

2024 FALL
EDITION 04 VOL 02

the Shellback

fun for the whole family

Bay Series Winners

*a breathless jessica
turns on the tides*

SUMMER SOCIALIZING
cleat-cruisers claim the corral

SINCE 1867
MASTER MARINERS
BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

WWW.SFMASTERMARINERS.ORG

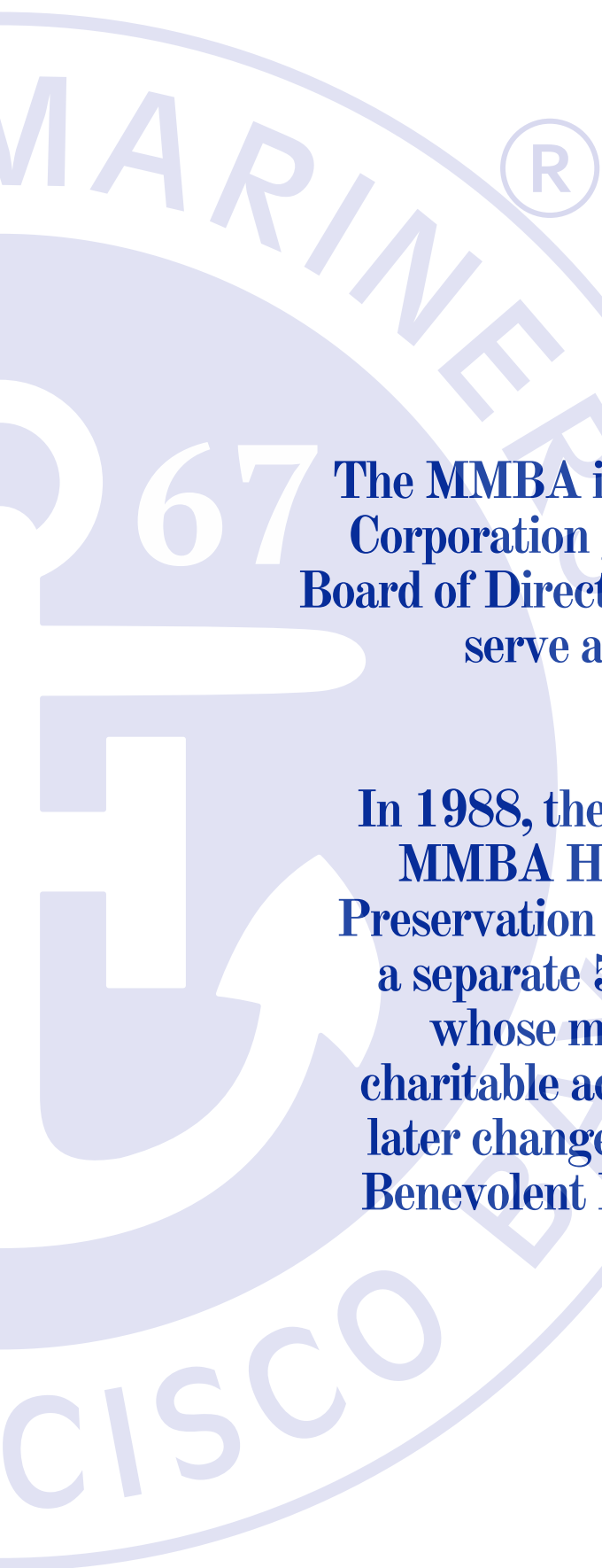
The Master Mariners Benevolent Association (MMBA) is a San Francisco club dating back to 1867. Its purpose is to foster participation in yachting and the preservation of well designed, properly constructed, and well maintained classic and traditional sailing craft.

Member vessels include traditional and classic sailboats.



The Shellback is published each quarter. We welcome clever articles, photos and graphics, suggestions and more. Email contributions to the editor for consideration.

2024 newsletter editor is Martha Blanchfield.
martha@renegadesailing.com



The MMBA is a 501(c)(7) California Corporation governed by an elected Board of Directors whose members each serve a three-year term.

In 1988, the Board established the MMBA Historical Small Craft Preservation Foundation (HSCPF), a separate 501(c)(3) corporation whose mission is to support charitable activities; the name was later changed to Master Mariners Benevolent Foundation (MMBF).



In maritime tradition, a seaman who has crossed the Equator is initiated as a "trustworthy shellback" into the court of Neptune. He or she may also be called a son or daughter of Neptune. Bestowal of this title acknowledges the prowess of a mariner who is able to brave the uncertainties and dangers of the sea.



A SUMMER FULL OF FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Greetings Master Mariners.


It is always nice to reach out and give an update on the state of the club. We have had a busy year with many successful events. Looking back, I can't believe how fast this year has gone by and that this year is quickly coming to an end. I want to make sure to give a sincere thank you to all members, sponsors, friends and family that have contributed, volunteered and participated in all of the events that make this club what it is. We cannot do this without you.



Hans List
Commodore 2022 - 25
s/v Sequestor
hans.list@sfmastermariners.org

I'm pleased to announce that through our generous sponsorships this year, we now have a surplus in funds which allows us to donate to our sister organization, the Master Mariner Benevolent Foundation. The MMBF is the benevolent factor of our two groups, as that organization is the one which donates funds to deserving maritime organizations, clubs and projects: read the report from MMBF chair Craig Swayne on page 10.

For 2024, the MMBA shall donate \$1,500 to the MMBF, as well as \$500 to junior sailing programs at Encinal Yacht Club and Sausalito Yacht Club. We appreciate their ongoing support of our own regatta and club festivities.



Involvement determines the vitality of our club. Not only with our membership and sponsorship, but also within the Board of Directors. Unfortunately, our fellow board member and friend, John Muir, stepped down from his position recently. John has been a great asset on the Board and a pleasure to work with. He will remain an integral element of our China Camp cruise-outs and involvement with Hyde Street and the National Maritime Park--for which we are tremendously grateful. Thank you, John, for all that you do. That being said, we have an open seat on the Board, and we are seeking a volunteer to join our dynamic, fun group of wooden boat enthusiasts. Email me if you would like to learn more or be considered for the role.

I hope many of you plan to attend our traditional New Year's Day race. It's a great way to bring in the New Year and shake the sails out in what is normally the slow season (at least for sailing). January is also the perfect time to renew your membership and rub elbows with fellow mates next to the fire at PSPYC. The Point San Pablo Yacht Club has really grown into a major force in supporting the MMBA. Not only do we have almost 1/3 of our membership vessels berthed there, PSPYC has also been great in hosting events and meetings over the years.

For a yacht club to give so much support and interest to a group like ours, it is truly remarkable and should not be taken for granted. So please, head on over to PSPYC on New Years Day (by land or sea) and give thanks to the club who continues to offer us a great venue and so generously hosts us on the regular.

**Happy New Year!
Hans List**

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Above: Ken Inouye of *Makani Kai* aids a flagging photographer at Jessica Cup: bagel with cream cheese and salami, plus chocolate-filled croissant and offer of bag 'o chips.

"Cream cheese and salami on bagels is our go-to lunch sandwich when we race. It's easy and fast to make, and there's no need to worry about mayonnaise going bad since we do not have refrigeration on the boat." Ken Inouye

Cover: Trying to go dead downwind with an asymmetrical is not a pretty sight. Brett Herr faces aft on the pulpit, while he and Adam Brosamer sort out things on *Makani Kai* at the Jessica Cup. Crew took a first in this year's Classic Gaff class.

JESSICA CUP & BAY SERIES



NOT A BREATH

by Wesley Nunez
Flotsam

It was an hour until the start time and everyone was still at the dock. The flags hung limp, sailors sat on the race deck searching for a sign of breeze across the still San Francisco Bay. We decided it was time to get out there, it may take awhile. Without a motor and without wind, we were the regatta's hitchhikers. With our metaphoric thumb out (oars), we were lucky enough to get a tow to the starting area by Michael Zolezzi and crew on board *Yucca*. A ¼ mile past the line, Michael reminded me that he is not AAA and we readied to cast off.

As we drifted back towards the line with the last of the flood, we began preparations for the likelihood of being without wind for a little while longer. We began uncoiling the rode (for our first time putting it to use). Quickly finding that there were many kinks and twists, we decided to let the current help us and this is how we came to anchor.

For the next hour and a half, we sat there eating our sandwiches, listening to Johnny Cash and soaking in the beautiful picknick weather. Learning more about the boat's history from Hank Linderman, whose father and grandfather had built *Flotsam* between 1962 and 1964.

One of the things I love about the classic boat world is that these boats touch so many lives, and not just as impersonal vehicles, but as memory-makers and settings for great life lessons.

Nearing 2:30pm, we began to lose hope that racing conditions would appear. Facing the prospect of rowing back against the 3kt ebb, I opted to put up the "thumb" once more, this time to Neil Gibbs as they motored by. First *Yucca*, now the mighty *Kay of Göteborg*; we were certainly racking up the Uber bill. As we were heading back to the mouth of the harbor, Neil reminded us that the race committee would not make the official call until 3:00pm, still about 20 minutes to go. Another 10 minutes go by as we dropped the jib and readied the oars. We were discussing the best approach, when we felt the first breath of wind. AT LAST!



We got the jib back on deck, hoisted up and had just stowed the oars when the race committee came through on the radio--the first group would start in 10 minutes.

As we hurried back towards the line, the Marconi 1 started and our own 5-minute sequence began. So much in a hurry were we, that we had stood out too far into the ebb, and before we knew it, were carried PAST the line!

We turned and made a broad reach for the closest point of the line, which was now against the ebb. Barely crossing to the correct side of the line within a second or two of the gun, we made a quick U-turn and were racing.

The course was short, Blackaller to X to the finish. Not without a couple more snafus along the way, we steadily made our way up and back down the course until we were leading at the leeward mark. Crossing the line first in our fleet, we watched the time and counted the seconds until that next horn sounded, but ultimately it was not enough! Division line honors were ours, but the victory belonged to the Bird boat *Cuckoo*. With the last of the short-lived breeze, we returned to the dock.

REGARDLESS OF PLACE, ARRIVAL OF THE
WIND AND THE OPPORTUNITY FOR AN
EXCITING RACE WAS THE REAL PRIZE.

AFTERALL, ISN'T THAT WHY WE
WERE ALL THERE ANYWAY?

from the MMBF Foundation

December 2024

The Master Mariner Annual Wooden Boat Festival is the cornerstone of Master Mariner Benevolent Foundation's (MMBF) joint efforts to fund benevolent activities of the MMBA. We are pleased to report that the 2024 show was a great success--with Commodore Hans List at the helm and MMBF Wooden Boat Show Chair Bob Rogers coordinating and leading the two organizations' individual and collective tasks.

Our thanks to MMBA members Stephen Carlson and Randell von Wedel, plus skippers and crews who were instrumental in working the harbor to accommodate the vessels and docking of boats.

Since 1988, strong longterm relationships with individuals and organizations from the San Francisco Bay maritime community have enabled us to prioritize and direct individual and corporate tax-deductible contributions to local organizations, where contributed funds make the greatest impact. Our objectives:

- Promote and fund maintenance, restoration, construction of classic wooden vessels
- Promote and fund the skills of traditional seamanship
- Preserve and ensure continuity of San Francisco Bay maritime history

Over the decades, the Foundation has assisted local maritime organizations and programs such as:

- Alameda Community Sailing Center's youth program
- Arques Maritime Foundation's construction of the *Dolphin*
- Call of the Sea scholarships
- Spaulding Wooden Boat Center (*Freda*)
- Sausalito Working Waterfront Coalition
- Vets Boats (*Clover*)
- Local yacht clubs' junior sailing programs

In 2023, we donated to the Belvedere Cove Foundation's purchase, installation and maintenance of the Hank Easom Buoy (formerly Yellow Bluff).

Craig Swayne

Submitted by Craig Swayne
MMBF chairman

Volunteers are needed for our 2025 show. Contact Commodore Hans List to help out.

time to order your
2025 MMBA calendar



Why not gift calendars to
family, friends and crew?

- vibrant, high-quality gloss-finish paper
- 8.5" x 11"
- stapled spine

2024 sponsors will be receiving one in
the mail as appreciation for your support

Visit the Master Mariners website for more
information: www.sfmastermariners.org



Dispatches from Alaska

tales from a deckhand on a
small expedition cruise ship
copy and photos by KC Crowell

THIS year, I had the chance to say yes to a unique job opportunity: working as a licensed deckhand for a small expedition cruise ship in southeast Alaska. After a career of sailing on the west coast and in the bay, I was nervous about embarking on a gig somewhere I had never sailed-- especially since my duties as a licensed deckhand would include running small skiffs in treacherous anchorages full of hidden rocks, current rips, and unknown hazards.

The job started in April, and had me meeting the first boat that I would be working on in Seattle. UnCruise Adventures, my employer for the season, winters most of their boats at Fisherman's Terminal. Whatever nerves I was feeling quickly dissipated as I jumped headfirst into a familiar scene of a whole crew getting a boat ready for the season. I also found that my background as a traditional sailor was not only welcomed, but celebrated. On my third day, our captain approached me and asked if my tall ship background meant I knew how to splice lines. Sure, I said. I was then presented with a long length of hollow core AmSteel, a type of synthetic line usually seen on tugboats and large commercial vessels. Intimidated but undeterred, I put my marlinspike skills to the test and was able to bust out two new sets of tow lines for our kayak launching platform.

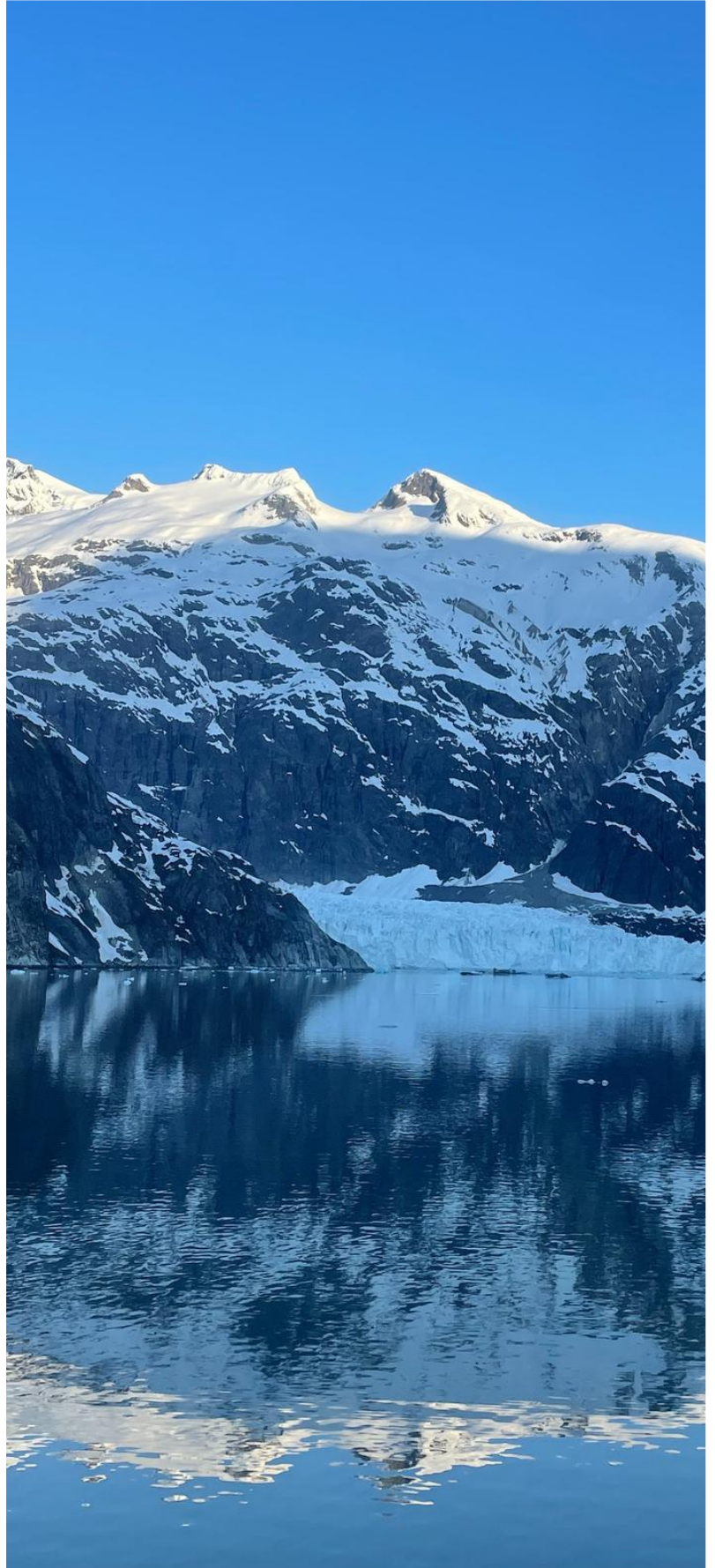
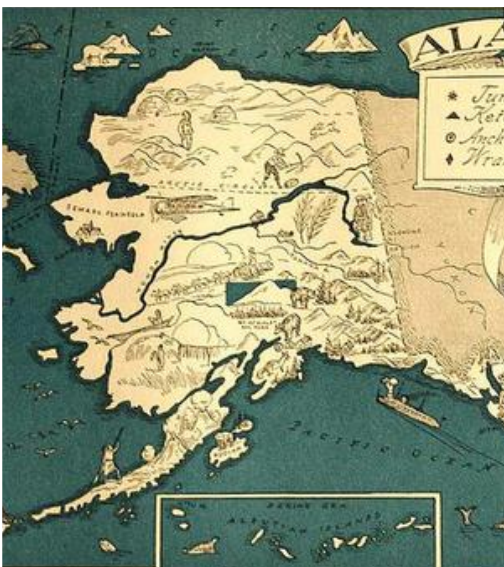
It was a nice reminder that the skills I have developed in the niche world of tall ship sailing were applicable in other realms of the maritime industry. In similar tall ship tradition, I spent more time over the season teaching greener deck crew how to eye splice - just like I learned from the bosun on the first square rigger I crewed on had taught me. Pro tip: if you learn how to eye splice on tiny strands of tarred seine twine, everything in the future will feel easier.

As we sailed north through the inside passage, I fell into the familiar rhythm of watchstanding, spending hours in the wheelhouse watching the spectacular scenery of the inside passage play out across our bow.

Again, there were things that felt familiar to so many long passages of my career; the long wandering and often philosophical conversations that play out between the mate and lookout over many midnight hours in the bridge, the deciphering of aids to navigation and lights as they appear out of darkness, the gentle swell of the sea and the steady rhythm of the engines and generators beneath our feet. The things that felt unfamiliar were welcome sights for someone who has spent many recent years in the bay; it was on our first trip northbound that we were treated to a stunning display of northern lights, a cosmic pyrotechnic welcome to our Alaska season.

IF YOU LEARN HOW TO EYE SPLICE
ON TINY STRANDS OF TARRED SEINE
TWINE, EVERYTHING IN THE FUTURE
WILL FEEL EASIER.

TIP



Over the rest of the season I put the skills honed in the bay to the test in a wealth of new trials. One of the things that may have prepared me most for Alaska was my time spent piloting swims for the Dolphin Club here in the bay. There's no way I would have felt as comfortable zooming around floating ice and threading the needle of rocky drop-offs on shore without the small motorized craft experience of piloting out of cove swims locally.

I could spend months describing the rest of the sights and experiences of Southeast Alaska and I would barely be able to capture the awe and beauty of that land. For anyone who is interested in broadening their maritime horizons, I would highly recommend getting out there and exploring Alaska for yourselves. Being a mariner on the bay definitely prepared me for a successful season working on the water, but anyone who appreciates the beauty of the sea and the nature that surrounds it would also enjoy getting to know Alaska via the "small ship" cruise experience. You will find yourself in the care of capable mariners and guides, and maybe I'll run into some more Master Mariners in Alaska in the future.



NEW YEAR'S DAY REGATTA 12 NOON

MASTER MARINER NEW YEAR'S DAY
REGATTA STARTLINE IS ON EAST SIDE
OF TREASURE ISLAND, BETWEEN TI
AND COMMITTEE VESSEL THORA.

- LOOK FOR THE FLAGS
- LISTEN FOR THE POTATO CANON
- MONITOR CHANNEL 72 ON VHF

EARN 1 MINUTE MOTOR TIME FOR EVERY
FLAG YOU FLY, SO SHOW SOME STYLE!

RACE TO POINT SAN PABLO YACHT CLUB
FOR POTLUCK.

BRING A RECYCLED ITEM TO "AWARD" TO A
MASTER MARINER OF YOUR CHOICE.

CHILI & FIX'INS POTLUCK

TACKY TROPHY AWARDS

- GAFF BOATS BRING CHILI
- MARCONI BOATS BRING SIDE DISH OR SALAD
- LAND GUESTS BRING ANYTHING YOU CHOOSE



1/01/2025

3PM NO HOST BAR
4PM FOOD
TACKY TROPHY TO FOLLOW

PSPYC

700 WEST CUTTING BLVD.
POINT RICHMOND

DRINKS - POTLUCK - TALL TALES - AWARDS

RSVP TO MELISSA.FLICK@SFMASTERMARINERS.ORG
INDICATE IF YOU ARE SAILING IN THE REGATTA OR JOINING
AT THE DOCK. HOW MANY GUESTS WILL BE IN YOUR PARTY?

CHINA CAMP CLEAT-CRUISE

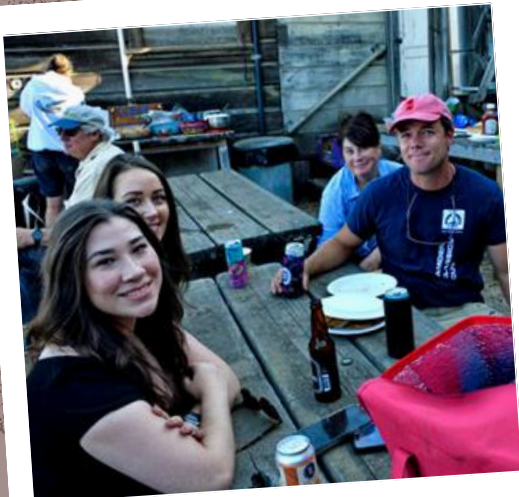
copy by Melissa Flick
photos by Martha Blanchfield

We had another great Cleat-Cruise to China Camp over Labor Day weekend. Thank you to the 30+ Master Mariners who attended by water and land. We enjoyed the hospitality of the Frank Quan cabin BBQ area, thanks to John Muir, Ernie and the Friends of China Camp. We had a delicious BBQ potluck, great conversations and beautiful views.

The China Camp Cleat-Cruise was established in 1974 by the “working waterfront sailors” of Sausalito; the Master Mariners help continue the tradition. We were excited to celebrate 50 years later. This year, the ritual plaque was passed on from Mike and Sue Proudfoot (Farida) to John and Gena Egelston (Water Witch), who now have the responsibility of throwing the party in 2025.

We graciously thank and appreciate the Friends of China Camp for hosting this event again, and have made a donation to the organization.







photos

Ingenious extra long outboard cord.

Nate from Off Center Harbor, Liz Diaz and Synthia Petroka.

SF MMBA member *Little Packet*, cozy at the boat show.

Port Townsend Wooden Boat Show 2024

copy and
photos by
Liz Diaz

In summer, about 30 years ago, I rode into Port Townsend on the back of a new, red heritage softail Harley Davidson, beginning a new life. I wanted to visit a fellow canvas craftsman, Ellen the Artful Dodger. We had a great time in that lovely town, and I always wanted to go back to visit their wooden boat show, which occurs in the fall. At that time, I had only owned my boat about 10 years, which isn't long in the wooden boat world.

Fast forward to September 2024. I am older, my boat Kaze is older, and the world as we know it is very different in the wooden boat world of San Francisco Bay. There are fewer wooden boats, fewer boat yards where a wooden boat can get some love, fewer marinas will consider letting members of our beautiful fleet reside, and even I feel the need to see something fresh after my voyages in the Mediterranean over the last couple of summers. I wanted to add to my memory banks some additional American boats. I wanted to see what else the West Coast had to offer--beyond my world at our own latitude and longitude.

The Port Townsend Wooden Boat show was everything I could have hoped for.



I decided to invite a fellow wooden boat sailor, Synthia Petroka, a frequent sailor on Mayan and a racer of those waters. She was game to let me design the whole trip and add where she could.

Talk about being a kid in the candy store! OMG. Such a charming small harbor--similar in size to the Corinthian YC, although accessible from three sides. The event is completely surrounded by booths of great interest and fun.

Had I had the time to lathe a wooden pen, there were volunteers waiting to help. Had I wanted to twist line, that was offered.

As women of the working waterfront, there was high tea for almost a hundred ladies who make the waterfront great. The group drew from female boatwrights all over the world. We joined their group photo.

The harbor was chockfull of boats large and small, old and some so very fresh! Everyone there had a story, some of those stories in print and for sale. We bought them all.

Sandee Swanson and Stan Schilz of our very own Black Witch were on the docks checking it out, and our very own cruising member, Little Packet, was in between other vessels on the wall-to-wall flotilla.



We had rented an vacation rental about 10 miles away, which gave us the chance to see the surroundings and do fun things like drive to the hamlet of Dungeness, where we saw no crabs. We dined in an alcohol factory, and "raced" on Zodiac, formerly the very big 250 ton Californian.

It was really something to be shoulder-to-shoulder with thousands of lovers of wooden boats. The non-stop immersion into the world of wooden boats is an experience not to be missed! GO!

Special offer for MMBA members
sign-up to view 10 videos for free:

www.offcenterharbor.com/sf-master-mariners/



Participate in the
online global event
classicboatshow.com

Off Center Harbor: Using Video to Preserve Wooden Boats

by Nate Rooks
marketing & filmmaking, Off Center Harbor

For most, the thought of preserving wooden boats conjures images of stubborn traditionalists swimming against the undertow of decay.

For over a decade, Off Center Harbor has worked to counter this perception by harnessing the power of video to promote the unique joy available in traditional maritime skills and culture. We believe the best way to preserve wooden boats is to inspire more caretakers who know what they're getting into, and to have the resources to stay afloat, literally and figuratively.

Each week, we release a new video to illuminate the people, processes and stories within the wooden boat world--everything from great boats to instructional lessons. Our growing library has more than 750 professionally-made videos across scores of topics, including expert-led courses on "How to Build a Wooden Boat" for six different designs, to series on painting, varnishing, rigging, refastening, diesel engines, epoxy, lofting and more.

We also created the all-online Worldwide Classic Boat Show to bring together enthusiasts from around the world so that they may share their boats, and engage with organizations like festivals, schools and tradespeople, as well as buy and sell boats.

Despite our use of video and internet technology, we strongly believe that slowing down to appreciate tradition is an antidote to modern craziness. Working with our hands is meditation. Beautiful boats underway are art. Learning from masters is nirvana. That's why our website is completely free from advertising, creating a serene escape to enjoy the world of wooden boats. We can do this thanks to thousands of dedicated members around the world who contribute through annual subscriptions. View some of our best videos for free.

We'd love to see as many San Francisco Master Mariners boats in the Worldwide Classic Boat Show as possible, and will be traveling to California in 2025. We look forward to meeting more members and their boats.



Delegate Needed to Represent MMBA at Pacific Inter-Club Yacht Association (PICYA)

The PICYA is a member-based organization of regional yacht clubs. Its members create and produce events, communication tools, award programs, training and more

The purpose of this corporation is to constitute an association of yacht clubs and boating organizations, to promote inter-club communications, yachting activities and the social interaction relating thereto, and to organize and conduct programs which enhance the general welfare of member organizations.

The Pacific Inter-Club Yacht Association was formed in San Francisco on May 12, 1896 to improve communication between yacht clubs, provide uniform racing rules and encourage yachting.

Among its tasks, PICYA organizes Opening Day on the Bay, delegate conferences and dinners, produces an annual member yearbook, plus creates and distributes a bimonthly newsletter which reports on association committees, open club activities and more.

The MMBA is a member of PICYA, which entitles the Association to select at least one (1) from the membership to serve as a delegate.

Interested in serving? Please review the links below, then email commodore Hans List.



- **Choosing a delegate**
- **Delegate responsibilities**
- **Events to attend**

List of PICYA Member Clubs

BOARD MEMBER

MEMBERSHIP

As a proud member of the San Francisco Master Mariners Association, you are part of a legacy that celebrates and preserves the cherished tradition of wooden boat ownership. By renewing your membership promptly, you help us plan and fund our iconic events, such as the Annual Regatta, the Wooden Boat Show and membership cruises which bring together like-minded mariners and their families.

Your support allows us to continue our efforts in education, restoration and camaraderie to ensure that future generations can experience the beauty and craftsmanship of these classic vessels. Renewing on-time also helps us strengthen our network and resources, making it easier for us to address the needs and challenges unique to wooden boat ownership.

Help keep our shared maritime heritage vibrant—renew today. Please go to the MMBA website www.sfmastermariners.org, click on the STORE tab, the rest is easy.

If you prefer to send a check, make it payable to MMBA for \$105.00. Include your vessel's name on the check and mail to:



MMBA, PO Box 70640, Richmond, CA 94807

Upon renewal, you will receive your 2025 membership card, bumper sticker and 2025 MMBA tidebook. And remember, MMBA membership also provides reciprocity and access to most yacht clubs around the bay.



No longer own your vessel? Please let us know who the new owner is, and perhaps consider becoming a Friend of the MMBA.

Neil Gibbs
Membership Director
neil.gibbs@sfmastermariners.org

REPORTS

SECRETARY

I joined the MMBA board midway through the 2024 season, stepping in after a year without an official secretary. Fellow board members had been sharing the responsibilities of documenting our activities and keeping minutes. With deep roots in the Bay Area boating community, especially through my work with the SF Bay Bear Boats as its president, I'm glad to support MMBA with organizational experience and help establish clearer records for future generations.

Since joining, I've focused on enhancing our records, including sorting and organizing important documents to ensure accessibility. Our membership and sponsor systems need updating, a project now underway, and our seasonal activities could benefit from more detailed documentation to help future boards understand our operations. MMBA's main events—the regatta, wooden boat show and participation in holiday cruises and races like the Belvedere Classic and Jessica's Cup—are the core of our year.

To support continuity, I'm working on consolidating planning notes and checklists, so these beloved gatherings can continue seamlessly, preserving our traditions for years to come.

Looking forward, I aim to establish a reliable foundation for our records while exploring digital solutions to improve efficiency. I'm grateful for the board's support and excited about the positive changes we're implementing together, creating a legacy of organization that will benefit MMBA's future.

Hans Hansen
Secretary
hans.hansen@sfmastermariners.org



BOARD MEMBER

TREASURER



KC Crowell
Treasurer
kc.crowell@sfmastermariners.org

We are ending the year in a good place, despite a year of increased costs across the board. Inflation is real, and has affected the financial side of our operations, from event rentals to insurance premiums and merchandise production.

However, we are buoyed by our membership base, including an uptick in our "friends" members. \$35 a year might seem like a drop in the bucket, but it makes a huge difference. I hope in 2025 we can continue to expand our friend level membership, and I believe that the launch of new offerings like the community mailing list will help attract more members at this level.

MASTER MARINER COMMUNITY EMAIL LIST: NEW FOR 2025

The San Francisco Master Mariners Benevolent Association is excited to announce a new initiative launching in 2025: the Master Mariners Community Email List. This project is being spearheaded by members KC Crowell, Hans Hansen and Mark Harris.

As KC put it, "This list can be something that we offer to new members, as well as our current membership if they opt-in. Our members can network directly with each other, share information and resources about wooden boats, share leads on vessels that might be for sale or in need of rescue, or anything else that may be relevant to the larger Master Mariner community. Imagine a digital space that replicates the kind of camaraderie on the dock at the wooden boat show, but year-round."

Join the Trial Phase

For now, the list is in trial mode. If you're interested in joining, please send an email to KC, Hans or Mark.

- KC Crowell: kc.crowell@sfmastermariners.org
- Hans Hansen: hans.hansen@sfmastermariners.org
- Mark Harris: mark.harris@sfmastermariners.org

We encourage all members to join.
More details to come.

Mark Harris
Technology
mark.harris@sfmastermariners.org



REPORTS

TROPHIES

Our MMBA trophies signify many things. All tell tales of those who have won them over the years, of effort taken over time and excellence in the moment.

Some are things of beauty, like the Homeward Bound Trophy, donated by Charlie Merrill's family in his memory; and some are good reminders of people who gave much of themselves, such as Kermit Parker, Gerry O'Grady, J. Everett Hanson, Al & Alma Lutz, William Ritter and Lyle Galloway.

Trophies are awarded at three times during the year: the May regatta, the summer Wooden Boat Show and after Jessica Cup concludes the season in October.

REGATTA

The Aloha Trophy
Eventide
Gregory Milano

The Baruna Cup
not awarded

Dead Eye Trophy
Yucca
Michael and Louise Zolezzi

Farallone Clipper Trophy
VIP
Fred Taylor

Gerry O'Grady Trophy
Magic
Tim Maloney

Homeward Bound Trophy
Viking
Michael O'Callaghan

J. Everett Hanson Trophy
Cuckoo
Bill Claussen

Kermit Parker Trophy
Makana Kai
Ken and Kristine Inouye

Longest Distance Travelled

Briar Rose
Jack Sloane

Lyle Galloway Memorial
Trophy
Viking
Michael O'Callaghan

Lynx Trophy
Freda B
Paul Dines and Marina O'Neill

The Billiken Trophy
Brigadoon
Terry Klaus and Lindsey Klaus

BAY CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

Marconi Division under 40 ft
Yucca
Michael and Louise Zolezzi

Marconi Division over 40 ft
Cuckoo
Bill Claussen

Gaff Division
Briar Rose
Jack Sloane

WOODEN BOAT SHOW

Alma/Al Lutz Perpetual Trophy
Flotsam
Wesley Nunez and Roger Nunez

Corinthian Cup
Hummingbird
Will Campbell and Greg Braswell

Stone Cup
Encore
Bert Damner

People's Choice
Yucca
Michael and Louise Zolezzi



Diane Walton
Trophies Director
diane.walton@sfmastermariners.org

BOARD MEMBER

EVENTS

This has been an eventful year for Master Mariners. Thank you to all who joined us at our events.

We kicked off 2024 with a New Year's Eve Masquerade Potluck at Point San Pablo Yacht Club, thrown by MMBA members Steve and Maggie Hutchinson. We then had a sunny, slightly windy day to sail in our annual New Year's Day Regatta, where flying burgees bought motor time. We returned to PSPYC for our beloved Chili & Fix'ins Potluck and Tacky Trophy Awards, which always has the room laughing.

March was extra lucky with our St. Patrick's Day/Spring Fling where we joined PSPYC's cruise-out to the San Rafael Yacht Club for their annual St. Patty's Day party. All enjoyed traditional Irish food, Irish dancers and a live band.

Spring ramps up our MMBA events with the Sponsors/Skippers Luncheon at the St. Francis Yacht Club. It is amazing to see the room filled with wooden boat skippers, crew and lovers of them. We could not do it without our sponsors, so a big thank you to every one of you, again. Our Master Mariners Regatta was a huge success, with a great day of racing on the bay, followed by after-party, awards ceremony and live band at the Encinal Yacht Club. An added bonus was the MMBA-sponsored dockside breakfast on Sunday morning.

A few months later, some of our Master Mariners welcomed the *Stad Amsterdam* into the SF Bay and/or toured the vessel during her stay. Commodore Hans List presented Captain Sune Blinkenberg with our MMBA burgee at the SF Blue Tech Leadership reception, hosted by *Shellback* editor Martha Blanchfield. We even had a member, Pat Broderick, join the *Stad Amsterdam* sailing journey on the Honolulu to Tokyo leg.

In June, the Master Mariners Annual Meeting and MMBF Wooden Boat Show were held. This is a rare opportunity to not only bring MMBA boats together, but to provide tours to the public and the opportunity to speak with the skippers about each boat. It helps keep the love and passion of wooden boats alive. Thank you to the Corinthian Yacht Club for hosting for this great event each year.

REPORTS

In August, Master Mariners supported the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park's 1st Annual Sea Music Festival in Aquatic Park lagoon, where MMBA boats were the backdrop of the festival. The weekend was filled with activities, including Friday night at Hyde Street Pier, Saturday's live music and water show thanks to (former) board member John Muir. The after-party at the Dolphin Club was made possible thanks to board member Diane Walton.

Finally, we closed-out August with our Cleat-Cruise to China Camp. Check out the article in this addition for more details.

In addition to these events, several MMBA boats participated in the Belvedere Classic Regatta & the Great SF Schooner Race (hosted by San Francisco Yacht Club) and the Jessica Cup (hosted by the St. Francis Yacht Club).

Wow, recapping 2024 has brought back so many memories--what an amazing organization with active members showcasing our wooden boats around the bay. With excitement, we look forward to more fun in 2025. Here are tentative dates:

- New Year's Day Regatta: January 1
- Spring Fling Cruise-Out: March/April
- MMBA Regatta Skipper/Sponsors Luncheon: May 16
- MMBA Regatta & after-party: May 24
- Annual Members Meeting: June 14
- MMBF Wooden Boat Show: June 15
- Belvedere Classic & Great SF Schooner Race: August 23
- Labor Day Weekend Cruise Out: August 30-31
- Sea Music Festival with MMBA: August/September
- Jessica Cup: October

We hope to add more gatherings, and would love to join up with local yacht clubs for their events. If you hear of something that Master Mariners would enjoy, please let me know.

Melissa Flick
Events Director
melissa.flick@sfmastermariners.org



2024 MMBA Member Vessels

AIDA	Andrew & Melissa Flick	MAKANI KAI	Ken & Christine Inouye
ARGOSY VENTURE	Bill Belmont	MATTHEW TURNER	Call of the Sea
ASOLARE	Karnell & Elizabeth Hillscan	MAYAN	Stacy & Beau Vrolyk
AURORAL	Don Ketman	MISTRESS II	Jennifer Hinkel
BLACK WITCH	Sandee Swanson	MORNING STAR	Barbara Ohler & Gary Costigan
BOLERO	Tim Murison	NEJA	Jim Borger
BOUNTY	Dan & Sue Spradling	NIMUE	James Koss
BRIAR ROSE	Jack Sloane	NIRVANA	Bill Conneely
BRIGADOON	Terry Klaus & Lindsey Klaus	OCEAN QUEEN V	Pacific Seafarers Foundation
CATNIP	Dan & Sue Spradling	ORIOLE	Jock Maclean
CHANCE	KC Crowell	OUESSANT	Jennifer Hinkel
CLOVER	Terrence Moran	PANDA	Daniel Maloney
CREDIT	Bill & Janice Belmont	PAPOOSE	Allen Edwards
CUCKOO	Bill & Kathleen Claussen	PATIENCE	Ed & Phyllis Gibson
CURLEW	National Park Service	PATITA II	Michael & Sarah Schmale
ENCORE	Bert & Sisi Damner	PEGASUS	Peter Hayes
ESPIRE	Rick Drain	POLARIS	Michael Burton
EVENTIDE	Gregory Milano	PUFF	David Sandry
FAIRWYN	Richard Leland	ROBIN G.	Jan Van Sickle
FARIDA	Mike & Sue Proudfoot	ROWENA	Katherine Dobson & Ted Zerrer
FERAL	Dan Bohn	RUBY	Josh Pryor
FLAME	Robert & Steffanie Roche	SEA LOVER	Chris Jannini
FLOTSAM	Wesley & Roger Nunez	SEA QUEST	Stephen Carlson
FOLLY	Allen Gross	SEA RAVEN	Alan Hugenot
FREDA	Spaulding Marine Center	SEABIRD	John Muir
FREDA B.	Paul Dines & Marina O'Neill	SEQUESTOR	Hans & Sophie List
FREELANCE	Rich & Liz Salvini	SERENA	Scott Green
GERDA	Diane Walton	SSS VIKING	Sea Scouts
GOLD STAR	Jim Cullen	STROMA OF MEY	Barry Rabbitt
GREY GOOSE	Walter Brewer	TREEBEARD	Jim Parsons
HANA	Brian Boyd	TRIGGER	Karl Joost
HUMMINGBIRD	Will Cambell	UNDA	DeeDee Lozier
HURRICA V	Mark Sanders	VECTIS	Louis & Sara Nickles
JOHN T.	Ariane Paul & Alex Paul	VELEROSA	Hans Hansen & Mark Harris
JUDY J.	Cory Lancaster	VERITY A.	Terrence Tucker
KAY OF GÖTEBORG	Neil & Elly Gibbs	VIP	Fred Taylor
KAZE	Elizabeth Roso Diaz	VIXEN	Steven & Linda Kibler
KODIAK	Joshua Ott	WACHI WARA	Jim Moore
LEGACY	Lee Thurston	WATER WITCH	John & Gena Egelston
LYDIA	J. Emmett & Laura Clark-Moore	WILETIE	Ken Wadsworth
MAGIC	Tim Maloney	YUCCA	Michael & Louise Zolezzi

2024 membership by the numbers:

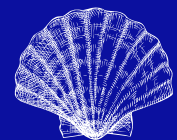
82 member **vessels** at end of **2024**
9 new or returning **vessels** in **2024**
14 **vessels** did not renew from **2023**

27 friend **members** at end of **2024**
10 new **Friends** in **2024**

membership levels

Boat Owner	\$105/year
Friend	\$35/year

Know a traditional yacht owner
whose boat is not a member?
Email Neil Gibbs. He will extend an
invitation to join the Master Mariners.



Not a boat owner but love classics?

>> Join as a Friend.



EVENTS

NEW YEAR'S DAY REGATTA & POTLUCK JANUARY 1

Point San Pablo Yacht Club
Race: 12 noon
Potluck: 3pm

WOODEN BOAT SHOW JUNE 15

10am - 4pm
Corinthian Yacht Club

SPRING FLING CRUISE-OUT MARCH/APRIL

Point San Pablo Yacht Club

GREAT SF SCHOONER RACE & BELVEDERE CLASSIC AUGUST 23

San Francisco Yacht Club
Info: San Francisco Yacht Club

PICYA OPENING DAY ON THE BAY APRIL 27

San Francisco Bay

LABOR DAY CRUISE-OUT AUGUST 30 - 31

12pm
China Camp Cleat-Cruise

SPONSORS & SKIPPERS LUNCHEON MAY 16

12pm
St. Francis Yacht Club

SEA MUSIC FESTIVAL AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

Aquatic Park in SF

MMBA REGATTA & PARTY MAY 24

Race: 12pm
StFYC start line, Encinal Yacht Club party

JESSICA CUP REGATTA OCTOBER

St. Francis Yacht Club
Info: St. Francis Yacht Club

ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING JUNE 14

Corinthian Yacht Club

WINTER 2025 SHELLBACK NEWSLETTER DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS

February 28

CLUB BULLETIN BOARD



we have an opening to serve on the MMBA board

** regatta support*

contact commodore hans list



WISH LIST

Great books I have read this year that have a nautical theme:

Center of Bouyancy: the Life of a Shipwright

Gwrl by Diane Talley

Move Like Water by Hannah Stowe

Kodoku, Sailing Alone Across the Pacific by Kenichi Horie

from Liz Diaz

CAN YOU HELP AT EVENTS?

LET EVENT DIRECTOR MELISSA KNOW

*** SET-UP**
*** CLEAN-UP**
*** ORGANIZING STUFF**

AND MORE

Shellback seeks contributions

send photos, tips & tricks, short articles to Martha

martha@renegadesailing.com

On the Fourth of July of 1867,

the Boatman's Protective Association staged a race among working sailboats in San Francisco Bay. After repeating the event in 1868 and 1869, the Association was recognized under a new name: the Master Mariners Benevolent Association.

Knowledge of the histories of the Master Mariner's Benevolent Association (MMBA) and the Master Mariner's Benevolent Foundation (MMBF) are essential to understand the respective roles of each organization and their relationship to one another.

While each entity is independent, they complement one another, and collectively serve the interests of all MMBA members and our community.

The Master Mariners Regatta raised funds from local maritime businesses to benefit the widows and orphans of seamen lost at sea—the spirit of which is reflected in the MMBA Burgee, a Herreshoff anchor with an “H” across its shank, standing for Hope.

By 1891, steam engines were replacing sails and the era of the regatta ended. In 1965, the Association was revived in honor of National Maritime Day, and the regatta resumed among traditional sailing vessels.

In 1978, the MMBA Articles of Incorporation were filed with the State of California, which re-established the MMBA as a not for profit social organization (California 501(c)(7) corporation) to promote the fraternity of wooden sailboat owners, the maintenance of their vessels, and traditional seamanship through the Annual Master Mariners Regatta and subsequently other events (its “Specific Purpose”). The MMBA remains one of the oldest and largest associations of traditional wooden sailboats.

Historical Small Craft Preservation Fund

In 1988, the MMBA Board of Directors established the MMBA Historical Small Craft Preservation Foundation (the “HSCPF”), a tax deductible public benefit corporation (California 501(c)(3) corporation) to help fund the restoration of the Bird Boat *Polly* (commonly known as the “Polly Project”). Since the materials, labor and capital donated to the project were tax deductible, sufficient materials, labor and capital were contributed to successfully complete *Polly's* restoration.

Annual Wooden Boat Show

In 1994, to further promote core MMBA values (benevolence), and to create a permanent venue for its Annual Meeting of Members, the MMBA Board of Directors initiated the Annual MMBA Wooden Boat Show to be held at the Corinthian Yacht Club to raise funds to promote and fund the preservation of classic sailboats, the associated skills, and traditional seamanship through education.

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Sail San Francisco (SSF)

In 1999, the state of California budgeted a significant sum of money to celebrate the state sesquicentennial. A portion of the state's funds had been allocated to Sail San Francisco (SSF) for the reception of thirteen Class A Tall Ships and their crews that would sail from many countries into San Francisco Bay. The state employed Alison Healey to design and organize the event.

With the vessels underway, California elected a new governor who reversed the allocation of funds for the event, and Healy was suddenly unemployed, but she remained committed and took on the additional challenge to secure funding for the four-day event and the re-provisioning of the vessels.

To attract the scope of donations to pull off the event, she needed a 501(c)(3) entity to provide donors tax deductions for their contributions. She approached the MMBA Board of Directors for assistance, and in May 1999 the MMBA Board modified and amended the HSCPF Articles of Incorporation to change the corporation's name to the Master Mariners Benevolent Foundation (MMBF), establish a separate Board of Directors, and expand the corporation's "Specific Purpose" to include funding the SSF event.

Accordingly, tax deductible donations were channeled through the MMBF to fund SSF. Alison Healy managed to secure sufficient capital, services and provisions to make Sail San Francisco a success. The event drew tens of thousands to the waterfront.

KNOW YOUR BOARDS OF DIRECTORS

The Master Mariner Benevolent Foundation (MMBF) is a separate board of directors. Its early mission was to expand the MMBA corporation's "Specific Purpose" to allow for proper funding of the 1999 Sail San Francisco event.

Since that time, the board has overseen annual philanthropic distributions to numerous worthy individuals and projects, some of which include:

- Local Semester at Sea programming for girls
- Call of the Sea: *Matthew Turner* and *Seaward* sail opportunities for youth
- Alameda Community Sailing Center
- Wooden Boats for Veterans
- Arques School of Wooden Boat Building

Each director is a past MMBA commodore.

MMB FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Craig Swayne, Chairman

Mike Douglas, Treasurer

Terry Klaus

Bob Rogers

Ken Inouye

Peter English

Bill Belmont

Steve Hutchinson

Paul Dines

In 1978, the MMBA Articles of Incorporation were filed with the State of California. This re-established the MMBA as a not-for-profit social organization (California 501(c)(7) corporation).

To preserve this status, two requirements are to create a governing board of directors and to hold regularly scheduled meetings.

Candidates for appointment to the Board of Directors are nominated by members at the Annual Meeting in June. A vote is taken at the Annual Meeting.

Elected directors serve a three-year term.

MMBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Hans List, Commodore

Gena Egelston, Vice Commodore

Liz Diaz, Rear Commodore

Hans Hansen, Secretary

KC Crowell, Treasurer

Neil Gibbs, Membership

Diane Walton, Trophies

Melissa Flick, Events

Mark Harris, Technology

HISTORY OF THE MASTER MARINERS

In contrast to the East Coast, San Francisco was a crude and raw place in 1867. Its vessels were not those of the rich, used just as play toys, but vessels that were used in everyday business of commerce. They were the scow schooners, the lumber schooners, the brigantines, the barkentines, and the oyster sloops. As a result, their captains were first and foremost men of the water, and they had a courage and charter all their own.

During the late 1800's, there was a great deal of money flowing into San Francisco from the Comstock Lode and other mines. The demand for materials was great, and the load fell on the fraternity of the waterfront since those were the days before the ferry service and bridges of the San Francisco Bay. Up and down the waterways of the Delta and along the rugged coast of California from the north to the south, vessels of all description carried the necessities of everyday life.

Thus, it was in 1867, that a contest was established among those coastal sailing ships and San Francisco Bay and Delta workboats to help celebrate Independence Day. That first contest was the start of San Francisco's Master Mariners Regatta.

Thousands of spectators crowded Telegraph Hill to view the hotly contested battle of two bluewater sailing ships around a tight, 18-mile, inside the Bay course. More than 40 vessels raced for prizes that ranged from opera glasses to a cord of wood, or a ton of potatoes--all donated by local merchants. But the most coveted prize of all was, and still is, a silken swallow-tailed banner emblazoned with a strutting gamecock with the words CHAMPION embroidered across in large letters.

A great story is told of those times: during the 1880's, in a waterfront bar known as the Exchange, two skippers placed a bet between themselves. Both had commercial vessels, and both thought they could beat the other in an all-out confrontation of sail. The date was set, and the course was set.

Riding on the outcome, not only the original bets, but side bets amounting to over three-thousand dollars! The course was run as a match race, and the heavy bettor won, saying, "I don't know of any easier way to get the money, other than knocking him over the head and stealing it!"

Unfortunately, the winning vessel, a scow-sloop named *P.M. Randell*, caught fire in Suisun Bay while hauling a load of hay the next year and a rematch was never run.