



# ALBATROSS

Ancient Mariners Sailing Society  
Est. 1975

## April Fools In San Diego...

### MEETINGS

- AMSS General Meeting  
Thursday, 10 May, 7:30  
PM, Southwestern Yacht  
Club. Please attend if  
you're sailing Yesteryear.
- PLEASE NOTE: May's  
General Meeting is an  
exception—it's the sec-  
ond (not first) Thursday of  
the month. This permits  
timely organization for  
that Saturday's Yester-  
year Regatta, our premier  
annual race event.
- AMSS Board Meeting,  
SWYC, Thursday, 19  
April, 7:30 PM

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After the April Fools Race, the Raft-Up included (left to right) *Altair*, *Sprig*, *Pacifica*, *Sally*, *Flirt*, and *Elena*, while *Scamp* and *Spitfire* also came to visit

The April Fools Race was certainly fun this year, with a fair breeze and a mild marine layer. The start was exciting and early in the race, some who were expected to be fast were not, and a few usually slower boats were doing very well. **Sally** was first to the mark outside the point; she and **Sprig** were the only two who ventured inside the kelp line, closer in to shore. That strategy paid off, according to the results. **Sally** hoisted her chute inbound to the Mission Bay jetty, and so did **Elena**. The raft up in Mariner's cove commenced immediately, and was (cont'd pg.5)...

## From the Helm: "Mayday"

No, we're not really in trouble—it's just that as May approaches, we Ancient Mariners are often harried by the increasing pace of activities as Spring breaks full into Summer. It's not enough that we haul, paint, service, rig, repair, fix, refit and do this and that to the boats—it seems there'll also be more races and events coming up every time we blink. But, that's the so-called "good problem." For instance, the 33<sup>rd</sup> Yesteryear Regatta, is our "mandatory" sail on 12 May. It's not a problem, just a complete delight, right? Let me remind you, Mother's Day is the day after...

### Officers & Board Members

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This issue features a very special article about the recent history of schooner sailing in San Diego. Staff Commodore Jerry Newton has been spearheading the resumption of the Schooner Cup Race in San Diego, along with Tony Jeske from the Silvergate Yacht Club. The article (see pg.3) has been reduced for space considerations in this issue. Tony's work will form a valuable archive of schooner racing in our finest city, and we will post that in its entirety on our website in the near future. Best of all, we're well underway in bringing the Schooner Cup Race back to life, not too soon after the latest sponsor, the Kona Kai International Yacht Club, closed its doors. Many thanks to Chris Frost, Joe Ditley and Paul Plotts, all of whom worked with Jerry on this project.

Of course, our premier annual event, the Yesteryear Regatta is right around the corner. Many people pitch in to help make this one of the largest and most popular classic sailing regattas on the west coast. In particular, Race Chairman Greg Stewart, all of the AMSS officers and board members, the Southwestern Yacht Club, and many corporate affiliates and raffle sponsors undertake generous contributions to make this event all it has become over the last 33 years.

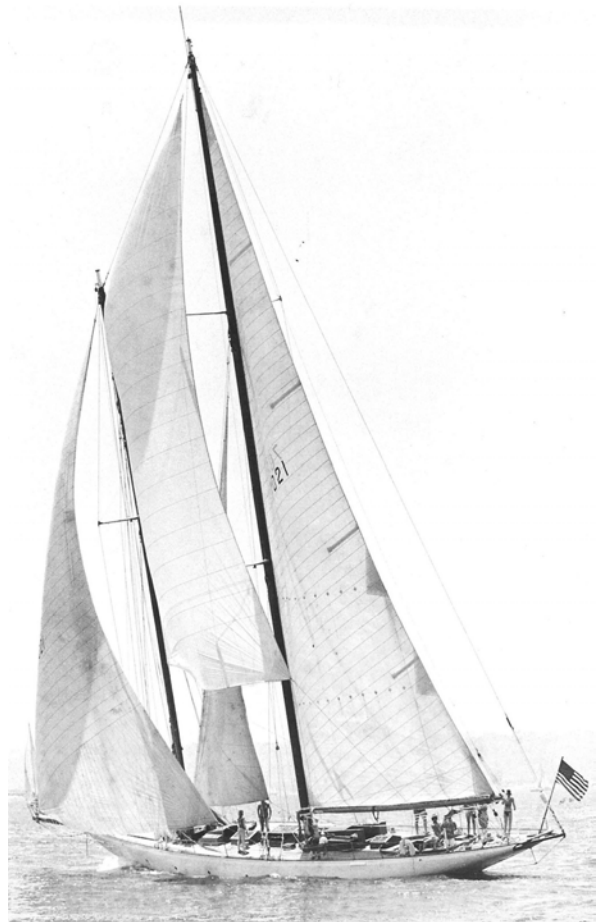
PLEASE NOTE: Our regular General Meeting, usually held at 7:30 PM on the first Thursday of every month will be on the second Thursday of May, i.e., 10 May, at the Southwestern Yacht Club. If you're sailing Yesteryear, please attend—this meeting is specifically intended to help coordinate and organize the regatta to be sailed on Saturday, 12 May.

There's a great opportunity that's been brought to my attention which could expand our local Luders 16 fleet. Mark Pinkerton is seeking a new owner for **Noble Wood**, hull no. 353. Mark has sent an e-mail, and the boat sounds wonderful. Please contact me, or our Secretary, Janet Callow (Luders 16 **Zephyr**), and we'll put you in touch with Mark. Aloha! - **Dave**

## Schooner Sailing in San Diego

Schooners are a traditional American working rig and the icon of traditional sailing yachts. The first Ancient Mariners Sailing Society (AMSS) national publicity was in the Bicentennial issue of *Sailing* which featured the traditional sailing craft including the schooners **America** and **Maid of Kent** sailing in the 1976 Yesteryear Regatta. This year AMSS is partnering with Silver Gate Yacht Club to restart the Schooner Cup, once one of the most visible schooner events on the west coast.

Between 1976-1982 schooner sailing in San Diego was lead by AMSS staff commodore Paul Mitchell and his John Alden schooner **White Cloud**. The early Yesteryear Regattas exhibited spirited competition between the schooners **White Cloud**, **Revenge**, **Serena**, **Spike Africa**, **Styx**, **Mischief** and **Maid of Kent**. Schooners were not the slowest AMSS yachts as the Yesteryear Regatta elapsed time record is still held by the schooner **Serena**. The premier AMSS offshore race was the San Diego to Maui Race held in 1978, 1981, 1985 and 1991. The elapsed time record for the Maui race was set in 1981 by Byron Chamberlin in the Burgess schooner **Rose of Sharon**, finishing ahead of **Pacifica**. (cont'd, pg. 4)...



*Serena*, the Ancient Mariners Record Holder—photo courtesy Bob Covarrubias

## Get Ready, the 33rd Yesteryear Regatta Sails 5/12/07!



If you plan to sail the 33rd Annual Yesteryear Regatta, please submit your applications and release forms right away. If you've misplaced the mailed originals, these are readily available on our website, [www.amss.us](http://www.amss.us)—click <Yesteryear Regatta>, and then <2007 Yesteryear Regatta Entry Package>. This year, we have the standard seven classes competing: Classic Racing A, Classic Racing B, Sloops and Cutters, Ketches and Yawls, Pacific Class, Schooners, and Small Boats. The party to follow the race will begin at the Southwestern Yacht Club. Awards presentations will be made there, including the Schooner Cup Perpetual Trophy. For those sailing in from elsewhere, please contact Port Captain Jerry Newton for moorage assistance: (619) 222-1281.

...Another favorite San Diego schooner event was sponsored by the Schooner Association of America. Their San Diego Race from Mission Bay to San Diego Bay was organized by Paul Mitchell in the late 1970's. After Paul and **White Cloud** left for her circumnavigation in 1982 staff commodore Chris Frost continued the event. The Schooner Association races drew fleets of ~20 schooners ranging from the 12 ft "Intergalactic Schooners" to the 105' **Violet**. **White Cloud** was lost in the West Pacific in November 1989. Paul and Susan Mitchell are completing their 25 year circumnavigation aboard a steel cutter.



*Maid of Kent and Rendezvous escort the late Pride of Baltimore (lost in the Atlantic, 1986) into S.D. Bay in 1982. Pacifica is to leeward. Pride of Bal-*

In 1984 longtime AMSS member Paul Plotts purchased the 61 ft Alden Schooner **Dauntless** and converted the Schooner Association San Diego Race to the Billy Bones Schooner Race from Mission Bay to San Diego Bay, which continued through the 1980's. This race was well attended by schooners from as far north as Ventura and was fed by the Downwind Marine Schooner Race from Oceanside to Mission Bay.

During the 1986 America's Cup activity in San Diego, Todd Schwede and the schooner **Baghera** challenged **Dauntless** to a match race which evolved into the America's Schooner Cup fleet races sponsored by the Kona Kai International Yacht Club. Beginning in March of 1988 the schooners assembled for two days of exciting racing on San Diego Bay which continued through the 1990's. These well publicized races were lead by Paul Plotts and **Dauntless** and were the largest meeting of schooner yachts on the West Coast at that time.

After the closure of Kona Kai International Yacht Club the schooners have not met on the bay except in the AMSS Yesteryear Regatta. With the hope of continuing schooner racing in San Diego Bay, the Silvergate Yacht Club has become committed to reestablish the Schooner Cup and has asked for assistance from the AMSS in hosting the first race. This year the schooners will race as a class in the AMSS Yesteryear Regatta to be sailed May 12 on San Diego Bay. In future years, Silvergate Yacht Club will take the helm of the Schooner Cup and we look forward to many more years of schooner racing on San Diego Bay. — Jerry



## April Fools Race '07: Race Results

...only the beginning of the party which continued until boats began to depart the next morning. There was steady dinghy and dory traffic to and from shore, as more friends and family came out to see the show. Gourmet food and drinks were shared from boat-to-boat, and the dogs (Mary, Spice, Bos'n and maybe a couple more) were relatively well behaved). The awards continued in the old tradition of dubious prizes pushed up the line. **Scamp** arrived right away, as did **Spitfire**, who could stay only a short while and departed with a loud "one-gun" salute, which startled no one. Here are the race results:

Yacht, Handicap SPM	Allowance SPM	Allowance H:M:S	Finish H:M:S	Elapsed Time	Corrected Time	Place
<i>Long Course (Racing), Distance 13.2 nm, Start Time 12:00:00, Scratch Boat 75</i>						
Sally, 75	0	0:00:00	13:55:00	1:55:00	1:55:00	1
Sprig, 125	660	0:11:00	14:08:51	2:08:51	1:57:51	2
Flirt, 160	1122	0:18:42	14:21:25	2:21:25	2:02:43	3
Elena 165	1188	0:19:48	14:27:35	2:27:35	2:07:47	4
Altair, 160	1122	0:18:42	14:31:35	2:31:35	2:12:53	5
Pacifica, 110	462	0:07:42	DNS			6

## Welcome Aboard!

The AMSS is pleased to welcome three new members: Troy Sears (**America**), Jack Giubilato (**Mischief**) and Stephen Harrison. Troy's beautiful 139' replica of the original America's Cup schooner **America** has been gracing our waters since recently making San Diego her home. Look for her in the upcoming Yesteryear Regatta. Jack's boat was designed in the early 1900s by Rove and built in Del Mar, 1978. It's wood planked, with spruce spars; 38' LOA, 9'6" beam and 5'8" draft. **Mischief** displaces 11 tons, and Jack keeps her at Eichenlaub's, Shelter Island. The Ancient Mariners are looking forward to meeting these new members at our many gatherings and races ashore and afloat; please accord them all due courtesies.



*America underway in the bay, with the Embarcadero and U.S.S. Midway in the background*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 MAY-DAY!	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 GEN MTG 7:30	11	12 33 <sup>rd</sup> Yesteryear
13	14	15	16	17 BOD Mtg.	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- General Meeting, Thursday, 10 May 7:30 PM, SWYC. Yester-year Regatta Preparations. All Racers Please attend!
- Saturday, 12 May : 33rd Annual Ancient Mariners Yester-year Regatta. SWYC Skipper's Meeting 0900. Race at 1200. Party and Awards Ceremony, SWYC.
- AMSS Board of Directors Meeting, Thursday, 17 May, 7:30 PM, SWYC.



Everyone knows it's hard to "keep up with the Jones's." Clearly, they have too many boats! Please see the last few issues for details and contact information if you're interested in acquiring the lovely 30 Sq. Meter, **Vanja VI**. Well, here we go again—our long standing member from

Massachusetts, Ginny Jones, is offering **Airlia** for sale. **Airlia** is a fully found offshore cutter now laying at Vineyard Haven. Circumnavigator, and proven pas-gemaker. Please contact Ginny: 001-508-693-6397 or [info@vineyardsailing.com](mailto:info@vineyardsailing.com) for full information.

Ranger is a 22 foot Mystic Sloop built in 1962 - 1963. Ranger needs some varnish, paint and a haul out. The bottom has been cleaned on a regular basis every month since at least 1997. Ranger has a built in ice chest, head, sleeps three and has a seven hp Suzuki out-board engine and is seriously for sale for \$1,500. Pls. contact AMSS member Chris Donnelly, (619) 226-6406



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P.O. Box 6484  
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General Meetings: 1st Thursday of every month, 7:00 PM @ Southwestern Yacht Club

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