

Gal' Warnings

The Monthly Newsletter of the Women's Sailing Association of Santa Monica Bay

October 2011

Volume XXVI, Issue 10

Commodore's Corner

by Christina Tarantola

Hello Sailors!

October is going to be a barrel of laughs with our Comedy Cruise coming up on the 26th! Social Director Jennifer Zannelli has organized a fantastic evening aboard the Hornblower's *Dream On*. The cruise will feature female comics, drinks, and food. To get in on the fun, purchase your tickets now at wsasmb.org.

On a more serious note, the October General Meeting on the 11th will also be our Annual Business Meeting. Among other things, we will present a slate of candidates for our officer and director positions for 2012. Additionally, we will be accepting nominations for our prestigious Marilyn Butefish Award. You can read more about our voting procedures and the award and how to submit nominations later in this issue.

As always, the meeting will also feature a fantastic speaker. This month, we will be traveling the world with Betsy Crowfoot.

Long Beach Yacht Club's eagerly anticipated Linda

(Continued on page 3)



October Speaker: Betsy Crowfoot The Canals of Belgium

by Midge Costin, Education Chair

Betsy Crowfoot, single mom, sailor, professional writer, will share tales and photos from her nautical adventures, concentrating on her most recent voyage through the canals of northern Belgium as crew for a Mahalo Sailing charter (Capt. Holly Scott).

"From the bucolic countryside to the edgy city of Gent, we explored Belgium in a delightful style," Betsy says. "Apparently not many Americans vacation this way, so we enjoyed hidden non-touristy destinations and the pleasure of being a bit of a novelty to the Belgian people."

Betsy's sailing resume is long and varied. She has worked as crew (Mate) aboard charter, race and expedition boats in Thailand, South America, Central America, and in addition has raced three Transpacs, several Cabo races, and Baja Haha, and several return trips home.



Agua Cheetah returns to the marina after the successful bow clinic in September.

Photo credit: John Nelson



Mahalo Sailing's chartered boat tied up for the night next to a tavern outside of Ostende

Photo credit: Betsy Crowfoot

Meeting Agenda for October 11, 2011

6:30 pm—Social Hour begins

7:30 pm—Business meeting and light dinner

8:00 pm—Program begins: Betsy Crowfoot

Call for Marilyn Butefish Nominations

By the WSA Board of Directors

The prestigious Marilyn Butefish Award is presented annually by WSA in recognition of a club member who has made an exceptional contribution to the promotion of women's sailing through service to WSA.

The Board is currently accepting nominations to be included on the ballot that will be presented at the October General Meeting and voted on at the November General Meeting. This gorgeous trophy is currently on display in the SMWYC upstairs trophy case.

Established in 1986, this perpetual award was created as a memorial to member Marilyn Butefish. Every year since then, WSA has proudly recognized award recipients for their exceptional contributions to WSA, specifically service that goes "beyond mere performance of duty." Recent recipients include Jeannea Jordan, Sue Service, Kim Stuart and Libby Gill.

Any current WSA member (female or male) is eligible. A nomination can also include more than one member for an exceptional "team contribution".

To submit a nomination, please include the person's name and a few sentences about why your nominee deserves this award. Nominations can be submitted to Commodore Christina Tarantola at commodore@wsasmb.org or Vice Commodore Coco Leigh at vicecommodore@wsasmb.org. Nominations may also be submitted at the October General Meeting.

WSA Annual Business Meeting – Oct 11

By WSA Board of Directors

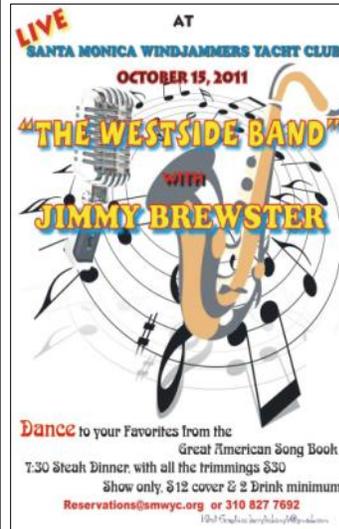
We hope you can join us on October 13 at SMWYC. In addition to our usual format of social hour, business meeting, dinner and speaker, WSA's October general meeting constitutes our "annual business meeting". Two important items of business are conducted at this meeting. First, we present the slate for the 2012 Board of Directors & Officers and Chair positions. We do not vote on the board until the November meeting, however, the slate is presented in advance to allow members an ample opportunity to review the nominations and suggest other candidates for various positions.

Second, we formally solicit nominations for WSA's Marilyn Butefish award. Forms will be provided for the nominations, and collected at the end of the business meeting.

If you are unable to attend the October meeting, a slate will be sent via email prior to the November meeting in case you wish to inspect prior to voting. Also, nominations for the Marilyn Butefish award will be accepted by email so feel free to contact Christina Tarantola at commodore@wsasmb.org

Happenings at SMWYC

By Vickie DeLuca



Every Sunday afternoon at SMWYC, live jazz and blues start up at 4PM. The bar opens at 3PM with all sorts of tasty options for cook-your-own barbecue, including steaks, chicken, burgers and delicious sides. The musical line-up includes The Westside Band, The LA Jazz Quartet, and The Sunday Special. WSA is welcome to join us and there is never a cover charge.

On Saturday, October 15th, The Westside Band and guest vocalist Jimmy Brewster, play all of your favorites from the great American songbook. Steak dinner with all of the trimmings served at 7:30, followed by dancing. \$30 per person.

On Sunday, October 16th, come join us at SMWYC for the Oktoberfest Race hospitality, starting at 4PM. We'll have a traditional Bavarian dinner, with sausages, potato salad, sauerkraut, and pretzels for \$15 per person.

On Friday, October 28th, please join us at SMWYC for our annual Halloween party. Dinner, dancing, a HAUNTED yacht club, costume parade, etc. \$25 per person.

MEMBERSHIP NOTE

If you know of someone interested in joining WSA, please direct them to www.wsasmb.org (tell them to click on "Join WSA Today") for information on membership dues and easy instructions on how to join. New member discounts are available throughout the year!

WSA Policies:

- ◆ -Guests are allowed to attend up to 2 general meetings per year (excluding December due to paid event)
- ◆ -Only current WSA sailing members with a signed Waiver can participate in on-the-water events including day sails and cruises
- ◆ -Only current WSA sailing members can race under the WSA Burgee
- ◆ -Membership runs from January 1 – December 31 for current year. Memberships are valid until December 31, regardless of date you join
- ◆ -The membership renewal process begins each year on January 1. You can only join one year at a time – the current year
- ◆ -Membership Application and Waiver forms must be submitted every year

(Commodore's Corner continued from page 1)

Elias Memorial Women's One Design regatta is quickly approaching Oct. 22 and 23. This annual event pits all-woman teams against each other on the Catalina 37s. This is the same fleet of boats used for the Congressional Cup and the Mayor's Cup match racing regattas.

In addition to Karyn Jones leading the WSA team, Fran Weber-Melville has joined forces with the Channel Islands Women's Sailing Association to enter a team of women, all of them more than fifty-years-old. Good luck to both teams and to all our members who will be competing. If you are not racing, consider coming out to watch. Last year we had a couple of WSA spectator boats come out and there were some really exciting moments.

Here in Marina del Rey, the Home Port Regatta is coming up November 5. Hosted by South Coast Corinthian Yacht Club, this regatta is a great one for new racers. If you're interested in participating, but don't know how to get involved, attend the pre-regatta seminars scheduled for October 27 and November 3. This is a great follow-up to the WOW/WAH to keep your new skills honed, or to try something different. See a full article on the regatta later in this issue.

Lastly, my deepest condolences go out to Zoltan

Katinszky, whose wife of more than 30 years, Kathy Frengel, passed away unexpectedly on September 24. Zoltan and his Farr 40 *White Knight* have been a fixture on the local racing circuit for years. Anyone who knows Zoltan can attest, once you've met him, you'll never forget him. Zoltan, my friend, my heart is with you and your family during this terrible time.

I wish everyone a safe and healthy October. Happy Sailing!



Long Beach Sea Gals 2011 Program

By Judy-Rae Karlsen—Sea Gals Program Director

Events: Date / Time

1. Sunday, October 09, 2011 12:00-4:00 pm
2. October 21-23 Linda Elias Memorial Women's One Design (racing)
3. Saturday, November 05, 2011 12:00-4:00 pm

Contact "Sea Gals" at 562-355-8500 or visit their website at: http://www.lbycsf.org/LBSF/LB_Sailing_Foundation.html

Contribute to the Santa Monica Bay Sailing Foundation while Shopping at Ralphs

By Fleet Captain Diane Larson

If you are a Ralphs' grocery store shopper, please note that you can 'connect' your Ralphs Rewards Card to the Santa Monica Bay Sailing Foundation (SMBSF) through their fund-raising "Community Matters Program." It's a simple way to make a huge impact on a local foundation dedicated to the sailing community.

If you don't have a rewards card, they are free - just ask at the register next time you shop.

If you would like to learn more about SMBSF, check out their website at www.smbfsf.org



Here are instructions of how to connect your Ralph's Reward Card to this program:

- ◆ Go to www.ralphs.com
- ◆ Log in to your Ralphs Rewards account or Create an Account
- ◆ once logged in, click on My Account, click on Community Rewards, enter Organization # 82356 for Santa Monica Bay Sailing Foundation

◆ Save.

OR, once you are logged in:

- ◆ Click on Services
- ◆ Click on Community Contributions
- ◆ Click on "Participant Enroll," and complete information and enter Organization # 82356 for Santa Monica Bay Sailing Foundation (or choose Edit organization if you already have an organization selected), save. Thank you for your support!

A Special thanks to Overland Café

Every month, the Overland Café caters WSA's dinner with a wonderful variety of menus. Serving great food since 1974. Visit their website at www.overlandcafe.com

OVERLANDCAFÉ
3601 Overland Avenue, Culver City, CA 90034 • PHONE: 310. 559. 9999

2011 Laser U.S. National Championship

By Mary Ho, WSA Race Chair

I am bouncing around on the open ocean in a tiny sailboat. And it really is tiny, no bigger than 14 feet long. There are close to 100 other people in the exact same boat, and we are all gathered on Santa Monica Bay for the 2011 U.S. Laser National Championship. Everybody else there can race this boat better than me. So I ask myself, "Just what am I doing here?"

I'd been eyeing this regatta for years. I almost entered three years ago when it was held at Alamitos Bay, then chickened out. But when I heard that this year they planned to hold it at Marina del Rey, where my boat currently resides, I knew I had no real excuse to not do this regatta.

The Laser Nationals attracts sailors from all over the country, plus Canada and other countries. Many of the sailors at this regatta tended to fall into the 16-23 age group, though there were kids as young as 13, and a few sailors as old as 60. This boat, despite its reputation for sailors with youth and athleticism, attracts a wide range of ages.

There is a large contingent of Laser sailors who are not kids: the "Laser Masters" as they are called, are at least 35 years old, and go all the way up to age 75 or so. As a matter of fact, the 2011 Laser Masters Worlds started in San Francisco right after the U.S. Laser National Championship and attracted 240 competitors.



There were several reasons why I chose this regatta over the Masters Worlds. It was local, sailed on waters I was familiar with, and I would not have to worry about transporting my Laser 300 miles and having to find lodgings. It was a logical choice for a first big regatta. I have always believed in starting simple.

I was pretty realistic about my chances. I didn't expect to place anywhere near the top. If I were to sail this race, it would not be as a serious competitor. I would race it strictly for the experience, and as an opportunity to

learn something.

I found the regatta was a great learning experience. With 65 other Laser Radials on the line, I learned quickly about how to find my spot on the line, how to stop, sit there and not drift over early, and the importance of getting to clear air as soon as possible. With 12 races scheduled, I had many chances to try different tactics going around the course and to see how my boat would perform upwind, reaching, and downwind.

Because I tend to be of a lighter weight than the average Laser sailor, the boat tends to perform differently for me than for others. With 64 other boats to sail against, I had plenty of people to measure my progress against.

The regatta was spread out over four days. We sailed all 12 of the scheduled races. With 3-4 races per day, we were out on the water 7-8 hours a day. I found during those four days life became eat, sleep sail...eat, sleep, sail...eat, sleep, sail. It was fun.

The people I sailed against were of great interest to me. Many were teens or in their early twenties, and I found the regatta a good venue for observing their behavior and learning what how Laser sailors conducted themselves. For instance, those sailors with coach boats had a great avenue of support. They had someone to hold their lunches and spray tops, and someone who could watch their performance and give them tips on how to sail better. I found that listening in on these conversations was a good way to get tips for myself.

Another interesting thing I learned was how Laser sailors tell the committee boat that they don't like a decision that the RC makes. On the first day of racing we had some bad fog come in. After delaying the start for nearly two hours, the RC finally decided that the fog was lifting enough for us to race. The Radials were in the middle of our start sequence when the whole thing was postponed. People began sailing by the stern of the RC boat, banging their tillers on their decks. I quickly figured out that, hey, I wasn't the only one feeling a little frustrated!

I didn't finish anywhere near the top, but I had a great time and it was a wonderful learning experience. A big surprise for me was how supportive everyone was of me. I received plenty of encouragement and help from my yacht club, South Coast Corinthian Yacht Club, and even the RC on the finish boat had some encouraging words to say to me.

The lesson I take from this is: even if you don't have a chance of winning something, if you want to enter, do it! The lessons you can learn are just as valuable as being able to win.



Day Sail Etiquette and Procedures

Day Sails are a fantastic way to enjoy a day on the water, hone your sailing skills, and meet other WSA members. The success of each Day Sail depends on the boat having a full crew of members who show up on time, ready to sail, and with proper provisions. With limited space and high demand, we need your cooperation to sign up for Day Sails responsibly and follow the communication procedures if emergencies come up which require you to cancel.

Day Sail Sign Up procedures:

- ◆ The Day Sail Chair will email day sail notices with pertinent details.
- ◆ ONLY express interest if you can commit to the date/time.
- ◆ The Day Sail Chair will send a confirmation email if you are selected. The email will include your provision assignment, the skipper/crew contact information and any other boat details. Read all information carefully so you are fully prepared.

Rules to follow for a fun and successful day sail:

- ◆ On the day of the sail, if the weather is questionable, contact the skipper by 9am at home to determine if the sail is still planned.
- ◆ Do not bring drugs on the boat.
- ◆ There is no smoking below decks (please ask skipper if smoking is permitted on upper deck of boat).
- ◆ There is no drinking of alcohol while away from the dock.
- ◆ Please bring drinks in cans or plastic containers (no glass).
- ◆ Most skippers request that you wear white-soled tennis or boat shoes. Bring additional clothing; the weather can be cold and wet on the water.
- ◆ Be aware that due to the unpredictability of sailing, the return time can vary so we request that you do not schedule your evening activities too early.
- ◆ Be considerate of the Skipper -- help put the boat back into condition after returning to the dock.

Cancellations:

- ◆ If you are confirmed and cancel, it will be your responsibility to notify all --Day Sail Chair, Skipper and the ENTIRE CREW listed for your day sail.
- ◆ If you are confirmed and cancel, you MAY be expected to bring your provisions to the boat, on the day of the sail, unless a replacement can be found, time and resources permitting.
- ◆ If you fail to attend two (2) Day Sails for which you have signed up, you risk suspension from the Day Sail program.

“Fun, Free & Worthwhile” The ASMBYC Home Port Regatta.

Once a year the entire Marina del Rey yacht racing community (that group of sailboats that are frequently seen racing together southwest of the breakwater) extends an invitation to all sailors — including new skippers, crew, and sailboats — to give this wonderful sport a try.



This year the HPR, as we abbreviate the Home Port Regatta name, falls on Saturday November 5, and will be preceded by two seminars on October 27

and November 3 to provide participants with an understanding of the basic rules and tactics they will use in the weekend competitions. As an added bonus, experienced racers have volunteered to act as mentors and on the water coaches to help the "Newbies," as they are frequently called, race safely and successfully.

There will be lots of trophies, door prizes, and fun at the after-race mixer to be held at South Coast Corinthian Yacht Club, where the newbies get to meet representatives of all the area's yacht clubs, other racers, and prospective crew for future racing events.

Experienced yachtsmen will testify that learning to race is one of the fastest ways to raise your sailing skill and seamanship level. They will also tell you that there is a wonderfully diverse and welcoming community of folks participating at many levels. HPR is something special that is well worth your attention.

To get more information, check out the web page at ASMBYC.org (toggle the page down until you get to the Home Port Regatta link), or contact Bruce Fleck at (310) 869-9187 or Bruce@yahoo.com.



To fulfill its goal of encouraging women to participate in sailing, WSASMB depends upon all its members to...

Tell a friend about WSA!

Cruising to the Channel Island on "Chekkerrs"

by Karen Kuchel, with photos by Donna Haro

It was overcast and chilly on Thursday morning as we left the dock in Ventura West Marina. The water was flat and the winds nonexistent. The crew of five was anxious to make our 24 mile crossing to Santa Cruz Island.



Captain Jeannea Jordan and her first mate, Donna Haro, had been at the island the previous week. They told us of their experience with the "sundowners" — heavy winds that batter the island late in the day due to the coolness of the ocean and warmth of the land. For Carolyn Cohen, Maureen McCarthy, and Karen Kuchel, this was a new adventure.

Our crossing was uneventful. The winds increased as we neared the island and were blowing about 16 knots as we made our way to the cove called Prisoners Harbor. Nearing the lee of the island, the winds calmed and we were able to find a perfect spot in the cove for our anchorage. We decided to be prepared for "sundowners" and set the "flopper-stopper." Jeannea had wisely purchased the barn-door version, which gave us more stability. That set, it was time for happy hour, hot soup, a warm berth, and thankfully a calm night.



We awoke to another overcast morning and lots of activity on the island. Island Packers was busy bringing in divers and hikers. We were glad to see that there was a dinghy dock on the large pier that juts out into the cove. Jeannea mentioned that the dinghy dock might be removed during the winter months due to heavy weather.

In the 1800's, the island was used for sheep grazing and, during the Civil War, there was a high demand for wool. In the 1930's, the island moved from sheep to a cattle operation. The pier was needed to load the cattle on ships bound for the coast.

Later in the morning, a small barge landed on the beach to unload several pieces of heavy equipment. We decided it was time to go ashore to find out the story and explore. It seems that when the pier was built, there was a large wetland area adjacent to it. The cattlemen needed a holding area for the cattle and filled in the wetlands.

The National Park Service, which owns 24% of the island, commissioned a company to restore the wetlands. The restoration should take about six weeks and will include tidal pools and replanting of native vegetation.

Saturday morning started out well until breakfast preparations hit a snag. It seems that the propane tank promised more than it could deliver and we were on cold rations! Not good when the nearest Starbucks is twenty-five miles away and the crew needs their morning coffee. Plus we had company coming for dinner!! Mary Ho and her fiancé, Chris, were on their way to the island to meet us.



Jeannea and crew in the cockpit

We brainstormed several ideas and settled on warming the tortillas and chicken on top of the engine. Meanwhile, our neighbor, a single sailor on a gorgeous 40+ foot ketch out of San Francisco, heard of our plight. He arrived at lunch time with a full pot of coffee for our

thermos and fresh lattes from his espresso machine! Now that's cruising in style.

Chris and Mary arrived in time for happy hour. As we celebrated their arrival, we were amazed and delighted to find that Chris carries an extra propane tank. Problem solved! Fajitas and fun for everyone!

Chris graciously cooked us breakfast on Sunday morning aboard his boat, a stately 1970's 44 foot center cockpit, cutter rigged sloop named *Callinectes*, before we weighed anchor.

The seas and winds were calm as we motored back to the mainland. We all enjoyed our stay at the rugged yet serene island and left feeling rested and renewed.



Is it Happy Hour yet?

"Gal Warnings" is always looking for photos of WSA activities and members!

— Send them to Newsletter@WSASMB.org —

Upcoming Calendar of Events

October 2011	
11th Tues	WSA General Meeting—Annual Business Meeting!
16th Sat	Glenn Thorpe Octoberfest Regatta—SMWYC
16th Sat	Heather Perkoff Series—PMYC
21-23	Linda Elias Memorial Women's One Design—LBYC
25th Tues	WSA Board Meeting
26th Weds	WSA Comedy at Sea
29th Sat	ASMBYC Inter Harbor Challenge

November 2011	
5th Sat	Homeport Regatta—SCCYC/ASMBYC
8th Tues	WSA General Meeting
12-13 Sat/Sun	Matchless Match Racing—SBRYC
22nd Tues	WSA Board Meeting

Racers: Be sure to review the 2011 ASMBYC Calendar at www.asmbyc.org
Day Sails: Day sails are usually on Saturdays and Sundays, but they are NOT listed on this calendar. Contact Dianne Christman at wsadaysails@gmail.com for up-to-date information!

WSA Website: www.wsasmb.org

Recently, some of you may have noticed a rather large passenger jet leaving LAX in the late afternoon — it's a Singapore Airlines Airbus A380

I



2011 WSA Board and Committee Chairs

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**WOMEN'S SAILING ASSOCIATION
OF SANTA MONICA BAY, INC.
PO Box 10034
Marina del Rey, CA 90295**

WSA—on the water since 1985!

MISSION STATEMENT

To promote and support women's sailing based on the following principles:

- To provide educational 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;
- To enhance networking opportunities