

WIND WORDS

Newsletter of the Convair Sailing Club

June • 2025

Commodore's Corner

Dear CSC Sailors,

It's June and many of us are out sailing. Please be sure to sail safely and if you happen to come back to the docks on a windy day – *if you're approaching too quickly*, feel free to go past our slips and do a U-turn and approach the docks either from the East or do a complete re-spin of your approach. We want you, the boat, and your passengers to all come back into dock safely and without accident.

As I noted a few weeks back via email, our club has now reset our fleet size to 6 Ensigns and 6 Victories. We are no longer using slip 1149 and should see a new neighbor begin docking there soon. Please be

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Congratulations Ocean Qualifiers!



Convair welcomes Sam Willett and Tom Bedford to the Ocean Qualified class.

Do they ever venture to the high seas? Tom did last week, hosting prospective member JD Itri on the

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Former San Diego Bay Guest Has Tragic Collision With Brooklyn Bridge.

On May 17th the Mexican Navy training ship Cuauhtémoc crashed into the Brooklyn Bridge, resulting in two deaths and at least 19 injuries. The incident occurred when the ship lost steerage while maneuvering away from Pier 17 a short distance away from the Brooklyn Bridge, causing its masts to collide with the bridge.

The entire incident unfolded in about five minutes and stands as a grim reminder of the inherent risks

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Convair Sends Fleet To The Duck Derby

Convair deployed three teams to the most recent Duck Derby, a pursuit style fun race held every Friday night on San Diego Bay.

The race is sponsored by Doyle Sails. Participation is free and the rules are simple. Slower boats start earlier. Later start times are given to faster boats. The course is laid out in the north bay between



Back Row: Robert Skillings, Hector Smith, Rajeev Jain, Jose Otero Tom Bedford
Front Row: Gordon Eckler (from Point Loma Yacht Club), and Sandy Leon

Harbor Island and North Island. Everything is covered on the Duck Derby website:

<https://duck-derby.com/>

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This story about the Cuauhtémoc appeared in the June 2024 issue of WindWords. The ship, with its crew of 261 arrived in San Diego on May 7. From here she sailed to Honolulu HI.



Manning the yards is a naval custom where crew members stand on the yards to honor distinguished persons or show respect when entering or leaving a port. This practice dates back to the Age of Sail and is a way to pay homage to the ship's arrival or departure.

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of maneuvering a sailing craft in a narrow body of water. Though the Cuauhtémoc was still under power and in full reverse at the time of the crash, loss of rudder control prevented her from avoiding the lower end of the bridge on the Manhattan side. The tragedy was made worse because sailor were **manning the yards** (see photo above) when all three masts struck the bridge. *✍*

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E 192. "We were on a beam reach that wouldn't quit!" said Bedford. "We planned to come about at Ballast Point but we were at 7kts so we kept on going! We could have ridden that wind to Cabo!*" *✍*

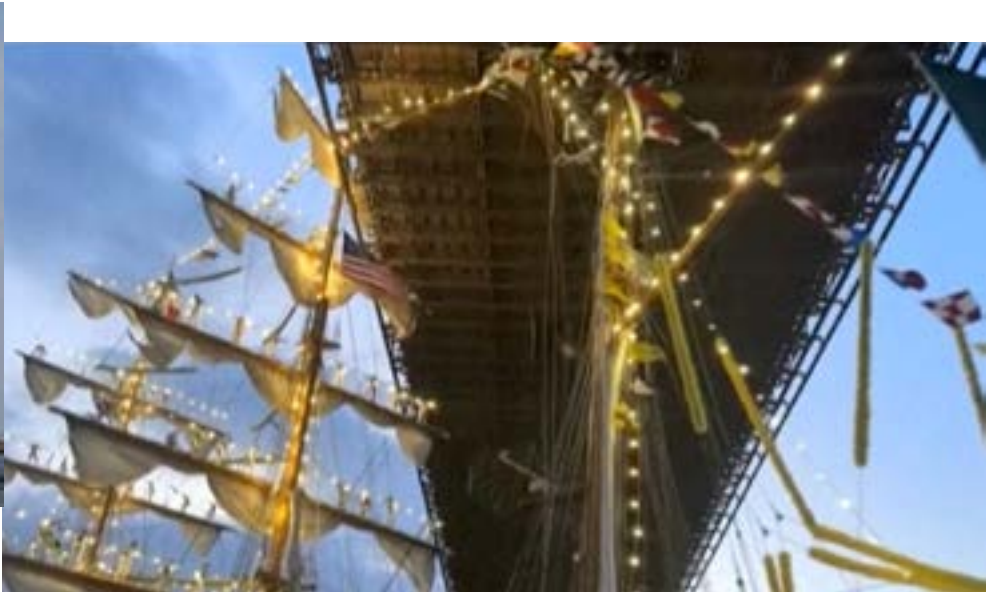


*In a later clarification made to WindWords, Mr. Bedford categorically denies any intention to sail the E192 to Mexico.

"I'd have taken the E323."

Prospective member JD Itri, joined Tom's crew for a guest ride. "I'm really glad to have a story to tell at the office" said JD. "I start a new job on Monday"

Despite appearances, these Navy V-22 Ospreys were not sent on a search and rescue. We came about at R4. They were just in the shot.



The collision is under investigation by the NTSB.

Ensign Race Takes Place Under Cloudy Skies And Brisk Winds



E453, under cloudy skies and choppy waters, makes the final dash to the finish line in the May 17th race. The race took less than 1 hour, 40 min. Heeling of 20 to 25° was common. **This is the only surviving photo of the race.**

The Ensign captains chose Course B which runs along Shelter Island due to winds that were coming from the south. This made for great spinnaker sailing as they proceeded north towards Harbor Island.

Each captain took a different path and for most of the upwind it was difficult to predict the strategy of your competitors.

The downwind was a different story with each boat seemingly choosing the same exact path from G17 to R20. Even the E1122 resisted the temptation to tour the edge of North Island.

The winds had shifted for the second upwind run. Three of the Ensigns were tracking their race on RaceQs. Unfortunately, this data was only available for the E1122 and the E2. During the *first* upwind, both boats covered the distance while tacking only 4 times. During the *second* upwind the E1122 tacked 11 times. The E2 tacked 7 times - although one of them was to avoid colliding with the E453 (Jeff Nelson was skippering the E2, what did you expect?).

The final leg of the race saw a duel between the E192 and E1122. Both skippers had to draw on their extensive sailing experience (and, apparently, their equally extensive knowledge of the rulebook).

The E1122 prevailed, giving them their third 'First Place' finish this season. *✍*

Race results on Page 3, Column 2.

Victory Regatta



May fleet results:
Very close races with two boats tying for 1st with 3 regatta points (Bruce Plutchak and Robert Skillings in 633 and John Killian and Joe Rollinson in 615), and three boats tying for 3rd with 8 regatta points (Terry Edlund in 632, James Walker in 647, and Rajeev Jain in 610). Boats were close to each other the entire time.



May Ensign Race Results

Boat	Skipper	SAT 15 Mar	SAT 19 Apr	SAT 17 May	SAT 21 June	SAT 19 July	SAT 16 Aug	Ocean 20 Sep	Throw Out Adjust	Total
1122	Hector	1	1	1					-1	2.0
192	Terry	5	2	2					-6	4.0
2	Tracy / Jeff	2	5	3					-5	5.0
323	Paul	3	3	5					-5	6.0
453	Bob	4	4	4					-4	8.0
722	Frank	5	6	6					-6	11.0

Series Scoring: Lowest total score for series wins

DNC	Did not come	# boats + 1
DNS	Did not start	# boats + 1
DSQ	Disqualification	# boats + 1
DNF	Did not finish	# boats + 1
JNS	Justified not start	# boats + 1

May Victory Race Standings.

Skipper	Place	Points
Bruce / Robert	1	14
Sandy Leon	2	19
Terry Edlund	3	26
Rajeev Jain	4	33
John K / Joe R	5	42
Tom Bedford	5	42
Omar & Amy	7	53
Craig Unger	8	55
Doug Bass	9	58
James Walker	10	59
Bob Lewis	11	64
Tabor's Pirates	12	66
Gregory Herbster	13	81
Joe Curran	14	83
Ryan Drobek	15	104
Dan Battiste	16	105
Fred MacDougall	17	106
Jack Cabeen	18	112

Ensign Free Concert Announcement!

In our May issue we reported that the *Ensign Social Club* announced its 2025 **Free Concert On The Bay Sailing Adventure!** The Club has selected:

Earth Wind & Fire


on July 6th

and

The Beach Boys

on August 9th

Seats are going fast!

"We have received a number of reservations and we still have room for more." Just click on the link below to get on the list. We will add your name to the email to keep you up to date on all the details. Non-member guests welcome. 


There may be some "Pot Luck" opportunities for our guests. This and other details will be coming soon by email to those who sign up.

Yet Another Apology

WindWords offers the latest in a series of apologies to Paul Feldon and the crew of the 323. In the April issue we incorrectly reported that the Ensigns *started and ended the race in the same order*. We now know that the 323 pulled ahead of the E2 and the 453 to finish 3rd overall. As with the former inaccuracies we have printed about the captain and crew of the E323, we



The E323 seen here behind the E2 at the start of the race. They passed the E2 and E453 to finish 3rd.

have no excuse for our behavior and we can only promise to do better in the future. 

Click On The Blue Text
Below To Access The
Sign-up Google Sheet.

If the link does not work,
text "Concert" to
760-533-8706
and we will get back to you.

Three CSC teams took part:

Liberator: V648: Sandy Leon & Jerry Rapp

Cheese and Quackers: E1123, Robert Skillings, Hector Smith, Bruce Plutchak & Peter Wells.

Free Lunch: E323, Rajeev Jain, Tom Bedford & Jose Otero

And The Results Are In!

The Duck Derby posted the results of the most recent competition and here are the top five:

1. **Varacious:**
Roderrick Messinger
2. **Liberator:** 🦋
Sandy Leon & Jerry Rapp
3. **Cheese and Quackers:** 🦋
Robert Skillings, Hector Smith, Bruce Plutchak & Peter Wells.
4. **Absolute:**
Thomas Bosch
5. **Free Lunch:** 🦋
Rajeev Jain, Tom Bedford & Jose Otero



As you can see, Convair had a pretty good showing this week, placing 2nd, 3rd and 5th. Interest is growing with at least one additional Ensign crew thinking about joining. If you're interested, reach out to the current participants. You can also learn all about it on the Duck Derby site: <https://duck-derby.com/>

Races are weekly on Friday evenings. 🦋

New Member



Stephanie Jaeger with her husband Jed Deering and son Nolan - age 4.

Stephanie Jaeger is really looking forward to getting back to sailing, having only sailed once in the past 5 years since moving to San Diego. Prior to that, they owned a 30' Phil Rhodes design wooden sailboat in Seattle. She also has experience as a sailing instructor for children.

"My first time sailing was in college, when I spent a semester taking classes while living aboard a 125-ft traditional gaff-rigged schooner. That is where I got hooked. I learned to sail dinghies after that. Sadly, that schooner no longer sails but lives on as a restaurant in Maine".

<https://www.thespiritrestaurant.com/>
Stephanie will start Victory qualifications this week. She is actively looking for sailing partners. 🦋

Captain, My Captain!

You probably think the photo below is about the Duck Derby, and you'd be right. But it's also about Boat Co-Captains. Each boat in the fleet has a Captain who is responsible for its upkeep. It's a big job that is being made easier by a new push toward assigning two members to each boat. Robert Skillings was

recently named Co-Captain of the E1122, partnering with long time Captain Hector Smith. Tom Bedford was recently named Co-Captain of the E323, partnering with long time Captain Paul Feldon.

Other boats with Co-Captains include the E2 - Tracy Williams & Jeff Nelson, and the V615 - Joe Rollinson & John Killian.

If you're interested in becoming a Co-Captain, contact Fleet Captain Tom Bedford TomBedford@san.rr.com and he'll find you a Boat Captain to partner with. 🦋

Seen here in full Duck Regalia are:
Rajeev Jain, Boat Captain - V610
Robert Skillings, Co-Captain, E1122
Tom Bedford, Co-Captain, E323.
To the best of our knowledge, the inflatable duck is not responsible for anything.



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courteous when that happens and let's refrain from putting our gear (or extra equipment on race days) on the shared dock with our new neighbor.

Over the past month, the club executed on its goal of reducing 4 boats. We also sold off an unneeded extra trailer. This lowers our operating costs in a profound way and affords us the chance to dedicate more time to improving the look and performance of our 12 remaining boats.

I'd like to express sincere thanks to our BOD and in particular the following persons who played a role in this significant reset for our club: **Tom Bedford, Terry Edlund, Paul Feldon, Rajeev Jain, Joe Rollinson, and Jim Walker.** *Thank You!*

There's no further news or changes yet on the Marina renovation – we're still anticipating a move for our CSC boats, positioning them up closer on the 1100 docks sometime in July and changes to the marina building and parking lot later in the summer, but no specifics yet – which kind of means that there could be more delays in the project.

I'm also happy to announce that the new Victory main sails are on order and should arrive in time for the August Victory races. Special thanks to Sandy Leon for taking the lead on the quotation exercise and getting us a good deal.

Happy Sailing!

Thank You!

Tracy 



The San Diego Zoo and Safari Park paid professionals to put animal tracks in their walkways. But at HIWM there's a seagull who will do it for free.



The marina will likely park a large boat in the slip 1149 that we have returned to them. Until they do so, the slip may be empty temporarily, **but we are not to use that slip.**

So please do not park any club boats in this newly emptied slip.



This photo shows the Victory fleet in its new parking configuration. Plans are underway to instruct members on proper boat securing and docking.

New Marina Slip Configuration, Effective Immediately


***A**s* noted in the March issue of *WindWords* (Pg. 1, Column 1), our club fleet has been resized from 16 to 12 boats. The club now has six Ensigns and six Victories. This change will save the club considerable money going forward. The rental on the slip alone was over \$2,000 per month. On top of that, we will save on sail replacement and boat maintenance.

Starting in June, we made a change in how we park or configure the



It didn't take the marina long to fill the slot we just vacated. New member Stephanie Jaeger and instructor Jim Walker were among the club members to see our new neighbor's boat.

Victory boats. The Ensigns will remain as they were. The six club Victories will be in the slip immediately in front of the gangway as you approach the club slips. The new parking arrangement is as shown in the middle picture above.

Also, in the slip reconfiguration we now have one less dock box. 

Convair Sailing Club Board of Directors

All Canvair Members are welcome to attend the Board meetings. They are held on Zoom the first Wednesday of each month. Contact Bob Keefe for a Zoom link.
bkeefeunc@gmail.com

Commodore.....Tracy Williams
Vice Commodore..... **Open**
Rear Commodore..... John Hysler
Junior Staff Commodore..... Sandy Leon
Secretary Bob Keefe
Treasurer..... Omar Del Rio
Director..... Paul Feldon
Director..... Rajeev Jain
Director..... Tom Bedford
Fleet Captain Tom Bedford
Port Captain Mark Sutton
Chief of Racing Sandy Leon
Chief of Instruction..... John Hysler
Chief of Communications Jeff Nelson
Registrar..... Rajeev Jain
Membership Chairman..... Tom Bedford
Chief of Checkout - Ensign..... Paul Feldon
Chief of Checkout - Victory **Open**

Helpful Info.

Click on **Blue** text access:

Convair's **New** Email: _____

Convair Web Site:

www.ConvairSailingClub.com

Club Address:

Convair Sailing Club

P.O. Box 22981

San Diego, CA 92192-2981

Coast Guard Safety:

www.uscgboating.org

ConvairSailingClub-info@GoogleGroups.com
Yes, it's a really long email address.

If you have a story you'd like to see in *WindWords* text "CSC Story" to 760-533-8706. **R**

As you can see, there are still some open Board of Director slots that need to be filled.

The *Vice Commodore* assists the Commodore in the discharge of his or her duties, to officiate in his absence, and to serve as the Club's Programs Director. He will succeed to the office of Commodore in the event of a vacancy in that office.

The *Chief of Checkout - Victory* conducts final checkouts for student members who have completed sailing orientation.

If you'd like to discuss the possibility of filling one of these positions please contact:

Tracy Williams

tw.cscsail@gmail.com **R**

A Possible Solution Hiding In Plain Sight

Typically this sort of yacht is relegated to the ultra-wealthy but times are changing. With the rising cost of dock space, the time may come when we have to "bite the bullet" and consider the practicality of owning our own dock space. At first glance this looks like an oversized toy, until



It has its own set of four docks and a garage to haul boats inside. Perfect for our needs!

Wait! Shouldn't there be a bridge in the middle of this photo?

A rolling fog west of downtown completely covered the Coronado Bridge.



We saw this guy while sailing in Americas Cup Harbor.



We thought this mega-yacht belonged to Jeff Bezos but when we got closer we realized that it was too small and had only one heliport.

you sail around the stern and discover that it has its own dock. This yacht is relatively small and can only accommodate four of our boats. It may be necessary to buy a bigger one to service all of our fleet. The rest of the yacht could be used for parts storage with office space for the Fleet Captain and Port Captain on the upper decks.

The yacht itself is too large to fit into any of the local slips so it was just anchored in the bay in front of the Star of India. **R**

SAN DIEGO

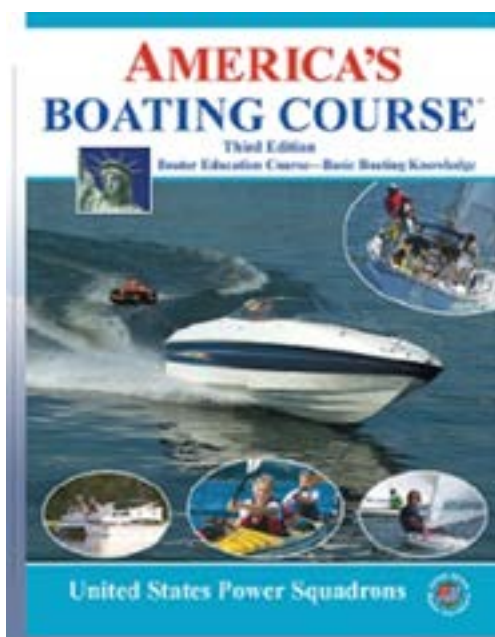
Safe Boating Course & Basic Seamanship for California Boater Card

Date : Start Monday July 7, 2025 – 8 weeks

Time : 7:00 – 9:00 PM Mondays for 8 weeks

Place : Montessori School, 7427 Fay Ave., La Jolla, CA 92037

Cost : \$39.00



Master the Art of Boating with Confidence! We invite you to come and improve your boating knowledge with this course and qualify for the California Boater Card!

This 8-week course, taught Monday nights, 2 hours each night, teaches safe boating practices and California boating laws covering the following topics: Introduction to Boating; State and Federal Boating Laws; Safety Equipment, Safety Afloat; Boating Problems and Emergencies; Trailering and Storing; and Navigation.

Navigation covers the U.S. Aids to Navigation System; types of buoys and beacons; navigation rules (sometimes referred to as right-of-way rules); avoiding collisions; sound signals; Chart Plotting and Electronic Navigation (GPS)

Passing the test will qualify you for the California Boaters Card required for all CA Boaters!

**Learn the skills you need to be safe while
boating and get your CA state
boating card.**

To Register for this class use the link: <https://www.usps.org/cgi-bin-nat/eddept/800/getregformx.cgi?C-19056>

