

ALBATROSS



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Ancient Mariners  *Sailing Society*

Est. 1975

"To preserve and promote interest in sail and power vessels of vintage or classic design"
4th Issue 2023 - Schooner

MAID OF KENT

FIRST OVERALL - 2023 AMERICAS SCHOONER CUP



Maid of Kent - Jerry Newton & Marcia Hilmen

photo Mark Albertazzi

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AMERICA'S SCHOONER CUP

1 APRIL 2023



Pegasus Lively Astor

Californian

America

Legacy



ASTOR

both photos James Ward

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America

photo Mark Albertazzi



America

1st Place Class A and 2nd Place Overall

photo Janie Allan

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Astor

photo Mark Albertazzi

1923 Fife Schooner Celebrating 100 years



Astor

photo Janie Allan

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Lively

Witchcraft

photo Janie Allan



Witchcraft

photo Mark Albertazzi

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Witchcraft

photo James Ward



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Lively

Witchcraft

photos Cynthia Sinclair

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America La Volpe

photo Mark Albertazzi



La Volpe

photo Janie Allan

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Shine On

Lively

photo Mark Albertazzi



Shine On

photo Janie Allan

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Californian

Bill of Rights

Witchcraft

photo James Ward



Pegasus

Witchcraft

Bill of Rights

photo James Ward

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Bill of Rights

photo Janie Allan

RACE REPORT – AND THEY ARE OFF!

Marcia Hilmen

Wind prediction was 6-9 knots on San Diego Bay for the 35th Annual America's Schooner Cup Charity Regatta held April 1. With this forecast, the ASC Race Committee announced at the skipper's meeting that the 12.9-mile race would be shortened to 10.9 miles. They also reported that its race mark at Buoy 17 off Shelter Island had disappeared; the buoy was presumed hit and sunk in recent days... so the usual upwind slog to this mark was eliminated from the course. With prevailing west to northwest wind, this generates a long broad reach from the race start to the "outer marks" outside the Bay favoring the gaffers! Still, gloomy conditions loomed again this year for the race, with a 1-1.5 knot ebb tide and potentially no wind for the early starters. Luckily a steady wind freshened from northwest just as the first start for Class C boats sounded at 1130. The Atkin 30-ft Marconi schooner Maid of Kent hit the start line with speed and seconds to spare. With a steady aft breeze, Maid of Kent immediately raised a golly and took off heading south. The stately 94-ft Californian from the Maritime Museum of San Diego and 94-ft Bill of Rights with Don Johnson from South Bayfront Sailing Association set up their approaches to the line further back to avoid crossing over early, but once safely across the start line and underway in a perfect schooner breeze, they charged for the outer marks too. Not far behind were the 42-ft Luders schooner Age of Grace with skipper Eric Gonnason and 30-ft Hale Field/Lyle Hess-designed schooner Lively with skipper Andrew Mayhugh from Newport Beach, both getting whatever distance possible between them and the B-class racers in the second start at 1145. The Californian caught Maid of Kent near the end of Point Loma and passed her like a freight train heading to the first mark at Buoy 4 with a deck full of charter passengers and crew.

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Maid of Kent

Californian

photo James Ward

Everyone racing schooners this year was loving the starts and this first leg in the 2023 ASC race. Among the B-fleet racers was Pegasus, a Downeast-45 Morschaldt single-handed by John Fay. Also in the pack was 41-ft Legacy, an Alden Malabar II with skipper Scott Mahoney from Marina del Rey, plus Shine On, a 44-ft custom schooner designed by Bud Taplin, who also served as helmsman this day for owner Walt Pitt, and Brian Eichenlaub's Witchcraft, a 36-ft William Roue-designed schooner, custom built by Carl and Brian Eichenlaub and skippered by CF Koehler.



Pegasus

Bill of Rights

photo Cynthia Sinclair

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Maid of Kent photo Mark Albertazzi



photo Janie Allan



Maid of Kent

photos James Ward



Maid of Kent

photo Mark Albertazzi

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Age of Grace photo Janie Allan



photo Cynthia Sinclair



Age of Grace



photos Cynthia Sinclair



Lively

photos Cynthia Sinclair

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Lively

photo Cynthia Sinclair



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Lively

photo Cynthia Sinclair

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Lively

Pegasus 1st Place Class B

photo Cynthia Sinclair



Legacy

Pegasus



Pegasus

photos Janie Allan



photo Janie Allan



photo Cynthia Sinclair

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Legacy



photos James Ward



Legacy



photos Janie Allan



Legacy

2nd Place Class B

photo Mark Albertazzi

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Shine On

photo Cynthia Sinclair



Shine On

photo Cynthia Sinclair

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Californian

photo James Ward



Lively

Californian

photo James Ward

RACE REPORT

First to Buoy 4, Californian hardened up to round this mark, but eventually had to tack away and begin the upwind climb to Buoy 3. Maid of Kent rounded Buoy 4 a few minutes after Californian, doused her golly and tacked away with a gaff-foresail and fisherman as she continued upwind and swell to Buoy 3, while all other Class C and Class B schooners were now closing on Buoy 4.

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Californian

America

photo Cynthia Sinclair

RACE REPORT

By this time the third start at 1200 was well underway for Class A racers, including the 2022 America's Schooner Cup Defender – the 46-ft Angelman La Volpe - skippered by Tim O'Brien with his crew from the Maritime Preservation Trust in San Pedro, and first to cross the line after the 1200 starting horn. Her Class A challengers were 105-ft America, a Scarano-designed replica of the famous 1851 racer, skippered by Troy Sears of NextLevelSailing with a deck also filled with charter passengers, and the 74-ft Fife-designed schooner Astor from Newport Beach, fivetime winner of the America's Schooner Cup from 1990-94. Astor's long-awaited return to this San Diego event followed her 90,000 miles of cruising in the South Pacific, including New Zealand and Australia, plus the Caribbean, Mediterranean and most importantly, an arrival in Fairlie, Scotland for a Fife Reunion Regatta in 2013. Launched in 1923, Astor celebrates her 100th year of sailing with a fine gathering of West Coast schooners at the 2023 America's Schooner Cup Regatta. She has been meticulously maintained, raced hard and cruised extensively by Richard and Lani Straman since 1987. Among the four Class A challengers this year, one was sadly missing at the line. The 61-ft Alden staysail schooner Dauntless was unable to finish her repairs in time this year to compete for the America's Schooner Cup; she was notably absent and missed in a race against her old rival Astor. Despite such great disappointment, Dauntless' new owner and skipper Jim Mason from Berkeley entered the ASC Regatta with Dauntless in full support of this charity event to benefit the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society. He also participated as charter-crew aboard schooner America.

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Astor

photo Mark Albertazzi



Astor

photo Cynthia Sinclair

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Astor

photo Janie Allan



Astor



photos James Ward

Bristol Boat Award



Richard & Lani Straman *photo Cynthia Sinclair*

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La Volpe

photo Mark Albertazzi

Wayne Ettel of the Maritime Preservation Trust posted a great video of the America's Schooner Cup in a recent MPT Newsletter. You can watch it at <https://us18.campaign-archive.com/?u=506392c9f58fe88541dbc038e&id=3a75d6f60>



@cynthiasinclair4

La Volpe

photos Cynthia Sinclair

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Legacy

photo Cynthia Sinclair



Lively

photo Janie Allan

The ALBATROSS editor wishes to thank Silver Gate Yacht Club for hosting this popular and well-attended event; Marcia Hilmen for capturing the on-board experience in her well-scripted Race Report, Wayne Ettel of Maritime Preservation Trust for his narrated video; and especially our photographic contributors James Ward, Cynthia Sinclair, & Mark Albertazzi, whose sunlit images of these signature vessels let us share the majesty of the unique and historical design of these boats.

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THE INTERGALACTICS

Paul Mitchell



Poco Loco



Pacífier

photos Cynthia Sinclair



Líme & de Coconut



Poco Loco

photos Janie Allan



Poco Loco & Líme & de Coconut *photo Janie Allan*



Poco Loco *photo Cynthia Sinclair*

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Lime & de Coconut photos Cynthia Sinclair Crew Matt Megala & Pete Stanton

1st Place, Winner of the Paul Mitchell Intergalactic Perpetual Award

The 2023 Intergalactic Schooner Match Race this year was bravely completed by three entries:

1st Place - Lime an' de Coconut - Raced by Matt Megala and Pete Stanton

2nd Place - Poco Loco - Raced by Alex Packard and Nathan Packard

3rd Place - Pacifier - Raced by Stu Seymour and Kevin Seymour

RACE REPORT FINAL

After the freshening winds at the start and an ebb tide, this schooner race of such diverse vessel attributes and diverse sailing conditions came down - as usual - to the wind conditions and luck of position at different points in the race course. The ebb tide conditions favored the racers in the earlier start classes. While initially faster than most in broad reach winds, Californian was overtaken while tacking to windward. Maid of Kent has raced for the Schooner Cup for 32 years and has only once finished anywhere above mid-pack of her competition (placing second overall to Lively in 2016 by 59 seconds.) Maid of Kent is almost always out ahead for the first hour of this race, only to be passed repeatedly by all the other schooners on the long reach to the finish line, and she rarely corrects over the bigger, faster ones. But this year was different! Somehow Maid of Kent stayed ahead long enough to finish first on corrected time by 2 minutes. The mysterious loss of Buoy 17 certainly did not hurt the little gaffer. The annual ASC Charity Regatta and festivities are hosted by Silver Gate Yacht Club and sponsored by many generous donors. Racing honors were again awarded at the SGYC PostRace Party. In addition to her racing prowess in 2023, Astor won the prestigious Bristol Boat Award from Downwind Marine for Best Maintained Yacht. Find full race results and event info posted at

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

2023 America's Schooner Cup Race Honors - :

Class A - First Place (and second overall): America, Troy Sears

Second Place: La Volpe, Tim O'Brien

Third Place: Astor, Richard Straman

Class B - First Place (and third overall): Pegasus, John Fay

Second Place: Legacy, Scott Mahoney

Third Place: Witchcraft, CF Koehler

Class C - First Place (and first overall): Maid of Kent, Jerry Newton

Second Place: Lively, Andrew Mayhugh

Third Place: Age of Grace, Eric Gonnason

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Winner of the America's Schooner Cup - First Overall



Maid of Kent

photo James Ward



Family & Crew

photo Cynthia Sinclair

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