


CLASSIC TIMES

SUMMER 2022

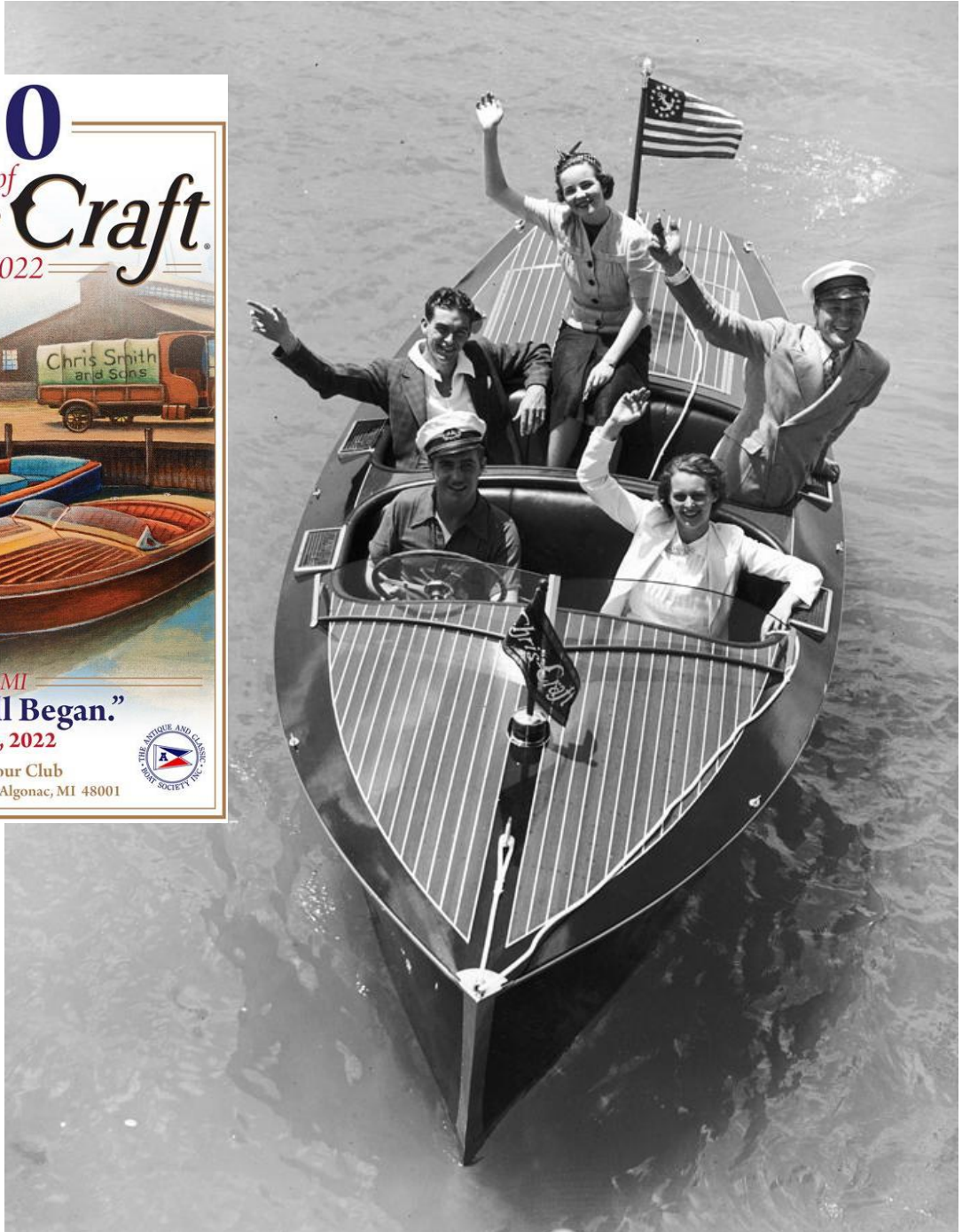


NEWS MAGAZINE OF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FLEET ♦ CLASSIC YACHT ASSOCIATION

OUR 53rd YEAR

100
Years of
Chris-Craft.
1922-2022



Algonac, MI
"Where it All Began."
June 24-26, 2022
Algonac Harbour Club
1999 Pointe Tremble Rd. • Algonac, MI 48001



Chris-Craft Charisma

Cover Story

THE STORY OF CHRIS-CRAFT IS THE STORY OF THE AMERICAN DREAM

Chris-Craft®

became famous for its mahogany-hulled powerboats from the 1920s through the 1950s. Their boats were often made from the finest mahogany and were considered to be among the best available. They were easy to operate, a must for their "weekend sailor" owners.



A vintage Chris-Craft runabout is the aquatic equivalent of a 1950s T-Bird convertible, certain to get attention for the vehicle and the driver.

The runabouts are like mahogany jewel boxes, handcrafted with precision and catching every glint of sun in their mirror-like varnish and polished brass, waving the signature Chris-Craft burgee as a hood ornament. Try to look away, you just can't.

While many boats serve a utilitarian purpose, a Chris-Craft **pleasure boat** is simply that, made to drive around on the water for the sheer joy of it.



In their heyday, the high-end Chris-Craft vessels caught the attention of the equally high-end glitterati of the era, among them Katharine Hepburn, Frank Sinatra and Elvis.



Over the years, many prominent American families have owned Chris-Craft boats. Among them are the Fords, the Firestones, the Hearsts, the Morgans, and the Vanderbilts. Two U.S. Presidents have owned Chris-Craft boats - Franklin D. Roosevelt and John F. Kennedy who both used their boats to get away and relax with their families.



The Southern California Fleet
of the
Classic Yacht Association
is home to several



Comfy ★ *Mindful*
ComOcean ★ *No Corkage*
Dionysus ★ *Sparkle*
Hello Baby ★ *Scooteroo*
Intensive Care



- photos of the So Cal Fleet vessels by Rick Olson

The Wooden Boat Everyone Wanted

- by Jim Butz

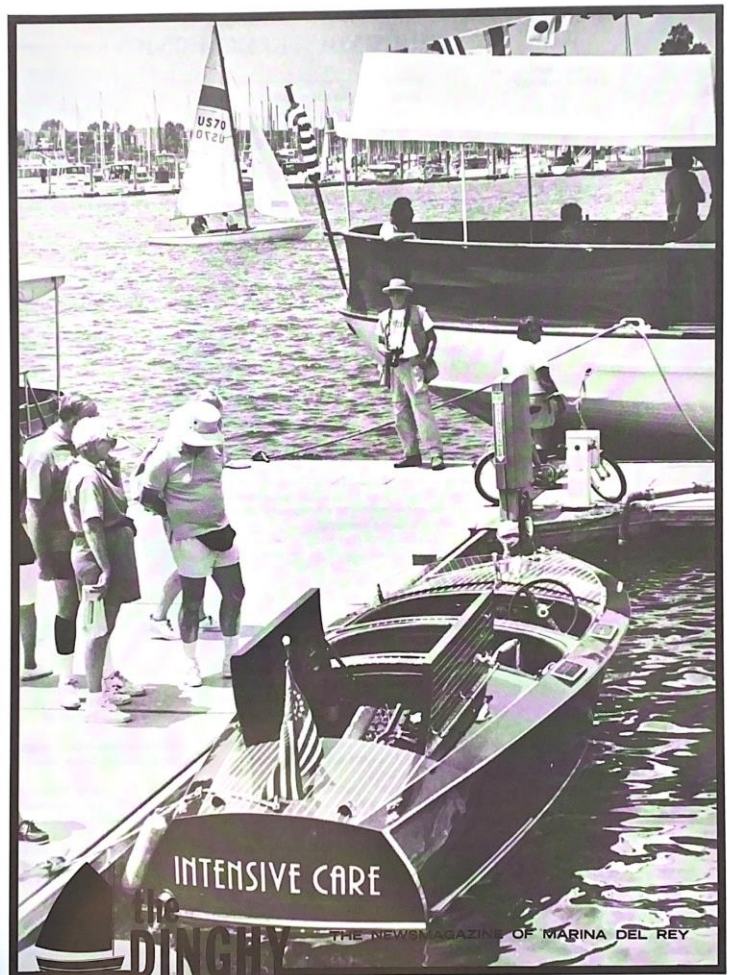
For someone growing up in the mid-west in the 40s and 50s, Chris-Craft was THE wooden boat everyone wanted. It was everyman's boat!



INTENSIVE CARE: 1930 Chris-Craft Twin Cockpit Runabout. This boat was delivered new to Harper's Chris-Craft in Wilmington, CA in 1936. **INTENSIVE CARE** has had several owners over the years in Marina del Ray and Newport and she has been rebuilt.



I've loved owning **INTENSIVE CARE**—her beauty still amazes me.





View from the Helm

by Commodore Dianna Ettel

I want to start off by introducing our newest members, CF Koehler and Danielle Richards, of Koehler Kraft Co., with DICKIE WALKER, a 1951, 63' Eldridge-McInnis Trawler. Father's Day weekend a group of us went south to the Wooden Boat Show hosted by Koehler Kraft Co. in San Diego. We had a fun day touring the boats, and DICKIE WALKER was a favorite. CF does a great job restoring wooden boats at his boatyard in San Diego, and I am delighted he and Danielle have decided to join CYA. Welcome aboard!

After 2 long years of cancellations, we finally hosted **Old Fashioned Day** in Marina del Rey. It was quite a bit of work pulled off by a small group, we had 3 CYA boats and almost 50 cars to feed breakfast to. We were feeling quite overwhelmed prior to Sunday, but we streamlined the breakfast and got to work. The car clubs were very appreciative, and by the end of the day Sunday, we all agreed that it was a good day and we enjoyed it. Very special thanks to all who pitched in, but especially to Rick Olson for dealing with the bureaucracy-everyone Christine Rhode had dealt with in the past was gone, the new park contacts were very helpful, but the Board of Supervisors' office was not. Also special thanks to Cris Clark - she really pitched in to help set up and drove us around for food and supplies.

This year we finally have ATHENA running on both engines. She has 2 Chrysler Majestics that were installed in 1950 and the only part we can get is a copy of the manual. Our troubles started with a crack in the starboard exhaust manifold that Wayne finally patched with a heat-resistant fiberglass patch. The story of the attempts to repair that crack is an article in itself – that manifold is a complicated piece. We no sooner had that repaired when the fresh water pump failed and the starboard engine overheated. Repaired the pump (the shaft needed to be lengthened so it connected properly), had the head checked and reground level, reground and resealed the valves, new head gasket. With all this going on, we still attended events running solely on our port engine. Good thing ATHENA is so narrow and she powers like a sailboat with an offset prop. We ran on one engine for about 2 years.

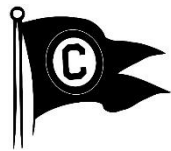


Finally, we got the starboard engine running, but it kept running hot. Wayne rebuilt the raw water pumps after the Catalina trip, turns out that was past due, the impellers were shot. But she still ran hot and we had to keep the RPMs below 2000 (we used to always run at 2000). Wayne finally decided the issue was our propellers. ATHENA had 5 bladed props when she was in the Delta, running in fresh water, and probably at lower speeds. But Wayne had noticed the propellers were cavitating which occurs when small air bubbles form against the propeller blades and the propellers spin in a pocket of air and don't propel the boat. He changed the props to 3 bladed as that will bite better and provide more thrust in the salt water. He went with the propeller shop's recommendation for 18 degree pitch (pitch is the angle of the blade).

He finally realized the pitch on the props was too aggressive. When we tried to run at higher RPMs the engines just worked harder but we didn't go any faster, much like when you step on the gas in a car going uphill. So he ordered new props with a lesser pitch and scheduled a "haul and hang" at Sunset Marine in Huntington Harbor. The problem? The earliest date they had available was the Monday morning we were coming back from Marina del Rey. There is nothing like getting up at 3 a.m. to motor back in the dark. We were at LA Light about 6 a.m. and found that is rush hour in LA Harbor. Cruise ship coming in, one container ship coming in as another was going out. We had to slide in behind the container ship and follow her in. Wayne dropped me at his boatyard so I could go to work, then he was off to Huntington Harbor. ATHENA was hauled out on a travel lift and left hanging while the props were changed. Running her back from Huntington Harbor he reported she now runs an easy 10 knots at 2000 RPMs and he was able to run her up to 14 knots without trouble. **ATHENA is now pitch perfect!**

Past Events – LA FLEET WEEK®

This summer has had several of our Fleet vessels with one issue or another, and our first summer event had none of our classics in attendance. However, that did not mean that we couldn't still gather. THE LOS ANGELES MARITIME MUSEUM has re-opened following pandemic shutdown and renovations. Built as a ferry terminal for San Pedro workers heading over to Terminal Island, the MARITIME MUSEUM is now on the National Register of Historic Places. After construction of the Vincent Thomas Bridge the building was no longer needed used as a ferry terminal and was transformed into a museum. The first exhibit beyond the reception area is the 1924 launch for GOSLING, "the super yacht of its day" which was broken up in 2011 after years of neglect. Notice the Old Fashioned Day in the Park brass participation plaque still proudly displayed.



Past Events – Boatyard BBQ

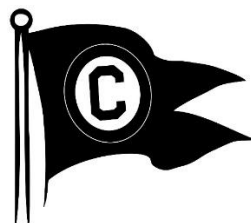


Picnicking in the shade of a “smiling” BLACK DOUGLAS

- photo by Janet Beggs

June 11, 2022 brought a good turn out to the Boatyard BBQ including Rear Commodore Glen Varcoe from Santa Barbara, and Anne & Rob Blayden from Huntington Beach. Commodore Dianna Ettel hosted magnificently and Boatswain Boatyard owner Wayne Ettel manned the grill creating his delicious Huli chicken sandwiches and aloha burgers. Vice Commodore Rick Olson brought an ample supply of refreshing rum punch and the potluck table was filled with many delicious things. ENCHANTRESS Skipper Drew Miser came early and stayed late which pretty much sums up the good time that everyone had.

Treasurer Elissa Olson reports that our Fleet earned \$1,571 from the auction and meal reservations. Several members now own CYA-engraved barware donated from SPARKLE, our flagship ATHENA now has its own set of classic signal flags, and our Commodore now owns a vintage Adolfo-designed ladies boater hat.



Past Events – Father’s Day Wooden Boat Show

San Diego is a beautiful city. Let me say that again – *San Diego is a beautiful city*. Several members of the So Cal Fleet Bridge travelled to San Diego to enjoy the Kohler Kraft Father’s Day Wooden Boat Show and explore the waterfront as a potential site for the 2024 Classic Yacht Association Change of Watch which our fleet will be hosting. It was a truly wonderful weekend. We made some good contacts and some new friends and did some good recruiting (see the Membership Ambassador’s report).



What’s behind these beautiful custom cabinets on the aft deck of MAME? WOW!



- photos by Jim Kroeger and Janet Beggs

Past Events – Old Fashion Day In The Park

After a two year absence caused by our Covid vacation from life, we returned to Marina Del Rey’s Burton Chace Park for the Southern California Fleet’s **44TH OLD FASHION DAY IN THE PARK**. In addition to the hiatus, our Fleet now has no yachts docking in the marina which caused some initial trepidation about whether this event was still possible. As the date approached several members expressed the feeling that this event was just too much trouble, too far away, and cost the club too much. There was talk about this being the last year. **What a difference a day can make!** By the end of the weekend, we found ourselves quite enthusiastic. *– by Rick Olson*



- drone photo by Wayne Ettel

Many folks told us that they were glad we were back again this year. Throughout the weekend many stopped along the fence and thanked us for coming. Our goal of educating people about these vintage yachts and the period of time they are from is clearly an element the public responds to. We meet people and get to speak to them about our organization and about preserving these historic yachts. By the end of the show we all were again realizing that this event gives a great deal of publicity to the club. It is our biggest public exposure and creates a lot of new friends and good will.

- photos by Rick Olson and Janet Beggs



Both the harbor and the park are quite beautiful, 50 good-looking antique cars adorned the park grounds, our classic yachts drew positive intrigue, and an on-board musical podcast added one more element of enjoyment.

Although the level of work to host is high, the response and entertainment value is worth it. On Sunday, we held a simple breakfast on the dock for the car owners. They were so thankful that the show was on again and gave us a lot of support and good wishes. Mingling with the car owners over coffee and rolls is a heartwarming time.



By the end of the show, the overall attitude of our members was very encouraged. This show has merit and is a strong promoter of CYA. We will look at the event again as we plan for next year. I suspect an even better show for 2023.



Ending our obligations with our traditional Mudslides refreshments seemed to put everyone in an upbeat mood and ready to try again next year!



Past Events -



@ LBYC



← ATHENA, the flagship of the Southern California Fleet, leads the return to **LONG BEACH YACHT CLUB** for an August weekend in what has now become the Fleet's favorite rendezvous.

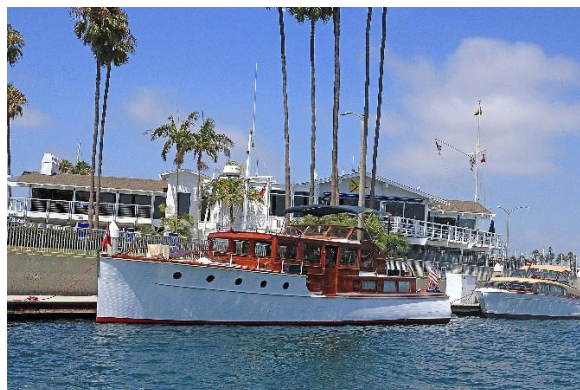


↑ Janet and Tom in their new club polo shirts leave no question that they are the owners of **DIONYSUS** and **OLD WOOD**.



← Carol Williams, along with her remarkable cavalry of associates and family ensure that the Fleet's Hospitality Award remains where it is.

Jane, Drew, Cathy, Ron enjoy dinner and a view



Captain Rick issues an invitation to Scotch Salon aboard ONO





Carol Williams provided her Duffy for the weekend which allowed us to time the sun and the sea and get some great photos. This set was taken by Dianna Ettel. The lineup: DIONYSUS, ONO, COMOCEAN, ATHENA, VERA LEE II



Upcoming Fall Events



@
**MARINA PARK GUEST SLIPS
NEWPORT BEACH**



SEPT 17-19, 2022

arrive Friday / depart Sunday

Dock space reservations are required
Dock Master @ 949-270-8159

We are aware that another yacht club
will also be at Marina Park for the weekend



HUNTINGTON HARBOUR

Yacht Club

so it should be extra fun!

Coordinated by
Vice Commodore Rick Olson
rickofoto@gmail.com

CHANGE OF WATCH DINNER

**Saturday
November 5, 2022
5:30 PM**



THINK RESTAURANT

302 West 5th Street
San Pedro

~ privately reserved room ~



RSVP to Commodore Dianna Ettel
wdettel@gmail.com
310-984-4138



Nominations to Commodore Dianna Ettel
wdettel@gmail.com
310-984-4138

New Members

MEMBERSHIP



- by Jim Kroeger

Kohler Kraft Fathers Day Wooden Boat Show Adds Two New Members !



DICKIE WALKER, a 1951 63' Gulf shrimp trawler, restored and owned by Kohler Kraft, has already been featured in WOODEN BOAT MAGAZINE. Welcome **CF Kohler, Amanda Del Bello** and **Danielle Richards**.



MAME,
a 1958 55' cabin cruiser
joins our family of
Stephens custom yachts.

Rendezvous @ Long Beach Yacht Club Adds Two New Members !



Commodore Ettel welcomes Jerry Arceo

Joining is easy! You can do it in moments on-line. That's just what **Jerry Arceo** did while we were at the Long Beach Yacht Club. We are so excited to have Jerry as a genuine member as he has been assisting Carol Williams and taking care of so many of the details that make our LBYC rendezvous so extra special.



Rick Olson invited his Shoreline Village dock neighbor to stop by in her runabout named **CARMEN**. We welcome **Mitzi Matijevich** to our fine

group. We look forward to getting to know more about her but have already heard she has excellent varnishing skills.

During the August rendezvous at LBYC, we jumped aboard Captain Doug Misterly's craft to check the CYA member yachts scattered throughout Long Beach waters of Alamitos Bay, Spinnaker Bay, Naples Island, and Marina Pacifica

- BLANCHE, DIONYSUS, SEA BOARDER, ENCHANTRESS -

Membership Ambassador Kroeger continues searching the docks in our Fleet-area for more classics.

Name Game

Interesting / Ironic / Insane



One ship carrying blue paint collided with another ship carrying red paint. The crew is missing and believed to be MAROONED ! ha ha ha



ATHENA cruising to Marina del Rey - photo by D. Ettel

Classic Times

is the quarterly publication of the Classic Yacht Association ♦ So California Fleet which rendezvous throughout the year with and without vessels.

Commodore Dianna Ettel
Vice Commodore Rick Olson
Rear Commodore

Website: <https://classicyacht.org/southern-california-fleet>

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"Aged Chris-Craft Sign – Wilmington"

- photo by Janet Beggs