



News Nautique[®]

Winter/Spring 2005

Alameda • Sausalito

From the Helm

by Don Durant

“Everyone is for progress, but no one likes change.” I don’t know who uttered those immortal words, but there’s certainly a ring of truth to them. And for sure, we live in a world where change is as normal as the sun rising in the east. Club Nautique is no exception. After nearly six years of operation at Coyote Point Yacht Harbor, we have come to the inescapable conclusion it is necessary to cease operations there. Try as we might, the best we’ve ever done is break even and unfortunately, our boat owners have never even come close. Over the next few months the boats will be moving to either Sausalito or Alameda, or retiring from service and the staff will be offered other assignments.

We’re clearly disappointed our venture on the peninsula didn’t bear fruit, but confident that cutting our losses will better position the club for future growth. We’ve noticed an increasing number of our members live northeast of the Bay Area and have often considered locating either in the Delta or near it. We’ll keep you posted. By the way, if you have need of a double wide portable building, contact David Forbes in Alameda or Bill Knight in Coyote Point, as we’ll be selling our clubhouse.

On the positive side, we’ve had an excellent response to our drive to fill some vacancies in the charter fleet. In this issue’s “Fleet Notebook,” you can read about a new Jeanneau 32 joining the Sausalito fleet. We’re also expecting to get a 3-stateroom Hunter 466, and a Caliber 40LRC for Alameda. As of this writing, we still have a few openings for mid-30s boats, but the slots are filling fast.

See you on the water!

Nine Boat CPM

by Arnstein Mustad and Margaret Spencer



Nine club boats sailing toward CPM

Nine boats set sail that day under the Golden Gate Bridge - it was an epic endeavor. Club Nautique is well known to have the largest and most comprehensive program of coastal and offshore sailing classes in the *US SAILING* curriculum, and the weekend of Oct 15, 2004 was a recorded breaking event. A total of 48 participants left the gate that day, bound for Half Moon Bay. The

largest Coastal Passage Making educational event so far included two class boats and seven “Tag-Along” vessels. Offshore Instructors Arnstein Mustad and Margaret Spencer were sailing aboard the two class boats, the crew made up of individuals trying for CPM Certification as Skipper, Navigator, Junior Navigator or Crew.

— continued on page 9 —

Inside This Issue

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 From The Helm | 10 School Scuttlebutt |
| 1 Nine Boat CPM | 11 Events Calendar |
| 2 Seminars & Events | 12 Chartershare News |
| 3 Racing Opportunities | 13 Charter Chatter |
| 4 Seychelle Islands Adventures | 16 Boat Show Coupon |
| 5 News From The Bases | |
| 8 Fleet Notebook | |

Seminars & Events

Pull on your fleece, grab your hat and come have winter fun on the water! Winter Sailing in San Francisco Bay can be a very different experience, the wind moderates and the days may be shorter but the water is calmer and the views are great!

Check calendar on page 11 for dates.

Cuisine Tours are a wonderful way to have an afternoon of sailing fun, and then warm up with your favorite beverage and a hot dinner at one of the Bay areas great waterfront restaurants. Grab your friends, or your sweetie or come alone, join us on the CN skippered chartershare boat or charter a boat with your own crew and meet us at the surprise restaurant! The CN skippered boat will be \$125 for Members/ \$165 for Non-Members. Other chartershare boats are dependent on participation.

Get out the Gate!

For a different experience join us for a day sailing outside the Golden Gate Bridge (no, it is not the edge of the earth) on our Poke



Your Nose Out the Gate sailing trips. Come with us just for fun, and if you are going to try Coastal Passage Making class this year, this a very good way to get a little taste of the ocean. (Be sure to check for other PNOYTGNAV courses which include Navigation practice aboard as the focus of the day). Cost is \$145 for Members/ \$195 for Non-Members.

Full Moon Sailing! Choose an evening of Moonlight on the water, join the BBQ at the Sausalito club-house after work then set out for a

few hours of cruising "By the light of the silvery moon!" Cost is dependent on attendance. BBQ included in cost. Call Margaret for details (800-343-SAIL x26)



Bareboat Certification in the Caribbean – make the most of your BBC class on a 6-day live aboard course in the **Windward Islands** of the Caribbean! Join experienced instructor Margaret Spencer, who has lived and worked in the islands on a learning adventure in late April-early May. This course is limited to 6 persons, so sign on early (our St. Vincent class sold out!).

Women on the Water - WOW!



Join your sailing sisters aboard for fun, camaraderie and sailing skills practice! Our ongoing program is a great way to make new sailing friends, learn and hone your skills. No certification or experience is necessary. WOW sailors include novices, cruising grads, offshore sailors and even some racers - we all have fun! And if you are BC certified or more, this is a great way to practice your skippering skills in a supportive environment. You can even charter a boat, bring your women friends and join us! So get up - get out - and let's go have fun on the water!

Explore the Bay ! Back by popular demand, **Bay Tours**, a day of exploring the SF waters by powerboat (no sails to flake!). Check out Bay Area hot spots, all in one day! Cost is \$165 for Members/ \$210 for Non-Members

Life Raft Demo Seminar -

1430-1545- 'Get to know your life raft' We're going to inflate at least one life raft. This is intended to be highly interactive. Short of being in the water, you'll hear the loud 'hiss of inflation', and actually board the raft. Discussions on crew positions, painter strategy, we'll actually puncture the raft, and show how to repair it. Highly recommended for anyone venturing offshore. Price includes Heavy Weather Seminar - Members -45\$ /Non-Members -\$60

Heavy Weather Seminar -

1600-1830-Everything you should know about dealing with Heavy Weather. Including: seasickness, predicting heavy weather, active and passive tactics, drogue systems, heaving to versus running, and much more. Recommended for anyone venturing offshore. Price includes Life Raft Demo Seminar - Members - 45\$ /Non-Members -\$60

Night Sailing Seminar -

This event/seminar is designed to help orient you to night sailing and understanding San Francisco Bay after dark. It will help to expand the scope of your sailing abilities, and allow you to experience the exhilaration of sailing after dark. Price is \$60 for Members/ \$80 for Non-Members

Diesel Engines Seminar -

This presentation includes a basic explanation of how diesel engines work, a review of the major systems (fuel, electrical, and cooling), and a discussion of how to trouble shoot and repair problems while at sea. Price is \$15 for Members/ \$25 for Non-Members

Motoring Clinic -

We will show you how to confidently dock a boat in crosswinds and adverse currents. We'll review pulling in and out of slips, parallel docking, use of spring lines, backing into a slip, and more. Price is \$222 for Members/ \$295 for Non-Members

Radar Clinic -

This one day clinic is designed to introduce you to the proper use of radar. We start in the classroom reviewing the various functions of the radar and how to apply them. In the afternoon we're out on the water aboard one of our 39ft. Mainship trawlers to apply those theories through practical experience. Among other things, you will learn how to discern buoys from vessels, track vessels to determine whether you are on a collision course, and navigate with radar using one, two and three bearing fixes. Price is \$244 for Members/ \$325 for Non-Members

To sign on for any event, call any Club Nautique location. For questions, or to suggest a fun event or sailing happening, contact Margaret Spencer 510-865-4700 ext 26 or email her at: [mspencer@clubnautique.net](mailto:m Spencer@clubnautique.net) All events are individually priced. Cancellation fees may apply if canceling with 7 days for a one day event (14 days for a multiday local event). As always, if we can fill your spot no fee will be assessed.

Racers! Racers! Racers!



On your mark... get set... GO!!!

- Midwinter Racing Series -

Two full weekends of racing fun in January and February, we have a new asymmetrical spinnaker to fly and space in this event is limited so sign on now!

- Tuesday and Friday Night Races

- Jazz Cup to Benicia

- Silver Eagle Race

- New races are being added to the SF Bay calendar as we go to press, and will be added to our CN race schedule.

- Antigua Race Week! -

Warm up with the biggest annual race event in the Caribbean, Come out and race with the big dogs, we will be in the thick of it April 24 – 30th racing in our shorts and 20kts of wind. Festivities on shore match those on land, island style! Space is limited to 6 participants, so sign on now. Other sailing opportunities exist for the non-racers who may join us.

To sign on, call any Club Nautique location. For detailed info, contact Margaret 510-865-4700 ext 26 or email her at: [mspencer@clubnautique.net](mailto:m Spencer@clubnautique.net)

Adventures in The Seychelle Islands

by Margaret Spencer and Crew

Spray is flying up in a curtain between the hulls, splashing the outer amas, as the blue blue swells of the Indian Ocean come gently rolling in on our port quarter. A fast joy ride in the warm equatorial air, reaching under full sail in 18 knots of winds, small whitecaps dance with us as we fly on a 43 foot catamaran from the island of Mahe to the island of La Digue, in the northeast Seychelles Islands group. A sailor's adventure in the tropics!

Yesterday we were anchored near Ile Moyenne, a small island in the marine park of Ste. Anne. We raised anchor this morning and are off, we cannot yet see the Islands which are our destination and are taking a course to avoid the Caiman and Sharks rocks, submerged hazards in the open sea. Slowly the islands come into view, first as vague shapes on the horizon, then a strip of green, then islands themselves. Praslin, the larger island comes first into view, and finally Le Digue. Reaching along all day under blue skies and puffy white clouds, now I see dark clouds quickly building to the east, a rain squall moving across the horizon.

It will be a race to see if we reach the small harbor before the squall finds us. As we reach the narrow entrance, marked by rocks and reef and a cross, the squall hits us, and we come in as fast as we dare in a driving heavy warm rain. We drop anchor in the tiny harbor, and back towards shore to med moor, but it is very shallow and so Pete dives overboard and swims the line to shore.

— continued on page 12 —



News From The Bases

Sausalito Slop by Chris Warden

The Santana 525 Whirlwind, a well worn workhorse of the Sausalito fleet, has needed a make-over for some time now. The truth is that all the very important parts of the boat are in great shape. The mast and standing rigging were all replaced in 2001, the outboard engine in 2002 and the running rigging and hardware are always kept in good shape. Underneath the water line and inside the cabin is where we have needed to make some improvements, as some of you Passage Maker and Ultimate members well know.

And so it was to pass that Whirlwind was hauled, power washed and set on stands at Anderson's Boat Yard in Sausalito one moist November morning. Rod (Sausalito Club Nautique's main man for boat maintenance) and I already had everything we needed for a quality "bottom job"; Heavy duty bottom paint, plenty of 3M wet dry sand paper, rubber gloves and funny looking white paper suits.

Luck was with us! The fog lifted, the sun warmed us and helped dry the hull which, after a detailed wet sanding, had been thoroughly rinsed and wiped with clean rags and solvents. Andersons is a state of the art boatyard and stays in full compliance with all EPA regulations. All sanding is done with water using wet dry sandpaper so that the dust drains down specially constructed gutters and into a collection tank rather than going airborne and into the bay.

More good news for us: there were no blisters, cracks or irregularities on the hull bottom. This job was going to be fun *and* quick. A light breeze came up which was nice

because the fumes that come off of the copper based bottom paint are not my favorite smell. The paint gets rolled out just like painting an interior wall with latex. The waterline had been expertly masked by Rod for a nice straight line. The first coat dried and we gave it twenty-four hours to cure. The next day we came back for coat number two, let that dry a bit, "bumped" the boat to a new set of stands in order to paint the spots where the boat was resting on pads, and splash.

As of this writing we have Whirlwind scheduled for an interior

— continued on next page —



*Chris and Rod
working on "Whirlwind"*

From the Bases

(continued)

prep and paint, deck fitting rebuilds (the ones that have been leaking water into the boat) and outboard engine annual service. With your first look at Whirlwind after all this work you still might not be very impressed. We did not have the resources at hand to spray a new coat of gloss on the topsides and deck. But the parts that really count are in top condition. Judge not ye Whirlwind until ye have sailed ye Whirlwind.

But enough about trainers, the big news is that Sausalito is getting a new Jeanneau! As seen elsewhere in this newsletter, she is a thirty-two foot Jeanneau by the name of Zoraida. As of this writing Zoraida is having the finishing touches put on at the H & S Cruising Specialists docks and will be here before newyears.

Ballena Banter

by Erik Digman

Ahhh wintertime in California, most people wouldn't associate winter with sailing but I think the Bay Area offers some great sailing. OK maybe we don't have the 25 knots of wind in the slot, but if you want to take some friends and family out it's perfect!

How many times have you brought someone out who isn't a

sailor, only to find them clinging to the rail as the boat heels over. "Don't worry it's supposed to be like that, we won't tip over" you say. But in their mind all they can think of is "If

I make it back alive, I'm going to kill 'em". Well no worries in the winter, as long as there isn't a storm coming through, your lucky if you see 10 knots of wind. Hoist up the main and just motor sail.

The air is crisp and clean, maybe it's a bit chilly, but a sweater and a windbreaker can take care of that. If you stop over at Sam's in Tiburon, you're practically guaranteed a spot on the docks. Cruise down the estuary and gander at the ships loading and unloading at the port of Oakland. Restaurants with docks abound around there: Pasta Pelican and Chevy's on the Alameda Side, Scott's and a plethora of other's at Jack London Square. Or my personal favorite Quinn's Lighthouse, which is all the way down. To get

there by water turn to port before Coast Guard Island, make sure you stay to the port side in the channel, follow the Embarcadero and turn into the 2nd to last fairway where they have over 60 ft of guest dock just under the restaurant.

If you've got a hankering to get into the City there's Pier 40, with a quite a few spots to eat within walking distance. The Ramp is located just to south in the Central Basin, right next to SF Boat Works,

Kelly's Mission Rock is just on the other side, to the right. Pier 39 does not allow guest docking in the winter, but west of Fort Mason the Scott St. Pier. From there it's a short walk to the Marina District or

Fisherman's Warf. Always talk to the Harbor Master before leaving your vessel unattended.

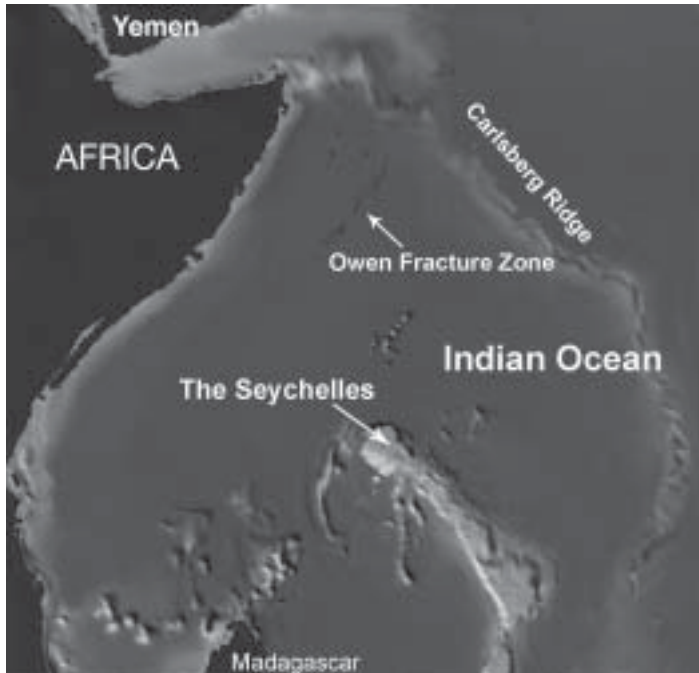
Let's not forget the best thing about winter sailing: Club Nautique's Winter Rates! Its 20% cheaper to charter a boat until March 15th. We've also got a pretty cool deal going on with Free Monday's. Rent a boat for the Weekend and get Monday Free, that's like getting four nights for the price of two. How is that you ask! Well with a weekend rental you get a free Friday night board, so you get the boat from Friday at 1600 to Tuesday at 0700. You can also get Monday free with a Tuesday & Wednesday Rental, but you have to pick the boat up Sunday at 1600 or set up a night box pick up.

*"Don't worry,
it's supposed to
be like that. We
won't tip over."*



Adventures in The Seychelle Islands

Continued from page 4



Now the laundry and the shampoo come out as we shower and wash on deck, catching the rainwater on the bimini. One can tell the difference between a day sailor and an offshore sailor when the rain comes. The day sailor grabs his foulies, the offshore sailor grabs a bar of soap!

Julie Lucchesi “I stepped off the plane into the warm moist air, to an intimate family run guesthouse, the Villa De Roses. White washed rooms with wicker furniture and huge windows looking out onto the garden of roses and other exotic flowers. Lavender wax like petals, thistle and plants of purple leaves. There were adorable bright red tiny robin like birds there and on every island. They were so cute I was waiting for Snow White to come out and sing to them. I awoke at day-break to watch the sun rise. Brilliant fuchsia reflected off the clouds over the mountain ridge. The mountains are steep and pointy, very green. The clouds that reflected the sunlight so

“It’s impossible to describe a horizon of almost 360 degrees that changed from sunlit cumulus clouds, to distant rain showers to rainbows to sunsets and sunrises.”

brilliantly came toward us. Passage to Le Digue, a taste of open water beam reaching on a starboard tack in beautiful, bright sunshine, I sat on the foredeck watching many dolphins. Their dorsal fins arched in the waves glistening in the sun. Gradually, the blue sky was replaced with dark clouds and we found ourselves docking our catamaran, World

Discoverer, in a squall. The rain is pouring down! We wash our bodies, hair and clothes. I stand over the bucket, clad in my blue bathing suit, strands of wet hair in my face wringing out my clothes. I enjoyed a moment I had only read about in cruising guides and never dreamed I would be experiencing.”

After the clouds clear, we drop the dingy and wander ashore to explore. At the end of one small road are a park, a copra factory and the old governor’s house, and a group of ancient land tortoises. There is a small fee for entrance, but none of us have brought money. The others go off separate ways, but Dana and I sit on the steps of the Ranger’s office combing our pockets for change, we have heard of the beautiful beach on the other side of this park. Our sad faces are finally enough to persuade the rangers to let us in for half price, and off we go! We walk through the plantation, stopping to visit the tortoises, and finally come to a winding path, which leads us through the forest to the most beautiful beach in the world! Perfect soft white and pink sand, strewn with huge boulders as if dropped from the sky, small perfect coves, one after the other with graceful palms, turquoise blue water and delicate birds swooping the sky. Now this is Paradise! We walk and walk and swim, and suddenly it’s time to go back - sunset and dark come very quickly in the tropics. We hike back and at dusk stop to rest in the ancient cemetery, spooky at last light.

The next day brings the only full day of rain for us, and we are pinned down in the harbor. So five of us rent bicycles and go off to ride in the rain! (Julie goes off to hike). Our

— continued on page 12—

Fleet Notebook

by Don Durant

Jeanneau 32 — Zoraida

If you love to sail in the winter (or summer on San Francisco Bay according to Mark Twain), but don't like being cold, you're going to love this boat. *Zoraida* is equipped with a diesel, forced air, central heating system which will keep you and your crew warm and toasty on the most frigid of long winter nights!

Cruising World magazine awarded the Jeanneau 32 "Boat of the Year" honors and it's easy to see why. Like her big sisters, she has an excellent turn of speed and stands up well to San Francisco Bay's blustery summer winds. She's equipped with a working jib (recommended for summer sailing) and a 135% genoa, both fitted for the ProFurl jib furling gear.

On deck we find a few upgrades on the American version — wheel steering with a leather covered wheel and an electric anchor windlass hidden in the anchor locker. The cockpit is quite spacious and comfortable and she's unusually dry under sail for a 32 footer.



Below decks we're treated to Jeanneau's usual rich, varnished, Burma teak woodwork. We're delighted

Jeanneau has stayed with teak even though it costs 40% more than the cherry some builders are now using. Teak, with its natural oils, is the obvious choice for a boat, and less obvious, is not inclined to change color like cherry. It's also less inclined to turn black when it gets wet.

As you can see from the floorplan below, the layout is fairly traditional with fore and aft staterooms, a centerline saloon table with opposing settees, U-shaped galley, and even a chart table. Amenities include the aforementioned central heating system, hot and cold pressure water, shower in the enclosed head, propane stove with oven, refrigeration, and of course, 12 volt and 110 volt electric systems.

Unfortunately, with the dollar's precipitous slide against the euro, we're unlikely to see many of the smaller Jeanneau models joining the charter fleet in the short term, so we're delighted to have *Zoraida* joining us in Sausalito. We suspect she'll be quite popular, so as usual, recommend reserving early.



SPECIFICATIONS

LOA	31' 5"	Ballast	3,020 lbs.	Horsepower	18
LWL	27' 11"	Sail Area	492 sq. ft.	Diesel	19 gal.
Beam	10' 9"	Staterooms	2	Water	45 gal.
Draft	4' 11"	Berths	6	Certification	B (Offshore)
Displacement	10,103 lbs.	Engine	Yanmar FWC Diesel	Designer	Philippe Briand

Nine Boat CPM

Continued from front page



Seven “Tag-Along” boats under the watchful management of the two instructors joined the fleet, skippered by sailors who had passed their CPM Class positions and were now required to assemble and manage a boat and crew on their own as part of their “final exam”.

It started out looking like a military mission on Friday night. Nine offshore boats being seriously prepared by their intense crews and skippers for a weekend mission down to Half Moon Bay. Everyone was aware that Club Nautique (and perhaps *US SAILING*) history was being written this weekend. The objective: complete the mission, pass the rigorous Coastal Passage Making class, find “Wilson” and return with all hands. The instructors said, “expect to be challenged”. The open sea deserves nothing less.

The early evening minus tide was a formidable challenge for these deep draft vessels as they left the protected bases of Club Nautique. The next test was crossing the lonely darkness of the bay at night, avoiding the steel monsters, then anchoring in



Richardson’s Bay. The winds were up to 25kts; anchors slipped and dragged in

the mud, as the lee shore of Belvedere seemed to move closer. Two of the vessels mounted up in the middle of the night and weighed anchor, moved and set it again. The night was long as the fetch was rude. Comfort and rest were things only landlubbers experienced.

On Saturday morning the boats assembled after compass and log checks. The morale was good despite the rough Richardson Bay conditions overnight. The next daunting task was to line up in formation and march step for step

toward the Golden Gate Bridge. The lead boat was Free Spirit and the plan was to fall into a weather position with bow even to beam of the boat to leeward. One misstep could have been a disaster but these hardy sailors didn’t miss a beat. It was a thing of beauty when all nine boats peeled off and tacked. American Cup sailors would have been envious.

— continued on page 15 —



School Scuttlebutt

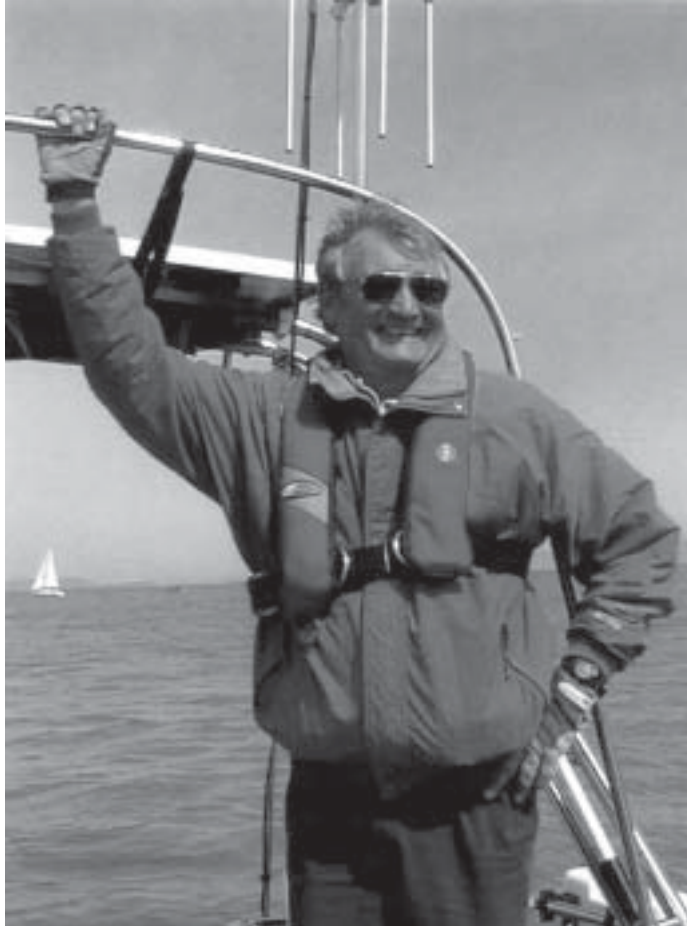
by Steve Easterbrook

Spotlight on Instructors

A few have questioned the criteria used in selecting the instructors to be spotlighted. It's a fair question, but the answer is I never know in advance-especially this month. Dick Lanam is very popular, well liked, a quick wit, respected, and so on. But we all want to know more. He's usually teaching in Alameda, but often comes here just to visit, and check his email, have breakfast, shower, use the phone, drink coffee, and bum cigs. We're privileged to have him, but then he's gone-maybe to the yacht club next door, or to check out a friend's boat; perhaps a sea trial-and then home to Sacramento. In interviewing a few of his friends, I found we all shared kind of a conspiratorial smile when I mentioned his name. We wondered why this is. Is it the kind of guy he is? What we might have done together? The truth of this remains elusive.

He is a very good teacher, and I suspect his life's experiences have contributed to this talent. We understand it was probably necessary for Dick to expand his horizons after growing up in South Dakota. So he left to join the Navy, trained as a hospital corpsman, and went to

Vietnam assigned to the Marines. Upon discharge, he went back to school, and graduated from Arizona State University with a degree in biology. Soon he was working for the prison system as a Physicians Assistant. There was a riot, and he rode in the ambulance treating one of



Dick Lanam

the guards, who had been stabbed 70 times. He soon moved on looking for safer environs.

He next became a Public Health Advisor assigned to a sexually transmitted disease unit. Successfully eradicating all sexual diseases, and no challenges left in his field, he purchased a carpet cleaning business. Achieving success, and realizing

money wasn't everything-he returned to the health field. Thank goodness, because he was assigned, by the Public Health Dept, to do AIDS research and work with people with HIV. Later he also worked with programs for AIDS and Cancer education. Now we are well on our way toward total cures.

I was trying to put a time line on our association with Dick, and couldn't pin down a starting date. A couple of us thought he was a charter member of the club, another remembered him around here in the 80's. After a short visit to archives, I dusted off his record and was surprised to learn he first joined as recently as 1990. Sure enough, here it was, a beginning student, all the courses through off shore, and then the hiatus.

Between 1994 and 1996 Dick embarked on a serious adventure, taking him to the Caribbean, the Bahamas, Central and South America, Panama Canal, the Amazon and Brazil, and many places in between. He's crewed on a 140' square rigger, ran supply vessels in the Gulf of Mexico and a 74' Morgan sailboat. More recently he's delivered and sailed vessels in the South Pacific, Japan, Florida.

Dick teaches everything from Basic Keelboat to Offshore, including all power. He's *US SAILING*, as well as ASA certified. Dick is a popular mainstay of our teaching corps, a sailing veteran, with a career on the water spanning thirty years.

And ladies, he's single!

Club Nautique Events Calendar

January

- 2 P.Y.N.O.T.G.* Trawler – A
- 8 Charter Orientation – C
- 15-16 Mid Winter Races – A
- 16 Night Sailing Seminar – S
- 22 Cuisine Tour – S
- 22 Radar Clinic – S
- 22 Weather Seminar Part II – A
- 23 Charter Orientation – S
- 23 W.O.W! – S
- 25 Full Moon Sail – S
- 29 Heavy Weather Seminar – S
- 29 P.Y.N.O.T.G.* – S
- 30 Bay Tour – S

A = Alameda

C = Coyote Point

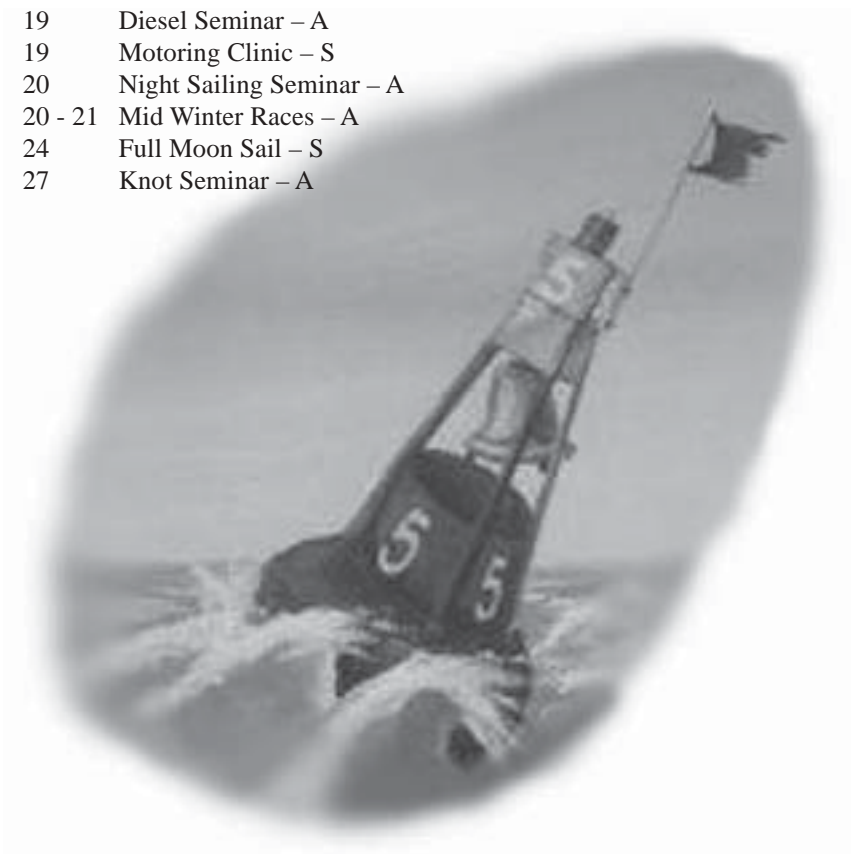
S = Sausalito

Subject to change. Call Club for details.

* Poke Your Nose Out the Gate

February

- 4 Cuisine Tour – S
- 12 P.Y.N.O.T.G. – S
- 12 Spinnaker Clinic – A
- 13 W.O.W. – S
- 19 Diesel Seminar – A
- 19 Motoring Clinic – S
- 20 Night Sailing Seminar – A
- 20 - 21 Mid Winter Races – A
- 24 Full Moon Sail – S
- 27 Knot Seminar – A



Sea Stories Wanted

Give us your tall tales, your old yarns and your fish stories! We want to share them with the world! Well, at least your fellow Nautiquers. Authors of published submissions will receive Club Nautique Boating Bucks good towards charter, services and merchandise from the club! Preferred format is MS Word. Photographs should be identified for proper credit.

Have questions to ask an Old Salt? We've got the answers! Our resident know it all, Compass Rose, has the tips and tricks to help you smoothly sail through just about any patch of rough water. Send questions to the editor. We'll be publishing questions and responses in our next newsletter.

News Nautique is published quarterly by Club Nautique, Inc. and delivered via First Class Mail to members. Forward editorial submissions to:

Editor, News Nautique
100 Gate Six Road
Sausalito, CA 94965
fax (415) 332-0740
marmand@clubnautique.net

Adventures in The Seychelle Islands

continued from page 7

mission is to circle the island, and arrive at Grand L'Anse beach on the other side. It's great fun, the roads are rock and cement tile and dirt, and off we go up and down hill, racing through the rainforest and down along the shore and beaches, the narrow road drops off right into the sand, rock and water at the edge of the island! Surf from the storm pounds the island, and rain squalls pelt us as we joke about riding to the "end of the road", which suddenly appears right in front of my front wheel! We shelter in a small shrine at the edge of the road to eat the sandwiches our cook Phillippe has sent with us.

The next afternoon we make for the north coast of Praslin, and drop anchor just off the small islets of St. Pierre and Chauve Souris, strange shapes of carved rocks crowned with tall palm trees and flowers. The divers in our group, Dana and Janet and myself, and Julie and Tasha who are taking an intro course, are anxious to get back into the magic kingdom of underwater Seychelles reefs. An unbelievable array of fish life populates the islands, in one dive alone I saw five lionfish (their beautiful black and white streamers drifting in the water), a graceful eagle ray flying by, sea turtles, and oops! I poke my nose into a cave and here are two blacktip reef sharks! They flee with big, toothy grins, we follow them through the cave, emerging on the reef to be greeted by a spotted moray eel and two huge tiger-striped lobsters hiding nearby.

Julie Lucchesi "Our skipper, Margaret, arranged a beginning scuba lesson for me today. "I hope you don't mind", she said. Don't mind she says I could barely contain my excitement. Six meters below Saint Pierre, looking at lionfish, turtles, bright purple and yellow fish, shiny silver fish and even a shark who was tiny and asleep on the sandy bottom. My diving instructor and I surfaced in a squall, heavy rain poured down on us as we climbed back into the dive-boat. Refresh-

close he was to me. Then to have him kiss my mask felt like what I imagine others might describe as an out of body experience. The icing on the cake of what was the grandest vacation I've ever had. Ten days in paradise – I thought about writing a book. One whole chapter would be about the diving experiences. We woke two humphead fish that were as



large as my 10 year old son. Upon surfacing from our night dive the starlit sky enveloped us. But the skies are a whole other chapter. Have I ever been this far from light pollution? I needed more time to learn my constellations but I was thrilled to be able to point out Perseus, Andromeda, and Pegasus, in the November sky.

That's only the night sky – each day light hour had it's surprises too. It's

— continued on page 14 —

ing rain washing the salt off of me!"

Dana Paredes "Everyone asked me 'weren't you afraid he would take a bite out of you?' When the three foot long hawksbill turtle gracefully swam toward me, I was in shock at how



Janet and Dana

Charter Chatter

by Margaret Spencer

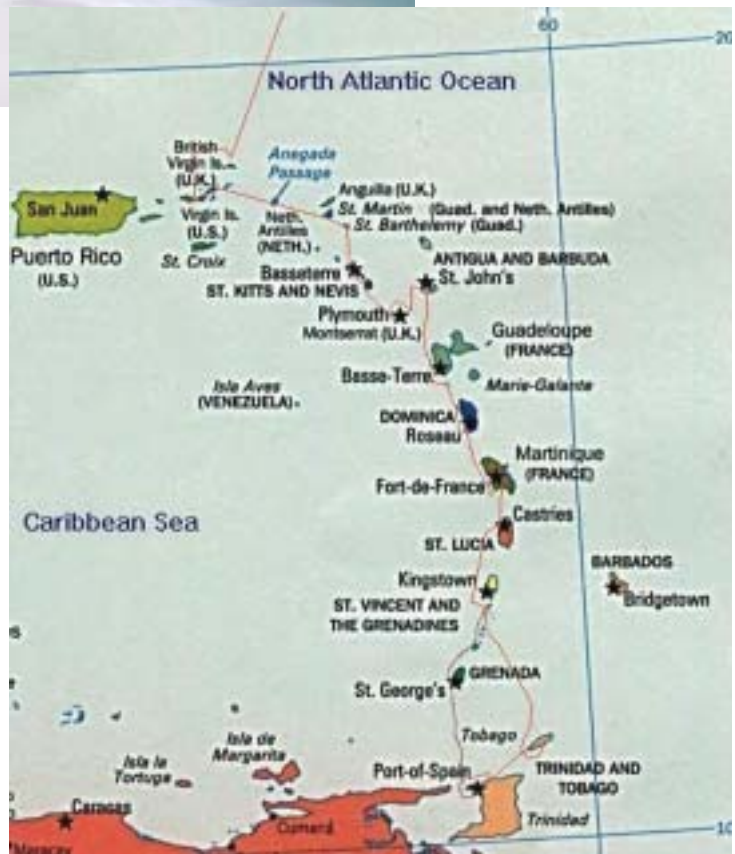
Been there - done that! There is an advantage to having first hand knowledge of an overseas sailing destination, and I'm here now at the Charter Desk to help you get there too!

The **Caribbean** is a wonderful place for a winter sailing trip! In the winter months, when the wind howls and the rain pours down in San Francisco, we all dream of a warm, tropical location to get away. Imagine sailing in shorts all day, living in your bathing suit, diving off the boat in the morning for a swim before breakfast!

Ok, when do we leave?

The winds are fresh this time of year, and the days are moderate (in the 70s & low 80s) making for ideal sailing conditions. The islands of the Caribbean chain offer an incredible variety. Islands like Antigua and Barbuda in the Windwards were occupied by the British, and still retain a colonial air. Many of the original historical buildings are still standing, such as in English Harbor, now a national park. The French islands offer a completely different culture, islands like Martinique, Guadeloupe and Iles de Saintes. Wander through the markets, buy fresh baguettes and French wine, dine on French or creole food, or just relax! Further down the chain, St Lucia and the Grenadines are lush and verdant islands with a slow pace, where spices grow in the rich forests. The smaller islands are gems, Bequia famous for it's wooden boats, and the Tobago Cayes for snorkeling and coral reefs.

Experienced sailors may want to charter in St. Maartin and sail down to St. Barts. Those new to bareboat sailing will love the experience of the British Virgin Islands, where you sail in protected waters for shorter distances



As many years as I have spent in the Caribbean, I always find something different. And as always I'm ready to go again! You will be too, once you experience the languid days in the warm water and the exciting sailing. To book a charter, or for more information, contact me at 510-865-4700 ext 26 mspencer@clubnautique.net Remember, when members book through Club Nautique you receive a **substantial discount** over listed prices.

And if you are a bit nervous as a first time charterer, consider joining one of our overseas flotillas. Join us this year for our CN flotilla at the **Great Barrier Reef in Australia!** See You On The Water!

Adventures in The Seychelle Islands

continued from page 12

learn my constellations but I was thrilled to be able to point out Perseus, Andromeda, and Pegasus, in the November sky. That's only the night sky – each day light hour had it's surprises too. It's impossible



Dinner on board

to describe a horizon of almost 360 degrees that changed from sunlit cumulus clouds, to distant rain showers to rainbows to sunsets and sunrises. It never was so easy to get up at 5:15 for a sunrise.”

Ile aux Cocos is a small group of tiny islets famous for snorkeling, the rocks and reef are shallow around the edges, then rapidly drop off into the deep blue. On a blue sky day, we up anchor and make for this national park, located between Felicite and Grande Soer islands. Four small buoys are in place here, and we are fortunate to pick one up, as anchoring is not permitted. Five minutes after we arrive, we are in the water. At first there is only blue water, then boulders and reef, and a few fish. White fairy terns swoop above the rocks and palms. Then suddenly - fish are everywhere! In water only 3 to 10 feet deep we see parrotfish, schools of tang and angelfish, large

primitive neon blue flutefish, puffers and even a green sea turtle, who is totally unconcerned that we are there. Our master snorkelers Pete and Bob explore after lunch, and we are amazed to hear that Pete actually

circumnavigated the entire islet snorkeling (no mean feat considering the current). The kayaks are brought out again, and Janet and Tasha paddle off to another islet to explore. We are fortunate in that the swells are not running

today, usually coming from the Indian Ocean to crash against the north side of the islet, it is peaceful and calm and we are allowed to stay overnight on the mooring.

“...I went half way around the world sailing the islands that people here in the US have never even heard of...”

We enjoy another wonderful dinner on board. One of the great pleasures of our trip was our cook Phillippe, a local Seychellois, whom we hired to cook for our 10 day charter. We had asked for local dishes, and they were served up with such presentation as is found on a luxury cruise ship, we

discovered he had been a chef aboard a world cruise line! What luck for us, and what a luxury to rise to breakfast of bacon and eggs, lunch already on the table after diving or snorkeling, and dinners of BBQ fish, chicken curry, local spicy beef. He was also a wealth of local lore, passing on stories to Bob and Pete while they hung out together in the shade on the catamaran.

At last we sail to Ile Curieuse, we have come to see the ancient land tortoises on this island reserve. A local ranger shows us around, from the baby tortoises we can hold, to the “teenagers” (one took a great liking to Bob) and the more senior residents who we saw that live 80 to 150 years! Their eyes look very wise. One particular granny took to following Dana's feet, looking for lunch. She seemed particularly interested in my toes as well, and when I discovered some red flowers and fed them to her she followed me around. It was the red toe polish on our nails, to her it looked like delicious flowers! Tasha and Janet climbed back in the kayaks, Julie, our hiker, climbed the trail over the mountain to the old doctors residence. Pete and Dana snorkeled, and I took a nap in the dingy (after I had seen a shark in the lagoon and the ranger told me they come into the bay to have their babies).

Dana “Friendly Creoles, the awesome snorkeling, the power of the sun, the cool freshness of the rain, the heavenly colors of the water, the artistic mix of the sands, losing weight effortlessly, giant “Lost World” tortoises, the “most photographed beach”, living on a boat with strangers (who I'd be glad to sail with again anytime), fruit bats, fire red birds, fairy terns, coconut crabs, spiders, sleeping on the tramp, dancing and music, end of the roads

and much more. But my concluding chapter will be about the inner renewal of this great getaway.”

Our last day we sailed around the northwest tip of Praslin, past Booby Islet, taking care as we tacked to the south to avoid Blanchisseuse Rocks and the Mammelles, where the freighter Eyrendyl struck the submerged hazards and sank in 80 feet of open water. The wind is now out of the south again, and we tack back in 15 to 20 knots, small whitecaps and waves breaking against our twin hulls and splashing onto the trampoline, a thrilling and wet ride if you care to sit up front! At anchor near the beautiful beach in Baie Beau Vallon on Mahe, we watch our last sunset aboard.

Tasha Hernandez ““Dream what you want to dream; go where you want to go; be what you want to be, because you have only one life on

this earth, and one chance to do all the things you want to do.”

I went half way around the world sailing the islands that people here in the US have never even heard of. For 10 days it was warm tropical weather (with rain some days, but that added to the fun), white sand beaches, palm trees, granite boulders balancing as if posing for my camera, crystal clear turquoise water with all-you-can-see fish! dolphins swimming beside us as we sailed, and the most beautiful sunrises and sunsets you’ve ever seen. What more could you ask for? The Seychellois. I fell in love with the people and especially the friends I made there that I have kept in touch with since I’ve been back. They’re the most kind-hearted, generous, helpful, hospitable people I’ve ever met. It’s all about the people and family there and I’ve never felt so at home and welcome

anywhere else. Did I mention sailing yet? That was an experience all in itself. It was in a way a separate trip. Living on a boat is one of the coolest things I’ve experienced. I came back with the appreciation of fresh clean water and a nice long hot shower! Then there’s Philip, our cook. The best tasting food anyone could ask for! WHEN I go back, I’m going to his house for dinner. Thanks everyone aboard World Discoverer for the trip of my life! Special thanks to Dana for all you’ve done for me to get me on that boat! And last but not least, to my Chicky Mama, Janet for your friendship. I had a blast!

“It takes only a minute to get a crush on someone, an hour to like someone, and a day to love someone – but it takes a lifetime to forget someone.” That’s how I feel about everyone that I met on the trip, both on the boat and in Seychelles.”

Nine Boat CPM

continued from page 9

Coastal Passage Making is the second highest level of Certification, which may be attained in the *US SAILING* program; in order to apply for this class, sailors must be certified at all previous levels including Bareboat Cruising and Coastal Navigation. During CPM classes students must demonstrate competency in advanced sailing skills, navigation, handling emergencies, boat systems and management, and demonstrate leadership in the role of skipper. Sailors who attain this Certification have a right to be proud! As the fleet passed under the Bridge, the boats diverged on their courses, to assemble again that evening in Half Moon Bay.

Later that day, at dusk in Half Moon Bay, the boats arrived one by one to raft up together (no mean

“The instructors said, “expect to be challenged”. The open sea deserves nothing less.”

feat in the dark) for the evening. Our efforts were rewarded when at sunrise we were greeted by the sight of nine

large, beautiful sailboats rafted in a wide semicircle in the center of Pillar Point Harbor!

All who participated in this CPM course deserve congratulation. This weekend was the culmination of years of effort on the part of our sailors, and on the part of our sailing school and instructors, and it was privilege to participate in this event. As an instructor, watching the “birds take flight” is the best reward, to see those students who have been with us in other classes, who have practiced and studied and sailed and worked so hard to become competent sailors in their own right - that is a great reward. Take pride in your accomplishments!

Now that CPM Certification is yours, what’s next? Offshore Passage Making!



Club Nautique

1150 Ballena Blvd., Suite 161
Alameda, California 94501 USA

First Class Mail

Forward & Address Correction

NCMA Boat Show Coupon



Boat shows always seem to bolster sailing enthusiasm. If you're feeling rejuvenated about sailing, don't forget to tell a friend. Remember, we offer rebates off of charters if you refer someone who becomes a member or takes one of our classes. Call anyone of our locations for more information. Better yet, come on in and let us show you and your friend around!

Northern California

BOAT-SHOW

January 28 - February 6, 2005
ALAMEDA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS, PLEASANTON
Adult: \$10.00, Child: \$5.00, Under 6 FREE!
Weekdays: Noon-9pm, Saturdays: 10am-9pm, Sundays: 10am-6pm

\$2.00 DISCOUNT

Weekdays Only!

Visit our booth at the Boat Show. Bring a friend! Stop by one of our club houses if you need more than one coupon. If you want to learn more about the Northern California Marine Association Boat Shows,, you can visit them on their website at:
www.ncma.com.