



# Classic Currents



ISSUE 2—2023

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Current News of the  
Northern California Fleet of the Classic Yacht Association

## Commodore's Report—by Rob Sesar

So many feelings with no words coming to mind. The loss of a member is always tough, but knowing Jim and Bunny are no longer there to count on, makes the simplest routine hard.

Thank God we have memories. Bunny always knew the right thing to say to get you back on track and enjoying life, while my last image of Jim was him heading under the Carquinez Bridge on *Tuly Lady* after escorting me to Glen Cove Marina.

On the water, our year started with a great showing on opening day, April 29-30 with a second place PICYA award for flags and banners. Classic Yachts in attendance included *What a Wonderful World*, *Pat Pending*, *Sea Breeze*, *Skal*, *La Jota*, *Joie de Vivre*, *Miss 102* and we cannot forget *Aurora V* blessing us all. The trip back to the Delta was smooth as we only had 40 knot gusts of wind and five foot plus seas. The well-designed Stephens 34 proved her merit as



*Aurora V and Skal—Opening Day 2023*

she gracefully surfed down the over ten foot drop off the tops of the waves while the crew played Jinga.

We followed up with Petaluma May 19-21 with *Catherine E*, *Flamingo*, *Triple Crown*, *La Jota*, *Skal* and *Zambezi*. Old boats and old cars make for a wonderful weekend. The potluck on Friday was best remembered by the conversations of old friends getting together in a long-time honored CYA tradition of breaking bread. Misjudging the wind, I managed

to wash the dirt and salt off of *Skal* onto *Triple Crown*. I may not look it, but I did manage to outrun Patrick. Hoping the peace offering of a bottle of Rum was enough. John Johnson came by with friends and showed off his old (cleaned up) *Skal*. History is what binds us.

Rounding out the spring events was San Francisco Yacht Club's

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THE CLASSIC YACHT ASSOCIATION IS DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION, PRESERVATION, RESTORATION AND MAINTENANCE OF FINE OLD PLEASURE CRAFT

annual classic invasion June 9-11. *Triple Crown*, *Flamingo*, *Sirenuse* and *Pat Pending* were pristine at the dock. For the first time I came by land yacht. Taking a break in one's car does not have the same relaxing rest as a berth. It is more fun to bring the boat. I am supposed to lead by example so no more not bring *Skal*, but please come and join in for dinner or drinks at any and all events. Spending time with our members, is what builds memories and goodwill.

July 14-16 Oxbow Marina/Walnut Grove/Grand Mansion. Spend Friday night at Oxbow, Saturday night in Walnut Grove and Sunday Brunch at the Grand Mansion. Last year Rusty Arias welcomed us to a grand dinner at his home "Orchard Gables" in Walnut Grove. Lots of surprises in store.

August 18-20 Canceled

September 8-10\* Grindstone Joe's lamb barbeque. Always a club favorite, but this year Gerry will cook lamb on our custom rotisserie. Maybe even another Saturday trip up the White Slough.

September 15-17 Stephens Rendezvous at Village West Marina. Need I say more. You do not need a Stephens to participate.

September 22-24 Classics at the Corinthian. We will steam from Stockton to Tiburon. Our fleet will put on a show to remember.

November 17-19\* Change of Watch at San Francisco Yacht Club

(\* ) Indicates Bridge meeting. You will be able to join in by Zoom also.

We can arrange for monthly berthing in both the Bay and Delta to limit trips back and forth.

Opening Day event – Participating CYA yachts won a 2<sup>nd</sup> place in decorations with banners category, and scored a generous prize basket with wines and PICYA swag including jackets and polo shirts. These will continue to be distributed to those attending the various summer/fall events.

Thanks again to Gerry Kamilos and *Aurora V* for hosting the annual "Blessing of the Fleet" immediately prior to Opening Day. This event took place near the Corinthian's clubhouse with the "God Squad" – a minister, a priest, and a rabbi – who offered a prayer (and a song) for a safe and healthy Boating Season.



### Recent Events:

Lipton Cup Race, June 16-18, 2023 – A three-day series of races from Saint Francis YC to San Francisco YC and back. This is a one design race using J-22's with 11 clubs competing, representing "the finest talent" in the SF Bay, Tahoe, and Inverness areas. This event will also include a Liar's dice tournament.

Scholarship program (the deadline was June 14<sup>th</sup>): This annual scholarship is open to all young students pursuing higher education, high school seniors and those already in college, and are family of members of PICYA club members in good standing.

Scholarship donations also always encouraged and are tax deductible. Firm deadline is June 14<sup>th</sup> each year.

**Upcoming Events:**

PICYA 360 Discovery Bay Cruise, will be held on August 26<sup>th</sup>. Join the parade by Delta boaters with a possible stopover and then return to DBYC for drinks and dinner.

Margot Brown Wheelchair Regatta, will be held once again at the Encinal Yacht Club on September 10<sup>th</sup>. This event will provide veterans, many confined to wheelchairs, with the rare opportunity to experience a power boat cruise on the Oakland Estuary and San Francisco Bay along the San Francisco City front. On their return, our guests will be treated to a picnic luncheon and entertainment on the grounds of Encinal Yacht Club. Most guests are



*Seabreeze Opening Day 2023*

veterans residing in Northern California Veterans' Homes and Hospitals. To make this a memorable day for our veteran's power-

boat skippers/owners are needed to donate their time to host one or more guests aboard their boat.

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**RBOC report, Call to Action:**

RBOC has been urging recreational boaters to contact their State Senators and Assembly Members ASAP and request that their elected representatives reject Governor Newsom's proposal for a 300% increase in boat registration fees. It is not a tax increase for voters to approve, but instead authorizes future registration fee increases by the Governor without legislation. The cumulative impact is that 750,000 boaters throughout California will be made to pay more and get less for boater programs and services. Fortunately, this increased boater registration fee, that proposes to raise some \$22.5 million dollars was not passed in the Governor's recently approved 2023/2024 California Budget but may still be added as a "rider" to the budget.

We should still voice our concern that this 300% increase, that will not return any more value to boaters, ignores the substantial \$107 million per year contribution boaters already pay via the state fuel tax. The combination of much higher fuel cost with higher boat registration fees could very well cause in a ripple, damping effect throughout the economy, resulting in the loss of boater business at marinas, nearby restaurants, and stores.

The PICYA Navigator newsletter has resumed publication, headed up by Jillian from Stockton YC. Please submit notices of club events or newsworthy stories of interest to boaters. " PICYA Navigator newsletter submissions should be sent to the attention of Jillian Humphreys at [picya.org@gmail.com](mailto:picya.org@gmail.com)."

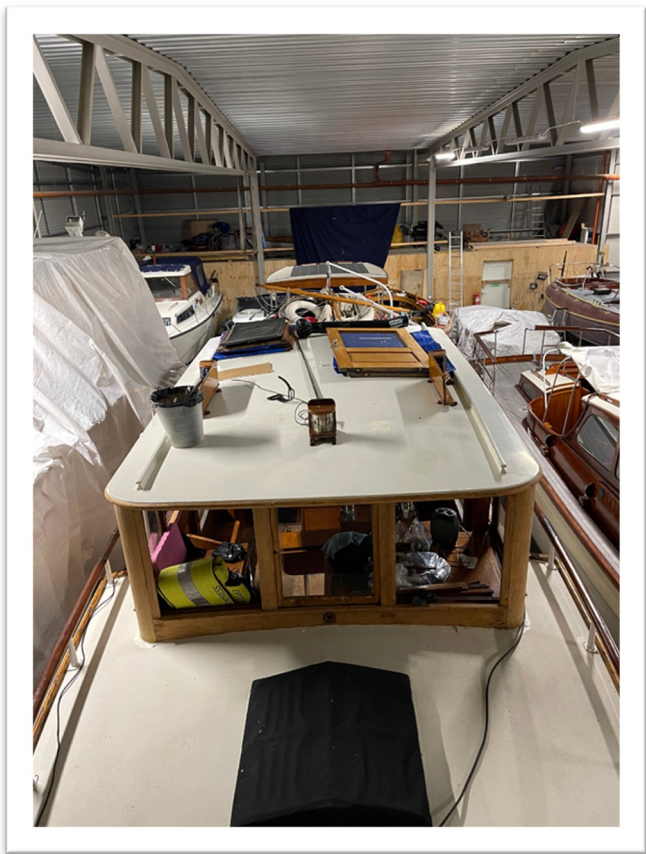
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## News from Per and Erika on Allure's Adventures in Sweden

### First Swedish winter on the hard...

Here in Sweden, there is the “boating season” and the “boat season”. The boating season is the pleasant part, the one we enjoy all year around in California, but in Sweden it is a bit more restricted in time. The boat season, is when you focus on maintaining and repairing the boat. And dreaming of the boating season.



Generally the lakes and part of the Baltic Sea freezes, so boats are stored on the hard through the winter. Typically, boat clubs and marinas have space where the boats are placed next to each other and the owners, with varying degrees of ambition, build sheds or covers to protect against snow and wind.

*Allure* was about to experience her first boat season in Sweden. Needless to say, we were quite nervous. As far as we know, *Allure* has since 1932 never

been on the hard for more than a few months at a time. Now we are talking about October through April. How would she manage?

The cold temperatures also mean that wooden boats are taken out of the water early enough for the water content in the wood to reduce sufficiently to avoid freezing damage. The expanding ice particles “explode” the wood. Supposedly, we are told, mahogany wood, that is used in many old wooden boats in Sweden, is particularly sensitive to this kind of freezing damage. How would yellow cedar do?

We are now members of a non-profit club, run by the members, with the intent of proving mooring during the summer and storage during the winter.

At this club we managed to get a space in a “cold hangar”, so *Allure* would not need to stand outside.

Since it is a non-profit club, members join to get things done, so on the day of getting the boats out of the water, everyone was helping each other.

The club has a hydraulic crawler on order, which will greatly help getting boats out of and into the water. Until it arrives things are done the old fashioned way with a sled on rails that run into the water picking up the boat and bringing it on land. Then a giant forklift moves the boats from the sled to the storage sites. The club's members have been doing this for decades and decades and are quite experienced. *Allure* was one of



the biggest boats that day and she safely ended up in the right place.



To prepare for winter, we needed to make sure we drained all systems of any liquid that could freeze and also to winterised the engines, which essentially comes down to making sure all hoses are either empty and dry or filled with antifreeze. There is a certain skill to be learned in running the engines for the right short amount of time to suck the anti freeze from the bucket and not so (too) long that it all exits with the exhaust. Practise makes perfect.

Our main maintenance task this winter was getting the leaks from above under control and also to bring the brightwork up to a sustainable level. Erika proceeded to strip the outside of the helm down to bare wood and then applied 8 or 9 layers of varnish. She also redid all the caulking of the teak decks. Together we worked on all the all the helm windows, took out the glass, restored the frames, and put it all together again. Two panes of glass has to be replaced. Throughout the winter Erika applied linseed oil to all exposed

wood in the hull. The hanger was full of old wooden boats, some quite a bit older than *Allure*, so on many days there were other enthusiasts there working on their old wooden boats leading to pleasant conversation on techniques and methods.

Even though we had been making great progress throughout the winter, it was a bit of a mad dash to get all pieces back together before splash day. One of the last tasks was applying a soft caulk between the planks of the hull and give her a new coat of bottom paint. We made sure that we had 4 bilge pumps in working order. With the same collaboration as in the fall, we got the boats back in the water. *Allure's* engines started quickly. There was quite a lot of water leaking for the first few hours, but the hull pretty quickly sealed itself and she was back to normal.

*Allure* survived her first winter in Sweden. We are ready for a new boating season to begin.



Photo dated October 12, 1940, the day the Owen family bought the soon to be *Pat Pending*. A survey at Madden & Lewis in Sausalito that day found



*Lightnin* “...to be in fine sound condition”. Log entry by Don Owen.

This photo taken the next day, October 13, 1940 shows

*Lightnin* and *Bounty*, now *Pat Pending* and *Elizabeth*, under the new Oakland Yacht Club shed. It also shows



the start of a rowboat race with Mel, on the far left. It doesn't look like a promising start, but he did win the race.

Mel tells the story of one Opening Day event back many years ago. “Did you ever hear the time, during an official CYA parade, *Teakwood*, a former member's yacht, was the lead vessel with the coast guard on board on the fly bridge, when we had a “man” overboard. We followed the standard procedure and retrieved the passenger. The Coast Guard said “Well done Captain“. And of course, Hal Schell, in his magazine, said E. Ray Honeycutt (owner of *Teakwood*), tossed his mother overboard, just to show off, for the Coast Guard.

*Teakwood*, in an undated photo below, was a rare yacht. Only five were built during the War by the White Shipyards on the Oakland Estuary as surveillance craft. It featured a fly bridge with remote steering and a broad fantail stern.



*Pat Pending* on the way to another Opening Day out the Oakland Estuary from the Oakland

Yacht Club. That is an Alameda shipyard in the background. Circa 1950. We always had a crowd on board. Notice the middle deck has no benches and no access from the bridge except out the door and climb over the low railings.



*Elizabeth* at the Corinthian Yacht Club event with

the proud owners Jim and Bernadette Sweeney on board.

## Opening Day—2023 by Nancy Clothier

Tom and I had a great adventure on Opening Day 2023. Mel Owen, his family and close friends, invited us to join them on *Pat Pending* to parade with the Classic Yacht Association. We have attended many of the parades on our boat *Eslo* but none since we sold her in 2021. Mel let us know we would be joined by a special guest, the Captain of the Princess Lines, *Ruby Princess*, which was docked at Pier 35.

As the usual parade concluded, we sailed into Pier 39 to meet Captain Mario and have him join the gathering.



The Clothiers chatting with the Captain about some of our Princess' cruises



Captain Mario Tani at the Wheel of the 94 year old WW II Navy Patrol Boat, YP 119 aka Pat Pending



Here is Captain Mario Tani and the Pat Pending crew at Pier 39 with the Ruby Princess in the background.

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The Captain was a charming man with stories of his travels as Captain of cruise ships. We were honored to be included with the family and close friends.

It will be a great summer in the Delta! Most resorts that have not burned down are open and there is plenty of water! Be mindful of flotsam and jetsam in the rivers. Here is a list of the exciting events That will take place in the Delta in the next few months:

- ◆ The annual spectacular Hilton Foundation fireworks display at Mandeville Tip on Monday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Get out to the Tip early as there are always crowds of boaters who have anchored out for this show. Those of you who plan to go out for the day (and night) and leave the area after the show, please be careful. The river will be crowded, and a number of “Captains” don’t always obey the speed limits nor take care in their piloting of their boats.
- ◆ Christmas in July boat parade at Village West Yacht Club Saturday July 15, appetizers, and cocktails at the club parade to downtown Stockton. Call the club at: (209) 478-8992
- ◆ CYA Delta Cruise, July 14-16<sup>th</sup>. Cruise from Ox-bow Marina on the Georgiana Slough to Walnut Grove for an exclusive dinner at the estate of Rusty Arias, Saturday night. On Sunday the fleet will cruise over on Steamboat Slough to the Grand Island Mansion for brunch.
- ◆ “Runabouts on the River” Boat show at the Stockton Sailing Club. Free admission to the public. Sponsored by the Northern California/Lake Tahoe ACBS Chapters. Contact: Layne Davis, (408) 234-7613
- ◆ 20<sup>th</sup> annual Taste of the Delta, Saturday August 5, 1300 hours, at Windmill Cove. Come by

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- ◆ **Stephens Yacht Rendezvous weekend of September 15, 16, and 17. We have the guest docks at Village West Marina and the yacht club and Delta Marine Service (Tony Faso) docks if needed. On Friday night for skippers and boat crews there will be margaritas on the dock hosted by Claude and Aaron Pellarin (marina owners) Saturday during the day the yacht club bar will be open and maybe there will be an audio-visual presentation. Saturday Dinner at the yacht club, I am still working on the menu, but they have great food at reasonable prices. The marina is requesting that you call them directly to reserve a spot for your boat. Call Vickie Baumann at (209) 951-1551 to make a reservation for your boat. The cabins and the RV park have vacancies currently. They are great to stay in if you come to the event by car, Vickie can make your reservation there too. The marina has gotten about every award available and is a fantastic place to spend a few days. Jim Gabbert with his 85' Stephens has already signed up, don't miss this great event. I will have a flyer shortly.**



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Rusty's launching of JOIE at 5 Star marina on April 23 was spectacular. About 200 people attended,



Gerry Kamilos, International Commodore of CYA, awarded burgees to Rusty and his partner Ted Harris

the mayor spoke, International Commodore Gerry Kamilos awarded burgees to Rusty and his partner



Ted Harris, Congressman Jim Costa interrupted his birthday celebration to attend. A lamb was roasted and there was plenty of food and wine for the day. I had never seen so many blue blazers and white pants since the St. Francis Yacht Club at opening day. Here is a link to a video of the launching:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q7GRGiOwWQ8>

Here are some other Boat Shows that are coming up in the next few months that might be of interest to our membership;

July 21-23. Ladysmith, BC. Canadian Chris Craft Rendezvous at the Community Marina. Contact David Peebles at (604) 802-9754. [davidpeebles@gmail.com](mailto:davidpeebles@gmail.com).

August 11-12. Homewood, CA. 2023 Lake Tahoe Concours d'Elegance at Obexers Boat Company. The marque class is boats of the 60's. Contact: Neil Horning (775) 851-4444. [neil@liquidblueevents.com](mailto:neil@liquidblueevents.com).

September 8-10. Port Townsend, WA. Wooden Boat Festival. Contact: [festival@woodenboat.org](mailto:festival@woodenboat.org)

Check out other boat shows around the country in the magazine *Classic Boating*.

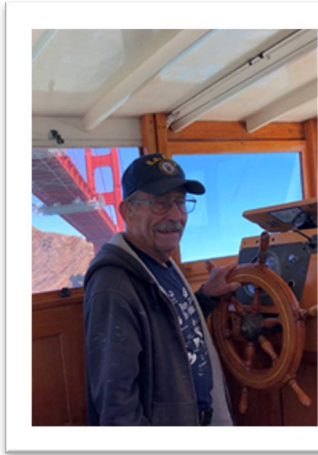
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## A Remembrance of Jim Staley by Gerry Kamilos

Jim Staley, an Association member of over 30 years, has passed the over the bar. Jim was member of the Northern California



Fleet. He was an inspiration to all he met as member of the Classic Yacht Association and as a human being. He was the owner of *Tule Lady*, a 34' 1928 LaBruzzi built boat, a one of a kind, just like Jim. Jim was a regular at many Classic Yacht Association events, especially at the Classics at the Corinthian Yacht

Show. He spent time in the Korean War and wrote a book about 8 years ago, "Come In, Swanee Leader," about his Korean War experience. Jim chronicled 33-month journey onboard USS LTS 561 from 1951 to 1954. His book won many awards. On a personal note, my Dad was in the Navy during the Korean War, I shared Jim's book with him, and after reading Jim's book, for the first time my Dad shared his Korean War stories with me. I certainly have that to thank Jim for.

The last time we were together was in 2021 at the Corinthian Yacht Club. I was so impressed that at 91-years, he single-handedly docked *Tule Lady* in very tight quarters. Impressive at any age. Coming on board *Tule Lady* was magical in that his dedication to her truly shows; *Tule Lady* is a fine example of what the Classic Yacht Association is all about. The attention to the details is so clear and perfect. *Tule Lady* will be special to her future owner(s), a tribute to Jim and all those that had the privilege to own her. The Northern California Fleet members were so glad to be with Jim and his wife, Carol, to celebrate his 91st birthday during the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Classic at the Corinthian show in September 2021.

Jim had a great sense of humor, after we all sang happy birthday to him, with the assistance of Mel Owen at the harmonica, he joked, "that he was so

old that when the doctors tried to determine his blood type, they told him it was discontinued".

Please go to [www.tulelady.com](http://www.tulelady.com) and read the history prepared on *Tule Lady*. She was once the Flag Ship of the entire Classic Yacht Association when John Anderson, our 17<sup>th</sup> Commodore owned *Tule Lady*. Jim was the type of member and steward of his yacht that the Classic Yacht Association strives to be. Our Association has been around for 52 years; Jim has had 30 years of continuous membership. The legacy he has given the Classic Yacht Association of steady membership, active participation, dedication to the preservation of *Tule Lady*, and comradery with humor he brought to all of us, will never be forgotten.

To our dear friend Jim, may you forever have fair winds and following seas.

## A Remembrance of Bunny Cobb by David Cobb

I am sad to report that my dear wife Bunny Cobb died on June 8, finally brought down by the auto-immune disease she quietly held off for some years.

Bunny's beautiful "Sea Breeze" was her favorite retreat from the world's distractions and worries. She was always so very happy and contented aboard. We'd read, laugh, maybe play some dominoes over a glass of wine, and just love being alone together.

Fair skies and a gentle sea, my love. David



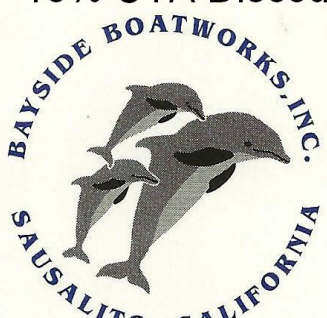
## Upcoming Events

- ◆ **July 14-16 Oxbow Marina/Walnut Grove/Grand Mansion** – our annual Delta Blowout. Spend Friday night at Oxbow, Saturday night in Walnut Grove and Sunday Brunch at the Grand Mansion. Last year Rusty welcomed us to a Grand Dinner in Walnut Grove. Lots of surprises in store.
- ◆ **August 18-20\*** Canceled.
- ◆ **September 8-10 Grindstone Joe's lamb barbeque.** Always a club favorite, but this year Gerry will cook the lamb on our custom rotisserie. We might even arrange another Saturday cruise up White Slough.
- ◆ **September 15-17 The Stephens Rendezvous is at Village West Marina.** Need I say more. You do not need a Stephens to participate.
- ◆ **September 22-24 Classics at the Corinthian.** We will steam from Stockton to Tiburon. Our fleet will put on a show to remember.
- ◆ **November 18\*** **Our Change of Watch for 2023-24** will be held at the beautiful San Francisco Yacht Club on Saturday, November 18th. Skippers who wish to bring their yachts to this event may cruise to the club on Friday afternoon and stay over until Sunday at the guest docks. Rear Commodore Nick Romero has put the whole thing together, and the reservations with the SFYC will be signed this week. We anticipate a big turnout for this annual event, so mark your calendar now.

Note: (\*) Indicates Bridge meeting. You will be able to join in by Zoom also.

We can make arrangements for monthly berthing in both the Bay and Delta to limit trips back and forth.

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