

DELTA DOO DAH 2014

Repeating last year's DIY theme, the Delta Doo Dah cast the fates of 98 crews to the wind this summer, trusting them to find their way on the meandering waters of California's vast Delta.

Even so, plenty of support was forthcoming from the event's many sponsors, starting with Berkeley Yacht Club, which

hosted the rally's Kickoff Party in May, and the generous donors who made the prize drawing there so much fun. A complete list of sponsors can be found on the fourth page of this article.

Two more official events followed in June: Owl Harbor's Who's in Blues BBQ on the 14th, and a Summer Sailstice potluck picnic at Tiki Lagun Marina on Turner Cut June 21, where *Flibbertigibbet* won the grand prize of a year's membership with towing to BoatUS.

Who's in Blues, a party for Doo Dah sailors and marina tenants, coincided with the Isleton Cajun & Blues Festival. Terry Hanck's band provided the music, and Owl Harbor supplied a free catered BBQ dinner and lots of door prizes. With plenty of helpers, harbormaster Devery Stockon always throws a great party.

Since most of the activities in this year's DIY DDD took place outside the official itinerary, we'll let the sailors themselves pick up the story from here:

Hooked — Serendipity 43 Sailor Cherry, Oakland

We finally made it to the Delta! *Hooked*, a bluewater racer with a cruising conversion, set sail early on June 13 to a warm-water destination full of cool marinas and anchorages just 60 miles from home.

My planning began in March: from picking anchorages to three-course healthy meals on the hook. I also had to organize space and items to accommodate three different groups of guests and boat work/refinishing jobs too.

Thanks to *Latitude's* previous articles, I learned that floats, games, hats, sunshades and dinks are a must. We even towed a Jet Ski while sailing across

the Slot. Games were Liar's Dice, Yahtzee and Cards Against Humanity, all a hit. I can't imagine going to the Delta without pool floats and toys.

Owl Harbor is the best marina I have ever been to. Besides having the nicest harbormaster, the grounds are a dog and gardener/grower's dream, ideal for entertaining overnight guests. Free fresh organic eggs and vegetables abound.

We found the secret beach on the tule island southeast of Korth's Pirate's Lair, where we beached a friend's boat, swam, played with water cannons, and picked

up trash.

After hosting most of our landlubber guests, it was time to go anchor out. The Bedrooms in Potato Slough were at the top of my list. We anchored on the southeast side of Fig Island. The highlight was at sunset, when we lay out on the foredeck or in a float swaying off the stern while hundreds of swallows and cormorants sang and glided just a few feet above us, circling from the trees and around the boat. It was as if we were in a tropical country being brushed with a light 85° breeze while gazing at an Im-



Cherry from 'Hooked' shows off some swag and the prize she won at the Kickoff Party, a serving set from the Starboard Collection.



— CAST TO THE WIND

ALL PHOTOS LATITUDE / 'DOODETTE' CHRIS EXCEPT AS NOTED

pressionist's painted sky – spectacular.

The motor back was rough! I was not happy and was of little help. Thankfully my helmsman took us into a slip for a few days to wait out the honkin' weather.

Two Truths — Dana 24 Bob Scharf, Berkeley

In mid-July, we spent the night in Rio Vista tied up at the Delta Marina guest dock. It was just us and one other boat, until about 6:00 p.m. when another boat showed up, and it turned out to be another Dana 24 doing the Delta

Doo Dah: *Little Lara*, owned by Jay and Peggy Bowden. It was a pleasure meeting them, and learning that *Little Lara* is, if I am correct, the smallest boat ever to do the Baja Ha-Ha. We found it a happy coincidence to meet up with others doing the Delta in a Dana.

We returned from Rio Vista with the ebb, but were surprised at just how challenging it was to sail through Suisun and San Pablo Bays in a big blow: the strong headwind and the ebb current converged to stir up quite a chop. Next time, if the winds are blowing, I'll avoid max ebb.

I'm a PreCursor — MacGregor 25 Bryan & Cindy Blagg, Lake Yosemite

We had planned our itinerary and had already talked to all the marinas. When we called Sugar Barge to let them know we were running late, we were asked if our mast folds down. They had assigned us and our buddy boat, the MacGregor 26 *Prime Time*, covered berths! But they quickly fixed our spots, and, when we got there around 5:30 p.m., they were watching for us.

High points included finding Foster's Bighorn Café in Rio Vista and Delta Marina, now among our favorites.



Top rows, clockwise from left: Delta Doo Dah and Richmond YC cruisers in Potato Slough on July 4; historic downtown Isleton; the crews of 'I'm a PC' and 'Prime Time' at Foster's Bighorn in Rio Vista; Patty Silva of 'Lucy' kayaks on Sevenmile Slough; Tony's is a night spot in downtown Walnut Grove. Bottom row, l to r: This mama mallard successfully raised nine ducklings; herons nesting at Korth's Pirate's Lair; swallows nesting in a liferig at Owl Harbor; eight swans a-swimming.



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Thetis — Ericson 32

Steve Andersen, San Rafael

We started our Delta cruise from the Sausalito Cruising Club on July 14, and spent the first two nights in Martinez, doing some shopping there. We sailed to Sevenmile Slough and anchored, then to Mandeville Tip for a yacht club raft-up. We left for Little Venice Island on the 20th. On August 1, I sailed to Stockton Sailing Club to get the free dinners I'd won at the Kickoff Party.

We sailed to Windmill Cove for their blues festival, then to Herman and Helen's — so sad to see it shut. We motored up Potato Slough for the weekend, where we met some great folks. Now back at Little Venice, I'm waiting for my new dodger to be delivered — I really want it on for the trip back. And so far I haven't used the keel as a fathometer!

Stella — Back Cove 33

Roy & Carol Ann Falk
Sausalito

On August 25, in clear weather, light winds and flat seas, I motored 3.5 hours from Sausalito to Antioch Marina, where I rendezvoused with my wife Carol Ann (aka Peanut) and Katy, a Chihuahua/Jack Russell mix, and loaded the provisions Peanut brought from Trader Joe's.

The next day, we headed up the San Joaquin River bound for Giusti's in Walnut Grove. At a leisurely pace, we motored past Pirate's Lair and Willow Berm and into the North Fork of the Mokelumne River, arriving at the Miller's Ferry Bridge at 10 minutes past the end of the bridge tender's 9-to-5 shift.



SEAN REYNOLDS

The new half-moku wrap on 'Roxy's tiller will help protect it from the schooner's cleats.

We tied up at a private dock, with the belated permission of Janet and Bill Stokes, and went by dinghy under the bridge to Giusti's for a delicious dinner. All the locals there knew that *Stella* was tied up at the Stokes' dock.

The following day we continued up Snodgrass Slough to Lost Slough, where we anchored mid-stream and pulled our stern toward the shade trees on the bank with two stern lines. Unbelievably, we had the place to ourselves. We skinny-dipped and chilled out for four days. Sublime.

Back downriver, we turned up the North Fork of the Moke to Tower Park Marina for a complete change of pace. On Labor Day Weekend there were dozens, maybe hundreds, of ski boats, Jet Skis and noisy, powerful cigarette boats — quite the contrast to Lost Slough. The Doo Dah website informed us of a skydiver show, and it was fabulous. Twenty-four skydivers (including six women) parachuted out of a WWII airplane and

landed, one after another, either on the river or on the levee. We met John, the owner of Rosa's restaurant, and he was delighted to know we were here because of *Latitude 38*. We had so much fun that we stayed an extra night.

From Tower Park we proceeded down through Potato Slough and spent the night at Willow Berm.

The next day we motored to Tinsley Island, where, as guests, we stayed for three nights in the very lap of luxury.

This has been a trip of extreme contrasts. First the peace and tranquility of Lost Slough, then Tower Park with the raucousness of bikini-babe-laden ski boats and dueling monster sound systems (*Highway to Hell* vs. *All My Exes Live in Texas*), and finally the posh preserve of the rich and famous.

Saturday we are going to Pittsburg Marina for their Seafood & Music Festival. On Sunday we return to Sausalito.

Roxy — 54-ft Colvin Pinky Schooner

Jack & Sean Reynolds, Oakland

Jack Reynolds and his son Sean departed Oakland's 5th Avenue Marina on July 2 for Willow Berm Marina on the Mokelumne River, where they stayed a week before sailing back. "No groundings," reported Sean, "but it did get a mite shallow in a few places, and we probably woke up some worms.

During our nice, long, hot days of no responsibilities, I made a half-moku wrap on *Roxy's* tiller, to give it some protection against the fittings that it sometimes hit when hard over. The hot sun dried out the varnish real quick!

2014 Delta Doo Dah DIY Fleet

A Dory 4 Sale	C-Dory 22	Jerry Lugert	Alameda Marina
A Ole Piliikia	Catalina 42	Donald, Karen & Kayla Syversrud	Alameda
Alaina	Rawson PH 30	John Bechtol	Sausalito
Alize	Beneteau Oceanis 40	Peter Solvik	San Francisco
Apogee	Hunter 38	Scott Stanley & Krista Witte	Alameda
Aquavit	Swan 36	Bruce & Gail Sinclair	Vallejo YC
Aquavit	Catalina 34	Stu Jackson	Alameda
Area	Tartan 37	Jim & Georgianne Boissier	San Rafael
Argonaut	Cal 2-29	William & Michele Hutchings	Stockton
Aventura	IP 370	Erik & Brian Jones	Oakland YC
Azure	Catalina 42	Rod & Cherie Williams	Alameda
Beautiful T-K	Albin 49 powerboat	Jim Haussener	Vallejo
Breakout	Santana 35	Lloyd Ritchey	South Beach, SF
Brown Sugar	Lancer 36	Crystal & Don Quinly	Stockton
Calaveras	Explorer 45	David Lyon & Angie Aragon	Antioch
Catch the Wind	Cal 39	Sam Crabtree & Susie Wilson	Pittsburg
Current Affair	Express 27	Seth Clark	Richmond YC
Desert Rose	Catalina 25	Wendell Snyder	Glen Cove
Evenstar	Ranger 23	Gregory Towers & Jillian Cripps	Emeryville
Fallen Leaf	MacGregor 25	Ryan Schwartz & Linda Clinton	Merced
Family Naut	Hunter 31	Grant Du Plooy	Emeryville Marina
Fliibbertigibbet	Catalina 42	Jim & Betty Adams	Discovery Bay
Floyd	West Wight Potter 15	Joseph Coulombe	Isleton
Goose	Catalina 30	Mike & Lorianna Kastrop	South Beach, SF
Hale Kai	Catalina 36	Terry White & Carolyn Riley	Kawaihae, HI
Hoi Pinoy	Islander 34	James Sobredo & Steve Montalvo	Sausalito

Hooked	Serendipity 43	Sailor Cherry	Oakland
I'm a PreCursor	MacGregor 25	Bryan & Cindy Blagg	Ceres
Iron Genny	Grand Banks 42	Jared Brockway & Genevieve Peterson	San Francisco
Jane O	Privilege 39 cat	Scott & Christine Emmons	Isleton
Kay	Hunter 36	Gary Santoro & Libby Kepner	Alameda
Knot Studying	Hunter 33	Mike Dvorak & Lindsey Goosherst	Vallejo
Kulu	Nonsuch 36	Mark Lindlow	Sausalito
La Buena Vida	O'Day 222	David & Karen Lessard	Paradise
La Vida	Catalina 320	Mike & Joan Mellon	Marin
Lady Lexi	Hudson Force 50	David Bowes	Sausalito
Libations Too	Pearson 323	Richard Rollins & Anne Henry	Berkeley
Little Lara	PS Dana 24	Jay & Peggy Bowden	Santa Barbara
Lively	Olson 30	Javier Jerez & Siulieng Chea-Jerez	Oakland
Longstocking	Columbia 28	Amanda Burton	Alameda
Lucy	Beneteau 361	Daryl & Patty Silva	Alameda
Lucy!	Beneteau 343	Roy & Barbara Johnston	Santa Rosa
Mai Pen Rai	Islander 36	Noble & Barbara Brown	Vallejo
Mescalito	Merit 22	Jono Hale	San Rafael
Mi Amor	Islander 36	Arnold & Louise Gallegos	Pt. Richmond
Mia's Isle	Monk Trawler 36	Mary Janet Gillis & Scott Orr	Palm Coast, FL
Mirage	Black Soo 30	Ben & Lucie Mewes	Richmond YC
Mischief	Catalina 470	Marty Thamm & Rochelle Richelieu	Alameda
Miss Kate	Catalina 27	Michael Satterlund	South Beach, SF
Mongojo	Downeaster 38 cutter	Travis Gilbert & Hilary Helkenn	Benicia
Natural Blonde	J/105	Denn & Siobhan Deisinger	Paradise Cay
No Excuses	Sea Ray Sundancer 268	Chuck Graham	Tower Park Marina
No Remorse	Catalina 445	Jack & Suzanne Lutchansky	Alameda
Nomad	Fantasia 35	Oli & Jan Olafsson	Alameda

— CAST TO THE WIND

IRON GENNY



RESOLUTE



HOOKEED



STELLA



Is the Delta pet-friendly? Judging by these photos, we'd have to say yes. Clockwise from top left: Colleen and Stevie of 'Iron Genny' pass the C&H Sugar plant on Carquinez Strait; "The swimming is great," said 'Resolute's Eric Kopps and his dog Roxy; Luc gets her sea legs on 'Hooked'; the chickens have got it good at Owl Harbor; 'Stewball's mascot, Peanut, made new friends at Tiki Lagun Marina; Roy Falk with TomTom and Katy in 'Stella's wheelhouse.

Resolute — Hunter 33

Jason & Eric Kopps, Richmond

Another father and son duo, Jason and Eric (age 17), and their border collie mix Roxie planned to take advantage of the Delta's always-reliable, strong summer winds to run from the Bay to Decker island via the Sacramento Deep Water Channel. There was only one problem on June 7: no wind. "We motored all the way. Two days later the wind was clocking over 30 knots," said Jason.

"We traveled Middle River for the first time – it's a beautiful area. Mildred Island was relatively bug-free. We met some very nice folks up at King Island

Marina – we arrived on a night when a large BBQ was planned, and four people (including the harbormaster) came over to invite us to join the group.

"Heavy wind restricted some of our anchoring plans, but, fortunately, Owl Harbor had a slip available."

Sonrisa — Baba 40

Greg & Kristin Torok, Redwood City

We convinced our friends from Washington state that sailing a bluewater cruiser upriver was a good idea, and they agreed to join us for a long Doo Dah weekend.

Sonrisa had a long motorsail from

Redwood City to Pittsburg on the first day. Pittsburg was a convenient place to meet our friends, and we arrived at the dock at about the same time their BART train arrived at the station. The Pittsburg Marina staff were excellent, and we took advantage of their free night at the marina for Doo Dah entries. The next day, we walked into town and topped up our provisions at the grocery store before heading into the Delta.

We had fantastic sailing up the San Joaquin. Our guests couldn't believe we were sailing upriver.

The next night we practiced our bow-stern anchoring in Potato Slough, it took

Now & Zen	Newport 30 MkII	Tony Bourque & Patch Garcia	Pt. Richmond
Odyssey	Bristol Channel Cutter 28	Wayne & Karen Edney	Richmond
Optimus Prime	Beneteau 49	Keith & Dana Jensen	Alameda
Pacific Dragon II	Gemini 105MC cat	David & Maha Hurdle	Martinez
Paradise Found	Bluewater Cruiser 42	Gregory Jones & Kathleen Dinnel-Jones	Oakland
Pebbles & BamBam	Macgregor 36 cat	Russell Schultz & Solange Sallaberry	Oakley
Polé Polé	Ericson 29	Adam Katz	Oakland
Popeye	Nordic Tug 32+	Jim & Mimi Cornelius	SFYC
Prime Time	MacGregor 26	Edward & Elizabeth Dietz	Merced
Pronto	Catalina 34	Robert & Mary Pankonin	Berkeley
Pyewacket	Catalina 34	Ralph & Penelope Hyde	Vallejo YC
Reconnaissance 1	Catalina 27	Tom & Nikki West	Alameda
Resolute	Hunter 33	Jason & Eric Kopps	Richmond
Ross's Dream	Catalina 30	Dan Courter & Melody Royal	Antioch
Roxy	Colvin 36 schooner	Jack & Sean Reynolds	Oakland
Sea Shepard	MacGregor 26X	Curt & Marsha Taras	Folsom Lake
Sea Treasure	Hans Christian 38 MkII	Gary Wood	Sausalito
Seair	CT 49 cutter	David Smith & Candy Bennici	San Rafael
Seaya	Catalina 380	Mark & Patty Thompson	CYC
Sequoia	Beneteau 36CC	Gabriel Smith	Westpoint Harbor
Serenity	Seawind 1160	JEB Pickett	Sausalito
Shellback	Catalina 30	John & Doreen Abbott	Richmond
Sonrisa	Baba 40 cutter	Greg & Kristin Torok	Redwood City
Squirt	Spirit 6.5	Ernie McCleary & Nancy Kuellmer	Angels Camp
Stella	Back Cove 33	Roy & Carol Ann Falk	Sausalito
Stewball	Express 37	Bob & Ginger Harford	Richmond YC
Stickeen	Bodega 30	Lee Richardson & Pam Reeves	Pt. Richmond
Stink Eye	Laser 28	Jonathan Gutloff & Christine Weaver	Richmond YC

Sunny Day	Santana 22	Steve & Judith Brown	Pt. Richmond
SusyQ 1	O'Day 192	Gary & Susana Meyer	Cupertino
Take Five	Ericson 27	Grant & Brenda Kiba	Antioch
Tazman	Ericson 32	David & Ruth Sawyer	Owl Harbor
Tekin	Hans Christian 36	Eli Myrick & Akio Omori	Oakland
Thetis	Ericson 32-1	Steve Andersen	San Rafael
Three Sigma	Corsair F-27 tri	Christopher & Patricia Harvey	Alameda
Toucan	Tanton 43 cat ketch	Kevin Belcastro & Susan Liebert	Isleton
Trillian	Sabre 32	Scott Gray & Melissa Laughery	Sausalito
Two Truths	Dana 24 cutter	Bob Sharf	Berkeley
Ulmer Spatz	Pearson 26	Kristy & Gilly Lugert	Pt. Richmond
Vector	C&C 38	Bill & Linda Rathbun	Berkeley
Walk On	DeVilliers 43 cutter	Chad & Carolyn Carvey	Sausalito
Waterhorse	Newport 28	John Zolck & Brett Herr	Sausalito
Yo Mi Esposa y			
Summerwind	Catalina 30	Larry Samson	Alameda
Zeehond	Newport 30 MkII	Donn Guay & Diane Memory	Alameda

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DELTA DOO DAH 2014

a couple of tries to get *Sorrisa* settled into a good spot in the lee of a tule berm. We took turns soaking in the sun and swimming to cool off.

We made a stop at Korth's Pirate's Lair to pump out and get some lunch. I had never been to this marina before. As we were leaving Potato Slough, another cruiser in a dinghy motored up alongside and we started chatting. I asked about the entrance, and he described it and the layout inside. This was important – I didn't want to get a 40-ft sailboat sideways in the wrong spot.

Fortunately, when we arrived the fuel dock was empty. *Sorrisa* seemed to take up the entire dock. The staff at Korth's allowed us to stay there long enough to get lunch at the café. *Sorrisa* is a full-keel sailboat, so getting her turned around in a small area is a challenge, but we were able to get into and out of Korth's without much trouble.

From Korth's we had a short sail over to the entrance of Sevenmile Slough. Recalling the directions given during the Delta seminar at Richmond YC, we approached from the southwest and fol-



STELLA

Duct tape was an essential shoe-repair tool in the Delta for the ladies aboard 'Stella'.

lowed the instructions had Owl Harbor provided. We had such a good time there on the 2012 Doo Dah that we wanted to return. Saturday was movie night, so we claimed a picnic table to watch *Slumdog Millionaire*. There's something special about an outdoor community movie.

Benicia was our final stop on the way home. The charming downtown is a short walk from the marina.

Lucy — Beneteau 361 Daryl & Patty Silva, Alameda

Lucy departed Alameda on June 12, enjoyed the free Doo Dah night at Pittsburg Marina, then sailed on to Owl Harbor for the Who's in Blues party.

Once in the Delta, we were pleasantly surprised by how relaxing the swimming, fishing, warm weather and quiet can be. It's wonderful swimming off your boat in fresh water. We'd intended to stay one week but continued to commute back up to the boat in the Delta nearly every weekend for three months.

We will be going next year for sure and will bring along many other yachties from our home port, Grand Marina.

In its six years of existence, the Delta Doo Dah has never been the same twice. Exciting changes are in the works for 2015, so stay tuned to www.deltadoodah.com. For more pictures, see our photo gallery at <http://latitude38events.smugmug.com/Delta-Doo-Dah-DIY-2014>.

— latitude / 'doodette' chris



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