

# A brief History of Laguna Woods Yacht Club

Jan Badgley, Commodore, 2008 & 2010



## Original Leisure World Yacht Club Burgee, circa 2006

In May 2002 when my husband John Badgley and I were moving into Leisure World, he said to me: “I can’t believe with over 200 clubs, there’s no sailing club”. I blithely said “Well, we could start one” and he replied: “I don’t want to run another club”. Having sold our sloop *Liberty* before moving south from the bay area, John a life long sailor, wanted to sail, and so did I.

A fortuitous event happened when Leisure World resident Jack Miller bought a sailboat from the Ventura County Sea Scouts intending to move his new sloop to Dana Point. He took the 27 ‘foot sailboat as far as Marina del Rey, and after two frustrating days at sea, left her at a guest dock. What was extraordinary is that Jack was 89 and had never owned a sailboat.

Realizing he needed help, Jack went to the Leisure World Recreation Department and filed an application to start a *Boating Club*. We saw an announcement published in the *Globe*. By the end of that meeting in June, Jack had twenty paid members, enough for a

sanctioned club complete with a slate of club officers. The annual dues were \$15.00.

The new club had attracted seasoned sailors. John Badgley, Charlie Bengal, and Herb Harris who still owned a sloop at Dana Point were among the group. Herb & Charlie helped bring Jack's boat to a berth at Dana Point. So, a month after moving we were members of the *Leisure World Boating Club*.

The following year Jack had a new love, and his lady probably thought he was wasting money by essentially underwriting the club. In any case she didn't like sailing. Jack announced his disappointment that the club had not stepped up to cover his expenses. He said he was going to sell the boat and thought the club should buy it.

Unfortunately Jack had bought a tired, under equipped vessel that was deemed unfit for use by a growing club in a safe and comfortable manner. Several club members formed a partnership. They purchased a Newport 28' sloop from the US Sailing Foundation in Long Beach.



### **Brisa under sail**

The sloop *Brisa* was in immaculate shape. And, the club sailed on without Jack.

For over three years, three days a week, *Brisa* took paying club members out day sailing from Dana Point for \$11.00 a person. The fee was intended to help defray the cost of boat maintenance. Annual club dues had climbed to \$20.00.

As one of those first club members back in June of 2002 I enjoyed the ability to catch the wind on a sunny afternoon and look for dolphins. Whale sightings became a competition between the skippers throughout the year. Seeing a Blue Whale was a special high point. Charlie Bengal's crew kept a record of their success in weekly sightings. Kathy Hewitt fashioned an annual trophy to celebrate the most whales seen by a crew each year.



## The Village Globe features the Newport to Ensenada race crew of the Laguna Woods Yacht Club

By 2006 the club name had changed to *Laguna Woods Yacht Club*. Skipper Charlie Bengal and the Ensenada Race crew were featured on the cover of the Globe in April 2007. You can see Commodore Charlie Bengal, vice-commodore Wolfgang Kutter, Herb Harris and Roger Anderson on *Brisa*. The article brought increased membership.

Apparently we were making waves with the news.

Exclusive to the Laguna Woods Globe, for immediate release December 7, 2007

## “COMMODORA JAN” TAKES THE HELM AT LAGUNA WOODS YACHT CLUB

Staff Commodore Roger Anderson will introduce the new club executive officer of the Laguna Woods Yacht Club at the annual Christmas Holiday Potluck this morning in Clubhouse 3, Dining room 1. Commodore Janice Badgley, will outline some of the activities the yacht club plans for the coming year. Membership Secretary Carol Kendrick will issue new membership cards with payment of \$20.00 annual dues.

Speaking for Commodore Charlie Bengal, who is currently cruising “around the horn the hard way” and is unable to preside over his last meeting of the club, “Commodora Jan” reported that the yacht club was in process of finalizing the purchase of the Sailing Vessel Brisa from the owners so that the new year would include more sailing days for all the club members as the boat would be available for use on weekends as well as during the week. Staff Commodore Anderson will continue as S/V Brisa captain and additional “skippers” will be qualified as day sailing captains.

The next meeting at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, January 10, 2008, will feature a presentation by Mindy Rozenberg from Travel Experts, revealing cruising options to club members, individually or as yacht club groups. The program includes door prizes and luncheon refreshments.



**Jan Badgley takes helm at Yacht Club**

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**More news coverage for LWYC came with the election of a new “Commodora”**



### **“Commodora Jan at the wheel of Brisa**

However, by August of 2008 , the *Brisa* partnership had dissolved. Now the club was without a boat... not a good thing for a yacht club. Our membership of 120 dropped by half that month. Three of the remaining original *Brisa* partners (Badgley, Bengal,& Jackson) donated enough money to begin a search for another boat that would be solely owned by the club.

The committee went back to the US Sailing Foundation and climbed aboard a 1968 Cal 28’ sloop named *Nansea III*, then made a lowball offer.



**Charlie Bengal and Jan Badgley check out Nansea III**

She was listed for \$4,950. As commodore I wrote out our bid for \$2,500.00. The boat needed work. A counter offer was accepted at \$3,000 cash, which was our total fund. The terms were a lease from September through December 30, 2008, with a \$500.00 option to purchase on December 31 only. I remember thinking at the time “what have I just done”?

By the monthly meeting in September, I was able to report that we had a berth at Dana Point, a new boat, comprehensive insurance, and were now incorporated as a California beneficial 501-C3. The club now functioned for the benefit of the members. We still needed the additional \$500.00 to close on our option to purchase. Miraculously by the end of that meeting we had a check for \$250.00 from an anonymous donor and other contributions came in.

Three new skippers: Vernon Fields, Conrad Hasholdt, and Jeff Sadler enlarged opportunities for sailing. We could now advertise that our skippers went out five days a week, weather permitting, at no additional cost to members. A complete bargain! By January 1, 2009 the *Nansea III* was completely owned by LWYC.



**Conrad Hasholt and Charlie Bengal examine new wheel they installed on Nansea III**

Each new skipper brought skills and talent to promote our egalitarian endeavor. Conrad found a used pedestal & wheel to replace the large tiller at a marine salvage yard. Charlie & Conrad who often disagreed about how to do something mechanical somehow finished the installation at the dock. The spacious cockpit could now accommodate six people. Jeff Sadler built and installed a binocular box that doubled as a step up for easy access by the crew to the deck.

Darrel Vorderstrasse became a skipper and Phil Foreman added his vast mechanical skills to keep Nansea III running smoothly. In turn Jeff Sadler became Commodore in 2011, Darrel Vorderstrasse 2012 and Phil Foreman in 2013. These were pivotal times for the growing club.

Always needing funds, I organized numerous day trips: a Getty Center trip featuring 400 years of Marine history through paintings , the Long Beach Aquarium, the Pacific Marine Mammal center in Laguna Canyon, the Ocean Institute's "Sex & the Sea, a behind the scenes adult tour after hours.

Finally in December 2008 I organized and led the first Newport Harbor Parade of Lights aboard the Tiki. The parade of lights involved two buses, 90+ people, bottled water, cookies and a profit of \$1400.00. The treasury needed this cushion in January until membership renewals came in. The executive board knew from experience that renewals dropped in January. With spring weather, membership improved, and with it the revenues needed to pay monthly berthing fees and repairs.

# Laguna Woods Yacht Club



*Experience One Of The Truly Magnificent Events Of Nature*

**The Annual Migration Of The California Gray Whale**  
December - April

## **SCHEDULE:**

Thursday  
February 21<sup>st</sup>  
1:00 pm

A FUN raiser  
Brown Bag/  
Car Pool from  
Daveys Locker  
Newport Beach

## **PRICES:**

Members \$20.00  
Guests \$25.00

first 25 people

## **Reservations & Information**

**949-458-9444**

[jrbadgley@comline.com](mailto:jrbadgley@comline.com)

**COMMONLY VIEWED MARINE LIFE:**

GRAY WHALE  
RISSOS DOLPHIN  
COMMON DOLPHIN  
BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN  
WHITE-SIDE DOLPHIN  
SEA LIONS

Trips depart from  
the Historic "Balboa Pavilion"  
400 Main Street  
Balboa, CA 92661

\*\* Whales and/or Dolphin

**A whale watching trip organized by LWYC**

By 2011 the Nansea III needed a new sail. Members donated items for a rummage sale

in the Village which netted the \$800.00 for the purchase. Even with 120 members the treasury was under funded. The executive board concluded that a smaller dedicated membership was more realistic for the clubs future, and dues increased to \$120.00 a year. At first the increase was a hard sell. Most clubs in the Village charge a maximum of \$15.00 for membership. But none have the operating expenses associated with owning a sailboat.



### **The love boat**

In December of 2011 Sherry Woods made the Nansea III light up and sing for the Dana Point Boat Parade. It was festive, very cold, and not repeated.



**The Love Boat at parade rest**



**The Love boat at night**



**Yep. We really did this!**

The Globe featured John Badgley & Pris Givan our first woman skipper in 2012 on the cover as Wind Stalkers. Again letting people know that our club went day sailing five days a week. We continue to seize every opportunity to promote the club and its value to people.



## John Badgley and Pris Givan make the cover of the Globe

About this time Jeff Sadler & Pris Givan started to organize and teach the beginning Sailing Academy, and today they also offer Intermediate crewing skills. Fulfilling the clubs education mandate as a 501-C3 organization. We also continued to support the US Sailing Foundation. A long period of sailing contentment and occasional maintenance and repair followed as illustrated by the following photographs.



**Pat English, former Vice Commodore, and Vern Fields sailing Nanssea III**



**Three former commodores, Darrel Vorderstrasse, Charlie Bengal, and Jeff Sadler on Nansea III**



**Docking practice with Nansea III**



## **Charlie's angels docking Nansea III**

The Nansea III continued to attract active members with day sailing, with trips to Oceanside and Catalina. The membership increased as well as the dues. Here are a few photos of Skippers taking the boat to Newport Beach for a haul out and bottom paint.



**Nanse II hauled out for bottom paint**



### **Checking out the “boat pox” (hull blisters) on Nansea III**

Then disaster overtook us. Over a weekend skippers cruise in October 2013 to Catalina the Nansea III was dismantled. Replacing the mast was judged to be a poor investment. With the insurance coverage for the rigging as a beginning, the executive board led by Commodore Phil Foreman began raising funds to buy another boat. Board members pledged \$7,000.00 to begin the process. The general membership raised \$16,000.00 in the next six weeks.

When the Nansea III lost her rigging: our newest member and skipper Lloyd Chase said: “I have a Catalina 30’ at Dana Point and I’ll take members out on *La Chasse* until the club finds a new one”. And he did.



**Sailing on *La Chasse* in 2014**



## **Sailing *La Chasse* in San Diego, 2014**

Commodore Roy Hutts with no background in sailing, but great managerial skills led us through the pursuit and perils of buying a replacement sailboat. With a few false starts after three months we found our new dream boat Hiatus. Pris Givan donated the additional funds to replace the sloop's tattered sails. With enthusiasm, the Yacht Club members cleaned, polished and then celebrated the achievement with a champagne dock party. Admiring our great new berth in the process.



## **Hiatus, our new pride and joy, sails to Emerald Bay**

Shelly Shuber organized and hosted popular social events increasing awareness and friendship within the club throughout Roy's tenure as Commodore. Followed by Social Chair Liza Veeneman who charged ahead with social events. And, David Veeneman Rear Commodore produced our knock out web-site that promotes just how dynamic this club is.



## Laguna Woods Yacht Club

### **The new burgee for Laguna Woods Yacht Club**

Today the Laguna Woods Yacht Club is flourishing. We are fun, educational and still a great bargain. I want to encourage members that need tax write offs to remember that we are a CA beneficial non-profit 501-C3 organization. We accept with gratitude donations and bequests. The monies are needed for sails, equipment, rigging and whatever comes along with the shared ownership of a major investment like Hiatus.

Your endorsement of Laguna Woods Yacht Club is the fulfillment of a modest dream that began with Jack Miller and ends with you support. Please continue to support the dream as we sail into the future.