

ALBATROSS



Courtesy RSBS - UK

Ancient Mariners  *Sailing Society*

Est. 1975

"To preserve and promote interest in sail and power vessels of vintage or classic design"

2nd Issue 2023 Special

***** UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENT *****

35TH AMERICA'S SCHOONER CUP

APRIL 1, 2023



photo Darrall Slater

ALBATROSS

Ancient Mariners  *Sailing Society*



Ancient Mariners Sailing Society, the Maritime Museum of San Diego, and Silver Gate Yacht Club invite you to participate in the upcoming Americas Schooner Cup activities. This popular annual event is the premier gathering of schooners of historic design on the West Coast. This Charity Regatta benefits the Navy-Marine Corp Relief Society for veterans and their families.



photos Cynthia Sinclair



photo Cynthia Sinclair



photo Dale Frost

ALBATROSS

Ancient Mariners  *Sailing Society*



LA VOLPE

Maritime Preservation Trust

photo Mark Albertazzi



LA VOLPE 2022 Schooner Cup WINNER!

Photo Cynthia Sinclair

ALBATROSS

Ancient Mariners  *Sailing Society*

***DAUNTLESS, the beloved 1930 Alden Schooner, RETURNS TO THE SCHOONER CUP !
A likely match race competitor for LA VOLPE, captained by her new owner, Jim Mason.***



all photos Mark Albertazzi

ALBATROSS

Ancient Mariners  *Sailing Society*



LEGACY

photo Mark Albertazzi



photo Cynthia Sinclair



LEGACY

photo Mark Albertazzi



LIVELY

photo Janie Allan



PEGASUS

photo Janie Allan

ALBATROSS

Ancient Mariners *Sailing Society*

Crew positions are occasionally available, but both **AMERICA** (Next Level Sailing) and MMSD's **CALIFORNIAN** will be participating, and are beautiful platforms for seeing all the vessels. Tickets for passengers may be purchased through: (use CTRL Click)

<https://nextlevelsailing.com/special-events/2023-americas-schooner-cup/>
<https://sdmaritime.org/visit/public-events/schooner-cup-charity-regatta/>



AMERICA

Next Level Sailing

photo Dale Frost



CALIFORNIAN

Maritime Museum of San Diego

photo Mark Albertazzi

ALBATROSS

Ancient Mariners  *Sailing Society*



LIVELY & BILL OF RIGHTS

photo Janie Allan



WITCHCRAFT

photo Janie Allan



WITCHCRAFT CREW *photo Cynthia Sinclair*



SHINE ON CREW *photo Cynthia Sinclair*



SHINE ON

photo Dale Frost

ALBATROSS

Ancient Mariners  *Sailing Society*

ASTOR

CELEBRATING HER 100TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY



ASTOR FIFE SCHOONER LAUNCHED 1923 FAIRLIE, SCOTLAND

Photo Bobby Greiser

This may be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see this stunning 86' William Fife schooner. After gracing several owners and spending years in Australia and other venues, she was purchased in 1987 by the Straman family of NYHC, and has been lovingly restored, maintained, raced and cruised since she became theirs. The Stramans have cruised and raced her extensively in the last decades, logging over 90,000 miles while participating in such notable events as the Sydney-to-Hobart and Antigua Race Week. Fife vessels are built to last, and she features Burma teak, bronze rivets, and double-sawn English oak framing. The Stramans had several sailing vessels before owning a Kettenburg PC, followed by a John Alden cutter – and the love of wooden boats won them easily. Astor previously participated in the San Diego America's Schooner Cup from 1989 to 1994, taking first place and the cup in all but one year. Our own Chris Frost was part of her crew in 1994. The articles on the following page provide some of the interesting facets of her life.

ASTOR will be on view while she is docked at SILVER GATE YACHT CLUB from Friday, March 31 through Sunday April 2, 2023. Please respect the privacy and wishes of the family when viewing this treasured vessel.

ALBATROSS

Ancient Mariners



Sailing Society

* AMERICA'S SCHOONER CUP '92 *

The Kona Kai International Yacht Club Salutes

ASTOR

America's Schooner Cup 1992 Defender
America's Schooner Cup 1991 Winner
America's Schooner Cup 1990 Winner



Astor's history is mostly unrecorded. She was designed and built by William Fife in 1924. Her first owner was an Australian nurse who was killed in Sydney. The schooner's ownership changed several times in Astor, and record her history. The third owner, an Australian merchant, sailed her from Sydney around the Cape of Good Hope, across the Atlantic, through the Panama Canal, to the Philippines, and back again to Australia. Astor's fourth owner, another doctor, brought her from Australia to Martin del Rio in 1962. He sailed her to Hawaii, Mexico and South America.

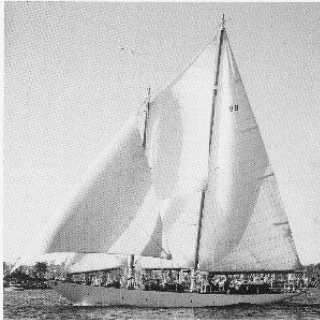
Just before he finally decided to sell the boat, the doctor passed her to a religious community in Hawaii. They stripped the boat of her deck hand winches, rudder poles, all rigging and almost anything they could easily sell. All the gear can be replaced, but none can be duplicated, and the previous owner Richard Straman, formerly the most important skipper—the skipper who got the whole thing together—was unavailable. All of these were salvaged at Fife's own yard in Astor.

Richard and Lani Straman (with their daughter Maria) purchased Astor in 1987. She was a bit scruffy, but she was a pile of rubble prior. The boat's hull was in last, so it had to be on a truck, broken over, and the fiberglass hull was replaced. And as Astor became the Stramans' sailing megalomaniac project.

Lani Straman reports the following: Richard was born in Chicago and began sailing on Lake Michigan. When he decided to move to California he knew he had to be near the ocean so he could continue sailing. It was here in San Bernardino. Although I did not sail, I loved the beach and sailing.

We have owned a few boats. Richard bought a 26-foot 25 when he moved to Newport Beach. He moved on to a 32-foot 26. When we purchased a 1963 17', it changed our attitude on boats forever. We were hooked on wooden boats. After the 17' we owned a 20-foot 22, a 23-foot 26 John Alden motor. In all the 12 years that we owned Richard's boat, Richard never stopped searching for a big schooner.

In 1987 we were on the Astor. One hour after sailing we were on the Astor. Now, five years later, we are on the Astor once again. In a time when most 1920's schooners are being structurally rebuilt, we are very fortunate to have a solid tank and house riveted hull. So we have the pleasure of bringing her back occasionally. Beyond replacing sails and refreshing parts and covers, Richard (Lani) has corrected some of the more serious damage to the deck and rigging. He has replaced the 1940's style mast with a "Fife" type design, matching the deck rail joints and bolsters between the deck and rigging. This year he has added refrigeration, power and water but not to hold the Schooner Cup trophy. Richard adds the house and green and other beautiful details used by William Fife.



In real life, Richard uses the St. Szymon Co. Steamable Design and Construction. The facility, which produces automobile prototypes and components, is perfect for building beautiful details for Astor. We are extremely lucky, too, because we have a five-year-old daughter, Maria, who loves Astor as much as we do.



* KONA KAI INTERNATIONAL YACHT CLUB * 13

Big Boat Racing

Astor Retains Schooner Cup

By The Straman Family

Astor, an 86 foot William Fife designed schooner built in 1924, celebrated her 70th birthday by winning the America's Schooner Cup for the fifth straight year. Co-owners and skipper Richard & Lani Straman of NHYC crossed the finish line two seconds ahead of their challenger and two time Schooner Cup winner Kelpie. The eighth annual America's Schooner Cup race was held March 26 and 27th on the San Diego Bay, and is sponsored by Kona Kai International Yacht Club.

Though Astor won the start off the Harbor Island Naval Buoy, Kelpie led for much of the two boat match race, including the windward leg toward Point Loma. Astor gained speed heading back into San Diego Bay, cutting Kelpie's lead to the length of her bowsprit at Shelter Island.

At the finish, both schooners changed sails, allowing Astor to inch ahead. Astor also won on corrected time by 4 minutes, 17 seconds. "We've never had a race like this one," said Ken Guyer, tactician aboard Astor and 7 year Schooner Cup veteran. "We've beaten Kelpie in the past, but always on corrected time." Both teams did excellent sailing and both teams pushed their boats to the limit.

Astor will return next year to defend the Schooner Cup amid great fanfare surrounding the other Cup racing. Since its inception in 1987, the America's Schooner Cup has become the largest schooner-only regatta on the west coast, according to Kona Kai International YC spokesperson Marlon Bovee.

Kelpie and owners Jim Dobratt and Cody Keller of Dana Point took home the White Cloud Perpetual Trophy for earning the right to challenge Astor. Kelpie beat out Dauntless and Baghera. Dauntless, a 1930 John Alden design owned by San Diegoan Paul Plotts, won the first race in 1987. Kelpie, a 1927 schooner, won the race the following two years. Astor took the cup away from Kelpie in 1990.

Fourteen schooners participated in this year's regatta. The Class B winner was the



Above: Team Astor does it again. Below: Straman Family accepts award.

46 footer Albatross Therapy, a 23.5 foot vessel built in 31 days for the 1988 Schooner Cup, won in Class C.

This year's event raised more than \$3,000 for the US Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society, which assists service personnel and their families.

Credits for the above article excerpted from Waterfront News, article was written by Cheryl Ketcham with help from Ken Guyer.

Crew aboard for the race were:

Richard, Lani, and Maria Straman, Jim Jordan, Skip Elliott, Stephanie Elliott, Chris Garner, Bob Marshall, Bob Gaulin, Brett Barnard, Ken Guyer, John Virtue, Dave LaMontagne, Chris Frost, Wayne Harvey, John Cyr/Miquelon, and Vince Sims.



In Memoriam JACK K. HAMILTON, SR. May 22, 1994 NHYC Member Since 1966	In Memoriam EARL G. SAWYER May 23, 1994 NHYC Member Since 1962	In Memoriam ROBERT SUMPFF June 3, 1994 NHYC Member Since 1951	In Memoriam DOROTHY SULLIVAN June 10, 1994 Mrs. Ivan Sullivan
---	--	---	---

NEWPORT HARBOR **N** YACHT CLUB

Astor wins the Schooner Cup once again.

ALBATROSS

Ancient Mariners  *Sailing Society*



JERRY NEWTON & MARCIA HILMEN'S MAID OF KENT WITH BILL OF RIGHTS photo Darrall Slater

Ray Ashley, President & CEO of the Maritime Museum of San Diego, is a gifted raconteur with a delightful sense of humor – as well as a great depth of knowledge regarding the history of sailing vessels and maritime history. On Friday evening at 7:30 pm, SILVER GATE YACHT CLUB will host Dr. Ashley's presentation on the History of Schooners.

The Saturday race will feature three class starts, the first going off at 11:30 am.

Please reference the Americas's Schooner Cup site for additional information, or contact Jerry Newton (619) 222-1281 (Ctrl click below)

<http://www.americasschoonercup.com/>.

Jane Allan Noon

Editor

Ancient Mariners  *Sailing Society*

Website: www.amss.us

Editor contact: janieallan@gmail.com

Address: PO BOX 6484 San Diego, CA 92166

Email: info@amss.us