



June 2023

NEW HAVEN YACHT CLUB NEWSLETTER

VOLUME CXLI

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ARMADA SIGHTED IN ROUEN



Every five years, tall ships from around the world tie up at this port city in Normandy for a big get-together. This year your correspondent was there. The ships ranged from the 109-meter *Dar Młodzieży*, a floating school for 130 Polish naval cadets, to the *Vera Cruz*, a faithful reproduction of the tiny caravels that made possible Portugal's great age of exploration. Of particular interest to your newsletter was the *Shtandart*, a reproduction of Peter the Great's 28-gun, three-masted flagship, the first European-style ship built in Russia, which was put together under the Tsar's personal supervision. There was some argument about whether the *Shtandart* should even be in Rouen; a watchdog organization wrote to the Armada organizers in January to remind them that international sanctions applied to *all* Russian ships, even historical sailing replicas.

Agence France Press followed up on the controversy by interviewing Vladimir Martus, captain of the *Shtandart*. "Tsar Peter the Great is my hero," Martus explained. "He worked hard to get Russia out of the Middle Ages and develop links with Europe through trade and communication—a big difference with our current leaders." Listening to Martus, it quickly becomes apparent that *Shtandart* is a dissident frigate. "There is no more justice in Russia. If you criticize the president, you can go to prison. When I left in 2009 the regime was preparing to throw democracy overboard. Today, it no longer exists."



For 14 years, Martus has been on the run with his sailors, at sea in summer and holed up in a different port each winter: in Norway, Germany, Italy, Greece, United Kingdom, Spain or, this year, La Rochelle in France. He still lists Saint Petersburg as his home port, however, and flies the Russian flag on his website and from the mizzen backstay. Says Martus, "the Russian flag represents all Russians and many of them disagree with the conflict. Today we are free and independent pirates in European waters—and the day will come when we will return to Russia."

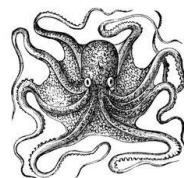
(above) Capt. Martus in his cabin (right) The 'tween decks of the *Shtandart* houses a crew of many nationalities, even Ukrainian.



This sailor tolerates a constant stream of visitors with good grace.



Your sharp-eyed editor suspects that the spanker gaff (left) was somehow tied off on the pin reserved for the mizzen upper topsail hoist. Always the diplomat, however, he said nothing to Captain Martus.



MINUTES OF THE NEW HAVEN YACHT CLUB BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING, 6 JUNE 2023

ATTENDING OFFICERS:

Commodore: Drew

Vice Commodore: absent

Rear Commodore: Joe

Secretary: Cheryl

Treasurer: Frank

Membership Secretary: absent

ATTENDING MEMBERS: Debbi, Allen, Kevin

MINUTES: Commodore Drew called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m. We did not have a quorum to approve the May meeting minutes. The May and June meeting minutes are pending.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Launch: 4 attendants are in place now. Joe is looking for subs and fall replacements. T-shirts were ordered for launch attendants. The new launch is under the pavilion for continued construction.

The club is going to consider giving returning launch attendants a financial incentive of 5% next year.

Moorings: were noted to be closer together this year.

Some have already been moved. The problem is unoccupied mooring balls.

Yards and Docks: repairs on docks were twice as high as we had budgeted. Chain length is critical in fine tuning of the floating docks. Decking is tattered on some. Need to consider replacement over the next few years. We need to inspect billets that are under the docks for water logging. PVC covered Styrofoam is what we currently have. Nick will assist with this in the fall.

Website: no report

House and Grounds: yard looks good. Cleaning service was discussed and will be pursued.

Social: **Memorial Day 2023** has come and gone. There was a delightful turn out and the awards event was enjoyed by all. The next event is July 4. Mayor's Cup is July 29th. Social will need volunteers to help with the after-race party. Sailabratons are scheduled for July. August has some openings.

Cruising: no report

Membership: as noted above in the treasurer's report

Race Committee: events are posted on the website.

Old Business: AED device is pending coordination of acquisition and training with Cheryl and Wayne.

New Business: phone service upgrade. It has been brought to our attention that it is difficult to get in touch with launch attendants. This is from Bill:

"Our launch operators currently do not have access to phone service. I understand that this may cause inconvenience and delays for you in needed communication during the sailing season. I again am recommending the implementation of a second phone line dedicated solely to our launch operators. This will help streamline communication and improve response times for you.

I believe that providing our launch operators with phone service is essential to providing you with the best possible service. The cost of this addition is minimal, as we only need to purchase a VOIP phone adapter and a phone (if we don't already have one) which can be returned to Amazon within one month after a trial period if not satisfied or there are hidden costs."

It was decided that this would be worth pursuing for club benefit. Cheryl will look in to how to engage this project."

The question of FCC license came to light: is it necessary to have one? It is. The cost is \$600.00 fee for 10 years. Non-profits do not have to pay the fee. Joe applied as a non-profit and will pursue the license.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and unanimously passed to adjourn at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl

Secretary



JAPANESE CITY OFFERS NHYC A NEW DINGY.

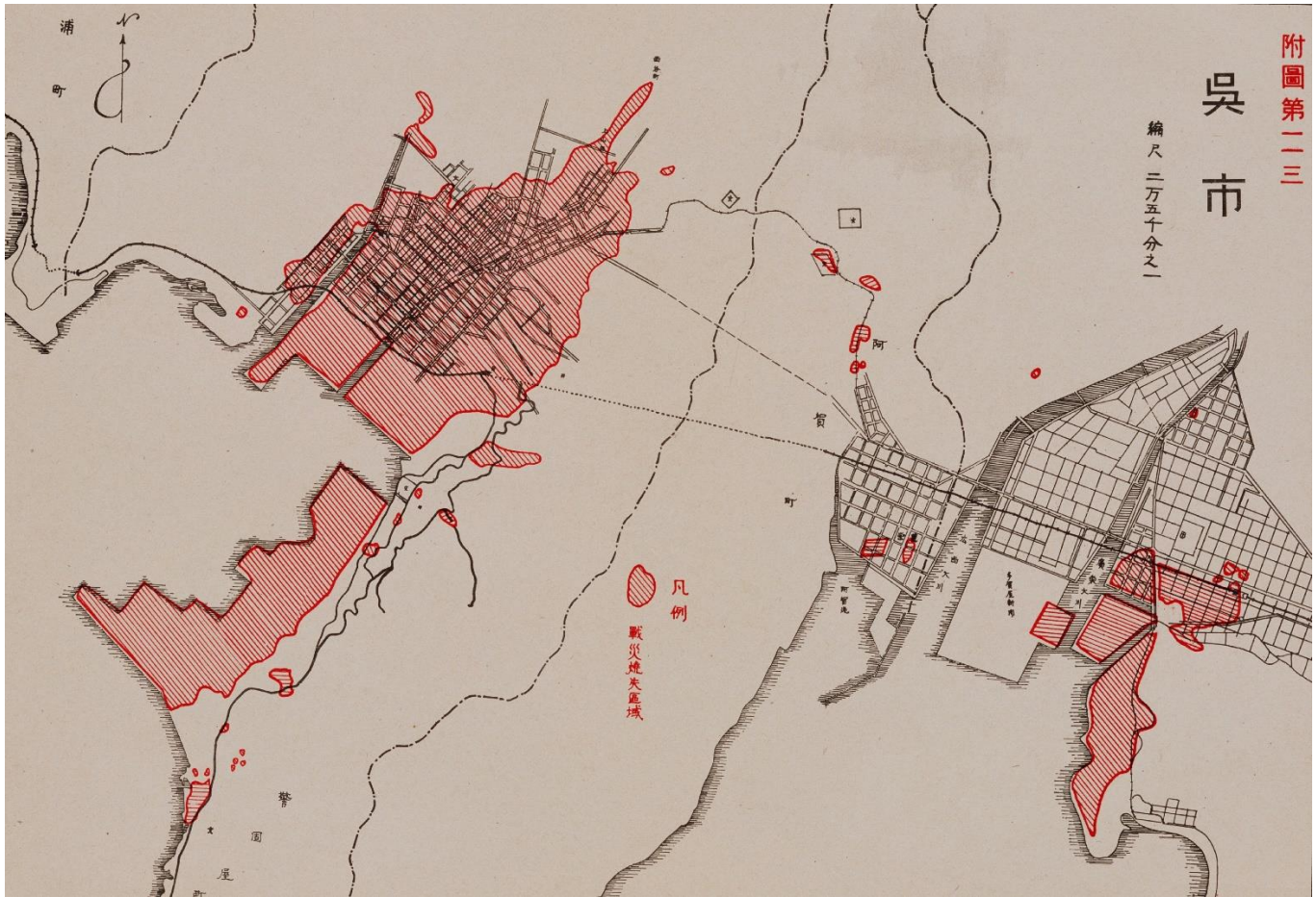


The city of Kure, located on Japan’s Inland Sea a short distance east of Hiroshima, wants us to have a new launch—absolutely *gratis*. The vessel is about 16 feet long (see above) and isn’t being used at the present time. Yukio Yamaguchi, Vice President of Kure Maritime Association, explains: “Your state of Connecticut played a major role in reshaping the city of Kure during the last century. The engines of the B-29 Superfortress bomber were made in Connecticut in a town not far from you. Also, the Corsair fighter was built in Stratford, Connecticut. We looked to find a yacht club in Stratford to receive the launch, but we could not find one. The B-29 airframe was assembled in your city of Wichita, Kansas, but (of course) no yacht club there!”

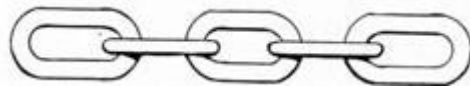
The launch in question is one of many boats and ships in Kure that became surplus during the spring and early summer of 1945. Ms. Yamaguchi also cited the battleship *Haruna*, seen in two images below.



“Thanks to Connecticut, Kure became a major exporter of scrap metal after the war. What’s more, much of our modern urban infrastructure—our whole downtown, in fact—would never have come to be realized without prodding from America’s Navy and Army Air Force during the war, especially the Superfortress bomber. We hope the New Haven Yacht Club will treasure the new launch as a symbol of international co-operation and exchange.”



This map shows parts of Kure damaged by allied bombing in the spring and early summer of 1945.

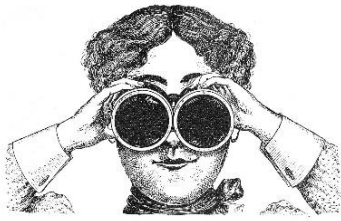


THIS MONTH'S LINK:

Tall ships and visitors at the Rouen Armada

Nice footage of pretty boats, but the music is a bit much. Maybe you should turn the sound off?

<https://youtu.be/Xo5onF4Y9Zw>



Spotted on Craigslist: A Beetle Cat for sale in Newtown - \$750

Anybody looking for a project boat?

This early 1970s bronze-fastened, gaff-rigged Beetle Cat is looking for someone who can restore her. All the pieces are there except the sails, but you can always find somebody to make sails, right?



The owner says she's in need of a complete restoration (the boat, not the owner). All the parts are there, however, rigging and lines. Pity about the sails.

Get yourself a brass brush and a five-gallon pail of spar varnish and this boat will keep you busy all winter!

<https://sailboatdata.com/sailboat/beetle-cat/>

FROM THE POETRY LOCKER

We present *The Musician's Tale; The Saga of King Olaf* in its entirety!

"Strike the sails!" King Olaf said;
"Never shall men of mine take flight;
Never away from battle I fled,
Never away from my foes!
Let God dispose
Of my life in the fight!"

"Sound the horns!" said Olaf the King;
And suddenly through the drifting brume
The blare of the horns began to ring,
Like the terrible trumpet shock
Of Regnarock,
On the Day of Doom!

Louder and louder the war-horns sang
Over the level floor of the flood;
All the sails came down with a clang,
And there in the mist overhead
The sun hung red
As a drop of blood.

Drifting down on the Danish fleet
Three together the ships were lashed,
So that neither should turn and retreat;
In the midst, but in front of the rest
The burnished crest
Of the Serpent flashed.

King Olaf stood on the quarter-deck,
With bow of ash and arrows of oak,
His gilded shield was without a fleck,
His helmet inlaid with gold,
And in many a fold
Hung his crimson cloak.

On the forecastle Ulf the Red
Watched the lashing of the ships;
"If the Serpent lie so far ahead,
We shall have hard work of it here,"
Said he with a sneer
On his bearded lips.

King Olaf laid an arrow on string,
"Have I a coward on board?" said he.
"Shoot it another way, O King!"
Sullenly answered Ulf,
The old sea-wolf;
"You have need of me!"

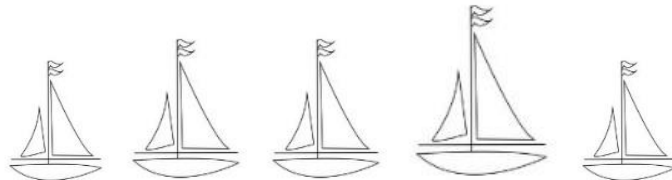
In front came Svend, the King of the Danes,
Sweeping down with his fifty rowers;
To the right, the Swedish king with his thanes;
And on board of the Iron Beard
 Earl Eric steered
To the left with his oars.

"These soft Danes and Swedes," said the King,
"At home with their wives had better stay,
Than come within reach of my Serpent's sting:
But where Eric the Norseman leads
 Heroic deeds
Will be done to-day!"

Then as together the vessels crashed,
Eric severed the cables of hide,
With which King Olaf's ships were lashed,
And left them to drive and drift
 With the currents swift
Of the outward tide.

Louder the war-horns growl and snarl,
Sharper the dragons bite and sting!
Eric the son of Hakon Jarl
A death-drink salt as the sea
 Pledges to thee,
Olaf the King!

— Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, c 1862



MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS

If you are interested in sharing a story with other club members in a future issue, please send it to Bob. The content and focus of the story are up to you. The author will be able to review and accept edits before publication.

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