

DELTA DOO DAH

Like a parent of a growing pre-teen, we observed with stunned disbelief as the Delta Doo Dah cruising rally turned 11 years old in 2019. Organizers at *Latitude 38* vowed to turn it up a notch.

As usual, the season's activities began with a kickoff party and seminar at Richmond Yacht Club on May 18. Cruisers chose from breakout sessions on anchoring, destinations and the Bay Bash. Seminar leaders and guest experts included Craig Perez of RYC, Tom Lueck of Stockton Sailing Club and Delta Rat Bill Evans of the Delta Chambers and *Bay & Delta Yachtsman* magazine and his wife Sue. We handed out copious door prizes (among them a DVD of *This Is Spinal Tap*). RYC fed the hungry sailors with gourmet hors d'oeuvres, and fleet members introduced themselves.

The first actual sailing event on 11's official itinerary was the Delta Ditch Run from RYC to Stockton Sailing Club on June 1. This year's 108-boat fleet enjoyed plenty of breeze and quickly covered the 67-mile mostly downwind course up the San Joaquin River. All but two boats were able to finish the run. A dozen boats from the Doo Dah participated. John Speck's Pearson 323 *Lucky Mud*, a Doo Dah entry, won the Cruising Division.

Joining the Doo Dah family of hosts and sponsors this year was Delta Bay Marina, a resort on the Delta Loop in Isleton, just off the San Joaquin River. Harbormaster Eric Chiu has really been stepping it up there, promoting the marina and park with fun events on select Saturdays. We collaborated on a Doo Dah Bash and Delta ArtFest on July 13. Wine tasting, a free BBQ, a jam session led by Michael McNevin and displays by local artists drew crowds from nearby towns, not just boaters. Delta Doo Dah veteran and painter Robbie Ann enlisted her Delta art community colleagues to exhibit at the event.

For many years, Owl Harbor Marina has hosted a party and BBQ on the Saturday before Father's Day (that's in June, guys). But this year was the Stockton family's 10th anniversary of ownership and they too wanted to turn up the dial, throwing a huge weekend-long celebration on August 16-18. Included in the itinerary were games and activities you might remember from summer camp when you were 10 or 11 years old. These included crafts (campers decorated their own wooden name tags), a scavenger hunt, an egg game, a three-legged race, a tug-o-war, the dinghy poker run, a potato sack race, a balloon walk, s'mores and an outdoor movie. In between were meals,

music and dancing. We heard from many fleet members that this was a must-do event on their summer calendars.

Coinciding with Saturday evening at Owl Harbor was Bay View Boat Club's annual party, BBQ and dance at their property on Bradford Island, not far

down the San Joaquin River from Owl Harbor. Affecting the turnout of Doo Dah sailors was a strong breeze and chop on the river. Some who had thought they'd dinghy over from Owl Harbor or Potato Slough had second thoughts.

But the party itself was unaffected by the breeze, as the rustic property is



Top: Rockin' out to a dance band at Owl Harbor's 10th Anniversary Celebration on Friday, August 16. Bottom left: Mark and Anne Thomas of the Sabrelina 'Hat Trick' tasted the wines poured by Cosumnes River Farm at Delta Bay Marina on July 13. Right: Larry White of the O'Day 37 'Namaste' and Michelle Modon-Moe were the gurus of the BVBC BBQ on Bradford Island August 17.

ALL PHOTOS LATITUDE / DOODETTE CHRIS EXCEPT AS NOTED



URNS IT UP TO 11

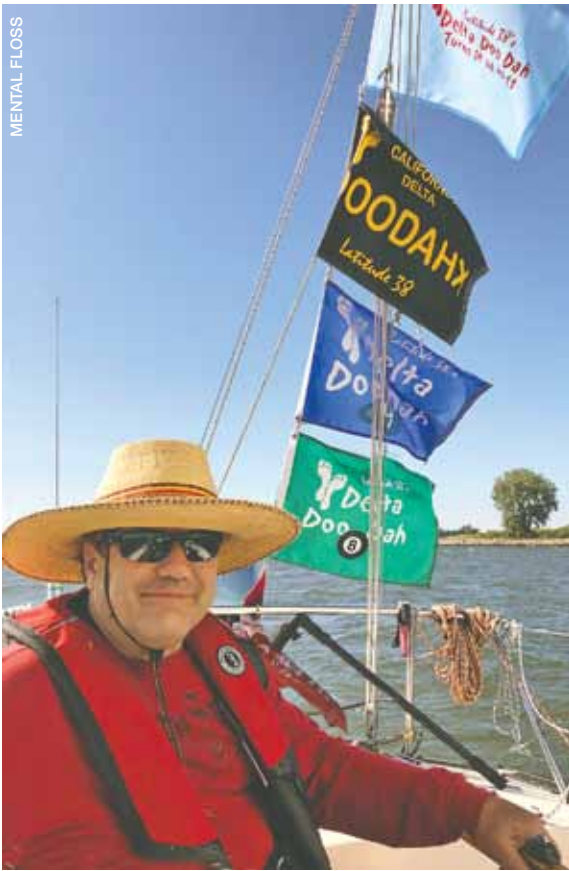
sheltered from the weather by a levee and a grove of willow trees. For \$10 you could stuff yourself silly with BBQ, homemade side dishes, beer, wine and sodas. Two bands took turns, so that the music never stopped. The song list diverged creatively from the usual repertoire you hear at every yacht club party, some

excellent musicians rotated in the lead, and the dancing went on past midnight.

As with all Delta Doo Dahs since #5, a strong DIY component filled in the gaps in #11. How did the DIYers turn up the dial? A few checked in with reports or photos from their adventures.

**'Iliohali — Lagoon 450S cat
Gary & Nancy Ryan and
Wayne & Karen Edney, San Rafael**

"I just uploaded six pix from our Delta trip on Gary and Nancy's new Lagoon cat," writes Wayne Edney, referring to the Delta Doo Dah's photo-sharing page at www.latitude38events.smugmug.com. Official fleet members can still upload more to the Delta Doo Dah 11 gallery.



MENTAL FLOSS



'ILIOHALE

Clockwise from top left: Rob Sesar proudly flies his collection of Delta Doo Dah flags during the Delta Ditch Run on his Olson 30 'Mental Floss'; Wayne Edney works on a project; then rests up from all the working and playing; Jay and Peggy Bowden's Dana 24 'Little Lara' visits the Walnut Grove public dock on June 11 ("We had raspberry ice cream at Mel's"); John Speck's 'Lucky Mud' won the Cruising Division of the Delta Ditch Run.



LITTLE LARA

DELTA DOO DAH

Delta Doo Dah 11 Fleet

Archangel.....	Ericson 35.....	Chuck Young & Annie Holte.....	Sausalito
Amaya.....	Yankee Dolphin 24.....	Scott Henry.....	Alameda
Barefoot.....	Islander 28.....	Mary & Maeve Kraybill.....	Vallejo
Cali.....	Islander 36.....	Kerry & Jennifer Scott.....	Vallejo
Cielo.....	Catalina 380.....	Jennifer Mengel & Doug Jarmer.....	Alameda
Current Affair.....	Express 27.....	Seth Clark & Linda Novick.....	Richmond
Daydreamer.....	Challenger 32.....	John & Kathleen Derby.....	Alameda
Drama.....	Beneteau 440.....	Gregory Wilson & Jim Vogl.....	Sausalito
Dura Mater.....	Cal 2-27.....	Jackie Philpott.....	Richmond
Elli.....	Newport 28.....	Doug McDougall.....	Richmond
Erewhon.....	Newport 30-2.....	William & Kathy Crowley.....	Vallejo
Ergo.....	Express 27.....	Chris Gage.....	Richmond
Evenstar.....	Ranger 23.....	Gregory Towers & Jillian Cripps.....	Emeryville
Fats.....	Grand Banks 32.....	Vickie Gilmour & Tim Went.....	Richmond
Felisita.....	Wilderness 21.....	Whitney & Carol Brooks.....	Felton
Flibbertigibbet.....	Catalina 42.....	Jim & Betty Adams.....	Discovery Bay
Frances.....	Alerion Express 28.....	Sam Turner.....	Richmond
Hat Trick.....	Sabreline 34.....	Mark & Anne Thomas.....	Richmond
Hokahey.....	Seawind 1000 cat.....	Jan Passion.....	Richmond
Horse Feathers.....	Banshee 35 cat.....	Steve Schwartz.....	Richmond
'Iliohale.....	Lagoon 450S cat.....	Gary & Nancy Ryan.....	San Rafael
Iolani.....	Hughes 48 yawl.....	Barry & Sylvia Stompe.....	Sausalito
Jackie-Oh.....	Islander 28.....	Dean Hupp & Jackie Boor.....	Isleton
Knot Serious.....	Capri 25.....	Steve Gierke & Valerie Coughlin.....	Stockton
Little Lara.....	Pacific Seacraft Dana 24.....	Jay & Peggy Bowden.....	Santa Barbara
Lucky Mud.....	Pearson 323.....	John Speck.....	San Francisco
Mas Tiempo.....	Islander 30 MkII.....	Dave Cowell.....	Owl Harbor
Mental Floss.....	Olson 30.....	Rob Sesar & Roberta Manell.....	Glen Cove
Miss Irene.....	Catalina 22.....	Kevin Clancy & Joanne Goodsell.....	Sacramento
Music.....	Hunter 37.5.....	Phil & Nora DeGaa.....	Richmond
Namaste.....	O'Day 37.....	Larry White & Kathy Kennedy.....	Bethel Island
Neener3.....	Catalina 42.....	Jan Grygier & Patti Boucher.....	Richmond
Odyssey.....	Bristol Channel Cutter 28.....	Wayne & Karen Edney.....	San Francisco
Oxalis.....	Escape Solsa 9.....	Blake Wiers.....	San Francisco
Pacific Dragon II.....	Gemini 105mc cat.....	David & Maha Hurdle.....	Benicia
Patience.....	C Dory 22.....	Cindy David & Katie Krollkowski.....	Berkeley
Patrice.....	Passport 42.....	Anthony & Sabrina Mazzel.....	Sausalito
Pegasus.....	Newland 360.....	Stephen Lewis & Nancy Ellis.....	Richmond
Rosalita.....	Cal 29 MkI.....	Robert Arthurs & Jason Durie.....	Richmond
Sea Bosse.....	Lagoon 380 cat.....	Volki & Audra Felahy.....	Richmond
Stewball.....	Express 37.....	Bob & Ginger Harford.....	Richmond
Stink Eye.....	Laser 28.....	Jonathan Gutoff & Christine Weaver.....	Richmond
Tangled Sheets.....	Catalina 350.....	Jeremy Haydock & Julique Lewis-Haydock.....	Vallejo
Thetis.....	Ericson 32.....	Steve & George Andersen.....	San Rafael
Tiamat.....	Fontaine Pajot Orana 44.....	Owen & Stephanie Anderson.....	San Mateo
Toucan.....	Tanton 43 cat ketch.....	Kevin Belcastro & Susan Liebert.....	Owl Harbor
Touche.....	Jeanneau 42DS.....	Pip & Jill Ziman.....	Alameda
Tropic Soul.....	Beneteau 361.....	Wayne & Julie Rundall.....	Richmond
Two Truths.....	Dana 24.....	Bob & Betsy Sharf.....	Berkeley
Vector.....	C&C 83-2.....	Bill & Lida Rathbun.....	Berkeley
Yo Mi Esposa y Summerwind.....	Catalina 30.....	Larry & Dorothy Samson.....	Stockton
Zeehond.....	Newport 30.....	Donn Guay & Diane Memory.....	Alameda

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To inquire about sponsoring Delta Doo Dah Dozen,
please email Mitch Perkins, mitch@latitude38.com; Monica Grant, monica@latitude38.com;
or Doodette Chris, chris@latitude38.com;
or call us at (415) 383-8200.

"Karen and I signed up for the Doo Dah to go on our Bristol Channel Cutter *Odyssey*, but joined Gary and Nancy on *'Iliohali* for 10 days in August. We spent a night at Owl Harbor, seven nights at Potato Slough and two in Benicia. There is one pic of me kicking back asleep, but another of me slaving away making dinghy chaps with the sewing machine I brought on board." See the collage on the previous page for the photos Wayne described. And read more about *'Iliohale's* cruise on September 4's *Latitude* at www.latitude38.com.

Mas Tiempo — Islander 30 MkII Dave Cowell, Owl Harbor

The Owl Harbor Summer Sailstice raft-up in Potato Slough was a good time. Being on a small boat, I was allowed to raft up, along with the Abbots' Bavaria 35 and Adam Hunt's Catalina 22, to Casey Stockon's *Neleh II*.

Saturday was nice and breezy, so I took Barron from A dock out for a sail. We went up the river past Tinsley and Venice Islands, but not quite as far as Lost Isle. It was an easy run up and fun tacking back. He has a full-keel double-ender, so when I gave him the helm he almost gave me whiplash when we tacked. "Spin on a dime it will!"

Saturday night's feed was great, as were the wines, beers and other concoctions consumed. Everyone retired early that night. I awoke Sunday to the disturbing sound of my wind generator starting to spin up but immediately going

Check out the starboard spreader on the Islander 30 'Mas Tiempo'. You probably couldn't do this if you tried.



DAVE COWELL

URNS IT UP TO 11

BLAKE WIERS



into brake mode. Sure enough, the main battery wasn't getting charged and was pretty low. Everyone else was gone or on their boats, so I decided to head back to Owl.

Slipping away, I motored out to the main channel, turned upwind, and started hoisting the main. I had the bimini up and couldn't see anything overhead, so after a couple of healthy pulls I realized something was wrong. It was going up way too easily. Looking out I realized the main halyard had come off the sail and

Blake Wiers shot a video of his second sail-and-camp from San Francisco Bay to the Delta on his 9-ft Escape. 'Oxalis' is the smallest boat ever to sail in the Delta Doo Dah. How did he do this year? Watch the video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=-3yFBf8Mm04&feature=youtu.be to find out.

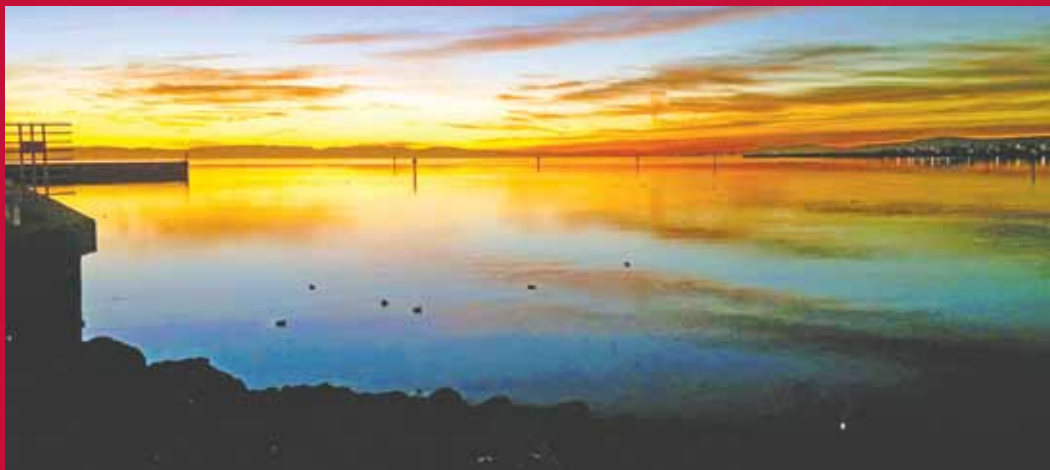
was now floating casually 20 feet up the mast. Bother. So I unfurled the jib and motorsailed on toward home.

A few miles on I spotted a tanker coming downriver, so I headed to the side of the channel. After the pass with accompanying wake (boat rocking) I looked up at the masthead and saw . . . the halyard now wrapped around the upper capstay. Arrrgh (and some other

choice words)! What had been a simple task was now going to take a lot more effort.

On Monday I went into Rio Vista, picked up some lengths of PVC, and put a bungee hook on the end. It was way too flexible to control, so I had to tie the spinnaker halyard to keep the hook up. I managed to snag the shackle and pull the main halyard down to the

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DELTA DOO DAH 11

deck. Whew! Now it was only a matter of throwing a messenger over the spreaders and unwinding the halyard. Easy!

The next step was a spinnaker sheet with a heavy bow shackle attached and me trying to toss it through the upper triangle. My balance is horrible and my aim atrocious, but after a lot of errant tosses I managed to get two of the wraps off. Then came that magic moment. I tossed the shackle up and it tied itself to the spreader. It wasn't a rolling hitch or a clove hitch but it was still tied very securely, so after I finally quit laughing at my luck, I decided I was going to have to climb the mast.

I dug out my ascenders and old-fashioned climbing straps and hooked up to the spinnaker halyard. Robert Redford has nothing on me! There was a time when I did a 90-ft free ascent in a cave out in the Mojave. Not any more. The old torso just doesn't flex like it used to, and arm strength? None there either.

So I finally got Adam to man a winch and hoist me in the bosun's chair. I untied the knot and unwrapped the halyard, so everything went back to normal.

I'll be selling those ascenders on Craigslist and your Classy ads.

Sailing in the Delta doesn't end with the summer. Fall is a particularly beautiful time of year to cruise upriver, with generally mild weather. The sights and sounds of migratory birds replace the crowds of boaters. We always welcome your reports and photos, even 'off-season'. You can email them to us at chris@latitude38.com.

And, if the Delta is on your to-do-list for next year's cruising destinations, check in on www.deltadoodah.com



DEVERY STOCKON

Dave Cowell's 'Mas Tiempo' rafted up to Owl Harbor's mothership, 'Neleh II', an Army T-boat from the 1950s, in Potato Slough.

around March, when we plan to post information about Delta Doo Dah Dozen.

— **latitude** /doodette chris

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