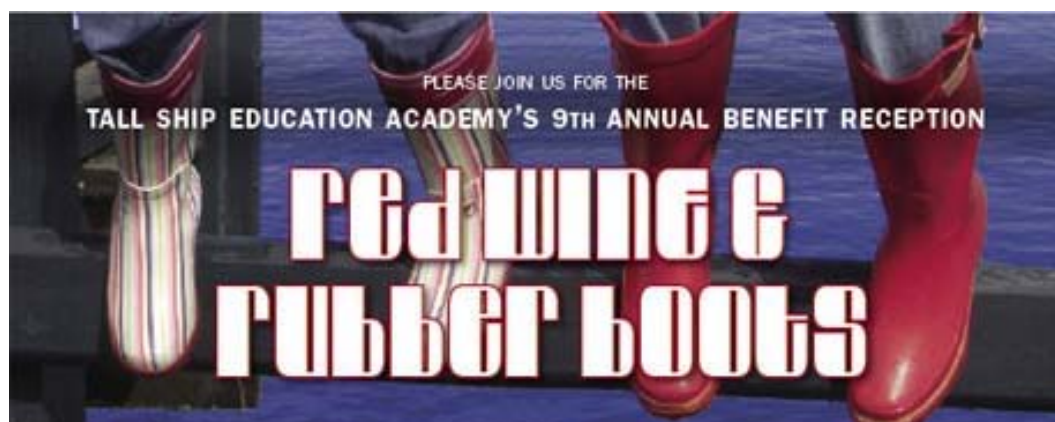


# THE PIN RAIL

An e-newsletter from the Tall Ship Education Academy



## SAVE THE DATE!

Join us to celebrate the Tall Ship Education Academy at Red Wine & Rubber Boots, our annual benefit reception on October 18, 2007. This year, our event will take place on the historic ferry boat Eureka, which is on permanent display at Hyde Street Pier, at the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park. Hear from our Tall Ship Education Academy students as you taste delightful offerings from local restaurants, sip wines from local vineyards, bid on an array of silent auction items and enjoy sea chanteys from local favorite, the SeaDogs.

To purchase tickets in advance (\$45 for adults, \$15 for students under 21), visit the Red Wine & Rubber Boots page of our website and/or if you are on our local mailing list, you will receive the invitation to Red Wine & Rubber boots in the mail in the next few weeks with instructions on purchasing tickets. Visit the Red Wine & Rubber Boots page of our website for an updated list of restaurants, vineyards, sponsors and auction items involved in the event!

**Red Wine & Rubber Boots**  
**October 18, 2007, 6-9pm**  
**On the ferryboat Eureka at Hyde Street Pier**  
**San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park**

**Volume 2, Issue 3**  
**September 7, 2007**

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### Special points of interest:

- **Sept 27: Scuttlebutt Happy Hour, Crossroads Cafe**
- **Oct 12: TSSG Applications Due**
- **October 14: Women Skippers Regatta**
- **Oct 18: Red Wine & Rubber Boots**

## TSEA CALENDAR OF EVENTS



### SEPTEMBER 2007

- 9/20: Alumnae Committee Meeting, 7pm at SF State, HSS Building, Room 322
- 9/27: Scuttlebutt Happy Hour, 6-8pm at Crossroads Café, 699 Delancey St., San Francisco
- 9/29: Amazing Bay Day: TSEA sails with the Girl Scouts on Seaward



### OCTOBER 2007

- 10/8: TSEA sails with the Girl Scouts on Seaward
- 10/9: Alum Committee Meeting, 7pm at SF State, HSS Building, Room 322
- 10/12: Tall Ship Semester for Girls 2008 Applications due
- 10/11-10/14: Women's Challenge 7
- 10/14: Women Skippers Regatta, a benefit for TSEA produced by the Sausalito Yacht Club Auxiliary
- 10/18: Red Wine & Rubber Boots, TSEA's 9th Annual Benefit Reception on the Eureka at Hyde St. Pier



### NOVEMBER 2007

- 11/13: Alum Committee Meeting, 7pm at SF State, HSS Building, Room 322
- 11/14: Scuttlebutt Happy Hour, location TBA



### DECEMBER 2007

- 12/11: Alum Committee Meeting, 7pm at SF State, HSS Building, Room 322
- 12/12: Scuttlebutt Happy Hour, location TBA
- 12/21: Alum Winter Solstice Event

## TSEA VOTED "BEST OF THE BAY"!

Each year, San Francisco Magazine publishes its July issue title Best of the Bay. This issue finds the best of the Bay Area, from everything from the best chocolate, to the best bar for wear sequins. This year, each category had a pair of winners – a "Classic" and a "Future Classic".

The Tall Ship Education Academy was paired with the Treasure Island Sailing Center as the "Best Way to Get Kids Sailing in the Right Direction". Both organiza-

tions were recognized for introducing sailing and all of its inherent lessons to a variety of youth, and providing significant scholarship support for students.

Although it may be difficult to find at this point in the year, look for a copy of the July issue and check out the Tall Ship Semester for Girls picture on the Editors Page (p. 34) and the write-up on page 146.



## GIRLS SUMMER AT SEA SAILS THE CALIFORNIA COAST

By Molly Simmons

As a new teacher to the Tall Ship Academy, I found myself as much a student as an educator this past summer. Having just finished the school year a week earlier, I was amazed at how energized and ready I was to begin this new adventure.



The Girls Summer at Sea 2007 crew arriving home at Pier 40

We spent our first two weeks based at SFSU getting to know each other and diving into oceanography, navigation, and English classes. It seemed like every free minute, Melanie Sherbula and Angel Thakerey, alums from the 2006 TSSG and interns for the summer program, were giving suggestions and advice about the coming voyage. Two weeks seemed an impossibly short in terms of preparation, but the girls were able accept the challenges of class, while understanding and defining communication tactics with Vincent Chandler, exploring tide pools with RTC's Erin Blackwood, discovering San Francisco's maritime history, and collecting all the gear they would need for the trip. It was with great excitement and anticipation that we meet *Seaward* on July 9<sup>th</sup> for our three

week trip along the coast.

Due to mechanical difficulties, we were not able to follow the schedule we had initially created with the captain of *Seaward*, Pamela Coughlin, but it reminded us all that

a journey on a sail boat is often determined by forces beyond our control. We were still able to visit the Audubon Center in Richardson Bay so as to better realize the various ecological issues of the Bay Area. We then motored under the Golden Gate Bridge into a glassy Pacific Ocean and light southerly winds, unusual on the coast in July. We were able to enjoy the calm conditions while underway for about a day and a half while escorted south by dolphins, porpoises, and humpback whales. As we neared Point Conception, the wind and waves shifted to the northwest, and we better understood why sailing the coast of California can be such a trial. The girls were challenged to increase their learning curve as everything on the ship needed to be done with efficiency and accuracy. At this point watch groups grew into stronger units, and we all tried to be aware of the needs of the whole crew.

Our course took us down to Catalina Island for our first port visit, and then back up and around to Santa Cruz Island off the coast of Santa Barbara. Next we pushed across the Santa Barbara Channel, around Point Conception again, and up to Morro Bay. Morro Bay was a welcome respite from the 20-30 knot winds we were sailing into on this

upwind leg. Christine Whitcraft met us here and swapped out with Nettie, teaching Oceanography for the second leg of the trip. We then turned to beat our way up to Moss Landing in Monterey Bay where we were welcomed and cared for by Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute. We had a kayaking adventure in the Elkhorn Slough and gave our cook Julia the day off while each watch group took charge of a meal. We had a cold, foggy return to the San Francisco Bay, but a sunny day in Sausalito cleaning up *Seaward* before returning to Pier 40.

With one week to go we turned our attention to preparing for graduation and working at San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park. We spent our first day with Kim Sobel who helped with the students with public speaking and speech writing. We then helped with sanding and painting on the *C.S. Thayer*, worked in the small boat shop, motored the *Alma* over from the Bay Ship and Yacht Boat Yard in Alameda, and finally the girls got the chance to row a long boat and sail small boats. Graduation was a night of celebration and transition. As the girls reflected back on the summer they spoke of independence, appreciation, and growth.

Overall this brand new summer experience may have been the perfect introduction to the programs, for I was forced to learn with the students and understand all the new information, tasks, and challenges they were facing. I am proud of all we accomplished. This is a remarkable, inspiring journey, and I look forward to the 2008 semester program to begin this winter.

## TSEA'S RECEIVES IN-KIND DONATIONS & GRANT FUNDING

In the last few months, TSEA was pleased to receive in-kind donations from Microsoft, Salesforce.com, Patagonia and the Sports Basement as well as financial support from the Samberg Family Foundation and the Belvedere Cove Foundation.

Through their partner organization techsoup.com, Microsoft distributes licenses to its valuable software programs to non-profit organizations. TSEA requested and received several licenses from Microsoft which will increase our office productivity.

Salesforce.com hosts a server-based customer relations management program. In August 2006, TSEA received a free license for Salesforce's non-profit version and Executive Director Nettie Kelly



spent a full week in a training course courtesy of Salesforce.com. A year later, Salesforce is used extensively by TSEA and Salesforce.com continues to provide this service for free.

To keep our Girls Summer at Sea students warm on the gusty, foggy California Coast, they need warm clothing. The North Face Outlet store in Berkeley donated NINE boxes of gear to TSEA. Many thanks to Carlos Reyes at North Face for his help in obtaining this donation. Patagonia's San Francisco store generously donated a huge duffle bag of lightly used fleece, jackets, hats and long underwear which went to good use. In addition, the Sports Basement donated \$1,000 for TSEA to acquire gear. Thanks to both of these companies for their generosity! They kept us warm this season and will continue to do so into the future.

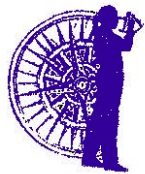
The Samberg Family Foundation is



founding supporter of the Tall Ship Education Academy having provided significant financial support each year to support our sliding scale tuition program. This year, the Samberg Family Foundation continued their support with a two year grant totaling \$50,000.

The Belvedere Cove Foundation is another consistent supporter of TSEA students. Each year, our students apply to the Belvedere Cove Foundation for scholarships to support their participation in the TSEA's programs. This year, the Belvedere Cove Foundation provided four \$1,000 scholarships to Girls Summer at Sea students Jamie Spiegel, Eleonora Bondareva, Melissa Torres and Tyeshia Holmes.

## THE ALUMNAE COMMITTEE IS FORMING — GET INVOLVED!



At long last, a dedicated group of alums from the semester and summer programs have committed their time and effort to the develop-

ment of an alumnae committee. The group has set three goals for the first year. First, they want to create more occasions for alums to get together and reconnect; second, they want to develop more sailing opportunities for alums; and third, they would like to support TSEA by organizing volunteer opportunities.

The committee is still in formation stages so if YOU are an alum, we hope you will get involved. We plan

to have monthly evening meetings and events as far ranging as an evening of ice skating to a five day reunion sailing voyage are on the table. Alumnae committee members will also be eligible to sail on the Women's Challenge as student teachers (yes, that could be construed as a bribe).

We plan to elect committee officers at our next meeting. Nettie has job descriptions (which include approximate time commitments) so contact her if you are interested in getting a copy and/or if you are interested in a officer position. Please join us at our next meeting!



**Alumnae Committee Meeting**  
**September 20, 2007, 7pm**  
**SF State, HSS Bldg, Rm 322**

## WOMEN SKIPPERS REGATTA OCTOBER 14, 2007

Calling all Women Skippers! On October 14, 2007, the Sausalito Yacht Club Auxiliary will host the Women's Skippers Regatta, a benefit for the Tall Ship Semester for Girls program. All yachts with a valid PHRF rating a woman at the helm throughout the race are eligible and encouraged to join the fun!

Since the fall of 2003, the Sausalito Yacht Club Auxiliary's Women Skippers Regatta has been a benefit for the Tall Ship Semester for Girls (TSSG) program. TSSG students have participated in the regatta,

sailing on a variety of boats as extra hands, or crewing TSEA's "auxiliary sail training vessel" VIP, a Farallon Clipper owned by Don Taylor and skippered in this race by Nettie Kelly. After a solid day on the bay with three races, the party begins at the Sausalito Yacht Club!

This year, for the first time, the schooner Seaward will be entered in the Women's Skippers Regatta and the crew will be the participants of the Women's Sailing Challenge! We look forward to celebrat-

ing TSEA with the regatta participants and the Women's Challenge on Sunday afternoon.

For more information and/or to register for the Women Skippers Regatta, visit the Sausalito Yacht Club's webpage at [www.syconline.org](http://www.syconline.org).



## GEARING UP FOR TSSG 2008

We are excited to resume the Tall Ship Semester for Girls in January 2008. The program will run from January 22<sup>nd</sup> to June 13<sup>th</sup> and offer a full semester of high school credit for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade girls. We are looking to expand our partnerships with new schools in the Bay Area.

Once again we will begin at SFSU for our first seven weeks of class. On March 7<sup>th</sup> we will fly to Miami where we will join the ship and crew of Ocean Classroom for a six week Caribbean voyage. When we return the students will continue to strengthen our partnership with the San Francisco Maritime National

Historical Park through internships and volunteer work.

Applications are due October 12<sup>th</sup> so please encourage adventurous young women to join us! As always, TSEA programs offer a sliding scale tuition program that provides tuition support for deserving students in need.



Applications can be downloaded from our website or contact our office and we will mail you a paper copy. In addition, the Parent Financial Statement that must be filled out to qualify for the sliding scale tuition program can be filled out online or a paper copy can be requested from the office.

## TSEA'S NEW SCUTTLEBUTT HAPPY HOUR SERIES

The "Scuttlebutt" on board a ship was a barrel that contained the drinking water for the crew on deck. Thus, the scuttlebutt is the nautical equivalent to the office water cooler, where all the best information is shared.

Our Scuttlebutt Happy Hours have proven to be a successful venue for supporters of TSEA to touch base with the organization and to intro-

duce their friends and colleagues to TSEA. In June, a small group gathered at Le Colonial and in August we lifted a glass to Girls Summer at Sea students at the Golden Gate Yacht Club. Mark your calendar and join us for the next Scuttlebutt!



### Scuttlebutt Happy Hour

Crossroads Cafe

699 Delancey St., San Francisco

September 27, 2007

6-8pm

Light appetizers will be provided. Street parking is available in the vicinity.

## WOMEN'S CHALLENGE 7 TAKES ON A NEW CHALLENGE!

On October 11, 2007, a group of women will depart on TSEA's seventh Women's Sailing Challenge. The Women's Challenge offers adult women a chance to experience a snapshot of our programs for girls.

The experience parallels that of our students. After registering for the Challenge, the women embark on a fundraising mission, raising funds to support scholarships for TSEA's girls programs. They join the vessel on a Thursday night at Pier 40 in San Francisco and quickly get to know each other and their new

home, *Seaward*.

For the next three days, the women will sail around San Francisco Bay and out along the coast. They learn how to sail an 85 foot schooner, accomplish unusual feats and build a solid team.

The seventh Women's Challenge will end in a unique challenge. The final day coincides with the Women Skippers Regatta (see article) hosted by the Sausalito Yacht Club Auxiliary and this new team of sailors will race in that regatta. Join the fun!

There are two spots left in the October Women's Challenge; the next Women's Challenge is scheduled for May 1-4, 2008 and it is filling fast! For more information and to register for the Women's Challenge, visit our website:

[www.tallshipacademy.org](http://www.tallshipacademy.org)



## ALUMS RECONNECT

On August 3, TSEA alums were invited to an alumnae BBQ and reunion and there was a great showing! Students from every TSSG program and recent graduates of the Girls Summer at Sea arrived to reconnect. The crowd included:

**TSSG 1999:** Jeanette Guiral, Angela Massoni and Michelle Sato

**TSSG 2000:** Rockit Pettijohn and Johanna Perez

**TSSG 2002:** Emmy Bagshaw-

Chico, Diana Tobin

**TSSG 2004:** Sarah DeNicola, Katie Fleming, Helen Phay and Annie Soundedara

**TSSG 2005:** Erin Carter, Elicha Green, Janet Leung, Jessica Ramos, Katie Shea & Wren Robb

**TSSG 2006:** Ife Cook, Mesha Drew, Jane Marque and Angel Thackeray

**GSS 2007:** Lulu Bernal, Eleon-

ora Bondareva, Brittany Broderick, Carmen Perez and Jamie Spiegel

It was a busy evening for all! And I apologize if I missed anyone in that list!

In addition to the alums, Caitlin Schwarzman, founder of the Tall Ship Semester for Girls, (and her family), Christine Whitcraft, Oceanography instructor (and husband Jon) and party host Nettie Kelly all enjoyed catching up with the alums.

## TSEA HOUSING REQUEST

The participants of our Women's Challenges come from all over the country. Through their fundraising efforts and their enthusiastic story telling, they are spreading the word about TSEA.

Due to their work, we have students from other parts of the country interested in participating in our summer and semester program. Mimi Lundgren (WC6) introduced the

Chicago Yacht Club Foundation to our programs and they are now interested in sending a girl from the Chicago area to join the Girls Summer at Sea 2008. Deeva Dailey (WC8) lives in Colorado and has set her fundraising goal to provide a full scholarship for a Denver area student to participate in the Semester for Girls.

TSEA is looking for local families

interested in housing a student participating in Girls Summer at Sea (about 3 weeks in July) and/or Tall Ship Semester for Girls (from mid-Jan to early March and again in May to mid-June). Please contact Nettie Kelly, Executive Director, if you would be willing to house a student and/or if you would like additional information. Thank you for your consideration!

## WORDS FROM AN ALUM

By Lulu Bernal, Girls Summer at Sea 2007

As soon as Nettie pulled out the Ziploc bag full of cell phones, I could see the smile and sparkle in every girl's eye. I could feel the excitement their bodies experienced as they knew they'd soon be able to speak to their loved ones.

We had arrived at our first stop, Catalina Island. It had been almost a week since we had left the city, about seven days since we had last spoken to our families. Everyone was anxious to call and let their loved ones know that they were safe and that they missed them a whole bunch. I, on the other hand, was excited as well, yet felt indifferent to calling home. As I held the pink Razor phone in my hand, my fingers didn't feel the immediate need to start dialing. I waited a couple of minutes before I dialed. First I had to pull myself together and put my emotions in order. Stepping on land for the first time after being in a boat for seven straight days just blows your mind. You're totally off balance and your world won't stop spinning. It's not a very pleasant feeling. As I looked around me and saw tears streaming down the eyes of my soon to be sisters, I thought to myself, why aren't I feeling this way, why am I not desperate to call home? I thought about it for a second but couldn't figure it out.

As the days went by and we began experiencing more and more things



Melissa Torres, Brittany Broderick and author Lulu Bernal ready for watch.

on the boat, everything in my mind began to settle. I realized that I loved the boat world too much to step out of it for even a second. As I embarked on this trip, I had made a commitment that this would be my life--my world--for the next nineteen days. Talking on the phone automatically pulls you back into your land life which is what I didn't want. Doing so, can bring

one comfort yet it can also bring worries. I was perfectly fine with the comfort that the boat brought me and the love that my sisters provided for me. There's something about sailing that drives you crazy but in a good way. It plants a fire in your heart and brings peace to your mind. It takes you to the place you've always wanted to be. It sets you free! I had personally never been in such a peaceful environment. Along those lines I knew that not talking to my mom or dad would make me more independent than I already was.

After Tall Ships I would have to embark on another adventure, a little something called college. Inde-

pendence is what I needed the most and doing this trip without my family was giving that to me. Learning how to build good relationships with complete strangers would be just as important as learning how to be independent. Learning how to communicate would be just as crucial. I knew that the skills I'd learn on the boat would come in handy later on in life.

It's been a week since I've gotten back and my new found skills have already been put to use. I've been able to better handle problems that go on at home since I have a better understanding of how I come off to people, including my parents, and how I project things that I say. I take responsibility for my mistakes instead of always blaming someone else. I now feel confident stepping foot for the first time in my dorm and approaching my roommate with a warm hello just as I did with these girls when I first walked into the classroom door at SF State. I stepped onto the boat with eleven strangers and got off with eleven sisters. If I was able to do this in a matter of nineteen days, I will for sure be able to make a sister out of my roommate, let's hope!

Overall Tall Ships has changed my life but only for the better. Not only did it teach me about myself and others but it made me a stronger woman. I am extremely happy that I took on this challenge. It was meant to be.

Learn to Sail!  
**Women's Sailing Chal-  
lenge**

A sailing adventure in and beyond  
San Francisco Bay

**12 Women**

**3 Days**

**1 Amazing Adventure**

No sailing experience necessary.

October 11-14, 2007

May 1-4, 2008



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**SAN FRANCISCO  
STATE UNIVERSITY**

The Tall Ship Education Academy is a special project of the Recreation and Leisure Studies Department at San Francisco State University. The Academy is a non profit 501(c)(3) organization. It is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

## CATCH THE VOLUNTEER WAVE!

What's your interest? What's your expertise? In this time of growth and development for TSEA, we are in need of support of all kinds. We post specific volunteer positions on VolunteerMatch.com Here are a few things we are working on:

- **Board Development:** TSEA seeks individuals to sit on the board of directors who will take an active role in the organization's fiscal, legal and ethical matters. The two major initiatives for the Board of Directors in the current and next fiscal year are a) To build a sustainable funding engine that that supports our organizational needs and b) To increase the visibility of the organization in the Bay Area community by marketing and public relations work, fundraising events and increased enrollment.
- **Marketing and Public Relations:** we have convened a marketing committee that plans to expand TSEA's reach in print media, video media and the web. Lots of projects have been put on the drawing board and we need help making them all happen!
- **Events:** we will have a series of events in the next year — big and small. If you are interested in event planning, join our committee and give these events your signature!
- **Grant Writing:** we are busy finding funding to support our programs. If you have expertise in grant writing, editing or proofing, we'd love to have your eyes on our submissions.
- **Alumnae Committee:** if you are an alum, please consider joining the alum committee and get your old crew together and involved.
- And we'll need help stuffing envelopes and distributing flyers.



Thanks! We hope you'll get involved!

