

# ALBATROSS

Ancient Mariners Sailing Society  
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## WWW.AMSS.US VERSION 2013

We launched a new web site for the Ancient Mariners in 2013. It has the same address — AMSS.US — but a different look, and over time it will be expanded and probably modified as we continue to figure out how to best inform our current members and others who like to participate in our races and attend our various events. Please take a look and use this site as the place to find race results, pictures of the AMSS fleet, announcements of meetings and special events, and archives of newsletters and various other articles. If you have some narrative of past events, or pictures of our events or our fleet, please pass them along and we will do our best to make them available to our members.

To preserve and promote interest in  
sail and power vessels of ancient vintage  
and/or classic design.

### 2014 Officers, Board Members, Chairs, etc.

Commodore	John Driscoll	619 222-0325
Vice Commodore	Chris Barclay	619 588-2054
Port Captain	Phil Thearle	619 334-4013
Purser	Kathy Easter	858 551-4340
Yeoman	Caroline Helmy	858 481-5569
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At Large	Chris Reddin	847 636-9336
Race Director	Johnny Smullen	619 758-9198
Event Program Chair	Greg Stewart	619 224-6347
Yesteryear Race Chair	Greg Stewart	619 224-6347
Half Pint Race Chair	Johnny Smullen	619 758-9198
Albatross Editor	Ann Kinner	619 223-8989
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*Greg Stewart—Recipient of the Inaugural AMSS Burgee of Merit*

At the end of 2013 your Board instituted a *Burgee of Merit Award*. The Burgee of Merit will be an award presented by the Ancient Mariners Sailing Society upon action of the Board of Directors to an individual who has rendered exceptional service to the Club.

The Award consists of the Club's burgee with a gold border to represent the Club's gratitude for the highest level of service an individual can give to this organization.

It will be presented at the Club's annual meeting but only when truly warranted and not necessarily annually. In addition, a second similar burgee will be given to the recipient to be flown in place of the customary burgee as a permanent reminder to all of this person's contributions.

The inaugural recipient of the AMSS Burgee of Merit is **Greg Stewart**. Greg's contributions to the AMSS over the years include everything from organizing programs to chairing regattas to promoting our activities and goals. The 2013 Board agreed unanimously and heartily that this is an award well deserved!

## CLASSIC YACHT REGATTAS AND SAILING ~ CIRCA 2014

Well, dang it, here it is another year in the classic boating community we all enjoy together. From our vantage point at AMSS headquarters somewhere out here on Shelter Island, what is coming our way this year looks to be shaping up to be pretty darn good stuff. Those are technical terms for "it is fixin' to be a year packed with well-organized regattas and great sailing experiences!"

So, be quick about it now and draw your pens out fast-like and mark your calendars with these important dates:

May 10 – 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Yesteryear Regatta

June 21 – 39<sup>th</sup> Annual One More Time Regatta

July 19 – 37<sup>th</sup> Annual McNish Classic

What do you get when you put those three events together? Well, you guessed it! We're talking about the 4<sup>th</sup> annual California Classic Yacht Series. The California Classic Yacht ("CCY") Series works this way: enter any one of these regattas individually and the next thing you know, there you are, entered into the CCY Series. Yes, it is so very true: these are very fast and modern times in which we live! Enter and sail all three regattas and your chances of doing well in the CCY Series overall are, suitably, quite good. Of course, it also kinda helps to sail well in both your class as well as in the overall results in each of the three regattas along the way. Overall results for the CCY Series are determined based on the accumulation of points from each of the regattas, which are scored for the CCY Series based on a highpoint system. More information about the CCY Series, including contact information for each of the individual regatta events that comprise the CCY Series, is available on our updated website ([www.amss.us](http://www.amss.us)) under the **Racing Events** tab.

And my, my, would you just go ahead and take a look at who's the longest running of the group! The CCY Series begins, well, appropriately, at the beginning, with the granddaddy of the regattas that comprise it, namely none other than our very own Yesteryear Regatta ("YYR").

This year marks the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual YYR (has it really been that long?) and Greg Stewart & Co. (as far as teams go, they are real pros at putting together a great, annual sail regatta dripping wet with tradition) have put together a very special regatta plan fitting for a spectacularly grand 40<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration. It's such a good thing that you are not insisting on our staying put at 39 years because we've had a sneak peek at the planning for the 2014 edition and it looks to be the best ever! Trust us. It's not just the secret recipe for the birthday cake that they are cookin' up that looks especially so good. There is so much special birthday type stuff that you will not want to miss more than one minute of the party. So stay tuned for regular updates coming your way.

In fact, Greg Stewart mentioned a couple of the special things planned around this year's YYR at our most recent general meeting, which was only just this week, including a very cool YYR memorabilia exhibit that will be at SDYC in the days before the YYR. Look for more details on this

exhibit and a bunch of other information about our signature, premier annual sailing event in our next issue of *The Albatross* (and, yes, you have our word for it that you will not have to wait until 2015 to get it. In fact, it is already in production now as we write! Hey, we've been on an extended vacation, OK? Gosh!)

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Searching around for a summer vacation idea? Thinking that you might need a little break from the 2014 California Classic Yacht Series after the *One More Time Regatta* in Marina Del Ray on June 21? Are you thinking about the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual *Yesteryear Regatta*, you know what we are talking about, heck we just got done talking about it (AMSS's signature, premier annual regatta, that will be sailed on San Diego Bay on May 10) and find yourself asking this question: "If it is truly going to be as good as you all say it is, where should we plan to go for the after-party to celebrate such a great 40-year tradition of classic boat sailing?" Well, we have just what you are looking for and what you have been thinking about!

Presented by the Ancient Mariners Sailing Society, the 2014 edition of the Kettenburg and Classic Yacht Regatta will be hosted by the San Diego Yacht Club on June 27 through June 29.

This premier West Coast classic boat regatta and show is an "off-series" event. That's right. It is not part of the CCY Series (not yet anyway). Even though the KCY Regatta can trace its roots back to a long series of annual Kettenburg Regattas before it, our KCY Regatta is still just a little bit too young to be seen hanging around with the CCY Series regattas. But that's OK with us. We figure that it just means that we have a little more freedom to experiment and move things around a bit each year before tradition sets in and really gets a good hold of it. If ancient folks are any one thing, they are very, very particular about their traditions. Must be something to do with the whole inclination to preserving things; we don't know for sure, but we guess so anyhow.

The KCY Regatta is a little bit different in that not only is all the sailing activity fun, but at the same time it benefits the San Diego Maritime Museum, Ronald McDonald House Charities of San Diego, and Southern California Youth Sailing Programs.

The 2014 KCY Regatta will be enthusiastically promoted by AMSS from late-March through June via a variety of print and other media, including social media. Dang! That's that new fangled way of communicatin' with no wad right there between your cheek and gum, aint it? It don't matter what it is or how they get the word out anyhow. The three-day event attracts a large number of race and show entries and commands the intense attention of hundreds of participants, guests and spectators at SDYC over the course of the long, early-summer weekend.

Every member of the regatta team at SDYC, our host for the regatta, is nothing less than welcoming and superb in their performance at all times. Just like the exceptional teamwork and support we also receive from our friends at SWYC, they are real pros at what they do. We've come to know it and you can count on it being what we call it: "prime hospitality". Collectively, the SDYC team has a tremendous amount of accumulated years of experience hosting regattas big and small. They have really gone the extra mile for AMSS since 2011 when the old

style Kettenburg Regatta moved across the water to their fine venue for its rechristening as the KCY Regatta and transitioned into its current three-day format. Now, everyone's participation is welcomed with wide open arms (it is not just for Kettenburgs no more forever!) and, well, as we are so fond of saying, the rest is history! We will tell you more about the great SDYC team in our 2014 Official KCY Regatta Program.

But, wait, there is more. We're just gettin' warmed up. Don't be so antsy....!

The 2014 KCY Regatta kicks-off on Friday afternoon with a Concours D'elegance held at the SDYC guest dock. Douglas K. Smith Marine Insurance, a legacy sponsor of the KCY Regatta Concours D'elegance, has agreed to return as a sponsor of this wonderful opening event to our KCY Regatta. They will be joined on the guest dock in 2014 by two new, additional Concours D'elegance name sponsors: Philip Thearle's Autowerks, Inc. and Torrey Partners. We are tremendously grateful for this support (legacy & new, both) and, needless to say, we expect to have adequate resources for a really great show!

Entrants from up and down the West Coast will showcase their 40 to 80 year-old wooden power and sail boats, made shiny with plenty of varnish and polished bronze. Tied stern-to at the SDYC guest dock, the boats are easily accessed by a team of experienced judges who meticulously inspect each boat while participants, viewers and guests crowd the dock admiring the boats. Each participant in the Concours D'elegance will receive special recognition for their entry as well as two professional, digital photographs taken of their entry by famed boat and watersports photographer Bob Grieser.

*[Do you have questions about parameters for entering your classic boat or yacht in the KCY Regatta Concours D'elegance? Want to know more about the judging parameters? Please help us out by emailing your questions, thoughts and comments to us at: [KCY2014.amss.us](mailto:KCY2014.amss.us). We will use everything that you submit to assemble a FAQ sheet tailored specifically to the KCY Regatta Concours D'elegance. We will post it on our website as well as the Regatta website maintained by SDYC and also print it in the next issue of this newsletter. Look out! It's coming soon!]*

Saturday's racing activities start off with a skippers' meeting that is followed by two buoy-races in one of our favorite areas for racing right here in our own local patch of the Pacific Ocean off Coronado Island, known as the Coronado Roads. Fresh breezes touching 8-12 knots reliably keep the old boats lively. The Pacific Class fleet starts first with the rest of the boats starting six minutes behind. The action at the starting line can be both interesting and challenging with 15 to 20 wooden boats competing for a favored position at the same time!

Later in the day, skippers and crew return to the SDYC guest dock where the good company at the dock invites reenactment of the day's racing experiences and protests are dispensed with over shared camaraderie and cold refreshments. In the evening, a dinner is planned on the SDYC main deck. The 2014 Saturday night dinner will be followed by a photo montage of the Concours entries by famed sports photographer Bob Grieser and then conclude with a presentation of the Concours judging results and awards.

The competitive racing for the weekend is capped off on Sunday with a long bay race. A special feature of the Sunday bay race is the location of the start-finish line: right in front of the club reminiscent of how it was done in the old days. And keeping with tradition, the race committee starts the race nestled up in the clubhouse cupola. After a polite warning to all of the morning brunch guests, a firing of the old cannon gets the bay race started. One by one, in three minute intervals, the boats start the race in a pursuit style format. High handicap boats start first with the fastest classic racing boats starting later in the morning. The effect is fabulous as the boats parade along the race course through the Bay, in a fine celebration of the classic boat sailing experience and tradition. The finish, right back again in front of SDYC, is guaranteed to be dramatic!

In a break from recent tradition for this special AMSS regatta event, in 2014, race participants will have the option of entering the Sunday Bay Race only. We welcome and encourage entries by racers who prefer the picturesque setting of the San Diego Bay or whose personal schedule or constraints on crew availability present challenges to participating in two consecutive days of competitive class racing. So, let us be clear and say it again: regardless of whether or not ocean buoy racing is your favorite cup of tea or you have constraints in your personal schedule or crew limitations, you can still participate in this regatta. Now you can come out of the water for just the Sunday Bay Race if you can't make it out for a full weekend of racing!! So, there you have it; right back at you! We've just about eliminated all the excuses left for not participating!

But, hold it; there is still more new stuff! A special added feature for the 2014 KCY Regatta is the inaugural KCY Charity Cup. That's right. Call it a race within a race. The Sunday Bay Race results will be re-scored, especially for the KCY Charity Cup, to determine the top finishers in this race on a stand-alone basis. Hughes Marino, a legacy sponsor of the KCY Regatta since 2011, has generously offered to sponsor this unique and exciting new cup race and trophy in 2014! All proceeds of the Hughes Marino KCY Charity Cup will be donated by AMSS to the San Diego Maritime Museum, the Ronald McDonald Charities of San Diego, and Southern California Youth/Junior Sailing Programs.

Here the racing results come into play in an exciting way as all fundraising proceeds for the Cup will be allocated based on pre-race selections made by the top three finishers in the Sunday Bay Race. And there is more! Another important and new KCY Regatta sponsor, O'Sullivan Bros Brewery Co., one of San Diego's newest and most exciting micro-breweries (yes, now you know what outgoing KCY Regatta Chairperson (2011 – 2013) Ed O'Sullivan has been up to of late), has thrown down a challenge to all participants in the Hughes Marino KCY Charity Cup Race: O'Sullivan Bros Brewing Co. will match up to \$500 of the contribution to the Cup made by the boat that contributes the greatest amount to the Cup. Under the formula announced by AMSS for distribution of the Hughes Marino KCY Charity Cup proceeds to designated beneficiaries, if that same boat entry also garners success on the water by finishing among the top three positions in the Hughes Marino KCY Charity Cup race, their effective cup contribution will enjoy a very nice return on investment indeed, to the direct advantage of their designated beneficiary(-ies). Well, isn't that nice?

Wait for it,...can there be even more? Yes! Why? Because we can! Boats electing to participate in the Sunday Bay Race only may elect to sail the Sunday Bay Race "White Sails Only". So, if you don't feel like throwing up all the sails you have, including spinnakers, golly wobblers, and

whatever else is down there in your sail inventory, you can designate your intentions at the time of your online race entry by declaring your plan to sail the Sunday Bay Race "White Sails Only". The race committee will up your time handicap accordingly. That way all the boats that enter in the Hughes Marino KCY Charity Cup Race on Sunday will have a fair opportunity to finish among the top three positions, determined based on corrected times.

OK, we know from very recent experience where this conversation quickly goes to hunt. Right about now some of you might be wondering this: "So, what if all we want to use are tan bark sails?" Well, isn't that pretty! If that is the case and because by now those pretty sails are probably worth more than their weight in a precious metal of some sort (exactly which particular one we don't quite know, for sure), we will give your handicap a very special extra bump. Just because you are so dang colorful if nothing else, that's why. So, all you boats with tan bark colored sails, and most especially *Maid of Kent*, have we garnered your entry now? We will not settle for a "No, thank you". We're going to be rather insistent on an enthusiastic "Yes, and looking forward to it!" even if it means we have to hog tie you to the end of the dock and drag it out of you!

About the time that the KCY Regatta draws around to a close on Sunday afternoon, a large gathering of spectators, skippers and crew will assemble for a final time on the SDYC main deck for announcement of the results of the Hughes Marino KCY Charity Cup and also the weekend competitive class race awards presentation. And maybe, since it is the after-party that we will have had to wait six weeks for, just maybe, we'll sing Happy 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday to the ol' YJR one more time!

*[Do you have questions about the changes to the race format for 2014 and in particular the workings of the Hughes Marino KCY Charity Cup? Want to know more about the parameters for allocating the funds in the Cup and how outside sponsorships will affect the Cup? Please help us out by emailing your questions, thoughts and comments to: [KCY2014.amss.us](mailto:KCY2014.amss.us). We will use everything that you submit to assemble a FAQ sheet tailored specifically to the KCY Regatta Race Events. We will post the FAQ sheet to our website as well as the Regatta website maintained by SDYC. We will also print it in the next issue of this informative newsletter. There! Now we've pretty well gone off and already told you what is going to be in the next Albatross! [Dang it Shorty, can't you keep anything a secret?] ]*

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We hope everyone enjoys all of the AMSS sailing and regatta events planned for 2014. Can you believe it? This article describes only just some of the race action between now and July 19 and only some of the new and exciting features that your board has up its sleeves. In fact, we didn't even mention any of the other good race stuff that is in store for the year, such as the Guinea Cup Race series. There is just a whole lot more on the race calendar than we can cover in a single issue. Visit our website and watch out for the next issue of the *Albatross*. We appreciate the growing participation in and support for our events and we look forward to seeing everyone at each of this year's program and classic boating events. Sail fast!

-- Lefty & Shorty





## San Salvador Shipbuilding Day July 12, 2014



The Ancient Mariners Sailing Society and the San Diego Maritime Museum invite the public to participate in the San Salvador Ship Building Day to be held at Spanish Landing on Saturday July 12, 2014. The Shipbuilding Day will be an 8-hour day of shipbuilding directed by a Maritime Museum Master Shipwright on actual San Salvador projects. This event costs \$10 per person and \$20 per family and requires no previous woodworking experience. More information on the San Salvador Project can be found at <http://www.sdmaritime.org/san-salvador-build>.

**APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY June 20, 2014.**

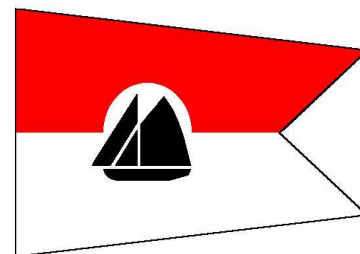
Applications are available from the Ancient Mariners Sailing Society website [www.amss.us](http://www.amss.us) or by request from the address below. Completed applications and donations may be sent to: Ancient Mariners/Maritime Museum Education Fund, c/o AMSS, P.O. Box 6484, San Diego, CA 92106. The Board of Directors of the Ancient Mariners/Maritime Museum Educational Fund, will select individuals and families up to the first 25 participants for the San Salvador Shipbuilding Day.

“To sail is the thing,” wrote Arthur Ransome in his children’s classic *Swallows and Amazons*. And just what is that thing? Every sailor knows. It’s what the poets say and the pictures show, and everything else, too; it’s the joy of casting off and the delight of returning home, and it’s all the winds and waves in between. It’s the beauty of a boat and the power of the currents, the sound of ratcheting winches and the strain on the wheel; it’s the fair breezes and sunsets, the storms and luffing sails. It’s the beer in the bar when the race is done, and that moment when you feel you’ll never get there. It’s what sailors mean when, safe and dry, standing on solid ground, they look at you and say “I’d rather be sailing.”

Anne Depue



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ANCIENT MARINERS SAILING SOCIETY

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AMSS Ship-to-Ship VHF Common –Channel 68