



CLASSIC TIMES

SPRING / SUMMER 2023
OUR 54th YEAR

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FLEET ♦ CLASSIC YACHT ASSOCIATION



"ATHENA @ The Avalon Ballroom"

- photo by Wayne Ettel

The Captivating Catalina Casino



More than 100 years ago in 1919, chewing gum magnate William Wrigley Jr. bought the controlling stake in Catalina Island, 26 miles off the shores of Southern California. On May 29, 1929, the Catalina Casino was completed under the involved direction of Wrigley with architect David M. Renton. Its design combines Art Deco and Mediterranean Revival styles and towers the equivalent of 12 stories tall.

A “casino” in the word’s traditional meaning but never a gambling establishment, the casino's main floor movie theater was the first to be designed specifically for “talkies” – those new films with sound. Silver-leaf stars twinkled from the ceiling like the harbor sky while movie moguls moored their yachts nearby.

On the upper floor is the world's largest circular ballroom - so big that during a typical waltz on a crowded floor, a dancer only travels around one-and-a-half times. French doors open to an exterior portico to keep the dancers cool or to provide a romantic interlude gazing across the bay.

The Catalina Casino @ Avalon



It was on Catalina that Norma Jean Baker may have realized how attractive she was to the opposite sex and began her transformation into Marilyn Monroe. Norma Jean married her neighbor James Dougherty at 16 to avoid being sent to more foster homes and orphanages.

The pair moved to Catalina Island in 1943 at a time the island was inhabited by multitudes of sailors and Norma Jean loved the attention! Dougherty stated, *“I would marvel at how she’d ‘turn on’ when she was walking and knew men were looking at her. She’d do ‘the walk’ seen later in millions of her films, but back then, she was just learning to do it, and she was very, very good at it!”*



Wrigley, who also owned Wrigley Field, the home of his Chicago Cubs baseball team, devised a very interesting way to get a large number of people into and out of the dance area. The basement level houses restrooms, a large lounge, and locker area for dancers to store their cloaks and street shoes. That many floors of stairs would be very hard on dancers’ knees, so a wide ramp – just like at the baseball stadium – allows crowds of people to move in and out quickly. Gotta catch that ferry!



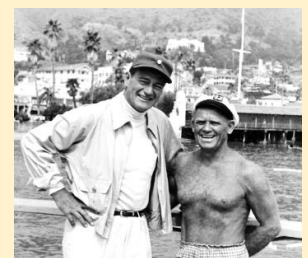
Today the LOS ANGELES ART DECO SOCIETY hosts its annual Avalon Ball each May. Dancers celebrate the Casino’s anniversary in vintage gowns and with classic dance steps.



The Casino also serves as the island's civil defense shelter, large enough to accommodate Catalina's entire year-round population. Within its walls is stored enough food and water for all Avalon's residents for two weeks.



Charlie Chaplin – always in his yachtsman’s cap – was frequently seen on Catalina.



John Wayne + Charlie



View from the Helm

by Commodore Dianna Ettel



Summer is well underway and so is the CYA boating season! Our 2023 yachting season started with **Opening Day**, a success due to Staff Commodore Janet Beggs. As we don't have a Rear Commodore Janet stepped up and volunteered to run Opening Day. She did a magnificent job as usual. At the docks we had ATHENA, COMOCEAN and DIONYSUS, and we were joined by the new owners of SALANA, a 1960 40' Stephens Bros. A big thank you to the owners for bringing and opening your boats.

In May, ATHENA represented the club at the ART DECO SOCIETY's **Avalon Weekend and Ball**. This has become a favorite event for us and gives us the chance to get numerous photos of ATHENA in front of the Casino Ballroom. Avalon was beautiful this year after all the rain.

June brought the return of the **Wooden Boat Show** hosted by Balboa Yacht Club. Balboa did a fine job of hosting the event after a 3-year hiatus. Our Hawaii based member, Brynn, flew in and traveled to Newport Beach from Long Beach aboard ONO with Rick Olson and John Peckham. Rusty Areias was back with JOIE (now JOIE DE VIVRE). JOIE came to the event from Stockton after undergoing a restoration in the same place she was built and won best of show. Well done, Rusty! It's great to have JOIE back in the Southern California Fleet. ATHENA and DIONYSUS were also there. We added two new members to the club from the event – Rich Tait with THE GOOD NEWS, and Peter and Pamela Grace with FIRST LIGHT. FIRST LIGHT was the last wooden boat the Stephens Bros. yard built, and it was built for Freddie Fender of Fender Guitar. Welcome aboard!



In July we once again hosted **Old Fashioned Day in the Park** in Marina del Rey. Due to various engine issues (old boats=old engines), only ATHENA and ONO made the trip, running together. We were joined by a new CYA member DeeAnn, who keeps her Hatteras in MDR. Saturday night was a concert in the park, so we dined and danced to the music of Cowboy Junkies. The car clubs were again very appreciative of our breakfast and the opportunity to show their cars. CYA's Tom Golden was unable to bring DIONYSUS but brought his 50's era Mercury to the show. Big thanks to everyone who helped with our longest running event, but especially Cris Clark for help with the shopping, Staff Commodore Janet Beggs for setting up and helping run the breakfast, and Vice Commodore Rick Olson for the pasta dinner!

Finally, we had our **Rendezvous @ Long Beach Yacht Club**. Thanks to Carol Williams, Jerry Arceo and Janet Honaker we were able to fill the LBYC docks – ONO, SEA BOARDER, ATHENA, COMOCEAN, VERA LEE, DIONYSUS and OLD WOOD were all there. So great to finally have SEA BOARDER back in the lineup! Tom and Janet graciously hosted Friday cocktails, dinner and Scotch Salon on DIONYSUS, and did an excellent job. Thanks to Carol Williams loaning us her Duffy, we were able to go out for a harbor cruise and photo shoot, with a good turnout for dinner at the Yacht Club. Hats off to all those who made this happen, especially Janet Beggs for all her exceptional planning.

Upcoming in September is the Newport Beach Marina Park Cruise, and there is a change in the calendar for October. Instead of the calendared cruise to San Pedro, Los Angeles Yacht Club is once again hosting the **Wooden Boat Jamboree** at Howland's Landing, Catalina, October 7-8. Details about this cruise will be sent out at a later date.

PAST EVENTS – OPENING DAY

The “U” dock at HUNTINGTON HARBOR YACHT CLUB was filled to capacity with vessels of the Southern California Fleet gathering for Opening Day 2023 -- our gleaming flagship ATHENA, ALEXANDRIA, COMOCEAN, DIONYSUS, and SALANA.

As John Peckham raised an impressively large CYA burgee to the top of the flagpole, Val Giannini cannon mastered an inspiring cannon blast. Doug Mysterly scanned the harbor, declaring it free of ice and debris, and Commodore Dianna Ettel subsequently declared our yachting season open.

John Peckham created a special burgee which all signed and sent home to the recovering Elissa Olson.

John Peckham also created a special burgee for a new important contact and friend, Valerie James, who spoke to the group about the new West Harbor waterside development in the Port of Los Angeles. Access to this new long dock will be an important location for the Fleet. A Fleet social event entitled “Suds by the Sea – Beer, Brats & Boats” was planned for that location on October 14, 2023.



Our traditional sabering of the cake welcomed new vessels to the Fleet

Shawna Birch for CARMEN’s Mitzi Matjevich
Jeff Kleid of GALETEA
Donna Mysterly for Brynn Rovalto of MIA VIDA
Tom Golden of DIONYSUS

PAST EVENTS – FLEET WEEK

“The Cut”, a *prime location* next to the LOS ANGELES MARITIME MUSEUM, was reserved for classic yachts of the Southern California Fleet for **FLEET WEEK 2023** at the fascinating PORT OF LOS ANGELES during Memorial Day weekend. Well, we all have our reasons but for one reason or another, none of our yachts were able to attend. Truly a shame because those warm wood hues and red CLASSIC YACHT burgees would have really stood out against the U.S. COAST GUARD cutter on display and would have drawn positive public attention to CYA.

Former Commodores *Jim Kroeger* and *Janet Beggs*, accompanied by the SEA BOARDER’s Line Lassie, did their best to represent the CLASSIC YACHT ASSOCIATION and had a wonderful tour of the TERRELL HORNE. This is one of the most recently commissioned cutters in the COAST GUARD, built to patrol territorial waters and other search, rescue, and enforcement activities. We learned that most of this crew’s dangerous missions are either drug smugglers or people entering the United States illegally via its water borders. They explained that their telescope can see very accurately for miles and that -- for example -- they can see inside a vessel and read the label on your cereal box. This tool is an important aid to identify traffickers and the dangers on board. Their small Zodiac style support boat exits the rear of the ship quickly and in the dark at high speeds. As the TERRELL HORNE is a humanitarian vessel, it has never used its FN M240 machine gun, but it does exist and has a remarkable long range accuracy if needed. We also saw the mess area where the crew takes their meals, but which reverts to a surgical center if needed. When asked, their Water Rescue & Dive Officer said that his greatest concern in a water rescue is how to deal with people who are panicked.



PAST EVENTS – WOODEN BOAT SHOW



Joie de Vivre wins 2023 Best in Show !

CYA's Southern California Fleet proudly adds yet another vessel to the Best In Show Trophy of the NEWPORT BEACH WOODEN BOAT SHOW. JOIE DE VIVRE joins previous winners from our Fleet -- HUMBLE, GALATEA, and CONQUEST as well as previous 1st Runner Up ATHENA.

Fleet vessels on display this year were our flagship ATHENA, COLNETT, CONQUEST, DIONYSUS, JOIE DE VIVRE, NO CORKAGE, and ONO. COMOCEAN and GALATEA had planned to attend but pulled out with mechanical issues. We all know how that goes.

To denote CYA's participation in the organizing of the event since the inception of the WOODEN BOAT SHOW, John Peckham presented a CYA burgee to the BALBOA YACHT CLUB.



Joie de Vivre's Successful Return to Southern California

When JOIE was placed on a truck for renovation in the North, some of us admit to not expecting to see her return so we were certainly joyful to welcome her back. Rechristened fully French as JOIE DE VIVRE so that people would stop called her "Joey", her stern shows off its new gold lettering.

Following a costly 26-month renovation, JOIE DE VIVRE was relaunched from the Five Star Marina (the former Stephens Shipyard) poetically just as she first tasted the waters of the Stockton Channel 63 years ago.

Although there was need for some creative repairs along the journey south, the weather at Point Conception was calm, and vessel and crew arrived in Newport Beach right on schedule.



Rusty Areias @ Newport Beach



Captain Casper at the wheel

STERN SHOTS @ WOODEN BOAT SHOW



ATHENA: Wayne & Dianna Ettel



COLNETT: Bunker Hill



DIONYSUS: Tom Golden & Janet Honaker



NO CORKAGE: Karl Kreuziger



JOIE DE VIVRE: Rusty Areias



ONO:
Rick Olson greets
the previous owners



Jonathan Leonard
exhibited his newly
acquired sailboat OLINKA



Jim Kroeger discovers an image of
SEA BOARDER is being sold on cookies



PAST EVENTS – RENDEZVOUS @ LBYC



In what has become the summer favorite, partially due to the convenient location to several of our yachts, the relaxed weekend vibe, and the hospitality of the LONG BEACH YACHT CLUB and its members, SEVEN wooden vessels gathered on the LBYC dock in early August.

During Friday evening's "Chicken & Cocktails," we watched the sun set from the roomy party-perfect aft deck of DIONYSUS. A Saturday photographer's luncheon cruise in the Duffy electric boat provided by Carol Williams was such a relaxation for our skippers with nothing to worry about but a cold beverage. We watched a tragic boat incident at the fuel dock just as we were going to dinner, and then gathered with good and new friends in a private LBYC room overlooking the harbor. Sunday morning always brings some early departures and some staying to enjoy LBYC's wonderful Sunday brunch.



A mega yacht who they implied was someone "known" but we never saw towered over ONO, SEA BOARDER, ATHENA, COMOCEAN, VERA LEE, DIONYSUS, OLD WOOD



Rick Olson, Wayne Ettel, Janet Beggs, John Peckham, Dianna Ettel



Tom Golden cruising in OLD WOOD



We arrived on a very busy day for LBYC's dockmaster with several activities to accommodate. A temporary tie-up between ATHENA and SEA BOARDER had the captains quickly taking advantage as a convenient way to share bar supplies.



Coincidental
"RESERVED PARKING
STAFF COMMODORE"

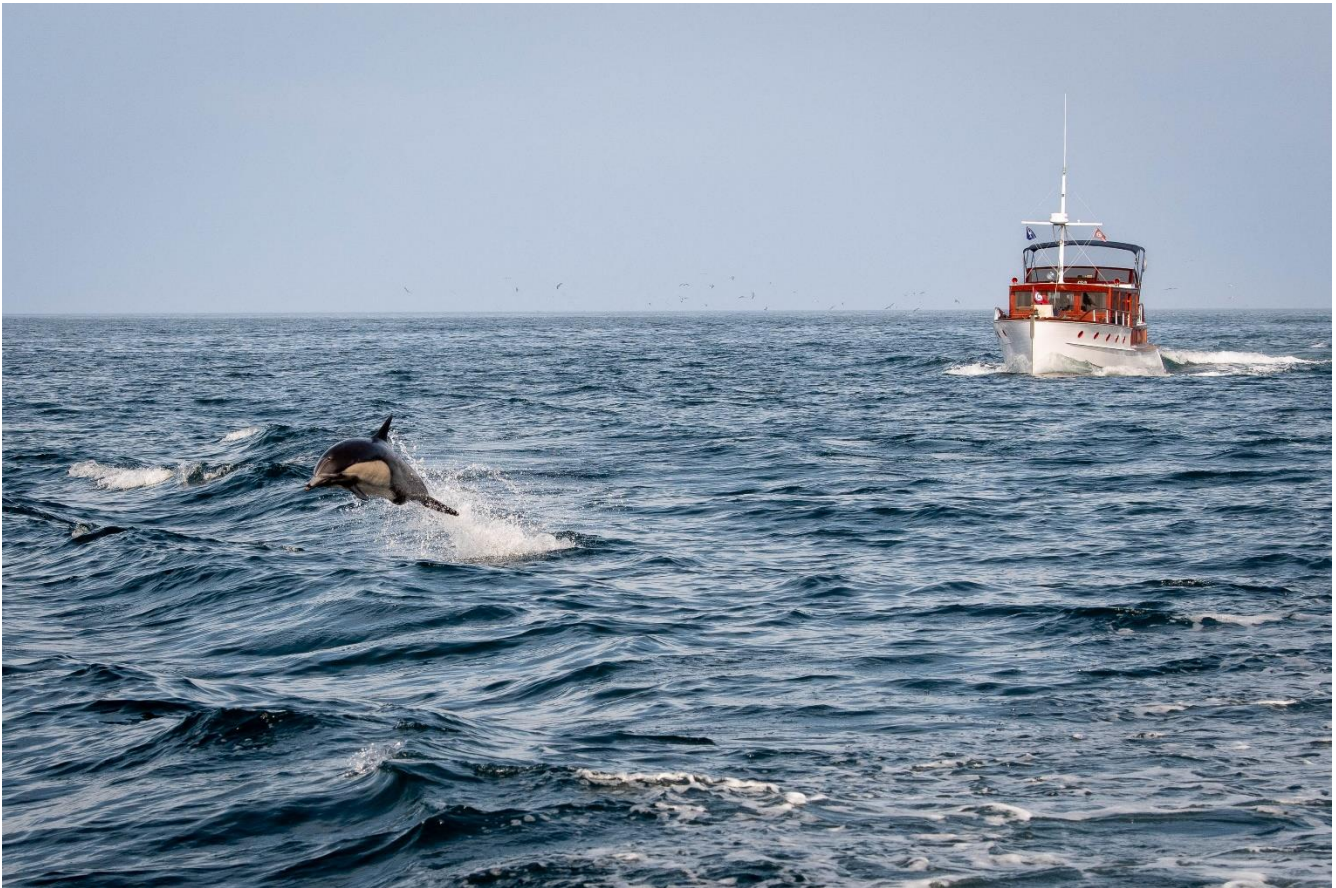


Front: Elissa Olson, Jane Aucreman, Cathy & Ron Yatch / Right Side: Drew Miser, Peter Grace
Left Side: Cris Clark, Shawna & Loren Burch, Rick Olson, Janet Beggs, Roxy, Ted Herrick
Rear: Jim Kroeger, Dianna & Wayne Ettl, Janet Honaker, Tom Golden

PAST EVENTS – OLD FASHIONED DAY



OLD FASHION DAY IN THE PARK brought ATHENA, ONO and WESTWAY. WESTWAY is a quirky, perfectly outfitted déjà vu step back into the tiki world of the 1960s. Our newest member DeeAnn Davis lives aboard this magical mermaid dreamboat which drew much attention from public visitation. Tom Golden exhibited his Mercury. CYA hosted a dockside breakfast for the drivers of about 50 cars.



On the long run home from Marina Del Rey, photographer Dianna Ettel was intently shooting photos of jumping porpoises. It wasn't until later when she reviewed her pictures that she saw ONO. Great shot!

Members Page

MEMBERSHIP



- by Jim Kroeger



Peter and Pamela Grace own the 51' sedan motoryacht **FIRST LIGHT** which was parked in front of **ATHENA** at the **NEWPORT BEACH WOODEN BOAT SHOW**. Notoriously, she was the final wooden hull craft built by **STEPHENS BROTHERS BOATYARD** and launched in 1974. It was built for famous guitar guru **Leo Fender**. (Speaking of 1974 and guitars, that would have been just about the time the great **Brian May** was recording *Bohemian Rhapsody* with **Queen**.) Peter joined us for dinner at **LBYC** and was happy to become re-acquainted with some members as well as meet some new friends.



Jonathan Kruer of San Diego has re-joined the Fleet.



Brynn Rovito, the owner of Hawaii's **VIDA MIA**, flew in to attend the **NEWPORT BEACH WOODEN BOAT SHOW**.



DeeAnn Davis, whose 1965 Hatteras is in Marina del Rey has joined and already exhibited at **OLD FASHION DAY** and also cruised to the **LBYC Rendezvous**.

Four years ago when Dee pulled into the slip just across from **SPARKLE**, **Cris Rohde** came out and handled her lines and helped her get in. Dee had just purchased the boat in Long Beach and made the solo run up to **MDR** by herself. As she said, at that time she didn't even know how to tie knots. She said **Cris** mentored her and she got to know **Bill Brantley** too. **WESTWAY** is a 1965 Hatteras, 41' double cabin motor yacht even has its original furniture.



RECRUITING

Jon Kolsky, has purchased **SALANA**, a 1960 Stephens located in Alamos Bay. Jon and Maggie attended our **Opening Day** event at the **Huntington Harbour Yacht Club** and were warmly welcomed. We keep watching for them to join our membership.

Name Game

Interesting / Ironic / Insane



Spotted by Jim Kroeger in Alamitas Bay, we'll call this one "*Lawn Chair Paddleboard*"

What is the name of the captain of a boat made of cork?

Bobby.

What do you call it when one boat follows another boat too closely?

Sailgating



I can't think of any more boat puns.

Canoe?



"Yes, this is my yacht. I was in a simplistic mood when I designed it"

Classic Times

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

Commodore Dianna Ettel
Vice Commodore Rick Olson
Rear Commodore

Website: <https://classicyacht.org/southern-california-fleet>

Editor: Janet Beggs

janetbeggs17@outlook.com ♦ 626-773-2806

