



The Blazing Star

Emeryville Yacht Club
Founded 1989

www.emeryvilleyachtclub.org

March 2010

Upcoming Boating Events

Strictly Sail Boat Show
April 15-18, 2010

Jack London Square
Oakland, CA

www.sailamerica.com

Pacific Power Expo
April 15-18, 2010

Jack London Square
Oakland, CA

www.ncma.com

Emery Cove Yacht Harbor
April 10, 2010

Free Vessel Safety Checks

U S Coast Guard Auxiliary
9am to 3pm

2010 EYC Cruise Events

- March 5-7 2010
San Jose Sailing Club Cruise in to Emery Cove Marina
- April 25, 2010
Opening Day on the Bay
Theme: Building Bridges
- May 28-31, 2010
Jazz Festival Memorial Day
Weekend Sacramento YC
- July 4, 2010
Jack London Sq Fireworks
view cruise out.
- August 2010 Date tba
Cruise to San Rafael YC and
Petaluma Yacht Club
- Sep 3-6, 2010
Emery Cove Marina Cruise
in—Lawn Tent Event

General Membership Meetings 2007

- Feb 13, 2010 Saturday
South Beach Yacht Club
- April 25, 2010 Sunday
Meeting Place TBA
- Sep 4, 2010 Saturday
Emery Cove Marina
- Oct 9, 2010 Saturday
Emery Cove Marina

2009 Sailing Experience ‘Pacific Star’

Dear All,

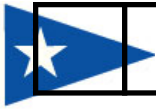
We left on the Baja Ha-Ha in 2007 and made it to New Zealand last December. We are currently in Oman about to make our way across the Gulf of Aden and then up the Red Sea. I can't believe all the miles (about 7,500) and experiences we have added to our lives this year aboard our Island Packet 35, Pacific Star. We had to wait until April to leave New Zealand for the favorable winds and weather in this part of the world. We loved New Zealand. When we arrived in Opuia, one of our first stops was the hardware store where the owner generously offered to loan us his car during his working hours. He did mention that he had recently been in Los Angeles where "the drivers are so polite". That should have been our tip off that driving in New Zealand is a bit ag-

gressive! In any case, we did explore the North Island by sea--the highlights were the Bay of Islands and Auckland--and flew to the South Island to explore it by car. It is very inexpensive to find cars for rent or sale and the "backpacker" hotels are very nice and only cost about \$35 per night. We met many older folks like us at the hotels. From New Zealand we headed up to New Caledonia and then over to Thursday Island in Australia via the Raines Passage (the old trading route) to Thursday Island, Australia. Then we sailed on to Darwin in readiness for the Sail Indonesia/Sail Benaken Rally. (Loved the crocodiles on the Yellow Billabong!).

Sail Indonesia had 135 boats in the fleet. Our check-in port was Saumlaki. About 100 of the boats chose not to go north and

Julia Shovein & Horst Wolff

participate in the Sail Benaken sail pass in Manado and opted to head directly west on the more traditional Sail Indonesia route. I had no idea how incredibly large and diverse Indonesia is. Although a predominantly Moslem country, the eastern part has large Christian communities--Flores is mostly Catholic. Lombok has a large Buddhist population and of course Bali is largely Hindu. There are over 17,000 islands and there is a sense of tolerance amidst this diversity. I was overwhelmed by the hospitality and friendliness of the people. We only received a 2 month tourist "social" visa and only could renew it once for an additional month so we really had to set our priorities and make the most of the limited time you are allowed to stay. We stopped at many of the spice islands (I saw the trees, bushes, etc. where



**Emeryville Yacht Club
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INITIATION FEE: \$150
ANNUAL DUES: \$75

OFFICERS

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OPENING DAY ON THE BAY

SUNDAY APRIL 25, 2010

2010 Theme: "BUILDING BRIDGES"

Entry Forms for this event are on the PICYA (Pacific Inter Club Yachting Association) website. PICYA has coordinated Opening Day since 1917. The major sponsor for the past nine years is Boat Owners Association of the United States. You can enter under the Emeryville Yacht Club and try to win one of the prize categories for our club!.

This is a fun and traditional boating event and we hope to encourage you to start planning to decorate and participate in this event. If you do plan to enter be sure to let our Emeryville Yacht Club Commodore, Jason Jenkins, know. We want to be sure to include you in the events for the day and get you any help and support we can. The parade will feature over 120 historic workboats, fireboats, Vessel Assist towboats, classic and contemporary craft decorated to the theme. There will be both power and sail boats competing for best decoration honors.

many of my favorite spices are harvested and the drying techniques that are used to ready them for shipping--folks really climb high up in those clove trees with big bags on their hips!).

We sailed into the small bay in front of Rincah Island and dropped the hook in front of the dock which is the entry to Komodo National Park. We went on a 5 kilometer walk through the park with a guide holding a wooden staff to walk through the habitat of the famous Komodo Dragons. These are big, lumbering lizards that eat water buffalo of horses for a snack--true they only eat every few months! We had to get out of the way of one that passed us on the trail. Another highlight in Indonesia was the island of Bali. Although I had heard of the lovely beaches of Bali, I was more delighted with the cultural and religious events the island offered. We shared a car with the crew from Scorpio (a Finnish couple on a Swan) to go inland to the town of Ubud. There we went to Balinese dancing events, shadow puppet shows, and incredible Hindu temples. Bali was unbelievably enchanting as well as very inexpensive.

From Bali we sailed to another extraordinary Indonesian treasure - Kalimantan, Borneo (think Conrad's *Lord Jim*). Although just after leaving Lovina Beach we came upon a sailboat stationery in the water--caught on a submerged bamboo fishing trap. That was the challenge of sailing Indonesian waters, many fishing nets, traps, small unlit boats and almost no navigational aids. In Bornea we left our boat in the river basin at Kumai to take a several-day river boat cruise into the jungle. There we stopped at Camp Leakey to see the orangutans in their natural habitat. However, most of the dozens of moms and babies were rehabilitated and had no fear of humans so they walked all around us. Although we were not allowed to touch them--some of them did touch us! I can honestly say it was one of the best days of my life. They are so beautiful and fascinating to watch. Traveling back to our boat I felt like we were on the *African Queen* the motor was so loud in the jungle among the plethora of proboscis monkeys, orangutans, and many exotic and colorful birds.

From Indonesia was crossed the Singapore Straits into Singapore. We saw hundreds of giant cargo ships and it was quite a challenge for a little, bity sailboat to try and cross the four lanes of traffic! Singapore was quite a change from Indonesia. I think we went from the poorest country economically to one of the wealthiest. The subway systems there is the cleanest, fastest, and most efficient system I have ever experienced.

We joined the Sail Malaysia Rally for the trip up the west coast. For us the highlights were the gorgeous, ancient trading city-port of Malacca and the beautiful islands that make up Langkawi. We did a haul-out at Rebok Marina keeping in mind that the Red Sea was coming up in early 2010.

We arrived in Thailand in time to celebrate Christmas and the New Year. We spent some wonderful time with cruisers we had known this past year and said tearful goodbyes to those not going on this year. Many other cruisers spend an additional one or two seasons in South-east Asia to make many inexpensive inland trips to Laos, Cambodia, Viet Nam, China, mainland Thailand, etc. We decided to carry on.

We are currently in Salalah, Oman (think Three Wise Men, frankincense and myrrh). The moonscape scenery is achingly beautiful. We head up Pirate Alley next week. Thinking of you all. Have a wonderful 2010!

Regards Horst and Julia S/V Pacific Star