

# CLASSIC TIMES

SPRING 2021

NEWS MAGAZINE OF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FLEET ♦ CLASSIC YACHT ASSOCIATION

OUR 51<sup>TH</sup> YEAR



*- photo by Jim Kroeger*

## BLAZERS ON BOARD

♦ **The Classic Yachting Season Begins** ♦

cover story



### ~ ORIGINS ~

Members of England's Lady Margaret Boat Club ~ founded in 1825 ~ wore bright, scarlet red-colored flannel jackets, and since they blazed they were named **BLAZERS.**

The club is still in existence and keeps the same tradition.

## The Classic Attire of Classic Yachting



### An Opening Day Story

A local yacht club – known more for parties than protocol – describes an Opening Day when “somebody got the bright idea to release a flock of doves as part of the ceremony.” The birds began circling *and then the signal cannon went off.* “The birds then did what most birds do when they are startled. They let loose! . . . The cleaning bill for club members was substantial.”

*Postscript:* A new tradition began. Now the club substitutes a rubber chicken which flies across the gathered crowd on a wire.





# Commodore Roar

- by Janet Beggs, 50<sup>th</sup> Commodore



**“Proclamation: OPEN!”**

## Commodore Proclaims the Season OPEN !!

**Thank goodness the Yachting Season has opened!** One reason – for me – is that it is quite difficult to publish a newsletter when activity is so sparse. But most importantly, it means that our boats are prepped for summer cruising and our calendar is hopeful.

The **Newport Beach Wooden Boat Show** has decided to postpone for one more year, but will come back **BLAZING** next summer in celebration of the host Balboa Yacht Club’s 100th Anniversary. Sounds like a good plan.

But do not dismay! This year our calendar adds **the Father’s Day Wooden Boat Show** hosted by the Channel Islands Maritime Museum. Susan O’Brian, our 1994 So Cal Commodore, has rejoined our ranks and is also involved with the hosts of this boat show.

At this time, we are unsure what the City of Marina del Rey will decide about **Old Fashion Day in the Park**. But that stills leaves a whole summer of cruising and we see no reason that our rendezvous-style events cannot proceed. Our rendezvous always have activity / recreation / dinner options for our landlubbing members to participate in as well.



This edition of **Classic Times** features our annual Spring “Boat Beautification” report which is quite different this year. In addition to ONO’s new galley, it seems that an unusually high number of our vessels are currently out of the water for extensive repair so the accompanying stories and pictures aren’t “beautiful” but I think you will find them interesting. I wonder if Covid restrictions brought more time and attention to our boats and one thing just led to another. Although many of our vessels were unavailable for Opening Day on the water, I hope this means that **summer will be a shining flotilla**. Look forward to seeing you!



I’ve spoken with your Membership Chairman, Jim Kroeger, (whom I have a lot of influence with), suggesting an addition to our calendar –

## The Gentlemen’s Cruise.

These would be a series of cruises upon one of our vessels which would be for our skippers and former skippers. I feel that it is important for them to have the opportunity to get together and “talk shop” and scratch. I also see these expanding to include invitations to gentlemen friends of the club, other commodores, and to be used as a recruiting tool.

Gentlemen, start your engines!



# The So Cal Fleet Opens The Classic Yachting Season

Classics, Cocktails, Cannons + Ceremony ✦ Harbor Cruise + Hospitality



← Rick's Café Americano  
Home of Bar2 D2 – The Drink Robot





*Gun Master Kroeger counts down the cannon and the yachting season is OPEN !!!*



*The traditional "sabering of the cake" welcoming newest vessels to the Fleet*

*CYA Commodore Diane Lander representing FOREVERMORE*

*Glen Varcoe representing RANGER*

*Ryan Mysterly representing HAVEN*



*Elissa Olson, Dianna & Wayne Ettel*



*Bartender Jim Kroeger  
Susan O'Brian & Michael Beebe*

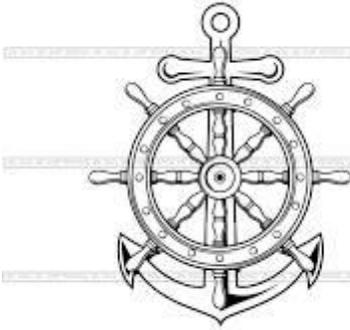
*- photos by Janet Beggs, Wayne Ettel, Jim Kroeger, Jonathan Lennard*



- drone photos by Jonathan Lennard

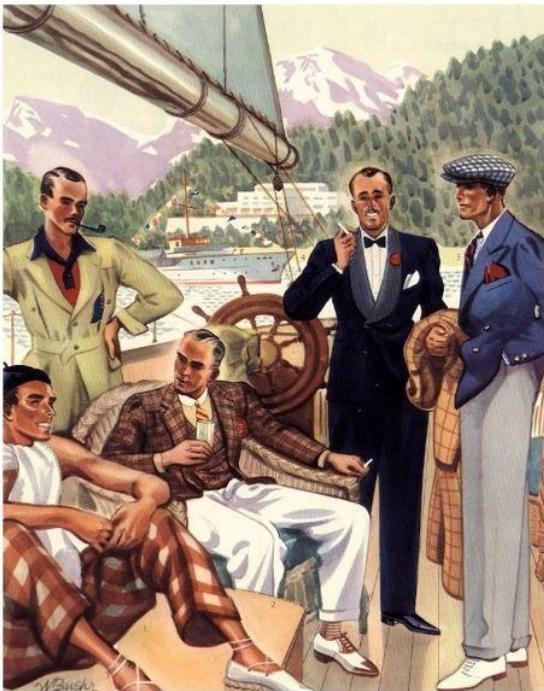
# News From The Bridge

## A New Idea



## The Gentlemen's Cruise

This is up to the Gentlemen to develop.  
Please contact Membership Chairman Jim Kroeger  
~ phone or text 626-773-2806 ~  
to indicate your interest  
or volunteer your vessel for the first cruise.  
Convenient date to be determined.



Commodore has appointed the following Port Captains who will keep us informed of any changing situations in our various ports-of-call, be a local liaison if we visit their harbor and need a friend, and work with our Membership Chairman when they become aware of additional vessels and wonderful people to be recruited into CYA.

Catalina Island  
Channel Islands / Oxnard  
Huntington Harbour  
Long Beach / Alamitas Bay  
Long Beach / Downtown  
Newport Beach  
Port of Los Angeles  
San Pedro  
Santa Barbara

Wayne Ettel  
Susan O'Brian  
Cathy Yatch  
Drew Miser  
Rick Olson  
Gary Conwell  
Dianna Ettel  
John Peckham  
Glen Varcoe



## Smile! For \$8,000

Those of you who shop on-line via Amazon (at this point who doesn't?), should be aware of Amazon's SMILE! program. When you register for SMILE!, you can designate that a portion of your purchase price is contributed by Amazon to the charity or non-profit of your choice. Our CYA Mother Ship reports that in 2020 (an excellent year for on-line shopping), \$8,000 worth of sales designated CYA as a SMILE! recipient, earning the organization \$40.



# Upcoming So Cal Summer Events

*"From Tree to the Sea"*

Father's Day Wooden Boat Show



*June 17, 2021*

*Noon – 4:00 pm*

◆ Channel Islands Maritime Museum ◆  
3900 Bluefin Circle, Oxnard, California



Coordinated by Susan O'Brian



Our Fleet's Oldest Event  
Classic Yachts and Classic Cars

*July 25, 2021*

Burton Chace Park ◆ Marina Del Rey



Coordinated by Rear Commodore Rick Olson

# Upcoming So Cal Summer Events



**August 14-15, 2021**

Marina Pacifica Long Dock ♦ Long Beach

*Skippers + Crew Pancake Breakfast*  
Saturday ♦ Aug 14 ♦ 9 am



*Landlubbers Dockside Potluck Party*  
Saturday ♦ Aug 14 ♦ 6 pm  
*Guests are welcomed*

Coordinated by Staff Commodore Jim Kroeger



**Sept 25-26, 2021**

Marina Park Guest Slips ♦ Newport Beach

*featured Harbor Cruise*  
*aboard Haven*  
*(Skipper requests vaccinated guests)*  
*on Saturday ♦ Sept 25 ♦ 4 pm*

*followed by dinner to-be-determined*



Coordinated by Rick Olson + Jim Kroeger

# Boat Beautification

So Cal Fleet prepares for the Yachting Season



How do you make  
a Classic Yacht  
look younger?

Boat-Tox!

## COMOCEAN's Clean Canvas

Cathy Yatch responds to last issue's cover story about canvas cleaning and describes COMOCEAN's annual routine which has kept their canvases in good shape for 25 years. She recommends placing canvas on the dock and scrubbing it with **Simple Green Marine**, followed by a product called **303 Fabric Guard** which "restores water repellancy to factory levels" and is available on-line.



## JOIE Keeps On Truckin'



*Unable to travel thru overpasses,  
JOIE moves north thru Nevada for extensive renovations.*

Owner Rusty Arias, a member of both the Southern and Northern California fleets, reports that when JOIE was taken out of the water, it was determined that she needed extensive work. Prior to Rusty's purchase of the boat, she had served as a live-aboard in Huntington Beach and hadn't left the dock in more than 25 years. Last summer's run to Catalina emphasized the problems that can come from lack of activity and care. Considering the difference between North and South day costs and Rusty's inability to manage the project from afar due to COVID 19, he made the decision to bring JOIE by truck to

Stockton right next to where she was born in 1960 when Theodore Brix, a Fresno businessman commissioned her - his third and last Stephens, all of them named AMELIA MARIE.

Rusty says, "Like a lot of things in life, you wish you knew at the beginning of the process what you had learned by the end. Most of it was my own education but after an initial route of 1,600 miles out through Nevada (because there were 24 overpasses on I-5 she could not get over or under), we worked that down to 600 miles (only 6 of which were on I-5). This was all with the help of the California Department of Transportation - Commercial Division. Dennis, Claire and Kimberly at Associated Yacht Transport and their very experienced driver named Val. John Greer at Sunset Aquatics, Devinder Sandhu at DOT, and Tom Bartee on State Senator Bill Dodd's office all assisted mightily as I tried their patience. Val was especially transparent and provided up-dates and status and pictures all along the way."

"Tony Faso, owner of Delta Marine, while dealing with Covid, received the boat" once it reached its Stockton destination. "Other than one broken window and a slight suppression of the keel she seems in great shape from the trip! Special thanks to Casper Poiesz, her So Cal Captain, who did a great job of reducing height and preparing her for the adventure north."



"We will miss our Southern California boating friends who kindly welcomed us to their ranks. We hope to be back soon with a new and improved JOIE for many more trips to Catalina and everywhere else you have introduced us to. Be well. Be safe. We miss you and safe boating!"



# Boat Beautification

~ continued ~

## BLACK DOUGLAS - Trust Me

Jim Butz recently delivered the fabled BLACK DOUGLAS to the **Maritime Preservation Trust**. The vessel is currently out of the water at Ettl Shipyard and is being rebuilt.



## HAVEN – Conwell Family Heaven

Gary Conwell has just completed painting the interior of HAVEN, is working on putting the headliners back up and then will move onto some inside varnish work! "Tryin to get a topside coat in too if there's time before summer."

## ONO Gets A New Galley – by Rick Olson

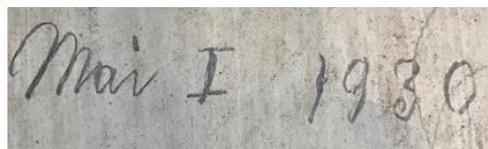
Covid 19 provided one good benefit. Lots of time to do nothing but work on our boat. ONO has needed a rebuild on the galley for a long time. It was not very functional and it just didn't fit the classy and classic wooden interior of ONO's salon. And it had no refrigerator or hot water.

We knew our ideas would change as we went, but we tore into the galley full blast. Demolition is supposed to be the easy part. This galley fought for survival all the way. Saws, crow bars, hammers, and BF&D (*Brute Force & Determination*) were enlisted in taking this apart. All the screws had 90 years of paint in the slots. I found the rusted out old hot water heater which I had never seen before. All the lower cabinets came out revealing a mess of plumbing, electrical, and exhaust pipes.

I removed the old ice box that occupied the largest cabinet. This was five layers thick of wood, cork, metal and fiberglass and held together with over a hundred screws and nails.

## ONO ~ continued ~

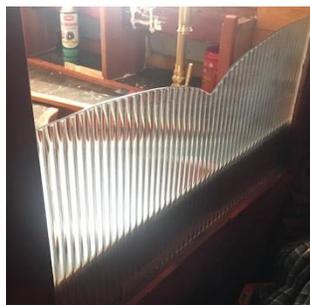
When pulling all this apart I found a wood panel under all the layers that some original worker had written on. It had a funny face and said, Mai 1, 1930. ONO was built in the Bronx, New York. There were a lot of immigrant workers in those days and we suspect that's why May was spelled Mai. I didn't paint over it, it's still visible inside my new pantry.



There had been only one electrical outlet in the galley before. Now there are four on three new circuits. We now have a new copper sink, new refrigerator, lots of storage shelving where the old stove and ice box used to be. Quarts counter tops and small storage boxes with sliding doors at the back of each counter. We cook on either the micro wave, or an induction cook plate that slides away under the counter when not being used.



Sliding in under the counter is a roller spice rack that comes out at an angle. This is five inches wide, twenty-two inches long, and has three shelf levels. We expect to store stuff like spray cleaners, cleanser, dish soap, cooking utensils, foils, zip lock bags, etc. in this.



We were in a speak-easy style restaurant a couple of years ago and they had used vertical ribbed glass between the booths as privacy shields. We like the period look so we used this glass for sliding doors and a partial divider between the galley and the salon. This hides

the visibility of any kitchen mess from the folks sitting in the salon.

Still have some detail work to do but nearly done. We are pretty pleased with the results. Next, I want to put an ice maker in the wheelhouse under the starboard side seat. Progress !



In the Summer 2020 issue we reported that PHANTOM had been sold, relocated to a private lake in Montana, sunk and recovered. We now know more of the story – and it is a sad one. Richard Ingold, co-owner of PHANTOM and now of ROAM, had to do a lot sleuthing to get to the truth.

PHANTOM was purchased by a venture capitalist and investment billionaire whose name has recently been in the news. The vessel was relocated to a private lake in Montana, docked at the private island in the lake.

We don't know what the plan was for a wooden boat during Montana winters. Would it be left on the water to ice in? Could she withstand deep snowfall on her decks? How would the howling winds of the Northern Plains affect her?



A storm was coming in. PHANTOM's new owner was advised to move her from the dock to a mooring in the lake. He refused the advice. High winds slammed PHANTOM into the dock. The transom was broken. She sunk.



A salvage team was flown in from Seattle.

### ***PHANTOM could have been saved***

but the \$80,000 price estimate led the billionaire to make a different decision. He decided not to spend the money to salvage. We don't know if any of PHANTOM's marine antiques were even recovered. We understand that she was dragged onto the rocks at the shore and burned to the waterline.



*The drowned PHANTOM being dragged from the lake*



“The decisions they made proved to be catastrophic and in my opinion unforgiveable.” When former owner Richard Ingold heard the boat had been purposely destroyed by burning it, he reached out to both the Coast Guard and the EPA and was told that the owner “could do it because it was a private island and a private lake.”



### **“She Was Too Proud To Be Owned”**

Co-Owner Dean Kiser tells us: *“Trust me when I say that no one has been more upset about the death of my beloved PHANTOM.” He recalls that although initially reluctant about her purchase, when they brought her home to Marina del Rey “my feelings changed. After spending weeks on her with every cleaner and polish, cotton balls and Q-tips that I could, and having combed thru all of the memorabilia and committed her history to memory I realized I had fallen in love, head over heels. She proved to be difficult and demanding, exhausting and at times almost overwhelming. But every time her covers were removed and the sun hit her brightwork she could almost blind you with her beauty. She delivered a smooth as silk ride and even at the age of 83 could turn heads like nothing you can imagine. She was too proud to be owned, instead she granted us the opportunity to be caretakers, to be a part of her storied history.”*

A heartbroken Richard Ingold feels “he just didn't know what he had. . . . He had no idea of what preservation means to anyone.”

**And that is a good segue to a moral for our story.**

*Preservation. The word is in our mission statement.*

*- story continues next page*

**PHANTOM was the 60th boat owned,** restored, and preserved by the team of Richard Ingold and Dean Kiser. Richard expresses concern that all of his wooden boat and diesel workers are retiring.

Rick and Dean  
hope to spend more time on the water with ROAM.

## Phantom *continued*

Commodore Janet Beggs implores all vessel owners who are selling to do your best to sell wisely and to encourage continuing membership in the *Classic Yacht Association*. We all know how valuable our cache of knowledge is to extending the life of these classics. You are encouraged to request brochures or newsletters to have on board your vessel if she is to be sold.

Dean sums up by saying, "I think the lessons about the storm are invaluable. Hopefully all CYA members understand and accept the responsibility of owning and/or being caretakers for the 'classics.' Unfortunately, and maybe despite, our best efforts, not everyone has that same understanding. We trust that when we decide to pass that responsibility on to others that they will continue the tradition. Occasionally that trust is misplaced, as was the case with PHANTOM."



## Electra

During the Opening Day Cruise through Huntington Harbor, we were able to pass by ELECTRA which has been relocated from Newport Beach. She has been used as a wedding venue for several years and, although we have heard a rumor that the COVID decline in weddings is forcing her sale, ELECTRA WEDDINGS are still advertising on the internet and no sale notices were found.



## Fleet Vessels Available

Currently looking for new owners are two vessels, both located in Marina del Rey:

**SOBRE LAS OLAS**, the 1929 105' Wilmington Boat Works yacht which requires both a captain and engineer, and

**SPARKLE**, the 1950 48' Chris-Craft owned by Cris Rohde.

The owner of **SALANA**, a 40' 1960 Stephens Aft Deck Motor Yacht, has advised CYA the vessel is available for sale.

**Madrigal** is finally "in the shop"  
@ Marina Shipyard



*Plank repairs  
@ port stern*



*Very compromised ribs are being sistered  
@ the starboard stern*



*The colorful Henry Mitchell,  
who began his shipwright  
career over 50 years ago  
at his father's side,  
is working on MADRIGAL.*



## Gossip & Buzz

### ~ SLIPS ARE HARD TO FIND ~

**NEWPORT BEACH:** Rick Ingold reports a lot of people are leaving San Francisco and bringing their boats down to the Newport Beach harbor which has made slips very hard to find now.

**LONG BEACH:** Loren Burch has been sleuthing one of our Advocacy Alert vessels – MADRIGAL. We have been watching MADRIGAL, a beautiful yacht in her day, disintegrating before our eyes in the hands of a non-CYA owner. Her constantly running bilge pumps have caused her to be evicted from the Spinnaker Bay docks by the Bayshore Homeowners Association. Unfortunately, this caused the HOA to instate a new rule of no more wooden boats (although SEA BOARDER is allowed to stay). While MADRIGAL has been at Marina Shipyard needing extensive work, Loren asked the owner where he will be taking her and “he has no idea.”

**SPINNAKER BAY:** SEA BOARDER faces a temporary eviction (September – December) as docks are being torn out and replaced. This is a big concern as 100 boats will be searching for temporary relocations during a slip shortage.



### ~ GENERATIONS ~

Rusty Arias reports that this year’s *Stephens Rendezvous* which celebrated Dick Stephens 100th birthday had an unexpected positive benefit. Two descendants of the Stephens family – who in this generation are more ranchers than boaters – have become enchanted and are actively seeking Stephens-built yachts for their very own and want to become active yachters.

*Although we had a 98% renewal rate, we feel you should be aware of a couple of long time members who have decided not to re-new their memberships in CYA. Their contact information will not be included in your next directory, so if they were a friend of yours or you want to share a distant memory, please reach out to them before discarding your 2020 Directory.*

**Steve Sheridan**, a 15-year member and our 2013 Commodore relocated to the state of Georgia and has decided not to continue his membership. He and June now have a boat house on their very own lake. A cinematographer of feature and documentary films and CLIO winner of national advertising commercials, Stephen shares, “Yes, we moved to Georgia last summer. Sadly my home state of California was becoming too unrecognizable and stressful. I bought a beautiful house with 4 acres and a small lake. Georgia has a pretty vibrant film industry and June is working in a salon 8 minutes from our house. Everything here is just easier as with the cost of living, good schools, etc.”



The Fleet acknowledges Steve’s advocacy in that he sold his former flag ship LARK to John Peckham for \$1 in order to keep her in care and keep her in the Fleet. Stephen adds, “John’s a good custodian. He’s been giving me periodic updates on LARK. So glad. I couldn’t have made a better decision there.”



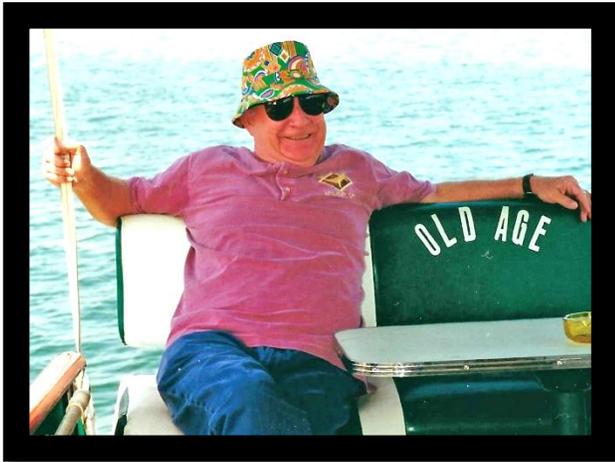
18-year Members **Sean Connolly and Jeff Ganter** have also not renewed their membership. In recent years they have been living in Ojai rather than aboard SOBRE LAS OLOS which remains for sale. Although once a popular harbor for the So Cal Fleet, SOBRE [and SPARKLE – both for sale] are currently our last vessels in Marina del Rey.

# Memorium

*"til we meet on that beautiful shore"*

## The Moosehunter: Don Lang

Don Lang was active in CYA's Southern California Fleet from 1992 until the middle of the 2000s. Don served as Newsletter Editor and hosted the first Affiliates' Barbecue and Landlubbers' Auction. "He was a very fine fellow," says multi-term Commodore Rick Olson.



His daughter Dawne tell us, "Don Lang clinched the title to an extraordinary life on January 9, 2021. He packed in far more escapades than 81 years would seemed to have allowed." In addition to CYA, he was an active participant at the Elks Lodge, Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce and the Strawberry Festival. Everyone agreed his election as Garden Grove's Man of the Year 1993 was well-deserved. His enthusiasm for classic yachting was shared with other

interests in woodworking, fly fishing and golfing.

"We loved being around them in the old days when they were participating in CYA. There are still a number of us around that remember those days and the fun times and big contributions that Don made to our organization." Past Commodore Elissa Olson adds: "At times, with his big glasses he reminded me of our dear cartoon character Mr. Magoo."

"I still have the boat that Don restored. MOOSEHUNTER is sitting on my driveway and I cherish it although it doesn't get used much as all my time is taken up with our bigger yacht ONO. I took over the CYA barbecue from Don years ago and I still use his recipes for baked beans and coleslaw every year."

– Rick Olson



When I received the e-mail with the subject line "Don Lang" I opened it and starting to read an e-mail which started: "Hello, too often lately..." I quickly closed the e-mail not being able to continue. My heart sunk. Though it was a gut punch I knew everyone would be feeling right then, I couldn't. A few hours later I realized that an e-mail could not express how I felt. I dug through boxes looking for pictures I know exist and are not just in my mind. Pre-digital.

Don and Joyce spend quite a bit of time on ENCHANTRESS with Yvette and I. He would walk up to ENCHANTRESS, a smile on his face, his pillow in one hand, ice chest in the other. Great times! Don had a way of making you feel good about yourself. He was never judgmental, always open, and that showed that he cared about you. Often he would say "What are we doing here?" "What can I do to help"?

Two stories: On a very calm but foggy trip (50ft visibility at best) to Oceanside, Don stood on the bow. I was calling out locations of radar targets, between the automatic fog horn going off. I called out two big targets ahead. He yelled back "I can't see a damn thing." I yelled back "I'm in neutral; its dead ahead." Suddenly he turned and yelled "You have got to be kidding me... its birds! A bunch of birds!" We laughed. I put the boat in gear and called out the next target.

On another trip to The Island, the two of us were in the dinghy, motoring along. We had a "deep discussion". It went like this:

Me: Don!

He looked back.

Don: What?

Me: I'm having a good time. I'm glad you're here.

Don: I am too.

Me: Your kids are lucking to have you as a dad...  
You're a good man.

Don: So are you.

He turned, looking forward, and we continued on, having said what needed to be said. God speed Don Lang. A good man.

- Drew Miser



EIGHT  BELLS

# Name Game

Interesting / Ironic / Insane



## Did You KNOW ?

### Thousand Island Dressing Was Invented on a Boat

The owner of the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel and his wife owned a summer castle situated among the Thousand islands, a chain of islands between New York and Canada. While out of a cruise on their steam yacht, their chef realized he had forgotten to bring any salad dressing so improvised with what was on hand. He whipped together mayonnaise, ketchup, pickle relish, Worcestershire sauce, and a hardboiled egg.

**Voila! Thousand Island Dressing was born.**



All items custom made.

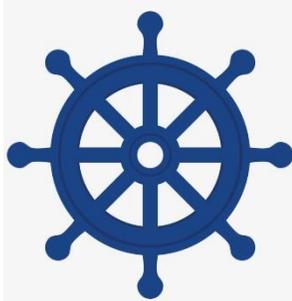
Contact  
CYA Vice Commodore  
John Peckham to order.  
at [Spaceway1999.com](http://Spaceway1999.com)



Classic Navy Yachtsman's Cap

Navy Polo Shirt  
w/CYA burgee on Collar,  
CYA logo on Left,  
Yacht name optional on Right.

Polo also available in  
Summer White.



## Classic Times

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

Commodore	Janet Beggs
Vice Commodore	Dianna Ettel
Rear Commodore	Rick Olson

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

Editor: Janet Beggs

[janetbeggs17@outlook.com](mailto:janetbeggs17@outlook.com) ♦ 626-773-2806



The yachting lifestyle of LONE RANGER 2 ♦ Opening Day

- photo by Jonathan Lennard