



# ALBATROSS

Ancient Mariners Sailing Society  
Est. 1975

## 2011 Plans Shaping Up!

### MEETINGS

- Thursday, 3 February. "The 2011 Centennial of Naval Aviation and the 12 February San Diego Fly-Over," by Admiral (Ret.) "Mac" McLaughlin. Southwestern Yacht Club, 7:30 PM. "6-ish" for no host dinner, cocktails. Bring friends, family and guests.
- Saturday, 5 February. 20 Guinea Cup #1. 12:00 Noon Start.
- Thursday, 17 February. Board of Directors Meeting. Southwestern Yacht Club, 7:00 PM

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### *A Favorite Annual Event - Koehler's San Diego Wooden Boat Festival*

The 2011 Program and Events Schedule is filling out fast due to the fine efforts of our Program Chair, Staff Commodore Greg Stewart. Coming right up is the February General Meeting on Thursday, 3 February, where Admiral (Ret.) Mac McLaughlin will present a program on the Centennial of Naval Aviation. San Diego is the official "Birthplace of Naval Aviation," so a massive flyover of San Diego Bay involving hundreds of aircraft ranging from old to new (a replica 1911 Curtiss hydroaeroplane through to the Blue Angels) will take place on the afternoon of 12 February. This is the formal kickoff for nationwide celebrations that will be held throughout the remainder of 2011. See page 4 for further details.

Here are some highlights of this year's events and races; please take note of some significant changes in the racing venues: Cont'd...pg. 7

## February Letter from the Commodore...

Our sailing season begins this month with the first 20 Guinea Cup race on February 5<sup>th</sup>. Feast your eyes below on the prizes we have gathered thanks to the generosity of West Marine: Windward Jackets; Sperry Spinnaker Mesh Top Siders; Huahine 7x50 Binoculars; Standard Horizon VHF Transceivers; Iris 50 Hand Held Compasses; Medical Kits; Myerchrin Lightknives & Ronstan Sticky Race Gloves.

Take your pick! The first post race event will be at Fiddlers Green. Stop by and enjoy the banter even if you don't sail the race. The festivities begin at 5 p.m. In order to determine the winners you must call in your time after you finish each race, as noted on the Race Instructions. You or your first mate must pick up your prize at the post race event or it will be donated to the Yesteryear Regatta raffle. The consolation prize is the Carnival Splendor as seen in the prize photo leaving San Diego for San Francisco. The 2011 Board of Directors met on January 20<sup>th</sup> and approved three new members; Tom Zetlmaier sailing the yacht *Spartan*, Brad Maybury and Carole Noska sailing *Jada*. Congratulations and Welcome! The Board is working on finalizing our budget for the year. We are a healthy Club and running smoothly thanks to our Purser Kathy Easter.

Two projects we committed to spend time and money on this quarter are: printing and distributing a Club Roster and updating the video loop for our AMSS Exhibit at the Maritime Museum. The Board approved an Honorary Membership for Bill Simpson. Bill is an AMSS Flag Member sailing his Luders 16 **Clipper** out of Chicago Yacht Club. He is the President of the International Luders Association and the Collections Manager of Fossil Vertebrates for the Field Museum of Natural History.

The AMSS membership includes a wide range of individuals and the 2011 Officers, Board Members, Race Chairs, and Editor welcome your support and participation to ensure the continued success of the Ancient Mariner Sailing Society. - *Jano Callow*

### 2010 Officers, Board Members, Chairs, etc.

Commodore	Janet Callow	619 284-0156
Vice Commodore	Brad Smith	760 807-5360
Port Captain	Peter Hylan	858 245-3017
Purser	Kathy Easter	858 551-4340
Yeoman	Ann Kinner	619 223-8989
At Large	John Driscoll	619 222-0325
At Large	Dan McKinnon	858 273-1145
At Large	Ed O'Sullivan	858 605-0656
At Large	Johnny Smullen	619 758-9198
Event Program Chair	Greg Stewart	619 224-6347
Race Director	Johnny Smullen	619 758-9198
Yesteryear Race Chair	Greg Stewart	619 224-6347
Kettenburg Race Chair	Ed O'Sullivan	858 605-0656
Half Pint Race Chair	Johnny Smullen	619 758-9198
Membership Chair	Leslie Jenness	602 301-0059
Merchandise Chair	Brad Smith	760 807-5360
Albatross Editor	Dave Easter	858 551 4340



## February Flag Boat – *Sally*

C.F. Koehler's 10 Meter Boat **Sally** is in his yard now for some major refitting. She's one of only two 10 Meters remaining from a fleet of fourteen originally built by Abeking and Rasmussen in the mid - 1920's for a group of New York Yacht Club members. The yachts were commissioned by the Bremen, Germany builder, and specifically designed as comfortable, yet competitive yachts for long-distance racing on Long Island Sound. Besides **Sally**, **Branta** (also based in San Diego) sometimes provides a spirited match race for the AMSS fleet.



*Sally* coasting the first leg of a Half-Pint-o'-Rum Race

C.F. found **Sally** in Santa Cruz in the early 1980s; it had been donated to U.C. Santa Cruz. The big boat became his with some fast dealing, and not too much money. Then, he sailed it down to his yard here on Shelter Island with some friends. Koehler's reputation as a master shipwright was soon made, at least in part, with the work he completed to initially restore **Sally**. A series of impressive wins followed in various classic yacht races and regattas. Work now underway will take her right up to the century mark (2028 will mark her 100<sup>th</sup> year afloat) in excellent shape, including replanking, reframing, and repowering.

Specifications are 59' LOA, 36' LWL, 10' Beam, 8' 5" draft. Displacement is 55,000 lbs. The hull is Honduras mahogany, carvel planked. Framing is alternating steam bent oak and 2" cold formed steel angle on 12" centers (all or most of which C.F. will replace this year). The deck is teak, and sail area is 1400 sq. ft. Stop by Koehler's this Spring to observe how **Sally's** restoration is proceeding. The lines of her hull out of water are truly impressive, and the sight of the huge overhangs from below speaks of her speed under sail.

Liz Levitt, C.F.'s office manager, recently forwarded some information, including an outstanding article from the December 2005 issue of Sailing by Jon Schmid, with photographs by our own Bob Greiser. Please send the editor an e-mail ([deaster1@san.rr.com](mailto:deaster1@san.rr.com)) if you'd like a copy of this article forwarded to you, including a shot of the good old dog Irene taking it easy in the aft cabin (remember Irene, before Mary?) Or visit Koehler's website at [www.koehlerkraft.com](http://www.koehlerkraft.com). See you at the 2011 San Diego Wooden Boat Festival!



## ANCIENT MARINERS SAILING SOCIETY

### \*\* Special Program Announcement\*\*

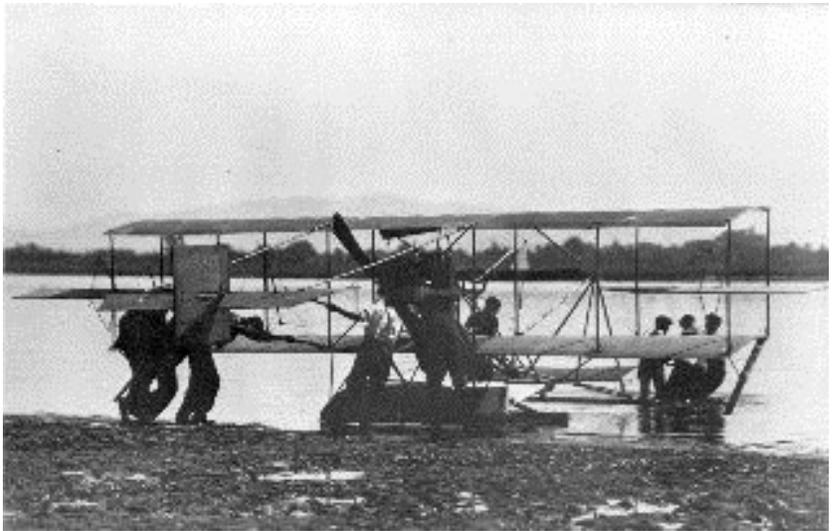
3 February General Meeting: 2011 Centennial of Naval Aviation  
ADM (Ret.) Mac McLaughlin, Southwestern Yacht Club, 7:30 PM

Please join us at the Ancient Mariner's General Meeting on Thursday, 3 February to hear Admiral (Ret.) Mac McLaughlin's program about the 2011 Centennial of Naval Aviation. San Diego is the "Birthplace of Naval Aviation," and will host the kickoff of a year-long nationwide celebration of 100 years of Naval Aviation.

Mac will cover events planned for San Diego Bay on Saturday, 12 February. These include a massive flyover of San Diego Bay, involving more aircraft flying

together here than have been seen since well before World War II. Before WWII, many military and civil aircraft were being designed to operate on water (e.g., the Pan Am Clippers, or PBY Catalinas). It was not until after the war that the infrastructure of land based airfields built throughout the world made land planes more practical and widely used. Early naval aircraft were primarily seaplanes, and a competent mixture of both seamanship and piloting skills were required. Knowledge of the air and the ocean was critical to safely fly long distances overwater. Three U.S. Navy NC Seaplanes set out in 1919 to be the first aircraft to cross the Atlantic. One succeeded (NC-4) and very few know today that the fuselage (hull) was built by one Herreshoff Manufacturing Co. (yes, Cap'n Nat) of Bristol, Rhode Island! It leaked at first.

Mac is a well known speaker, and his presentation will be a fine opportunity to gear up for this "Great Flyover." Many will remember Mac's talk at our meeting several years ago about the **USS Midway** Aircraft Carrier Museum. The public is invited; please bring your friends and family. No host drinks and dinner are available, but please arrive early (6-ish) for those!



*Curtiss Hydroaeroplane at North Island, San Diego, ca. 1911*

## San Diego: Birthplace of Naval Aviation

Naval Air Station North Island, San Diego, California, was granted official recognition as the “Birthplace of Naval Aviation” by resolution of the House Armed Services Committee, Congress of the United States. This is the story of the events leading to the beginning of the 100 year legacy as we now celebrate the Centennial of Naval Aviation. A century ago, a group of dreamers and risk takers conceived of the idea that flying airplanes off ships would be a great adventure and might even be used by the Navy someday. Beginning with Eugene Ely’s dramatic inaugural aircraft launch from the **USS Birmingham** in Hampton Roads, Virginia in December 1910, and continuing with his unprecedented feat of landing and taking off from the **USS Pennsylvania** in San Francisco harbor the next month, the dream of Naval Aviation began to take shape.

However, despite being amazed with the daring feats of Eugene Ely, the practical battleship centric leadership of the Navy remained skeptical and insisted that the airplane had no realistic utility aboard ship. In their minds, the extensive ship modifications required to accommodate takeoffs and landings were impractical and the prospects for developing a Naval Aviation capability for the fleet was stalled. Glenn Curtiss, Ely’s employer, was told by the Navy that he would have to prove his new airplane concept without having to modify Navy’s warships for it to have any value at all. Curtiss had already established a flying school at North Island and was training the Navy’s first aviator, Theodore Ellyson at the time. On 17 February, 1911, Curtiss flew his newly designed hydroaeroplane from North Island out to the **USS Pennsylvania**, anchored in San Diego Bay and taxied alongside. The cruiser’s boat crane lowered its hook and Curtiss and his seaplane were hoisted aboard. After lunch in the wardroom with the ship’s officers, Curtiss and his craft were lowered back to the water and he returned to North Island. Having validated that the airplane could be used by Navy ships without modification, the Navy appropriated \$25,000 the next month for further development of the concept, and on May 8, 1911, the Navy ordered their first two airplanes.

America’s first carrier, the **USS Langley**, was commissioned in 1922 in Norfolk, Virginia. After more than a year of testing, she was sent west to join the rest of the Fleet which had shifted to Southern California after World War I. With North Island now an established Naval Air Station, the **Langley** reported for duty in November 1924 to San Diego. The 12 months of mild weather, coupled with the ability to stage aircraft at North Island and fly them a short distance to the **Langley** off the coast, made San Diego the ideal location for the development of this new and very dangerous technology. In the coming years, the dynamic Captain Joseph Mason Reeves drastically changed the ship’s mission from a concept of equipment evaluation to the development of Naval Aviation war fighting doctrine. Carrier aviation was underway and VF-2 became the first squadron to qualify on a carrier on 22 January, 1925. Under Reeves’ tutelage, the **Langley** and her squadrons plied the waters off San Diego, increasing her aircraft capacity, improving flight deck cycle times, and devising aerial tactics. Aircraft carrier aviation had been born in America. —Mac McLaughlin

## 2011 Ancient Mariners Racing Update

As we kick off the 2011 season on Saturday February 5<sup>th</sup> 2011 with the first of a series of seven races in our 20 Guinea Cup series, I would like to inform you we have added some fun events on the social front there will be an après sail / get-together after four of the races and we will be awarding prizes kindly organized by Jano Callow and donated by West Marine to the top boats in each class. The first après sail will be at Fiddlers Green (2/5) where a light fare will be served (No Host Bar) beginning at 1600. Fiddlers will also host on 6/11 and 7/16; Bay Club on 3/12.

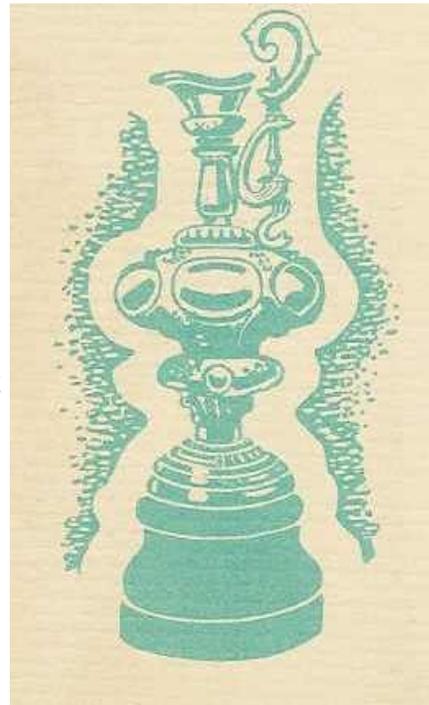
In order to process the data and times in time for presentation at the venue, I ask you to please text or call in your finish time to me Johnny @ 619-507-3422 as soon as you finish or at least one hour after the finish, text is preferred along with the name of your yacht to avoid confusion.

We have some other changes in the works and we have a new race committee working hard to make the 2011 racing and social season a memorable one, first in the racing calendar, we have moved up the Commodore's Cup to April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2011 the course to be announced closer to the date and we have moved the Aprils Fools regatta and over night raft up to Saturday August 13<sup>th</sup> we hope for more participation and of course the evenings will be longer and warmer! The name will remain the same "April Fools" just for fun! We look forward to this fun family event, the raft up location is still to be announced and we promise we will work hard to promote the event so save the date now.

Moving along to the Kettenburg Regatta, Ed O Sullivan is working with his team to bring you a fantastic weekend, June 24-26<sup>th</sup> this event is at the SDYC and this new look event will have an open class for all AMSS flag yachts to participate starting with Med style mooring stern to the main guest dock of the SDYC on the Friday night to kick off the event with a fun social party followed by two days of racing, and a lot of fun at SDYC.

And finally our premier regatta the Yesteryear Regatta May 7<sup>th</sup> this will be hosted again by SDYC with a social event and Med style raft up at the front dock on the Friday night, the race will be held outside the bay this year and we will have our usual raffle and prize giving on the SDYC lawn, promises to be another fantastic event. We had a fun regatta this past November in La Playa for the Herreshoff daysailers, we have had great feedback and we will work again to have another during the course of the year, please don't hesitate to contact us with your ideas, you input is greatly appreciated.

Of course we will planning our very popular Half pint of Rum race in December and have our work cut out to top the fantastic turnout from 2010, we will tell you more as the year rolls on , keep tuned to the Albatross -*Race Chair Johnny Smullen*



## Welcome Aboard!

It has been many months since we ran a "Welcome Aboard" piece, thanking new members for joining our ranks. We have several new members from part of last year, and two new members just voted in at the last Board of Directors meeting. Please extend all the customary courtesies and privileges to the following Flag and Regular members, as you meet them ashore and afloat: Holly Bookwalter, Kettenburg PC **Thetis**; Molly and Bob Cadranel, schooner **Tatoosh**; Pamela and Barclay Christopher, Kettenburg 40 **Athena**; Karanne and Tim Cotes, Wells 34; Brian Huster and Caroline Helmy, Lyman Sleeper 25 **Gatsby**; Perc Jones, schooner **Skookum III**; and Matt Karhan and Liz Levitt, with the Cheoy Lee Robb 35 **Ellen Louise**. Dianna and Robert Simons are new Regular members. In this new year, we already have two new Flag members: Brad Maybury and Carole Noska, with the 1938 Rhodes ketch **Jada**; and Tom Zetlmaier, the Rhodes boat **Spartan** (who also hails from our sister organization, the Wooden Hull Yacht Club, [www.whyc.org](http://www.whyc.org)). The board also voted in a new Honorary member, Bill Simpson, President of the International Luders Association.



## 2011 Programs & Events Shaping Up, cont'd

The first 2011 Guinea Cup race is this Saturday, 5 February. Please see the AMSS website ([www.amss.us](http://www.amss.us)) for sailing instructions and courses. The March general meeting will feature a program on the 100th Chicago Mackinac Race, including a video. This year, the Commodore's Cup has swapped places on the calendar with the April Fools Race, so the Commodores Cup will race a TBD bay-to-ocean course on 3 April. The meeting on Thursday, 7 April will be a program on the **S/Y Windsong**, whose extensive restoration is just now being completed at Koehler's yard. The May events will be geared to the annual Yesteryear Regatta, with a General Meeting on Thursday, 5 May, and the Regatta sailing the following Saturday, 7 May. Bob Steele is set to present a piece on his Lapworth 64 Restoration at the June Meeting, followed on 11 June with 20 Guinea Cup Race #3.

The annual San Diego Wooden Boat Festival is also scheduled for the weekend of 18-19 June. The new three-day venue for the Kettenburg Regatta will be hosted by the San Diego Yacht Club, with several social events and an Open Class permitting classics other than the Kettenburgs to race as well. 1 July is our Barbecue at the Outboard Club, kicking off the 4th of July weekend, followed by the McNish Classic up the coast on 30 July. The Maritime Museum will present a program on building the San Salvador replica, with work in progress at Spanish Landing on 4 August, followed by the April Fools Race and raftup (TBD, but yes, in August!). We'll have a few more Guinea Cups, and the Half-Pint-o'Rum to finish up 2011. Please read your newsletter every month for additional details as these events occur.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 GEN MTG	4	5 20 GC RACE #1
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 BOD MTG	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Thursday, 3 February. "The 2011 Centennial of Naval Aviation and the 12 February San Diego Fly-Over," by Admiral (Ret.) "Mac" McLaughlin. Southwestern Yacht Club, 7:30 PM. "6-ish" for no host dinner, cocktails. Bring friends, family and guests.
- Saturday, 5 February. 20 Guinea Cup #1. 12:00 Noon Start.
- Thursday, 17 February. Board of Directors Meeting. Southwestern Yacht Club, 7:00 PM

When "Nancy Four" touched down at Lisbon on 27 May 1919, completing the historic transat-



lantic crossing, the waterfront erupted with cheers, whistles, sirens and 21-gun salutes. The U.S. Navy and the flying boat had been the first to conquer the Atlantic by air. Back in the U.S., out in the Midwest, a young Minnesota farm boy preparing to enter the University of Wisconsin that fall, learned of the historic flight with particular interest. His name was Charles A. Lindbergh. - Richard C. Knott, The American Flying Boat.

## ANCIENT MARINERS



## SAILING SOCIETY EST. 1975



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### ANCIENT MARINERS SAILING SOCIETY EST. 1975

P.O. Box 6484  
San Diego, CA 92166

General Meetings: 1st Thursday of every month,  
7:30 PM @ Southwestern Yacht Club

Web: [www.amss.us](http://www.amss.us) E-mail: [info@amss.us](mailto:info@amss.us)

AMSS Ship-to-Ship VHF Common - Channel 68