

# CLASSIC TIMES

WINTER 2023  
OUR 54th YEAR

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FLEET ♦ CLASSIC YACHT ASSOCIATION

*Day is done; gone the sun; All is well; safely rest*



ATHENA completing her Flag Ship season @ Marina del Rey

- photo by Janet Beggs

cover  
story



*"Taps, taps, lights out!  
All hands turn into your bunks!  
Maintain silence about the decks!  
The smoking lamp is out in all berthing spaces."*

*Go to sleep,  
peaceful sleep.*

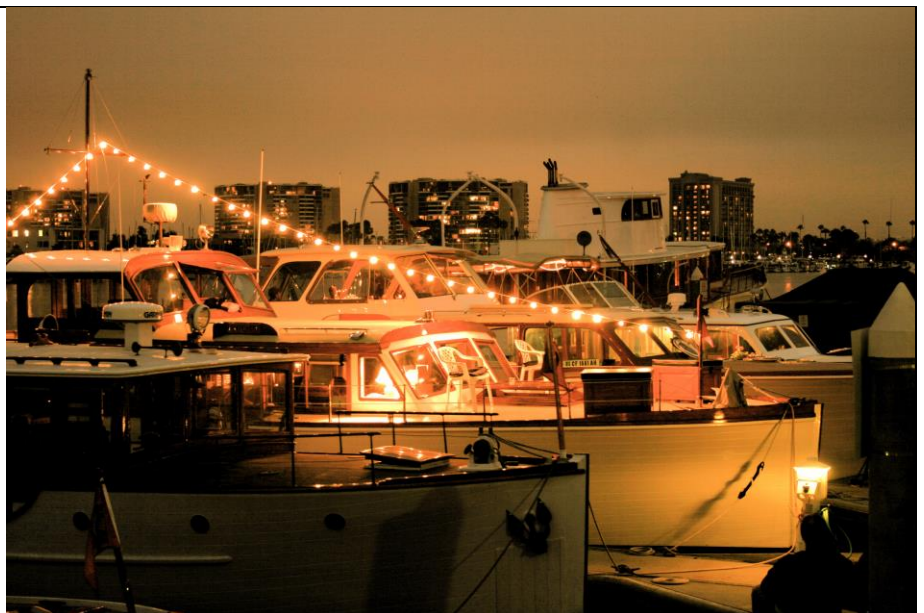


Many comments in a conversation on TRAVELER FORUM talk about the rewards of sleeping onboard, including the gentle rocking motion, beautiful phosphorescence around you, and maybe even the whoosh of dolphins swimming by. Enveloped in the marine darkness, we are likely just more in tune with natural rhythms. The experience is possibly the closest to that other time in our lives when we were gently rocked to sleep or when we were comfortably

and securely ensconced in our mother's womb. In many respects a boat does reproduce the womb. The rhythmic sounds imitate a mother's blood flow/heart beat; the feeling of floating; the feeling of being enclosed. Of course, all captains are sensitive to their boats and a subtle change in motion or sound wakes you right up!

## The Boat is a Hammock without Strings

Whether you are nestled together like hamsters in the bow or fast asleep in bunks Lucy & Ricky style, let the peace of nature sing you to sleep.



*- photos by Rick Olson*

*"Cocktails were served and cozy conversation came easily under a starlit sky. Playing for us in the background was the calming music of water lapping gently. Our snug bunk welcomed us and rocked us gently to sleep as the water music played through the night."* YACHTING LIFE MAGAZINE



# SCUTTLEBUTT

by Commodore Rick Olson

Hi you all.

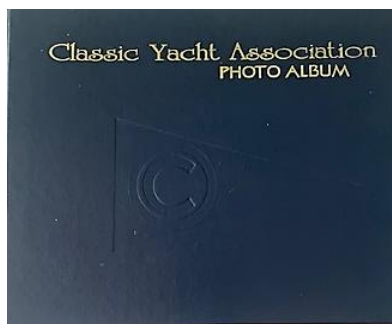
I thought I'd use this first 2024 newsletter to introduce myself again. We actually have some newer members that I hardly know so they couldn't know much about me.

**FIRST A LITTLE TRIVIA:** Elissa and I visited "OLD IRONSIDES" the US CONSTITUTION in Boston Harbor a few years back. Our Park Ranger guide pointed out **where the term Skuttlebutt came from.** Back in the sailing ship days on deck they had a butt end barrel, like a big wine barrel, laid on its side. It had a big square hole cut in the top called a skuttle. The barrel was full of drinking water. Like the office water cooler of the day when the sailors took a break it was the perfect place to chat, gossip, or complain about the officers without being overheard. This shipboard interchange of thoughts and conversation became, "what's the skuttlebutt on this or that"? Who knew?

**HOW I GOT STARTED:** So, in 1993 this girl I knew said I should come and see her classic yacht. I knew she didn't own a yacht she hardly had a car. I grabbed my camera bag and followed her to King Harbor for my first CYA boat show. Turned out that "her" yacht was actually Jim Butz 55 ft Stephen's SEA DOG. Everyone was so friendly, I took photos of great boats all day, and sucked up quite a bit of wine and food along the way.

I was shooting film, remember film? Before everybody had smart phones. So I printed a lot of my better picture and went to the next CYA event at the long GONE TERMINAL ISLAND NAVY BASE MARINA. I gave away pictures and boy that was a surprising hit. One thing lead to another and I joined CYA although I had a fiberglass boat that I never pretended fit it with the classics. The club was much larger then. We could easily fill all available space for our boats shows. I had been racing cars with SCCA for 25 years and was successful at it, but had reached a burn out point. It's funny how an unplanned little event can change the course of one's life.

My involvement continued to grow and I attended meetings and was interested in the event planning and lore of these great old yachts.



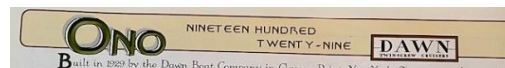
In 2002 along with member Dennis Ballard, we produced a hard cover CYA Photo album. I was convinced to attend my first CHANGE OF WATCH weekend in 2001 at the NEWPORT DUNES hotel. Had a great time meeting members from all over the country. Elissa and I now think of these change of Watch weekends as our fun winter vacations. **We have attended 22.**

One of the things that I noted in my photography was that I was taking fewer pictures of the great old yachts and more photos of the people . . . my wonderful new circle of friends.

So I've been at this awhile now: commodore in 2015. Elissa was commodore twice in 2015 and 2017, she didn't show up for a meeting so I volunteered her. We work very well together and I knew I could carry the water for her if she didn't want to do it. She enjoyed it. I became the Association Commodore in 2017. And actually, have thrived on planning events and helping direct the organization.



Elissa and I have a 1939 English built launch named MOOSE HUNTER on a trailer on our driveway. That's a story for another day.



Our baby is our 48 ft Dawn Cruiser ONO. It's been a rugged year for us health wise. In spite of that we forge ahead into the 2024 boating season. Yippee, fire those engines up!



# Upcoming Events

Due to the effort put into hosting the fleets of North America at the 2024 CHANGE OF WATCH in San Diego, a complete calendar for our 2024 yachting season has not yet been developed. However, please calendar these events that are currently known and we hope you can plan to attend.

With the changes in policies and pricing at the Huntington Harbor Yacht Club, we have had to seek a new venue for Opening Day. **We are happy to support the Sea Scouts at their Long Beach Sea Base in Alhmitas Bay.** Great lot with free parking. We'll bring in our own catering which will allow us much more reasonable pricing. We will need to make some adjustment with our skippers for docking but we can raise Opening Day flags on our vessels at end ties along the channel. **Our usual cannons, customs, and ceremonies will still be happening** along with some Boy Scout flag raising.

**Be sure to calendar:**

**Newport Beach Wooden Boat Show**  
**June 6-7, 2024**

The theme this year is the "Art & Craft of the Wooden Boat" in celebration of the intricate craftsmanship, creativity, and timeless beauty of the wooden boat.

and everyone's favorite

**Rendezvous**

**@ Long Beach Yacht Club**

**August 2 – 4, 2024**

with a Saturday evening clubhouse dinner



The Spring edition of **Classic Times** will have more details and a more developed schedule of summer events.

*Let the yachting season begin!*



**New Venue – New Plan**

*Saturday ♦ April 6*

*Sea Scouts Base*

*5875 E. Appian Way, Long Beach*

11:00 Program begins

12:00 Luncheon provided by Naples Rib Co.

1:30 Blessing of the Fleet and Harbor Cruise



Classic yachting attire is requested  
Guests are welcomed

Invitations will be e-mailed / RSVPs required

*Fleet vessels will coordinate  
with Long Beach Marine Office for available end ties.*



# PAST EVENTS – CYA CHANGE OF WATCH

JANUARY 10 -14, 2024 @ SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

## The Art of Planning a Successful Event

Each year the Fleets of the Classic Yacht Association take rotating turns hosting the association-wide Change of Watch. Fleet members from across North America look forward especially to the years that Southern California hosts. Headed up by our **Fleet Commodore Rick Olson**, we've spent two years developing the event to be held on the beautiful waterfront Embarcadero in San Diego. To say that "a good time was had by all" is an understatement.

## The Art of Hosting

Beyond the waterfront location and so many options within walking distance, our goal was to avoid what has been happening at recent COWs where fleets stayed together and there was not much interaction. We accomplished this in several subtle ways. **Rick & Elissa Olson** headed up a comfortable greeting area in the hotel lobby. Our guests were quite impressed with the weekender-style made-in-the-USA canvas bags (donated by **Tom Golden & Janet Honaker** thru their company Golden Capital). Tom said it was important that they be classy – and they were (and also a much appreciated donation). We also included a gift of our So Cal Fleet's yachting cap which was nice to see used throughout the weekend. We must mention the *spectacular* name tags that Rick Olson created which included a name large enough to read and a photo of your vessel. These really facilitated conversation and an understanding of who people are.

For early bird activities on Wednesday and Thursday, our fleet members provided carpooling (which also saved on transportation costs). This door-to-door service was very friendly and very appreciated. (**Janet Beggs & Jim Kroeger** very much babied their walking-compromised riders and received a very heartfelt thank you card from the north.)



**Jim Kroeger** developed an expanding CYA burgee which he could carry in his pocket but quickly extend as a very visible "follow me". The stragglers or slower walkers on the Embarcadero were always relieved to see it and know that they hadn't lost the group. There was a more relaxed feeling – and consequently more friendly conversations – because you never had to worry about following directions; you just had to follow-the-flag. It also served in a "crossing guard" capacity across a very busy Pacific Coast Highway.

- photos by Rick Olson, Dianna Ettel, Janet Beggs, Jim Kroeger

We arranged a Wednesday evening dinner for early arrivals at the SALT & WHISKY located in the Victorian Era HORTON GRAND HOTEL, once the extended-stay home of Wyatt Earp. We were shown to a chandeliered private room where we received impeccable service, absolutely delicious food, and exotic whisky beverages. This inaugural event certainly made a fine impression and everyone knew without a doubt who the members of the Southern California Fleet were.

We chose a unique location for the Change of Watch dinner on the top deck of the 1898 ferry, the SS BERKLEY. With **Elissa Olson** designing the table décor in an Art Deco theme, it was a beautiful departure from the usual hotel ballroom. As guests arrived they were given a placecard which they could put anywhere they wanted. That way their spot was held and they could mingle socially rather than sit at a table to hold their seat. We found this to be very successful – tables built as guests arrived rather than just sitting with their respective fleet members.

## The Art of Getting 'Em to Talk About It

The positive chatter was about the Southern California weather – often as they were checking their at-home weather apps, the myriad of event options offered and often within walking distance, delight at the arranged harbor cruise and its informative narration, appreciation for their hospitality gifts, and the convenient tri-fold brochure which told them exactly where to be when with a brief summary of what they would see.

## The Art of Serving Your Fleet

Serving the Southern California Fleet at the Association level are **Dianna Ettel, John Peckham** and **Rick Olson**.





Fleet Members Front: Brynn Rovito, Janet Beggs, Commodore Rick Olson, Elissa Olson, Chris Clark  
Rear: Jim Kroeger, John Peckham, Janet Honaker, Tom Golden, Glen Varcoe, Dianna Ettel, Drew Miser, Wayne Ettel



**Marketing & Hospitality:**

The great name tags, hospitality bags, and yachting caps were seen throughout the Embarcadero.



**Rick Olson** hosts early birds arrivals at the HORTON GRAND **WEDNESDAY**



Janet and Dianna greet guests at the San Diego Yacht Club



**THURSDAY'S ACTIVITIES** included a visit to the Kohler Kraft Boatyard warmly hosted and narrated by **C.F. Kohler** including a visit aboard DICKY BETTS. It was so nice to see **Stacy Minnerick** and the work being done on MINDFUL. We look forward to its return to Fleet activities. We also enjoyed lunch at the SAN DIEGO YACHT CLUB, followed by an afternoon at the La Loma Light House and accompanying DISCOVERY CALIFORNIA MUSEUM and explorer Juan Cabrillo monument. The views were indeed stunning. Also awe inspiring was the drive down the hill, where we visited the remarkably beautiful and moving FORT ROSECRANS NATIONAL CEMETERY. *"All gave some; some gave all"* and the large flag always flutters at half mast.

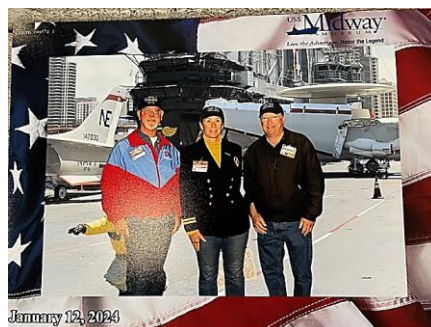




All CYA members arrived by **FRIDAY** (except some whose Seattle flights were cancelled due to doors blowing off airplanes). It was a full day beginning with a harbor cruise. Everyone found a comfortable spot on the 3 available decks and discovered that the Bloody Marys were an especially tasty breakfast. Our cruise narrator Rusty was extremely knowledgeable about not only the harbor (the bridge supports are designed to look like mission bells; what a unique view from the water) but also all things Navy. He could recognize every one of the ever-changing ships in the harbor and we were surprised and pleased to see our “friends” the USS SPRUANCE (we had become friends with its Lt. Commander during Fleet Week 2021) and the newest Coast Guard cutter TERRELL HORNE whose crew we met during Fleet Week 2023.



**Saturday** was a big day with a CYA board meeting in the morning but many were most excited to have the opportunity to board the USS MIDWAY aircraft carrier. Guides including Navy pilots were available throughout the ship. The top flight deck held a multitude of air support including a helicopter that had retrieved 5 Apollo space capsules.





**Saturday evening** was the banquet and culminating event aboard the elegantly transformed upper deck of the SS BERKLEY. **Nora Lesnet** and **Chris Clark** efficiently and cheerfully checked in guests. **Jim Kroeger & Janet Beggs** greeted arrivals. **Dianna Ettel** escorted visiting dignitaries to the head table. **John Peckham** served as Master of Ceremonies. **Rick Olson** presented a burgee to the MARITIME MUSEUM OF SAN DIEGO. There were smiles all around.



As the sun set Sunday, the Southern California Fleet was tired but proud.

Next year's Change of Watch will be hosted by the Northern California Fleet in San Francisco.

# CYA CHANGE OF WATCH

## Commodore's Review: "Great Success in San Diego"

-by Rick Olson

The US Navy presence in San Diego Bay is most impressive. There are 56 navy surface ships and four aircraft carriers. The Midway of course plus the active, Carl Vinson, Abraham Lincoln, and the Theodore Roosevelt. Plus, there is the Los Angeles class nuclear Submarine base. It makes one feel secure...who would mess with that kind of power?

From our comfortable seat on the Friday morning two-hour harbor cruise we got to see it all while munching blue berry muffins and coffee. This fully narrated cruise was very popular and narrator Rusty knew all the interesting details. It turned out to be one of the highlights of the weekend.

Friday afternoon after lunch the visit to the USS MIDWAY MUSEUM was another big success. The ship is impressive but the many historic aircraft on board are equally exciting to see. It seems almost natural that if you like antique boats you'll enjoy old school airplanes too. You can almost feel Maverick and Goose being catapulted off the deck in a F14.

Let me back up a couple of days. Years ago, the Change of Watch weekends were set up to hold our annual Board of Directors meetings. In addition, there was always a banquet where the new bridge officers were installed and this was the based on the traditional Navy "Change of Watch". We still do this service correctly with orders read by the incoming Commodore saying he is here to relieve you and the outgoing Commodore stating he is ready to be relieved. Stars and flags are exchanged and the Association moves forward with a new slate of officers.

In addition to the meetings and the banquet, these long weekends have become grand social events with a variety of entertainments, dinners, cocktail parties, and camaraderie. We had 75 people scheduled to attend but unfortunately six couldn't make their flights because of all the airline groundings and weather. Still 69 was a good size group.

I had encouraged some of the folks to come a day early to go sightseeing on Thursday. We had I think 17 that took advantage of that extra day. Wednesday night we met in the CLAIM JUMPER bar and after a bit of confusion left by Uber up to the SALT AND WHISKEY Bar at the famous old HORTON GRAND HOTEL. The minimal Wednesday night staff there treated us very well and set up a big banquet table for all of us. Seems like Salmon and Salt and Whiskey Cheese Burgers were the big hits of the night. Sometimes the impromptu things just come out perfect.

Thursday morning this same group of early arrivers went and visited the KOEHLER KRAFT shipyard and were entertained by **CF Koehler** and by **Stacy Minnerick** who now owns the 55 ft MINDFUL that is there getting a major rework.

That group ventured on to the SAN DIEGO YACHT CLUB for lunch. Followed by a drive up through the FORT ROSECRANS NATIONAL MEMORIAL CEMETERY. Then on to the Juan Cabrillo National Monument and old Point Loma lighthouse. It pays to come early. Elissa and I have learned that for these weekends we always come early and try to stay on a day or so later.

The WYNDHAM HOTEL was right across the street from the MARITIME MUSEUM OF SAN DIEGO which made everything mostly in walking distance. The hotels airport pickup shuttle delivered the bulk of members to the hotel lobby all day long on Thursday. It was fun to meet and greet everybody as they came in. Our custom goody bags were a terrific hit. Name tags, hats, event tickets were passed out along with meeting old friends and quite a few new members too. The gift bag contained a map and guide of all the six restaurants available either at the hotel or across the street at the new Portside Pier. **Janet Beggs** took on the gift bag project early on and had made up a trifold pocket guide to the weekend's events that was extremely popular. Bags were graciously sponsored by **Tom Golden** and **Janet Honaker**.

The Friday evening "welcome" Cocktail Party was held on the HMS SURPRISE. This replica of an 18th century British frigate was the actual ship used in the Russe;I Crow movie "*Master and Commander*".

The crown jewel of these CYA annual gatherings is often the Saturday night banquet. The venue is important. Over the years we have dined at many yacht clubs and nice banquet rooms. I think we really set a high mark this year. The banquet was held in the top floor of the San Francisco steam ferry BERKELEY. This ship crossed between San Francisco and Oakland several times a day from 1898 to 1958. It is a beautiful piece of wooden Victorian sculpture. Simple but detailed and easy to appreciate from the viewpoint of classic yacht owners. We awarded Honorary Membership to the Maritime Museum of San Diego. Museum President, Dr. Ray Ashley was there to accept the award.

Quite a grand evening!

# Members Page

## Skuttlebutt from the Commodore



### BITS OF SKUTTLEBUTT FROM AROUND THE FLEET:

Balboa Yacht Club will again host the **2024 WOODEN BOAT FESTIVAL** on June 8th.

**Drew Miser** is getting closer to having Enchantress back up and running again. He has promised to make the June WBF.

**Jim Kroeger** tells me he is retiring. Good for you Jim more time for boating.

**Rusty Areias** will give the luncheon presentation at the Newport Harbor Yacht Club. Subject Stephen's Brothers Yachts, which there will be several at the dock. Wednesday, May 1st.

**Elissa and I** came back from San Diego and both got Covid, be careful out there.

**Glen Varcoe, Drew Miser, Tom Golden and Janet Honaker** all came to San Diego by train. A simple trip and the station was literally just behind the hotel. Maybe that would make a fun Fleet adventure sometime . . . a train trip together.

Thanks to everybody that helped out in San Diego. **We did it!**



## MEMBERSHIP



- by Jim Kroeger

One of the challenges an organization faces every year is that of membership renewal and CYA's So Cal Fleet is no exception. Renewals are due in December and this can be difficult for some as the month is extremely busy with holiday gatherings and events. People can be stretched very thin and renewing isn't high on their priority list. Knowing this, the So Cal Fleet sent out reminder postcards and followed up with personal phone calls encouraging those who hadn't to renew. It worked and our members hit it out of the park! **We had a 95 percent renewal rate which was the highest of the fives fleets** that make up the Association. Well done everyone! We look forward to your continued membership.



On another membership note our **Commodore Rick Olson** has informed us that his twin brother Rip Van Winkle Olson is joining the fleet. Rick has assured us he won't fall asleep at the wheel.



# Winter Reading

**EDITOR's NOTE:** *SEA BOARDER has no friends. We were sure it was because of our heavy full canvas boat cover which was protective but a bear to put on. After docking, everyone always seemed to have someplace they had to go and had no time to help. Due to the expense, we had patched it so many times it looked like a giraffe. On our windy channel, we knew it would not stand up to another winter and we researched replacement. We've now gone thru a whole season and are enjoying the pros and finding some cons. I asked Captain Kroeger to write an article about the new material used in our new cover.*

## COVER UP

Here in Southern California, our Mediterranean climate averages 70 degrees along the coastline with slightly rainy winters and dry summers. We do not experience a harsh environment like the Pacific Northwest Fleet. That is why they utilize boat houses to protect their wooden yachts from the elements, one advantage we don't have here in the So Cal Fleet.

Our boats are exposed year round with UV rays being extremely damaging to our brightwork. Varnish can crack, turn yellow, or wear down to bare wood if not maintained. This is why it is imperative that as wooden boat owners we employ a consistent varnishing schedule to protect our works of art.



Since we cannot build boat houses on our docks (though canopies have been utilized), **what can we do to help our varnish last a little longer?** One solution is to have a custom cover designed for your boat.

Most of us are familiar with SUNBRELLA canvas which is a 100% solution-dyed acrylic fiber. These are the usually blue canvas covers seen on railings, hatches and helms around the marina. It is a good product but it will eventually wear out.

The textile industry is always coming up with new materials for specific applications and new to the marine environment is a product called **AQUALON EDGE**. This canvas is a knit polyester with a resin vinyl coating making it water, mold, and mildew resistant. It is lighter than SUNBRELLA making it easier to handle, install, and stow away. Gortex thread can be used for the seams creating a very strong edge that will not rip or tear. **And the best part, it is not as expensive as Sunbrella!**

The next step is deciding what style of cover you need. Can your boat be covered from stem to stern? Objects such as masts, stays, navigational equipment or other obstructions might make it impossible to cover the entire length. If this is the case you will need to cover your areas with individual pieces of canvas to protect your brightwork.

If one is concerned with always having to remove and replace the cover just to take the boat out, you might try leaving it on during the winter and removing it for the summer.

Committing to covering your boat is an important decision but just think how much time you will save on sanding and varnishing if you do. **Like they say, if your varnish is down to bare wood, it's already too late.**



# Name Game

Interesting / Ironic / Insane



SHIPS ABOUT TO HIT THE FAN...



## QUESTION:

Why does the Norwegian navy have barcodes on the side of their ships?

## ANSWER:

So that when the ships come back into port they can Scandinavian!

Where did Captain Hook buy his hook?



## Classic Times

is the quarterly publication of the  
Classic Yacht Association  
So California Fleet  
which rendezvous throughout the year  
with and without vessels.

Commodore Rick Olson

Vice Commodore

Rear Commodore

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“As the sun sets in the West . . . [ATHENA] “

- photo by Rick Olson