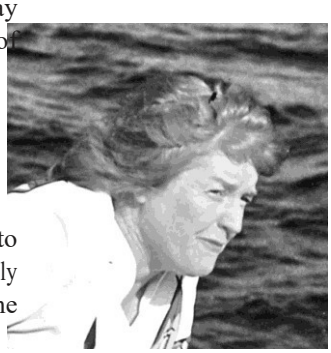
PEGGY SLATER (1919-1990)



Margaret "Peggy" Slater was working on her 350-page book, An Affair With the Sea, almost every day during 1990. Every day that is, when she wasn't off to Kauai tending to her several rental houses in that bit of Paradise she so much enjoyed. . . or off to a sentimental journey like the Tall Ship parade last year in Amsterdam. . . or off to something like the positioning of syndicates vying for the right to defend the America's Cup. . . or planning for an upcoming bareboat cruise off Turkey's Turquoise Coast with fellow LAYC members. . . or just plain being involved with people who liked boats and sailing!

Her final day, Tuesday, November 20, was spent with her friend Joan Semper, Del Rey Yacht Club manager, where she finished eight of the final pages of her book. That evening she drove a short distance to Pacific Mariners Yacht Club to address the Women's Sailing Association of Santa Monica Bay and suddenly passed away in the parking lot. Her book contains many stories which drew turn-away crowds when she spoke at various yacht club luncheons and dinners and reveals experiences, she admitted, which were never subject of her talks which seemed to cluster around Valentine's Day. A friend said, "Just think that Peggy's up there now with all the famous old sailors, probably telling Christopher Columbus just what direction to head. What fun she must be having"!

Peggy Slater was possessed of uncommon energy and loathed letting days go by without getting the most out of them. She formed that habit and her winning ways at an early age, on the water she loved and enjoyed sharing with others who liked to mess about with boats. She matched her individualism with ideals with results. As an example, as a young woman she was first over the finish line 37 consecutive times with the 26-ft sloop Seventh Heaven. She garnered the Pacific Interclass championship several times. Many of sailing's top skippers watched her transom as they trailed her 'round the buoys and in long distance offshore races. She spent over 70 years proving that girls can measure right up there with boys. Especially on the water. Peggy raced and cruised her red-hulled Kettenburg 43, Valentine, whose head (toilet) has a heart-shaped red seat, for over 27 years.

As a sailing master and skipper, Peggy probably logged more miles at sea in her active years than any other woman and most men. Some of the most noted racing and cruising boats through the years were under her command, the majority of which in competition ended up with trophies (winning over 500 in her lifetime). She sailed on the famed bluewater Class A yacht, Nam Sang, as sailing master and also singlehanded her own sailboat across the 2,000+ miles to the Sandwich Islands. She has known in her sailing life and business life (as a successful yacht broker in Marina del Rey) the likes of Raymond Burr, Clark Gable, Humphrey Bogart, James Arness and many others who found her unflappable spirit and her caring, knowledgeable experience irresistible.

Peggy loved and was loved by her fellow Los Angeles Yacht Club members. She had been member since 1937 and was active until the end. She was also a vigorous member of Cabrillo Beach Yacht Club, always willing to lend a hand in any activity where help was needed, never failing to stand her watch as duty officer. Members of both clubs have wonderful stories and memories to tell of their association with this unique and outstanding sailor.

The familiar shock of blazing red hair, trademark flower over her left ear, her one-of-a kind personality who shared her passion for the sea is gone, but her memory will long linger in the minds of sailors the world over.

From a tribute written in November 1990 by Frank Gleberman, Past Commodore of California Yacht Club

On January 5, 1991, Southern California Yachting Association announced and dedicated the Peggy Slater Memorial Trophy, an antique binnacle which was a gift from Peggy Slater to Joan Semper. Joan was honored to donate it to SCYA for the creation of a trophy for this award. Outgoing SCYA Commodore Burton Jay, M.D. proudly presented the 1990 Peggy Slater Memorial Trophy to the first recipient to: GAIL E. HINE. The following outstanding women have won this award:

1991 - SHANNON AIKMAN
1992 - LINDA ELIAS
1993 - JUDITH ENDLER
1994 - BONNIE GIBSON
1995 - JANE SWETT
1996 - PEGGY REDLER
1997 - CAMILLE DANIELS
1998 - LIZ HJORTH
1999 - J. J. FETTER
2000 - KATHIE OHMER
2001 - JANE WATKINS
2002 - MARYLYN HOENEMEYER
2003 - ANNETTE COOK, RN
2004 - PEASE GLASER
2005 - MARGARET CADDLE
2006 - ANNIE GARDNER
2007 - KARYN JONES
2008 - SANDY MILLS
2009 - MARGIE BROWN, RN
2010 - FRAN WEBER-MELVILLE
2011 - HOLLY SCOTT
2012 - JUDY-RAE KARLSEN
2013 - MARY BACON
2014 - MARY SNOW
2015 - SUSAN SERVICE
2016 - CAROL ARMITAGE
2017 - ALLIE BLECHER
2018 - TERRI MANOK
2019 – DENISE GEORGE
2020 – MARIE ROGERS
2021 – MARY VOIGT
2022 – JULIE COLL
2023 – JERELYN BIEHL
2024 – JANE THOMAS
2025 – MARILYN CASSEDY

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA YACHTING ASSOCIATION

The following prerequisites shall govern this deed:

> The above named perpetual trophy, a ship's brass binnacle, mounted on a brass post engraved with the words "Peggy Slater Memorial Trophy" mounted to a wood base with brass plaques mounted on the wood base for individual recipients' names.

1. This award shall be not be presented to more than one person in any calendar year. It shall not be awarded more than once to the same person.

2. The recipient must be a resident of Southern California and reside in this area during the year for which the award is being presented.

3. Sailing achievement being recognized may be on a local, national or international level.

4. Service to the sport achievements being recognized may span a number of activities over an indefinite period of time.

5. The recipient need not be affiliated with a member club of SCYA, but in order to maintain interest in the trophy, the recipient's yacht club shall give the perpetual trophy prominent display at its facilities. Should the recipient not belong to a yacht club which has such facilities, the perpetual trophy shall be displayed at a yacht club which has the necessary facilities having been designated by the Flag Officers of SCYA.

6. This award shall consist of a perpetual trophy. This trophy is directed into the charge of the SCYA which shall be responsible for providing a suitable take home trophy. Said take home trophy shall show the name of the winner, the year awarded and the full name of the perpetual trophy.

7. The recipient, or her yacht club, will at all times provide insurance coverage of the perpetual trophy which provides total and complete coverage for the replacement of said trophy in the case of loss due to theft, fire or damage of any kind. This coverage must be maintained at all times that said perpetual trophy is in the recipient's possession.

8. The time, date and place for trophy presentation shall be prescribed by the Board of Directors of SCYA, traditionally at the January Change of Watch Ceremonies. However, the Commodore of SCYA or his designee, may deem it appropriate to make a presentation at an opening day ceremony or other function of the winner's club.

9. Any recognized SCYA yacht club or established organization, such as a women's sailing association, may submit nominations in writing to the Secretary of SCYA. These nominations should be supported by suitable resumes or letters outlining the nominee's qualifications and achievements for this award.

10. The Commodore shall appoint one (1) person, not gender specific, to be the chairperson of the Selection Committee. In addition, prior recipients of the Award shall become members of the selection committee.

11. Non-attending former recipients of this Award may give input but are not entitled to vote, as they would not be privy to the discussion of the qualifications of each candidate presented at the selection committee meeting.

12. The recipient, or appropriate club officer from recipient's sponsoring yacht club, shall sign a "Receipt Agreement," provided by the SCYA trophy chairman, by which it shall engage and bind herself/club to hold the perpetual trophy subject to and within the terms and conditions of this deed.

13. Full authority over the Deed of Gift is vested in the Board of Directors of SCYA, and all action concerning this deed shall be voted on under the provisions set forth in the organization's Bylaws.

January 5, 1991 by: Commodore George Hively, Rear Commodore Ray Prell, Director Gail E. Hine
Amended 1/6/01
Amended 4/8/06