



ALBATROSS

Ancient Mariners Sailing Society
Est. 1975

2009 McNish Classic Regatta

MEETINGS

- Thursday, 3 September, AMSS General Meeting. John Driscoll presents Classics by Driscoll Yachts. San Diego Yacht Club, 7:30 PM. Earlier for no host drinks and dinner. Driscoll ocean racers **Chi-maera**, **Endymion** and maybe **Brushfire** will be at the front dock for viewing before the meeting.
- Thursday, 17 September. AMSS Board Meeting, Fiddlers Green, Shelter Island, 7:30 PM. Earlier for Dinner.
- Saturday, 19 September, 20 Guinea Cup Race #5. 12:00, Buoy # 17 Start. Check the website, www.amss.us for sailing instructions, please.



Bequia and Circe Bow-to-Bow at the Finish of the 2009 McNish
photo Courtesy [The Log](#)

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The Ancient Mariners fleet and a few other San Diego boats were well represented at the 2009 McNish Classic Yacht Race, including **America**, **Miramar**, **Pacifica**, **Dauntless**, **Sally**, **Witchcraft** and **Eolo**. There was plenty of wind this year, as Miramar showed an average speed of over 8 knots over the 16.5 mile course. The 32nd McNish Classic Yacht Race, was sailed on 1 August this year. The race was founded by Dick McNish in 1977, and features a pursuit start similar to the Ancient Mariners Yesterday Regatta, making the finish a sight to see. In this year's race, **Circe** finished with a two second lead ahead of **Bequia**, grabbing first-to-finish, the Strathmore Cup and her skipper's (Katherine Bohan) weight in Mumms champagne. Twenty eight boats were competing. Class winners included: Sloops and Cutters **A-Raitea** (John Duff); Sloops and Cutters **B-Bequia** (Angel and Steven Lopez); Cont'd, pg.5...

Editor's Corner: Hot Summer Days

OK, sports fans, this last week has provided a remarkable "heat wave" along our coast, and hot competition on the water was to be had in August and is coming up again in September. This issue's cover story reports on the 32nd McNish Classic Race, which sailed on 1 August with a pack of many local San Diego boats entered. The race results are posted on pg.5.

There's a ****Special Program**** Announcement for our General Meeting at the San Diego Yacht Club on Thursday, 3 September (please see page 4). Ancient Mariners Board Director John Driscoll has prepared a great

program on Classics by Driscoll Yachts, and he will focus specifically on three of the finest ocean racers built before fiberglass largely displaced wood. **Chimaera**, **Endymion** and **Zaida** exhibit perhaps the most sophisticated wooden boat construction and technology of their time. We will also be able to view some of these boats at the SDYC front dock before the General Meeting. Please come early to have drinks or dinner at the club if you wish before the program begins at 7:30PM. As always, friends, family and guests are welcome.

The **Sprig** Campaign is in full swing now. As this issue goes to press, the crew will have put the boat back together in Newport, RI, and had a day or two of trials and tuning. They'll be turning a close eye toward the weather forecasts for the first race and inspecting the competitor's boats and crews on and off the water. Page 6 covers the latest updates from **Sprig** campaign headquarters, with notes from owner Greg Stewart, and **Sprig's** 2009 World Cup Press Officer, Leslie Jenness.

The **Star of India** has gone into drydock (she does so about once every decade), this time with some high-technology hull preservation work scheduled. Watching the **Star** being towed over to the BAE drydock was very interesting, the whole shebang took less than an hour. But, then the crew aboard **Star** had to wait for the drydock to be pumped out. By then it was no doubt past lunchtime, and they had to take the trolley back to the Maritime Museum. With this work, the **Star of India** will continue her career as the oldest actively sailed tall ship very far into the future. See you all at Buoy #17, noon, 19 September for the 20 Guinea Cup Race #5! *Aloha-Dave*

2009 Officers & Board Members

Commodore	Marcia Hilmen	619 222-1281
Vice Commodore 1	Peter Hysten	858 245-3017
Vice Commodore 2	Johnny Smullen	619 758-9198
Port Captain	Bruce Anderson	858 454-4051
Secretary	Janet Callow	619 699-2581
Treasurer	Deb Dominici	619 294-2244
Race Chair	Doug Jones	619 993-9295
At Large	John Driscoll	619 222-0325
At Large	Jack Giubilato	619 871-9264
At Large	Ann Kinner	619 223-8989

September Flag Boat – *Freedom*

Freedom, Dave and Kathy Easter's boat, is the last pre-war ocean racing yacht built by the Herreshoff Manufacturing Company, Bristol, RI. Launched on June 15th, 1938, her pleasing design from the boards of John Alden is typical of many beautiful boats hailing from the "Golden Age" of yachting, before WWII.

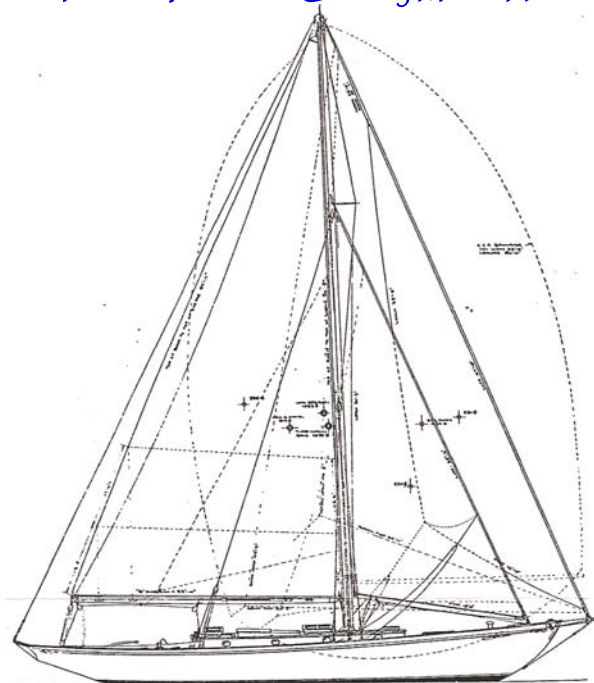
At 51' LOA and 48' on deck, **Freedom** displaces 17 tons with an 11' beam; her full keel draws 7'. First owner W.P. Barrows contracted to have the boat built by Herreshoff Manufacturing Co. of mahogany planking over white oak frames, with construction featuring Herreshoff-style bronze knees, hull strapping and fittings which have surely enhanced this vessel's seaworthiness and longevity.

Freedom was designed by John Alden to compete in the Newport-to-Bermuda series. World War II caused a hiatus in the Bermuda races; the boat went to San Francisco and the West Coast. **Freedom** was the overall winner of the 1966 Newport-Ensenada Race, with over 500 vessels competing. She won the first McNish Classic Yacht Race in 1977, then known as the Corinthian Cup.

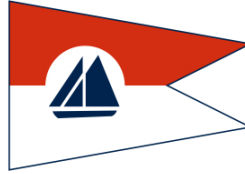
Freedom's restoration has focused on authenticity. Cabin joinery and the deck plan are original, as built. There are two ventilating skylights, for the saloon and owner's cabin. Decks are laid teak. Original Merriman winches, blocks, running backstays and a Herreshoff capstan serve the boat well. The tiller is light to the touch on all points of sail, and a moderate sail plan gives very strong footing in a brisk breeze. She sails in most Ancient Mariners races; the photo above was taken during the 2008 Half-Pint-o'-Rum Race.



Photo of *Freedom* Courtesy Marcia Hilmen



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Program Announcement

John Driscoll presents Classics by Driscoll Yachts Thursday, 3 September, San Diego Yacht Club. 7:30 PM

First thing this month, John Driscoll will be presenting a program on classic Driscoll yachts, at the San Diego Yacht Club, Thursday, 3 September (in the Staff Commodore's Room, 7:30 PM). John has kindly sent the following summary of the evening: "The program will open with comments on **Chimaera**, the vision, the players, etc. We will then have a Power Point presentation on the **Zaida**, a 53' Sparkman & Stephens design built just after **Brushfire**. We'll conclude with the story of **Endymion**, which was the last of this genre built by the Driscoll yard. We feel it is the best example of a lifetime of my father's boat building career, and of the lessons learned and experience he gained along the way."

Chimaera and **Endymion** will be at the front dock at the SDYC Thursday evening, so please come early to see these boats before the program. There's a message in to Dennis Conner, who we hope will add



Chimaera on a Light Day



Brushfire, & the late Craig Mueller's Crew-

Courtesy Bob Grieser

Brushfire

to the dockside

display of Driscoll ocean racing yachts built to the highest standards, just as wooden yachts began to lose favor to the new age of fiberglass. These are truly thoroughbred ocean racers, perhaps the pinnacle of wooden ocean racing yachts just before the industry changed forever. Again, your friends relatives and guests are most welcome to attend, and come early to view the boats and perhaps order some dinner or drinks at the San Diego Yacht Club.



2009 Mc Nish Classic Regatta Results

...Yawls-**Circe** (Katherine Bohan); Ketches-**Splinter** (Dan Shepley); and Schooners-**America** (Dennis Conner). Dick McNish's fine 1931 yawl, **Cheerio II** was present and accounted for, as always. Pacific Corinthian Yacht Club once again provided absolutely magnificent hospitality and facilities for the out-of-town yachts, and are due many thanks (some things don't change). Please see the complete race results below:

Pacific Corinthian Yacht Club — 2009 McNish Classic Race

OA	Yacht	Class	Yr.Bl.	Length	Owner	Elapsed Time	Avg. Speed
1	Circe	Y	1950	56	K. Bohan	2:18:56	7.342
2	Bequia	SC/B	1978	40	A.&S. Lopez	2:55:10	5.823
3	Elusive II	SC/B	1961	40	D. Green	2:39:43	6.386
4	America	SCH	1995	139	D. Conner	2:31:14	6.744
5	Savannah	SC/B	1963	36	B. Proctor	3:16:08	5.200
6	Splinter	K	1967	28	D. Shepley	3:24:3	4.999
7	Miramar	K	1948	78	P. Scripps	2:04:40	8.173
8	Pacifica	Y	1947	51	D. Jones	2:25:39	7.003
9	Osprey	K	1985	41	J. Altstatt	3:32:13	4.806
10	Raitea	SC/A	1965	43	J. Duff	2:42:49	6.265
11	Fairwind	K	1968	40	T. Bercowitz	2:59:43	5.676
12	Dauntless	SCH	1930	71	P. Plotts	2:29:59	6.800
13	Rose of Sharon	SCH	1930	59	B. Chamberlain	2:26:02	6.985
14	Sally	SC/A	1928	59	C.F. Koehler	2:18:07	7.385
15	Laniki	SC/A	1939	33	T. Zetlmaier	2:46:11	6.138
16	Antares	SC/B	1961	40	S. Guilford	2:48:06	6.068
17	Vignette II	SC/A	1972	43	W. Russakoff	2:43:54	6.223
18	Pacifica	SC/A	1946	47	M. Pinkerton	2:50:21	5.989
19	Silvan	SC/B	1980	30	D. Isreal	2:56:22	5.783
20	Witchcraft	SCH	1994	42	B. Eichenlaub	3:04:35	5.526
21	Distant Star	K	1967	36	C. Rundle	3:24:20	4.992
22	Cheerio II	Y	1931	46	D. McNish	3:09:00	5.397
23	Shalimar	K	1967	45	R. Skadberg	3:25:19	4.968
24	Eolo	SC/A	1948	60	F.&C. Valli	3:1:38	5.616
25	Dragon	SC/B		30		3:15:01	5.230
26	Charity	K	1962	38	A.&K. Renga	3:46:34	4.502
27	Lady Sarnia	SC/B	1938	27	J.&E. Reber	4:23:04	3.877
	Siboney	SC/B	1961	30	T. Huston	###	#NA
	Heron	SC/B	1978	40	J. Gombert	###	#NA

Sprig: In the Atlantic again after some 50 Years!

Sprig made a record passage across the country (3,120.8 miles) to Newport, RI. In a mere 4^{1/2} days, at the able hands of **Sprig** 2009 World Cup Transportation Manager Holly Johnson. Other crew departed on the S.D. red-eye to Washington D.C., and thence up to Providence, RI on the way to Newport last Friday night. By now, **Sprig** should be reassembled, in the water with a rebuilt mast and new running rigging, ready for her shakedown. The **Sprig** 2009 World Cup Press Officer (Leslie Jenness) has



Greg addresses friends of *Sprig* before the boat leaves for RI

Photo Courtesy Dave Easter

sent out the following tidbits in Update #1, with more to follow soon: The racing will be held both offshore and in Narragansett Bay (Newport, RI) depending on the conditions. **Sprig** will race with a new set of Dacron sails from Tactician John Gladstone (seven bags in all!) which will keep the boat eligible for the B&K Classic Trophy. This is the same trophy was won by Doug Peterson, with Greg as crew aboard the 6 Meter **BobKat** in the 2007 6 Meter Worlds.

Now, a quick note from Greg:

“It is going to be the first time many of the 6 Meters have ever lined up against each other, and in some cases the second time in 75 Years since they last competed against each other! This is true in both instances for *Sprig*, that had a relatively short racing career early among the top 6 Meter boats racing before World War II.

Another thought that recently struck me and has further fueled my desire to build a campaign and enter the 2009 6 Meter World Cup is the fact that the event will be raced in economic times similar to the period when she was built eighty years ago. The saying...the more things change the more they stay the same...seems very relevant. I have also been saying if these guys can do it, so can I! I am really lookinh forward to this event...especially since it is likely that the world cup will not return to the U.S. for 12 or more years”

For more information on the races, see: www.6worldcup.com

Star of India Enters Drydock for Hull Preservation Work



Coming and Going, Old and New: Star of India Headed for Drydock-

Photo Courtesy Jim Carlson, MMSD

On August 18, 2009, the ***Star of India*** was taken by tug boat from the Maritime Museum of San Diego to the South Bay and a dry docking facility. The USCG requires that this dry docking be done on a 10-year schedule to ensure that the *Star* is in seaworthy condition. For the next several weeks the *Star* will undergo a thorough inspection and routine repairs. This year, the work will include the application of a special hi-tech ceramic/epoxy coating on her hull. The result, we hope, will be another 100 years of service for the last remaining active ship of her kind in the world.

The new preservation technology, while life saving, is not inexpensive. We anticipate that costs will be in the range of \$250,000. Because the expense is unusually high, it will likely preclude us from being able to take the *Star of India* on her usual annual sail in November. If you want to help us save this community treasure, please do so today. Even small gifts are needed and appreciated. MMSD President, [Ray Ashley](#)



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 Gen Mtg.	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 Board Mtg.	18	19 20 G Cup Race
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

UPCOMING EVENTS

- September, First Two Weeks. Six Meter World Cup, Newport, RI. **Sprig**, USA 43
- Thursday, 3 September, AMSS General Meeting. John Driscoll presents Classics by Driscoll Yachts. San Diego Yacht Club, 7:30 PM. Earlier for no host drinks and dinner. Front Dock viewing of **Chimaera**, **Endymion** and possibly **Brushfire**, before the meeting.
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Honolulu- Neville Chrichton's Alpha Romeo set a record in this year's TransPac Race from L.A. to Honolulu... Time enroute was 5 days, 14 hours, 36 minutes. The previous record set by Morniung Glory in 2005 was 6 days, 16 hours, 4 minutes. Alpha Romeo also logged 431 miles in 24 hours—another record. What a ride!

Photo by Patricia Lascabannes, Courtesy of The Log

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