

# DELTA DOO DAH

**B**ecause 2016's was our eighth Delta Doo Dah, and as this Doodette has been known to pick up a pool cue now and then, we went with an 8-Ball theme for this summer's sailing rally to where it's warm — inland. When we floated the idea of incorporating an 8-Ball Tournament into our official itinerary, Steve Andersen of the Ericson 32 *Thetis* kindly offered to host us at Little Venice Yacht Club — they have a pool table on the upper deck of the *Delta Princess*, a big houseboat docked at the private island along the San Joaquin River. We even had prizes to award, unbreakable barware from PubWare etched with the *Latitude 38* logo. We scheduled the tourney for the Sunday of Summer Sailstice.

But first on the list of official events was our Kickoff Party and Delta Seminar on May 22. The original plan was to hold the kickoff at Richmond Yacht Club, but it wasn't available due to delays in their big clubhouse renovation project, so Berkeley YC kindly offered the use of their club. RYC's staff commodore Craig Perez and his wife Ann conducted the seminar, and we gave out door prizes donated by Adventure Medical Kits, Martinez Marina, OPB-YC, Owl Harbor, Zenith Press and *Latitude 38*. (See [www.deltadoodah.com/sponsors2016.html](http://www.deltadoodah.com/sponsors2016.html) for the complete list of prizes, swag and swell deals.)

In 2015, Stockton Sailing Club approached us about partnering with the Delta Ditch Run to encourage non-racers to enter that epic regatta's cruising division. We continued the 'Doo Dah Ditch Run' (with cross-entries in both cruising and racing divisions) this year on June 4. SSC hosted a BBQ the next afternoon for those who still lingered at the club.

Our next official events came as we observed Summer Sailstice on the weekend of June 18-19. Doo Dah sailors were invited to another complementary BBQ, this time at Owl Harbor's beautiful new marina building on Saturday. The 8-Ball Tournament at Little Venice followed on Sunday, complete with live reggae music from Natural Revolution. Snacks and pizza were included, as were refreshing piña colodas made in *Thetis*'s gas-powered blender.

The final DDD 8 events were held on August 13. The generous folks at Owl Harbor served up a delicious breakfast with eggs fresh from the marina's own hens. A sail up the San Joaquin River in heatwave temperatures and very light breeze followed, with Stockton Sailing Club the destination. SSC had invited Delta Doo Dah sailors to join them for the club's retro-style Burger Bash and

Classic Car Show.

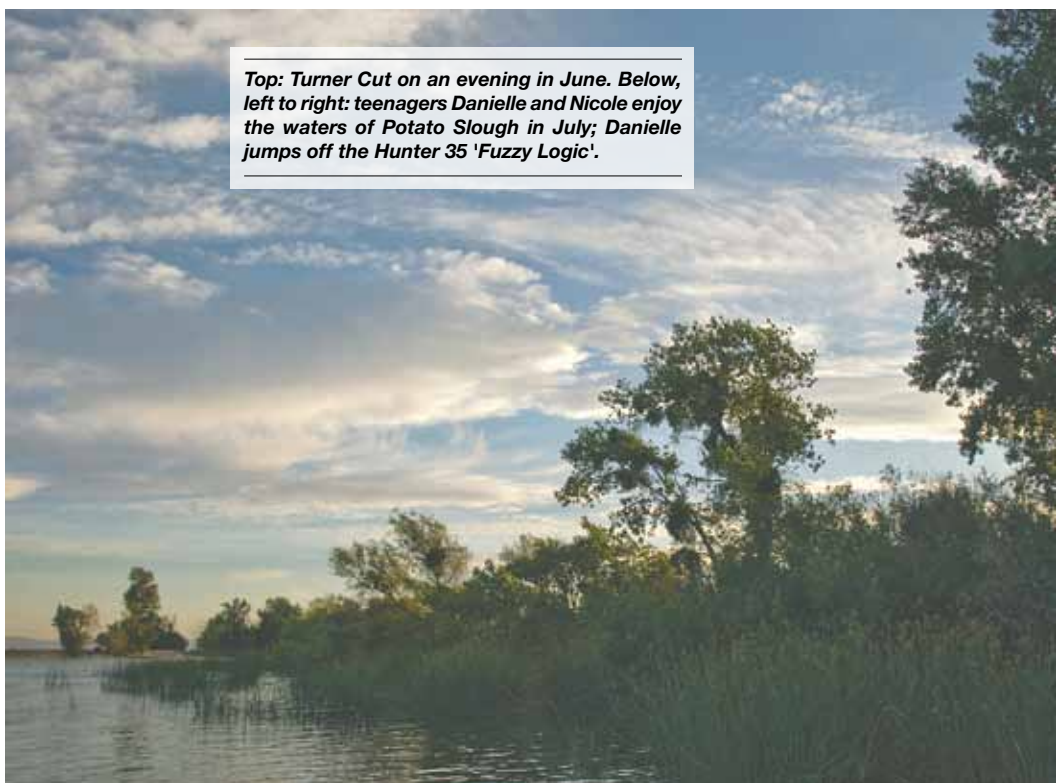
The August events gave us a chance to check in with some of the rally members and learn about their Delta adventures.

## **Evenstar — Ranger 23 Gregory Towers & Jillian Cripps Emeryville**

Greg and Jill took *Evenstar* to Owl Harbor for a month — which turned into six weeks, ending after Labor Day Weekend. (We have to tell you, that's

a common complaint. People show up there and have a hard time leaving!)

On Saturday, August 13, their friend David Russell joined them for the sail under spinnaker upriver from Owl Harbor to SSC for the car show. Stockton reached 101° that day. They were so hot, they anchored at Walter's Island to take a swim. It was calm when they anchored, but then a cluster of powerboats came by and chopped up the water too much, so they left. Unfortunately, SSC's Classic



*Top: Turner Cut on an evening in June. Below, left to right: teenagers Danielle and Nicole enjoy the waters of Potato Slough in July; Danielle jumps off the Hunter 35 'Fuzzy Logic'.*



FUZZY LOGIC



FUZZY LOGIC

# — BEHIND THE 8-BALL

ALL PHOTOS LATITUDE / DOODETTE CHRIS EXCEPT AS NOTED

Car Show coincided with a powerboat poker run on the San Joaquin.

On Sunday, *Evenstar* went to Mildred Island and anchored out, then returned to Owl on Monday to complete a three-day weekend.

The couple was weekend-commuter-cruising. "The last couple of years we spent one week to 10 days, but didn't get enough of the 'Delta delights', so we decided to try weekends instead," explained Greg.

Another advantage to weekend-commuter-cruising is that their friends, such as David, could join them on weekends. When they took one-week trips the weekends were always consumed with the deliveries.

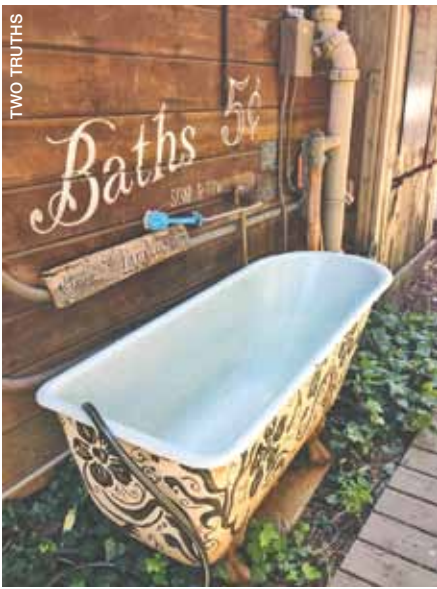
On their first weekend this summer, they sailed from Emeryville to Benicia on Saturday then Benicia to Owl on Sunday. One weekend they did the loop around Franks Tract. Another weekend they just hung out at Owl, swam, kayaked and

relaxed. Later, they planned to venture up Steamboat Slough.

This is their fourth Doo Dah in a row, doing something different each year. Their work schedules didn't coincide with the Delta Doo Dah events previously years, but this year it worked out.

## **Gypsy Soul — Roberts Offshore 44 Danny & Marilyn Webb, Emery Cove**

Another boat from Emeryville, *Gypsy Soul* also sailed to Owl Harbor and onward to Stockton on the weekend of August 13.



TWO TRUTHS



MOANA



WINDWALKER



Clockwise from top left: the public bath in Locke; the Skerett family on a bike ride out of Owl Harbor; at Stockton Sailing Club, Craig and Ann Perez hoisted their collection of Doo Dah flags following the Delta Ditch Run; the Delta is an excellent venue for practicing dinghy driving; two brothers exploring. Center: Greg and Frankie caught a striper while trolling in San Pablo Bay during their return trip.



LA VIDA



LA VIDA

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That Thursday, they had traveled from Emeryville to Benicia, where they shopped at the farmers' market and dined at the Hawaiian plate lunch place.

They found it just too hot in Stockton to spend a second night at SSC as they had planned. And they enjoy Owl Harbor, so they returned there on Sunday.

They stopped at Benicia again on the way home. "We really like that little town," said Danny.

They did the SoCal Ta-Ta last year and again this year. "I'm not much of an offshore person," Marilyn told us in August. "I'll meet the boat there."

*Gypsy Soul* Doo Dah'ed previously in 2013 and 2014. The Webbs have been sailing her for eight years now. It took Danny 18 years to build the cutter on his property in Grass Valley. The project was the subject of a January 2009 article in the *Tahoe Daily Tribune*.

**The Delta is full of contrasts. Some folks enjoy a humble life with an old sailboat or two, while others go the spendy route, pouring big bucks down the guzzling maws of their gas tanks.**



**Jake, Edie and Sarah chillin' at Pittsburg Yacht Club on a Newport 30.**

As in the past four rallies, Delta Doo Dah 8 incorporated a strong DIY component. A few of the do-it-yourselfers checked in via email at the end of the summer to share their experiences with our readers.

## **Two Truths Pacific Seacraft Dana 24 Bob & Betsy Sharf, Berkeley**

Like *Evenstar*, 2016 marked *Two Truths'* fourth consecutive Delta Doo Dah.

"We spent July 3-10 in the Delta this year, and our itinerary included Benicia, Owl Harbor, Oxbow Marina, Walnut Grove, Steamboat Slough, Decker Island, and Pittsburg Yacht Club," writes Bob Sharf.

"The Boathouse Marina in Locke does not have a guest dock, and I am not sure how they would take to folks tying up. But Locke is a short walk from Walnut Grove, and you pass over the cross-channel gates to get there, which I find very interesting, particularly given the current political battles over the tunnels.

"I wanted cruisers to know that there are fine public facilities that they can access for a very small price in Locke." (See the photo on page 81.)

"At the other end of the bathing spectrum is Miyazaki Bath House in Walnut Grove. Betsy and I had eyed it before, and this year we tried it — expensive, but fun to do once.

"We anchored behind Decker Island on our return, which we had not done before, but thought it overrated — there was an endless line of cars stalled in traffic on Hwy. 160 that we found distracting, so we weighed anchor and spent the night in Pittsburg instead. Am I missing something?" Construction on 160 near and on the Three Mile Slough Bridge resulted in one-way traffic controls and inevitable backups.

## **Wind Walker — Catalina 30 Greg Wilson & Chris Verplaetse with Wanda, Frankie & Sabin San Francisco**

Boat partners Chris and Greg of *Wind Walker* and their kids were first-time Delta sailors this year.

"Our route on the way to Owl Harbor was perfect. South Beach Harbor in San Francisco to Pittsburg Marina took about seven hours riding the flood for much of the way," writes Greg. "Then, we took another three and a half hours to reach Owl Harbor the next day.

"We left the boat at Owl Harbor and



## **Delta Doo Dah 8 Fleet**

A Ole Piliikia	Catalina 320	Don & Karen Syversrud	Alameda
Albannach	J/37	Ken Leslie & Deborah Rocchild	Vallejo YC
American Beauty	New York 36	Sam Neustadt & Tammy Forrest	Richmond
Appilonia	Beneteau 393	Volki & Audra Felahy	Richmond
Asilo	Catalina 30	Mike Miller & Greg Phipps	Richmond
Aventura	Island packet 370	Erik & Brian Jones	Alameda
Brady Bunch	MacGregor 26c	Michael & Karel Brady	Lake Yosemite
Bravo Zulu	Flowers 33	Conrad & Majel Arnold	Suisun City
Buon Amici	S2 9.2A	John French & Ed Dietz	Stockton
Casita	Hans Christian 33	Rowan Madix & Devon Quinn	Alameda
Cerridwen	Fantasia 35	Carey & Heather Shine	Benicia
Cielo	Catalina 380	Jennifer Mengel & Doug Jarmer	Oakland YC
Deliverance	Hunter 41 AC	Dan Swett & Tom Trebelhorn	Pillar Point
Dream Catcher	Ericson 34T	Scott Racette & Ashley Gremel	Alameda
Elli	Newport 28	Doug McDougall	Brickyard Cove
Ergo	Express 27	Chris Gage	Pt. Richmond
Evenstar	Ranger 23	Gregory Towers & Jillian Cripps	Emeryville
Extra Innings	Harstad 31	Orrin & PegiRae Anderson	Isleton
Fantasy	Islander 36	Gene & Cheryl Novak	Alameda

Fuzzy Logic	Hunter 35	Dan & Kathy Baker	Sausalito
Grand Finale	Grand Banks 32	Jim & Mimi Cornelius	SFYC
Great Expectations	Catalina 320	Brian Forster & Giff Boyce-Smith	Sausalito
Gypsy Soul	Roberts Offshore 44	Danny & Marilyn Webb	Emery Cove
Hokahey	Seawind 1000 cat	Jan Passion & Ellen Furnari	Richmond
Hooked	Serendipity 43	Sailor Cherry	Oakland
I'm a PreCursur	MacGregor 25	Bryan & Cindy Blagg	Ceres
Into the Mystic	Catalina 34	Mike Knight & Sandra Lucas	Alameda
Jabiroo II	Island Packet 35	Stephen & Virginia Teatro	Victoria, BC
Journey On	C-Dory 25	Boris & Judy Dobrotin	Valley Center
Joy	Ericson 29	Lewis Keizer	Alameda
Just Saying	C&C 40-2	Ken & Nancy Wadsworth	Richmond
Kailani	Catalina 30	David & Gennyfer Santel	Benicia
Kinyonga	Hunter 37 cutter	John & Maureen Brecher	Richmond
Knot Serious	Capri 25	Steve Gierke	San Pedro
La Vida	Catalina 320	Mike & Joan Mellon	Marin
Lucy	Beneteau 361	Daryl & Patty Silva	Alameda
Maggie Mae	Columbia 26 MkII	Brian & Danielle Brandon	Alameda
Mai Pen Rai	Islander 36	Noble & Barbara Brown	Vallejo YC
Mas Tiempo	Islander 30	Dave Cowell	Owl Harbor
Mental Floss	Olson 30	Robert Sesar	Benicia

# — BEHIND THE 8-BALL



*Clockwise from top left: Aboard the 'Delta Princess', Mike Pollard and Sue Griffin of the Pearson 26 'Sea Bear' won the 8-Ball Tournament and the set of unbreakable PubWare; after the Ditch Run, Chris Gage converted his Express 27 'Ergo' into a cruiser, kept it at SSC, and visited Owl Harbor and Little Venice for Summer Sailstice; BBQ party at Owl Harbor; solstice full moonrise at Little Venice Island.*



STINK EYE



took a cab and BART back, returning on the 4th of July Weekend to swim and fish. We made a day run that weekend to Korth's Pirates Lair for lunch.

"The next weekend we brought the boat back — this trip was not as good, as we tried to get too far on day one. We made it to Loch Lomond in San Rafael from Owl Harbor, but it was a drag, as the tide changed on us coming through San Pablo Bay. We should have stopped at or near Benicia on day one and gone the rest of the way on day two.

"We had a great time up there. We will definitely be back next summer."

**S**eventy boats entered Doo Dah 8. Although most came from the Bay Area or the Delta itself, or trailered from Northern California lakes, one boat came all the way from Victoria, BC. Our rally members' Delta itineraries ranged from as short as one weekend to as long as all summer. Surely we're not the only ones looking back with wistful longing.

The Delta Doo Dah has never been the same twice, and we expect that Magic Number Nine will have some new surprises in store. We don't even know what they are yet! We suggest that you check [www.deltadoodah.com](http://www.deltadoodah.com) around March to see how plans are shaping up for next summer, and to find out how you can be part of the fun.

For more cruisers' pictures from the last four Doo Dahs, see <http://latitude38events.smugmug.com>.

— **latitude** / doodette chris

Mi Amor .....	Islander 36 .....	Arnie & Louise Gallegos .....	Pt. Richmond
Moana .....	Catalina 34 MkII .....	Dylan & Patricia Skerrett .....	Tiburon
Namaste .....	O'Day 37 .....	Larry & Kathy White .....	Bethel Island
Now & Zen .....	Newport 30-II .....	Tony Bourque & Patch Garcia .....	Richmond YC
Odyssey .....	Bristol Channel Cutter 28 .....	Wayne & Karen Edney .....	Richmond
Perception .....	Kronas 45 cat .....	Glenn Fagerlin .....	Emeryville
Prime Time .....	Catalina 36 .....	Ron & Carmen Konkle .....	Oakland
Pyewacket .....	Catalina 34 .....	Ralph & Penelope Hyde .....	Vallejo YC
Resolute .....	Hunter 33 .....	Jason Kopps .....	Richmond
Sababa .....	Baba 30 cutter .....	Joshua Wittenberg & Jennifer Kopp .....	Oakland
Sea Bear .....	C&C Landfall 39 .....	Shawn & Kori Meyer .....	Alameda
Sea Bear .....	Pearson 26 .....	Mike Pollard & Sue Griffin .....	Alameda
Shearwater .....	Ericson 36C .....	Dave & Kelly Kendall .....	Benicia
Sir Leansalot .....	Hunter 40 .....	Tom & Lynn Lueck .....	Stockton
Skookum .....	O'Day 37 .....	Nick Anderson & Carmen Benavides .....	Emery Cove
Sophia .....	Catalina 30 .....	Mike & Marilyn Morehouse .....	Alameda
Stink Eye .....	Laser 28 .....	Jonathan Gutoff & Christine Weaver .....	Richmond YC
Thetis .....	Ericson 32 .....	Steve Andersen .....	Little Venice Isl.
Toad .....	Beneteau 323 .....	Dan Larson .....	Santa Cruz
Toucan .....	Tanton 43 ketch .....	Kevin Belcastro & Susan Liebert .....	Isleton
Two Truths .....	PS Dana 24 .....	Bob & Betsy Sharf .....	Berkeley

Vector .....	C&C 38-2 .....	Bill & Lida Rathbun .....	Berkeley
Velella .....	Ericson 35 .....	Dustin Dettmer .....	Berkeley
Wanderlust .....	Hunter 25.5 .....	Mark McNearney & Georgina Landry .....	Stockton
Williwaw .....	Hobie 33 .....	Ken & Jan Schulze .....	Bair Island
Windwalker .....	Catalina 30 .....	Gregory Wilson & Chris Verplaatse .....	South Beach
Yo Mi Esposa Y Summerwind .....	Catalina 30 .....	Larry & Dorothy Samson .....	Stockton
Zeehond .....	Newport 30-II .....	Donn Guay & Diane Memory .....	Alameda

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