

GAL' WARNINGS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE WOMEN'S SAILING ASSOCIATION OF SANTA MONICA BAY

August 2013

Volume XXVIII, Issue 8

What's in the wind...

Race Committee Clinic

Santa Barbara Island Cruise

Cruise to Avalon

2013 WOW/WAH Regatta – August 24th & 25th



Whoa Nellie, Critter, and Agua Cheetah beat to windward during WSA's July 14th Race Committee Clinic and practice races.
(Photo by Bill Wells)



Meeting Agenda for August 13, 2013

6:30 pm—Social Hour

7:30 pm—WOW/WAH Overview and Panel Discussion

Commodore's Corner

by Jennifer Zannelli



Thanks to everyone who attended the July summer party and to Barb and all the volunteers who gave us a wonderful America's Cup themed day. The Louis Vuitton Cup in San Francisco is currently underway and I was able to sneak away for a day and watch Italy

Luna Rossa compete against Emirates Team New Zealand. These new boats are so fast and absolutely beautiful to watch – 46mph was the average speed the day I watched. I encourage you to make plans to travel to the Bay Area so that you can see these incredible catamarans in action.

We have our own excitement this month with the WOW/WAH Regatta, August 24/25th, and I know we have a lot of members interested, please reach out to Jennifer Arrington our race chair if you would like to participate on the race committee or help with hospitality during the after-race festivities.

Our membership continues to grow with new people joining every month – thanks to all of you who continue to spread the good word of WSA.

On page 4 are a couple photos I snapped while watching the Louis Vuitton racing.

(Continued on page 4)

August Meeting

By Barbara Palmer, Education Director

On August 13th, we'll hear about the rich history and tradition of the largest women's sailing event on Santa Monica Bay — the Women on the Water / Women at the Helm Regatta.

The evening's multi-media presentation will be hosted by the 2013 ASMBYC Women's Sailing Coordinator, Sasha Zaripov, and will include a panel of past winners, new skippers, past regatta chairs, as well as owners who have generously lent their boats to women skippers.

This year's WOW regatta is August 24-25 and WSA is one of the sponsors. We hope this presentation will inspire you to get involved as a racer, as part of the race committee, or with after-race hospitality.

"Neon Flying Fish and Moon Rainbows"

On September 10, our speakers will be Transpac *Maverick* crewmembers John Staff and Michelle Shanks, who will take some of the mystery out of offshore racing. They will address boat preparation, navigation, sail trim, what to wear, key personal gear, sleeping, and provisioning/cooking while telling the story of *Maverick's* just completed race from Los Angeles to Honolulu.



Have you got a boat? Have you got a skipper? Who will do bow? Don't miss out on WOW/WAH 2013! Contact racing@wsasmb.org.

Photo by Nora Feddal

DON'T FORGET! THE WOW/WAH REGATTA IS THE WEEKEND OF AUGUST 24TH AND 25TH. If you are not racing, consider helping with race committee and/or hospitality.



Attendees at WSA's Race Committee Clinic can now tell you what these flag signals mean!

Photo by Bill Wells

"Gal Warnings" is always looking for photos and articles about WSA activities and our members!

— Contact Newsletter@WSASMB.org —

Racing Report

By Jennifer Arrington, Race Chair



Our July 14th Race Committee clinic shaped up to be a stellar practice for skippers, race committee trainees, and sailors alike. The wind and sea conditions were perfect for the early afternoon practice session, blue skies, 8 knots, little chop.

We had a total of eighteen eager clinic participants for racing and on Race Committee. Our RC trainees included boat owners, racers, and folks just getting into the sport. All had an opportunity to work with flags, time starts, and discover first hand the focus and organization needed to keep boats in line.

Leading our race committee was WSA member, Kellie Fennessey. Kellie has competed in several Rolex Championships, is an outstanding racer and mentor, and has mentored teams for women's race events for many years including WOW/WAH and the Linda Elias Regatta in Long Beach. (She also assisted the Race Committee for the King of Spain Regatta the same weekend as the clinic!) Her energy, expertise, and patience explaining RC procedures were wonderful and essential to keeping the exercise running smoothly.

Our skippers graciously joining the event were Wayne Brandow with *Agua Cheetah*, Sterling Franken-Steffen

with *Avet*, Sharlene Perez with *Critter*, and Scott Billups with *Whoa Nellie*.

We were able to conduct eight starts for our practice racers and held two full races. *Whoa Nellie* had a great practice timing the line and nailing their approach to the start. Wayne Brandow lead a team of four WSA ladies with ease, and even pulled a nice "over early" demonstration for an excited RC-trainee team.

Team *Critter* and Team *Avet* duked it out on the line and on the course, vying for 1st and 2nd in a very close race for the two spinnaker boats competing. *Avet* had clean starts and some great upwind maneuvering against clinic rival *Critter*. Team *Critter* demonstrated some great tuned-in team work, and was aggressive with their starts and finishes. This was great practice for our upcoming WOW/WAH Regatta!

A special thank you to Bruce Fleck, Ernie Barker, and Del Rey Yacht Club for generously allowing us to use DRYC's *Dry-C* for the occasion!

You can keep up with all of WSA's events by visiting www.WSASMB.org's calendar page and learn about the summer's regattas at the ASMBYC Calendar:

<http://www.asmbyc.org/calendar-2/>

Race Committee Clinic Photos

By Bill Wells



(Commodore's Corner — Continued from page 2)



See you on the water!
Jennifer

Entertainment at SMWYC

On August 24th, SMWYC will turn back time and turn its bar area into the fabled Coconut Grove for the evening as the club introduces singer Ricardo King, who takes listeners on a journey through time. Enjoy your favorite martini or beverage and some tasty appetizers while Ricardo croons and shares his amazing talent! The cost is only \$20 per person. Make your reservations early, as this will be a sell-out event. Contact reservations@smwyc.org.

**Have you got your WSA gear yet?
Don't delay!**

Go to <http://wsasmb.org/wsa-gear/> today and place your order.



WSA 2013 Cruise Schedule

By Jeannea Jordon, Cruise Chair



For more information about cruises contact cruising@wsasmb.org

- ◆ Aug 14-18: Cruise to the Isthmus, Catalina Island for swimming, kayaking, hiking
- ◆ Aug 30: MdR to Santa Cruz Island for five days exploring different anchorages
- ◆ Sept 4: return from Santa Cruz Island to MdR (some boats will sail directly to Santa Barbara or Ventura for a crew change; check with cruising@wsasmb.org for more information)
- ◆ Sept 5: Ventura to Santa Barbara, with a weekend in Santa Barbara
- ◆ Sept 8: Santa Barbara to Ventura
- ◆ Sept 9: Ventura to MdR
- ◆ Oct 10-13: Cruise to the Isthmus, Catalina Island for swimming, kayaking, hiking
- ◆ Nov 2: Redondo Beach King Harbor Lunch Cruise

Annual Cruise to Avalon

By Nicola Lamb

[The end of May found WSA members and Cruise Chair, Jeannea Jordon, making the annual voyage to Avalon]

Chekkers threw off her lines at 9:30 am, heading to Avalon for five days. NOAA predicted cool weather, possible light rain, however, Mother Nature decided differently and we had sunshine and wonderful weather the entire trip over, with 10-15kt winds for the last two hours. We sailed into Avalon with a mooring awaiting our arrival just below the bell tower, as requested.

Harmony's crew decided to take their time since they had a reserved mooring and so they sailed most of the way, arriving a bit later than *Chekkers*. They were just a few moorings away, which was convenient for happy hour visits and borrowing Melody's kayak.

After tucking the boats in, inflating dinghys and readying kayaks, the crew of *Harmony* came aboard *Chekkers*. Jeannea treated everyone to her wonderful rum punch accompanied by canapés provided by her crew.

As cruise director, Jennea introduced us to a card

(Continued on page 6)

Santa Barbara Island Adventure Sail

by Jeannea Jordan, Cruise Chair

It was all about California Sea Lions and enough sea gulls to populate an Alfred Hitchcock movie. It was also loud and louder! My "alleged" snoring (I've never heard it) has to be but a whisper compared to the barking and screeching of the seals and gulls of this island sanctuary.

Getting out there was a fast rail-in-the-water run on Melody Kanschat's, 40' C&C, with Barbara Morris, Fred Goldstein, Diane Hubner, and I as crew.

On day two, we dropped anchor in the only anchorage off Santa Barbara Island. With a large swell running we waited until the next day to go ashore.

Day three found us going ashore after some masterful planning by Melody. Armed with long lines tied fore and aft onto the dinghy, we scrambled up a slippery wet steel ladder to a platform 20' up. With the long lines we were able to secure the dinghy so it couldn't upend in the surge churning below. We gave Melody a hearty Huzzah! for that forethought at our generous happy hour that evening.

Once on the platform it was up hill all the way. Sabina was waiting for us. A lovely young volunteer guide, she had seen our approach and graciously waited for us to join the campers for what she called a "strenuous" five mile hike around the island. At which point they all looked at me and said "Maybe you can make it". Of course now I have to do it or die and I figured those were in fact the two ways it could turn out.

It is up, up, up to get to the middle of the island and then switchbacks to trek out on the cliffs over the water to see the seal rookeries and spectacular ocean views. The sea gulls were not happy to see us. We kept our hats firmly planted on our heads as they dive bombed over us.

The male sea lions are huge. They can eat over fifty pounds of fish a day, grow to 8', and weigh a thousand pounds. They walk on all four flippers and we were surprised to see them climbing quite high on the cliffs. It truly is an amazing place to see and well worth the effort.

We decided not to kayak or swim although there were snorkelers in the water with spear guns. Apparently there have been a number of great white shark sightings due to the abundant number of seals. Even though I have heard that a shark will die within minutes if you drag them backwards in the water, I didn't feel quite up to that after the strenuous hike. *Harmony* comes video equipped so it was movie night after another sumptuous barbecued dinner.

On day four, we upped anchor and slipped away towards home and a blissful quiet came over the boat as we left the wildlife behind.

[Click here for the photo album.](#)

WSA is Recruiting Skippers for Linda Elias Memorial Women's One Design Regatta Entries

Sponsored by the Long Beach Yacht Club and the Long Beach WSA, this year's regatta will be held October 19-20, 2013. WSA of Santa Monica Bay has annually sponsored one or two entries to promote women's sailing and create opportunities for both existing members and potential members.

WSA of SMB plans to budget funding for up to 50% of the cost for up to two entries, including boat charter and entry fee. 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. Final decision on funding will be at the sole discretion of the board.

Interested skippers must submit a written request, including the skipper's racing resume, to the WSA board. 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 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, beginning with the April 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.

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. WSA members are encouraged to contact skippers in order to possibly obtain a crew position.

Further information about the regatta can be obtained from www.lbyc.org. WSA guidelines can be found at: <http://wsasmb.org/LEMWODGuide.html>

(Avalon Cruise – Continued from page 4)

"activity" game...each day. As each of us participated in an activity, we received a point - one playing card enclosed in a sealed envelope.

For instance, the crew of *Harmony* practiced yoga one morning, each crew member received a point, (card) for participating. I, on the other hand, thought I would receive a point for contributing to the economy of Avalon by buying a beach dress. No points. I did receive points for kayaking each morning but not for reading or napping. Sandy and Susana received points for their cultural activities; a guided tour of the casino, trip to the Avalon Museum and finally the scenic tour of Avalon.

Miniature golf seemed to be the popular attraction for activity points. Much laughter, competition and camaraderie ensued. Avigh was the winner of two rounds.

At the end of each day crew members would open their sealed envelope(s) and tally their cards. Whoever had the highest hand won a prize. Barbara of *Harmony* received a miniature trophy for best hand. I suggested it should be a perpetual trophy with little tiny names engraved on it.

On Friday morning, peeking out through the hatch I was looking up at blue sky and warm weather. As a woman rowing her dinghy approached *Chekkers*, I waved, said, "Good morning!" and that is how I met Cindy Shelton and her dog, Austin.

Cindy single handed her 30' sloop, *El Bonita*, down from San Francisco and is a bit "Renaissance Woman." She's currently working as a deckhand for a charter company in Avalon, has a radio show at the local radio station in Avalon (more about that later), is an artist, writer and musician, and is fairly new to sailing. She joined the crew of *Chekkers* and *Harmony* for Happy Hour Friday evening, leaving us a copy of her book, "Dock Dorcs – the Liveaboard," a docu-comic series illustrating her adventures aboard *El Bonita*.

The days seemed to run together - eating lunch, buying taffy, Big Olaf's for ice cream, happy hour every evening... More activities - Carole and Avghi of *Harmony* went zip lining while Melody and Barbara did a marathon hike. Jeannea and I kayaked in the morning and walked in the afternoon. When you forget what day it is, you know that you're having a good time.

On Saturday night, crew members met for a wonderful dinner ashore at the Lobster Trap. Besides being moored under the bell tower, we were also in front of the Avalon Yacht Club and were treated – at a distance - to all the celebrations of their opening day, including a live band and, late Saturday night, Opera. But I digress!

When Cindy Shelton joined us for cocktail hour, she asked everyone if she could interview us for her talk show - the topic being women sailors; how long each of us had been sailing, our experiences sailing with men, sailing with women, etc.. So, on Sunday, we met Cindy, who had her tape recorder in hand, at the Sand Trap, a small eatery near the golf course. The interviews took place at picnic

table, passing around the microphone, everyone introducing themselves, responding to Cindy's questions, relating our sailing/racing adventures, and why we are members of the Women's Sailing Association. (You can hear Cindy's "Lifelines" program on KISL 88.7, Mondays from 11:30am to 1:30pm or online at <http://kislavalon.com/>.)

On Monday, we dropped the mooring by 9:00 am to return to MdR, our ETA being 3:00 pm. Our GPS decided to take a vacation, so our skipper plotted a dead reckoning course, marking the chart with visual references. We were under sail most of the way home, and arrived right on our ETA.

It is always good to leave a place saying that there just wasn't enough time to do everything you wanted and can't wait to return. (More activity points??) I always feel that way about Catalina and look forward to the next trip.

Thank you, Jeannea and Melody, for your generosity. To the crew of *Harmony*, the camaraderie was wonderful. And to the crew of *Chekkers*, thank you, Susana and Sandy, for all the laughter, wine, and friendship.

Life Sentence for Somali Pirates

By Jennifer Zannelli

You may recall the hijacking of the *Quest*, a 58-foot sloop off the coast of East Africa in February, 2011. The *Quest* was in the middle of an around-the-world voyage with four people aboard: Scott and Jean Adam, retirees from Marina del Rey, and their two friends, Robert Riggle and Phyllis Macay of Seattle.

Somali pirates boarded with automatic rifles and grenade launchers and, while U.S. Navy negotiators attempted to gain the release of the hostages, the pirates panicked and unleashed a barrage of gunfire, killing the Americans.

On August 2nd, a federal jury in Norfolk, Virginia, sentenced three of the Somali pirates to life in prison. These sentences were in addition to those given twelve other men, who had previously been convicted of piracy or pled guilty and were also sentenced to life in prison.

The *Quest* was sailing with other boats in a small convoy for safety but, for unknown reasons, became separated from the group just prior to the act of piracy.



What have you got stowed in that garage or locker that could help local sailing and sailors?

The Santa Monica Bay Sailing Foundation takes your unwanted items (sailing-oriented and otherwise) and turns them into funding for local sailing (youth and adult), safe boating instruction, and community outreach programs. Visit <http://www.smbfsf.org/Donations/index.htm> for details.

Upcoming Calendar of Events

August 2013	
10th Sat	Tannenberg Regatta DRYC
11th Sun	BBQ Race SMWYC
13th Tues	WSA General Meeting
14-18	WSA Isthumus Cruise
16th Fri	Sundown Series DRYC
18th Sun	Pacific Cup Deepwater Series #1 CYC
24-25 Sat/Sun	WOW/WAH WSA, SBYRC, MVYC, PMYC
27th Tues	WSA Board Meeting
30th	WSA Cruise 5 Days MdR to Santa Cruz Island
31rst	Outlaw Regatta MdR to Seal Beach SMWYC

September 2013	
4th-9th	WSA Channel Islands Cruising
6th Fri	Sundown Series DRYC
7-8 Sat/Sun	King Harbor Race Week—KHYC
10th Tues	WSA General Meeting
11th Weds	Sunset Series ends
14th Sat	Harris Series CYC
15th Sun	Pacific Cup Deepwater Series #2 CYC
21-22 Sat/Sun	ASMBYC Championship regatta (invitational)
24th Tues	WSA Board Meeting

Racers: Be sure to review the 2013 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 or visit WSA's calendar at our website!

WSA Website: www.wsasmb.org



2013 WSA Board and Committee Chairs

Commodore: Jennifer Zannelli
commodore@wsasmb.org

Education Director: Barbara Palmer
education@wsasmb.org

Treasurer: Fred Rossmeissl
treasurer@wsasmb.org

Fleet Captain: Christina Tarantola
fleetcaptain@wsasmb.org

Cruise Chair: Jeanne Jordan
cruising@wsasmb.org

Skippers Liaison: Karyn Jones
skippers@wsasmb.org

Social Co-Chairs: Kelly Weiss/Fritze Rodic
events@wsasmb.org

Communications Director: Debbie Feinerman
communications@wsasmb.org

Newsletter Co-Editors: Sue Service & John Nelson
newsletter@wsasmb.org

Historian: Mike Gitchell

Vice Commodore: Mary Ho
vicecommodore@wsasmb.org

Secretary: Carey Meredith
secretary@wsasmb.org

Jr Staff Commodore: Coco Leigh
jrstaffcommodore@wsasmb.org

Race Co-Chairs: - Christina Tarantola/Jennifer Arrington
racing@wsasmb.org

Day Sail Chair: Dianne Christman
daysails@wsasmb.org

Social Director: OPEN!
social@wsasmb.org

Membership Chair: Sharon Breitling
membership@wsasmb.org

Publicity Co-Chairs: Monica Hirtreiter/Beth Steffen
pr@wsasmb.org

Webmaster: John Nelson
webmaster@wsasmb.org



**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