stephanie Twiford, 360-671-6769 or 360-961-0720.



WOODEN HULL YACHT CLUB

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