

The



AUGUST

NEWSLETTER OF THE ANCIENT MARINERS SAILING SOCIETY

1975

IMPORTANT DATES !!!

August 21st: Board Meeting, 7:30 P.M.
Aboard SEA WITCH, at
Southwestern Yacht Club

August 28th: General Meeting, 7:30 P.M.
Southwestern Yacht Club
Speaker, Gerald Driscoll

Board Meeting

The Board of Directors met in July and voted in favor of continuing monthly general meetings with less emphasis on business and having more time devoted to entertainment and/or something that should be of interest to all members.

The Membership Committee is in the process of revising our point system for boat qualification into our organization. Our intention is to give sloops and cutters a better break, and to more specifically define boats of "classic design". Please submit any ideas in writing to our Commodore, Doug Smith. All business, activities, and policies of the Ancient Mariners Sailing Society will be set and acted upon by the Board of Directors. The meetings are open to all members who may wish to attend.

S.D.

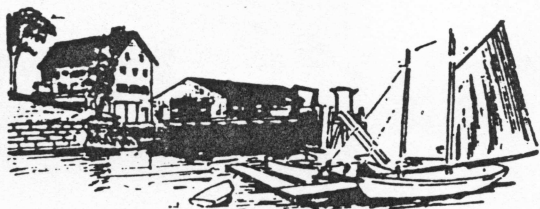
August Meeting

Our August General Meeting will be held Thursday evening, August 28th, 7:30 P.M., at Southwestern Yacht Club. Jerry Driscoll, of Driscoll Brothers Boat Builders, and skipper of INTREPID in the last America's Cup Race, will be our guest speaker. This should be a very interesting meeting for all of us who enjoy both racing and cruising.

S.D.

A FATHOM

A fathom is a nautical measure of depth. It means literally "an embrace" (from the ancient Saxon "faetm"), and is defined by an Act of the English Parliament as "the length of a swain's arms around the object of his affections!"



Cruising?

Ernest and Elizabeth Armstrong, the skipper and first mate aboard the lovely gaff ketch, SINGING WIND, are making plans for a South Pacific cruise in the near future. In preparation they will begin living aboard their boat again starting in January of next year.

For many others of you who are potential future cruisers, maybe we could have a 'get-together' so that everyone can compare notes on all the infinite details connected with cruising away from home waters.

S.D.

Long Beach Race

The Ancient Mariners Sailing Society was well represented at the recent Long Beach Ancient Mariners Race. Some of our boats participating were BRAILA, CLARA, JONATHAN SWIFT, SALUD, and SEA WITCH. CLARA took first in her class and won the honors for being the oldest boat entered in the race. JONATHAN SWIFT was also in the winners circle with a second in class.

B.H.

PARADISE FOUND: in The land of many waters

July was a month for vacations, and the Holle family spent their free time journeying north to the beautiful evergreen state of Washington. Four of us camped out along the way, and spent a fair amount of our time riding the huge car ferries that took us back and forth between the various ports and islands in the magnificent waterways of this beautiful state.

There are so many things that can be said in favor of the land on the Canadian border, but it would take reams to tell it all. For those of you who plan to do some cruising in the future, we can only say, consider this area for some beautiful anchorages. One local boater told us that you could cruise the inland waters every year for ten years and never touch the same places. We can easily believe this when you know there are 172 islands in the San Juan area and many more farther north in Canadian waters.

We marveled at the miles and miles of wooded coastline, dozens upon dozens of small secluded coves, and stretches of driftwood

and gravel beaches just beckoning for those who long for solitude. In so many places the only sounds we heard were those of the water lapping the shore and various birds calling to one another. The profusions of wildflowers, ferns, and other native growth overwhelmed us with its lushness. The people were friendly, the pace was slow, and the weather was perfect. Need we say more? It was pure delight, and truly a boaters' world in that 'land of many waters'.

We regretted having such a short time there, but we're happy to be home again and back to our projects.

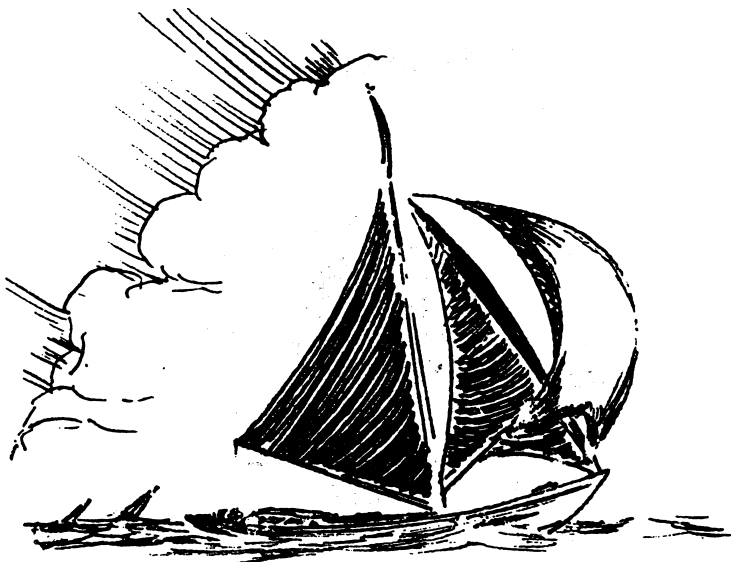
Unfortunately, this will be the last newsletter I'll be able to put out for the club. I'm getting down to the nitty-gritty on the publication of my forthcoming booklet, "Provisioning Checklist", and the demands on my time are too great to do anything else but work on this. It's been a great pleasure working on the ALBATROSS, and I hope I've laid the groundwork for what will continue to be a good informative message to all members of the Ancient Mariners Sailing Society.

Fair winds, dear friends,

Brew Holle



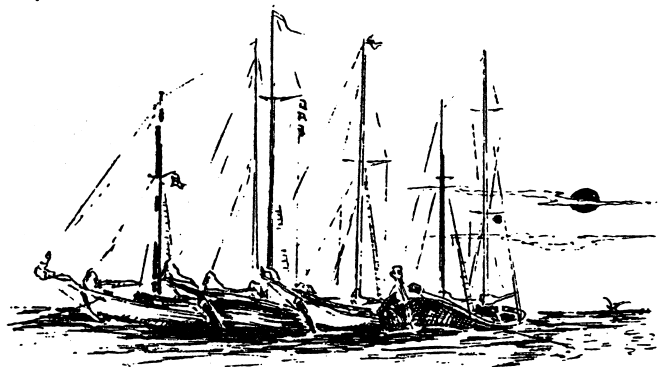
BOAT OF THE MONTH:



NIRVANA

NIRVANA was conceived in Australia by a master carpenter named Heaton, who wanted a cruising boat for himself and his family. The boat originated from Alden designs, which is unusual for the building of such a large cutter. Construction began in 1950, and the hull made of iron bark took a year and a half to build. Rosewood planking on the topsides, double laminated oak frames, and longitudinal iron bark are all held together with copper rivets. After outside construction was finished, Heaton grew restless and threw together a makeshift interior, launched the boat, and departed with his family. NIRVANA proved to be a very fast lady, in spite of her full 'trade-wind' keel, and she won three Sydney-to-Hobart races in boat-for-boat competition. She completed two cruises to Tahiti, and was finally brought to Newport Beach, California, and put up for sale in 1958. In 1958 Hugo Carver began crewing on NIRVANA, and covered many thousands of miles of ocean aboard the boat. Two years ago, Hugo and his wife Marge were able to acquire NIRVANA in a partnership with their friends, John and Meri Knight. They are now redoing NIRVANA both inside and out, and after she is again a 'proper' lady, they plan to sail her where she was originally meant to go.....the world!

S.D.



Raft-up party

Four boats sailed down to Crown Cove for our July Raft-up Barbecue party, and everyone else drove over for the Saturday night fun.

Kerry Geraghty brought the firewood, assisted by a pretty Rangerette in her pick-up truck. Live entertainment was provided by Bob Driscoll playing a mean harmonica, John Daley blowing a good wine jug, Sam Mangum beating rythm on his wood drum, and a friend of the Spriggs picking guitar, with an improvised pick made in haste from John Daley's NELC pass.

It was a fun evening for everyone, but, alas, another well-planned Ancient Mariner event had to reach an end, this time perhaps a bit prematurely, as a July thunderstorm began to provide its own brand of entertainment about 10 P.M.

S.D.

"STAR" meeting

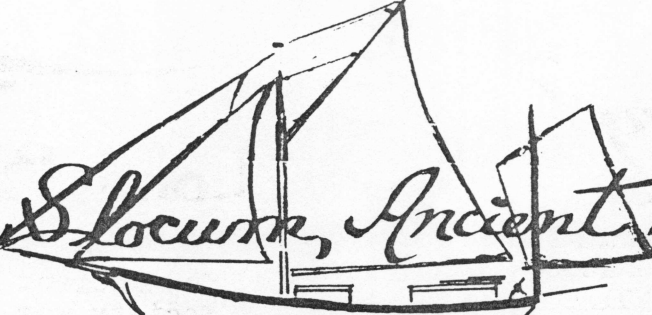


Many members and guests turned out for our July meeting, which was held aboard our flagship, the STAR OF INDIA. A film was shown on the restoration of the STAR, which was most enjoyable and informative.

All members of the Ancient Mariners are invited and encouraged to join the Maritime Association. The \$12 annual dues includes voting rights, free admission with guest privileges, discount on purchases at the "Slop Chest" shop aboard the STAR, and five extra guest passes to all three ships, the STAR, the BERKELEY, and MEDEA.

S.D.

★ *Joshua Slocum, Ancient Mariner* ★



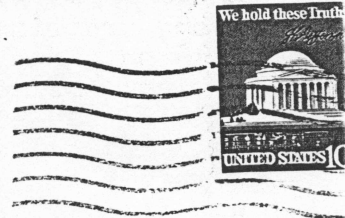
Joshua Slocum, the first small boat sailor to circumnavigate the globe, was undoubtedly one of the greatest free spirits of all time. With his accomplishments on the sea, he set an example for all mariners who later followed him to sail the ocean in quest of the same sort of freedom that being out there can bring. Slocum was a confirmed loner, preferring most often to do things alone. When he was asked why he had chosen to sail around the world all by himself, his answer was simply that it hadn't been done before, so he thought he'd do it. His epic voyage brought him close to all who sail the sea in small ships after him, and his classic adventure set a precedent for sailors and dreamers everywhere who have a true love for the sea. Slocum's remarkable little boat, SPRAY, wasn't a fine new yacht built just for the purpose of sailing the world, but an old sloop left derelict in a New England field, just off the Atlantic shore. Slocum saw fit to resurrect her and make her fine enough to sail the seas again, and it cost him a total of about \$560 to bring her back to life and prepare

for the journey over water that made both the man and the boat immortal. It is doubtful that old Joshua ever dreamed at the time that his meager efforts would endear the names of Slocum and SPRAY to the hearts of mariners for many, many years to come. Joshua was something of an eccentric, and during his voyage did things that were somewhat out of the ordinary. While alone at sea, he often would lash down the helm of little SPRAY, and then go below to read from his library of more than 500 books he had taken along on his trip. While on deck he often talked to the sea and the moon, or sang to birds and porpoises that joined him along the way.

Eleven years after he returned from his famous 'round-the-world voyage, the old sailor's life came to an end in a manner truly befitting a really magnificent mariner. Hearing the siren call of the sea once more, and longing for the feel of a deck beneath his feet, Joshua Slocum set out in a boat from Vineyard Haven, Massachusetts and sailed away over the distant horizon, never to be seen again.

B.H.

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