



CLASSIC TIMES

SUMMER 2020

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FLEET ♦ CLASSIC YACHT ASSOCIATION

OUR 50TH YEAR



"Follow the Flag to Fun" ONO AFT DECK

- photo by Cathy Yatch

SALUTE TO SUMMER

Cover Story

After the 9/11/2001 attack on the World Trade Center, a photo was taken of three firefighters



raising a flag with the destroyed towers behind them. The image won awards and appeared on the cover of Newsweek.



Did you know the firefighters took the flag from a yacht called the **STAR OF AMERICA** anchored in the nearby harbor?





More Flag Talk ✦ Ensign Etiquette

Yachts and yacht clubs are great users of flags - traditionally flown from 8:00 AM to sunset from the stern staff when under way or occupied - the flags are colorful, festive and informative. Yacht owners should be familiar with the customs that apply to all the types of flags flown on a vessel. Typically, a yacht will display three flags: one announcing her nationality, one announcing her owner's club affiliation, and one announcing her owner's status such as a private signal or club officer's flag.

Afloat, the familiar 50 star "Stars and Stripes" is known as the **National Ensign**. It identifies the vessel's nationality and is the most important flag on board.



Alternatively, American yachts may fly a flag called the **Yacht Ensign**. In lieu of the 50 stars, 13 stars representing the original states surround an anchor. Designed by officers of the New York Yacht Club, it is sometimes referred to as the yacht flag, anchor flag, or "Betsy Ross".

To streamline the process of clearing customs when entering congested ports, it was recognized by an act of Congress in 1848 to identify licensed yachts. That 1848 law has been amended so that the Yacht Ensign is now an option for any American recreational vessel. So yachtsmen may choose either the **National Ensign** or **Yacht Ensign**, but they may not be flown simultaneously. Going to Mexico? When a US yacht sails in international waters, the 50-star flag must be flown and not the Yacht Ensign.

Yacht clubs have flags called the **Yacht Club Burgee**. Most are pennant shaped but a few clubs use a swallow-tailed or rectangular flag. Flying the burgee is an important part of belonging to a yacht club and a vessel owned by a member of CYA should fly our burgee with pride. On our Motor Vessels, the burgee is flown from the bow staff.



A circle of 13 stars surrounding an anchor forms the basis for the **Officer Flag** used by yacht clubs for the Commodore, Vice Commodore and Rear Commodore, with a background of blue, red or white respectively. Other officers, such as Fleet Captain, Secretary, Treasurer, and Past Commodore have their own flags. On powerboats, the Officer Flag is flown from the mast. Officer flags are flown only when the officer is aboard.



Dating back to the 18th century, one of the oldest traditions in yachting is that of the **Private Signal**. They are unique personal flags with logos similar to family crests that communicate that a specific individual or family is onboard. It is to be flown from the starboard spreader flag halyard or may be flown at the top of a starboard side antenna.

Roving Reporter:

If you had a private signal, what would it be?

Gerard Buck: A boat with a fish in the back which I will prepare for lunch.

Wayne Ettel: Acorn with slick and adz woodworking tools.



Jim Kroeger: I had my grandfather's signal flag among my keepsakes and was excited to fly it again when the SEA BOARDER came home.

Jonathan Leonard: LONE RANGER 2 has always flown "the mask".



Cris Rohde: A sparkly S with some fireworks behind it. But this question got me to thinking so I just created this . . .





Commodore Roar

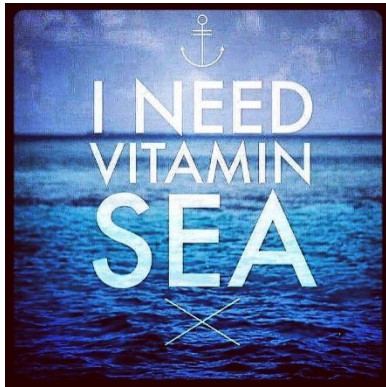
- by Janet Beggs, 50th Commodore



"I Need Vitamin SEA"

Summer

Hair gets lighter. Skins gets darker.
Water gets warmer. Drinks get colder.
Music gets louder. Nights get longer.
Life gets better.



Former Commodore Kroeger told us all "I don't need therapy, I just need my boat." As for me, I am shouting from my soul "I need Vitamin Sea !!!" I've been so anxious to get out on the water and to see our summer friends. Finally, we at least got

the kayak out and enjoyed a tie-up visit with ENCHANTRESS but then had to rush back to Pasadena when an unexpected curfew was announced.

Looking back / Looking forward

Neither the Newport Beach Wooden Boat Show or Old Fashion Day in the Park (the Classic Yacht Association's oldest event) happened. This was certainly a shame, as we had planned extravaganza golden appearances in celebration of CYA's 50th anniversary.



As they say, "you can't control the wind, but you can adjust your sails". And we have certainly been adjusting as venues have forced cancellation of our events.

However, it looks like Marina Pacifica is a go!

We do have to adjust the date and bump it up a week to [August 7, 8, 9](#), but I'm happy to report that the Dock Administrator has now approved the date and overnight use of the Long Dock. This is a relaxing club rendezvous and is not a public event. Friday dinner on the dock will be provided and a Saturday restaurant option is offered. Everyone will make their own decision about what they are comfortable with – and if you want to be completely self-contained on your boat, you may.

After VERA LEE II's long stay in dry dock, Marina Shipyard vows they will do everything possible to have her arriving at the Long Dock. It will be wonderful to see her again.

And it will be wonderful to see each of you again.

It will be very important for Vessels/Skippers to RSVP to Coordinator Kroeger and also for anyone wishing to join us by land for Saturday Supper. Drew Miser has wisely chosen to suspend the annual potluck at his condo for this year. But the new outdoor mall [2nd & PCH](#) has opened and Noble Bird Rotisserie Restaurant will be happy to seat us for specially arranged *al fresco* dining at an outdoor table. (We tested the food and it is good!) 2nd & PCH is within walking or kayaking distance from our boats and also has a lot of parking available for those driving in. Again – this time **your RSVP is very necessary.**

Please advise Staff Commodore Jim Kroeger @ jimkroeger@sbcglobal.net





In celebration of our 50th anniversary, **Classic Times** features our founding yachts that are still in the So Cal Fleet

◆ Vera Lee II ◆

Of the original 13 charter yachts, VERA LEE II is the only continuous member of the So Cal Fleet. Carol Anne Williams, its third and current owner, moors this very special lady at the Long Beach Yacht Club, Alamitos Bay, Long Beach, California, directly across from the Williams' home.

Dedicated Ladies Have Taken Care Of This Lady

Lady Vera Lee

On May 30, 1940, Larry McDowell Sr. purchased this Elco beauty off the floor at the Los Angeles Boat Show and named her for another beauty, his wife Vera Lee. Sunbathing on the deck off Catalina, with Humphrey Bogart or Errol Flynn moored next to them, Vera Lee looked like Marilyn Monroe herself.

Lady Helen

Larry and Vera Lee raised their baby daughter Helen on the boat, bathing her in the sink. Helen, who lived well into her 90s, knew the boat with great intimacy. Marina Shipyard also knows this vessel with great intimacy as it has cared for it since Day One. Rick Olson tells the story of the day he noticed a wooden vessel at the Marina Shipyard and wandered over to check it out. He waited patiently amidst a cloud of paint dust being sanded from the hull. When the sander stopped, the dust settled, and the hazmat suit was pulled away, inside was a little old lady – there was Helen. ◆ Helen experienced a heart attack while on Catalina and had to be airlifted back to the mainland. At that point her family told her, “you can’t be driving to Catalina every weekend.” Helen shot back, “I told them ‘so what if I have a heart attack at sea? I’ll die doing something I love!’”

Lady Carol Anne

“When I first met Helen she was already in her 80’s and always talked about ‘Daddy’ and about the history on this boat. You felt you were meeting someone who was a legendary feminine figure - like an Amelia Earhart. She inspired me as a person to want to be like her.”



A 1940 photo at her favorite mooring at Cherry Cove

Since 2014, VERA LEE II has been owned by Carol Anne Williams who continues a dedicated stewardship. She had witnessed that “the repair of that boat was just like breathing” to Helen who continued to come to the shipyard and loved seeing that new technology was being used. She was very excited by it and thrilled to watch the renovation. Tony Wasson of Marina Shipyard chimed in his agreement. Tony, knowing VERA LEE and the way Helen took care of her, points out that with “modern technology, techniques, paints, and style, Carol has taken the care of the boat to a whole different level.”

Carol wants to be sure to mention the captains during the time VERA LEE has been in her care –her brothers Bill and Woody. Woody, a marine science teacher, brings a special devotion to his work on the mahogany. He has been working hand-in-hand with a gentleman named Joaquin who the Marina Shipyard refers to as “a magician.” ◆ Carol has inherited histories of the boat, the family, and the island of Catalina and is looking forward to returning to VERA LEE’s old mooring at Cherry Cove.



As a bonus e-supplement, Members receiving **Classic Times** by e-mail also received a fascinating step-by-step summary of VERA LEE II’s restoration which was prepared by Carol Anne Williams. It is also included on the CYA website in the Yacht Register section.



Boat Beautifications

ONO's Corona Confinement

Rear Commodore Rick Olson has been "Corona Confined" to ONO and has taken great advantage of the time.

Having purchased a commercial sewing machine, ONO now has her first section of home-made/hand-made canvas cover.



Front deck nonskid



Her transom gleams and is ready for delivery of her gold lettering.

VERA LEE II The Gold Standard



Newly carved name and hailing port boards with 22.5 carat gold. The boards were then stream bent to match the contour of the transom.

ENCHANTRESS Sucks It Up

Even though Drew Miser's HVAC business has had him working 7 days a week on hospital ventilation systems, he got a lot accomplished during the initial weeks of "Safer-at-Home". He is another of our Skippers who turned that time into "Busy-on-Board".

Check this out!

ENCHANTRESS now has an on-board vacuum cleaner system with a reeled 40-foot hose. He says it is so super quiet that he can use it anytime he wants and no neighbor even knows. The hose is long enough to clean up the dock too which sure came in handy during his carpentry projects.



This seat hangs from the wall with a conveniently large storage box underneath. Then he learned the process of upholstery which he is quite proud of.

Wondering if he really needed this new hand rail down the stairs, Drew has found that he uses it all the time.

Upcoming Events

*Marina Pacifica Rendevous
@ the Long Dock*



Aug 7, 8, 9, 2020

Friday evening dock dinner
provided by Commodore Beggs

Saturday's annual potluck
replaced with specially arranged al fresco dining
@ new outdoor mall 2nd & PCH

Vessels and Diners ♦ Reservations Required:

please advise Staff Commodore Jim Kroeger @
jimkroeger@sbcglobal.net



Sept 5-6, 2020

*Labor Day Weekend
@ the Port of Los Angeles*

♦
coordinated by
Rear Commodore ♦ Rick Olson

*Dick Stephens
100th birthday celebration*

Sept 13, 2020

@ Village West Marina ♦ Stockton



♦ coordinated by Vice Commodore Rick Olson

Member Spotlight



GENERATIONS: Caden Gary Conwell, born in mid-April, makes his first visit to HAVEN. What a year for the Conwells! A new boat and a new baby!



WE ALL LIVE IN A YELLOW SUBMARINE

Jim Kroeger spotted the Catalina fish watching sub docked at the Long Beach Yacht Club.



PERMISSION TO COME ABOARD:
Miss Maddie welcomes guests aboard SPARKLE



Phantom Gossip:



A 2018 on-line “So Cal Classics” article in *The Log*, featured the fabled PHANTOM. An April 26, 2020 comment states: “She is now harbored on Shelter Island in Flathead Lake, Montana and has sunk and been recovered.”



Shelter Island



UPDATE: Well, well, well.

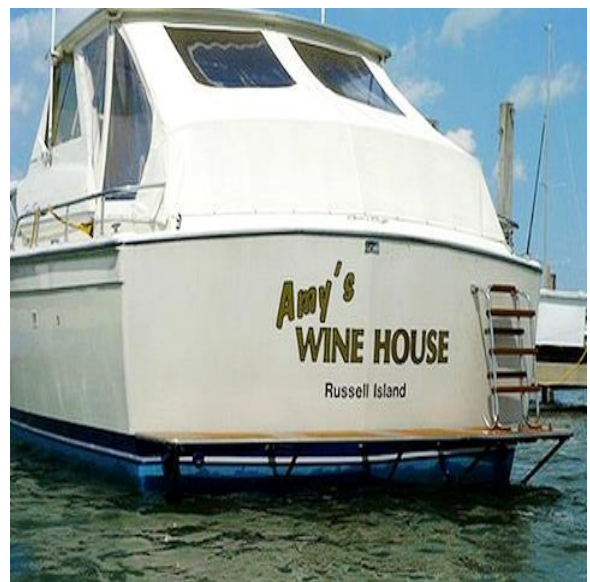
We were worried when MADRIGAL disappeared from her Holiday Harbor mooring but she has been spotted at the Bay Harbour docks, still afloat, patched up a bit, and with the hull painted.

Here's a photo of her current improved condition.



Name Game

Interesting / Ironic / Insane



Classic Times

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

CYA celebrates its 50th Anniversary with special activities throughout 2020.

Commodore Janet Beggs
Vice Commodore Dianna Ettel
Rear Commodore Rick Olson

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“Angel’s Gate ♦ Los Angeles Harbor “

- photo by Dianna Ettel

The early Los Angeles lighthouse keepers included independent women, heartbroken widowers, drunks, and ghosts.

The breakwater, constructed of 3 million tons of Catalina Island rock, was begun in 1899.

The lighthouse has stood guard at Angel’s Gate since she was first lighted in 1913.