



# Marina del Rey Historical Society



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## *The Library's Nautical Collection Comes of Age*

by David Maury

### Part 1

It was July, 1975, and one month before the first boat show in the new community of Marina del Rey. Groundbreaking was about to commence on a new Los Angeles County library branch at 4533 Admiralty Way. Marina del Rey's demographics included numerous boaters but few children. Smaller than most county libraries, the new harborside branch would offer a sizable collection of nautical books and materials serving recreational boaters. At its opening on April 4, 1976, librarian Carol Moss described Marina del Rey Library as "the first specialty library in the county system, having a marine collection focus in addition to a broad public interest collection."

In the decades since that 1976 opening, the specialty nautical collection would grow to more than 5,000 book titles, with additional periodicals, audio cassettes, audio CDs, videos, DVDs, and charts. Topics include boating, cruising, engine service manuals, engineering, fiction, first aid at sea, fishing, history, inland waterways, maintenance, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, nautical dictionaries, nautical encyclopedias, navigation, oceanography, sailing, sail racing, and charts of Southern California waters. Everything maritime, from Noah to NOAA.

To house the collection, the community would mobilize and expand the library



Photos, Barbara Slavin

Clockwise: MdR Library Staff, (L-R, Cynthia Vega, Library Paige; David Henry (standing), Library Paige; Harriet Woo (standing), Library Asst.; Chanta Johnson, Library Aide; Chuck Johnson, Reference Librarian; Monica Larios, Library Aide; Winona Phillabaum, Community Library Manager); a view from The Sail Window in the Nautical Wing; and Winona Phillabaum, Manager, at the Information Desk.

building's size. The library itself would be rechristened, and new names would emerge for its new wings. The library's expansion is the result of vision, countless volunteer hours, the support of local government leadership. It required many hundreds of thousands of dollars, public and private, donated by generous donors both large and small. And it was made possible by the patient but persistent efforts of a community

leadership organization called the Marina Foundation.

In the next part of this series, we'll recount the story of the Marina Foundation and how it brought into being the William R. Pagen Nautical Wing, the Greg and Mimi Wenger Community Room, the Lloyd Taber-Marina del Rey Library Nautical Collection, all part of today's Lloyd Taber-Marina del Rey Library. ⚓





New 23-foot wide community mural, *North Marina del Rey*, on display at Wells Fargo Bank, 13400 Washington Boulevard., Marina del Rey.

## New MdRHS Directors



**Rikki Barker** ~ Rikki formerly worked for the *Los Angeles Times* direct mail division as sales manager. She joined *The Argonaut* in 2001 and in 2010 became general manager of *The Argonaut* until March 2013. Member for the LAX Coastal Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Executive Committee and Public Policy committee. Currently retired and editing Del Rey Yacht Club's publication, *The Signal*. She's married to Earnie



**Pat Reynolds** ~ Patrick Reynolds, a photographer/writer, founded and has been the Editor/Publisher of *The Mariner* magazine for the past 10 years, the local MdR boating publication/periodical. He's also a regular columnist for the *Argonaut*. Prior to starting the magazine, Reynolds was in the sports photography business as a proprietor, with *Black Lab Photography*, and as a manager/photographer for *Best Sports Photo* in Los Angeles. Reynolds' photos and articles appeared in



**Chris Gillum** ~ Chris is a special projects manager for Mare Co. Sails in Marina del Rey. Originally from Santa Barbara, Chris was employed at Hughes Aircraft. He has raced on many large, prominent racing yachts globally and locally. Chris has been in yacht management and maintenance

Barker and living on their boat in the Marina.

"I am in the process of developing a custom jewelry line website and sell at fairs, specialty shops and individuals."

"Having worked with Dave Johnson and lived in the Marina since the early '70s, working with the Marina del Rey Historical Society to preserve its history will be rewarding to Dave's memory and to the community." ❧

national/international publications including *Sailing World* and *Multihulls Magazine*.

In recent years, Reynolds broadened his interests into the world of documentary film. In 2010 he directed/edited a behind the scenes documentary for the motion picture *Terri*, (starring John C. Reilly) for 20th Century Fox Home Entertainment and in 2013 created a short entitled *Marina del Rey - A History*. ❧

for more than 20 years and brings vast sailing expertise to Marina del Rey.

Chris is sharing his extensive internet knowledge with the Marina del Rey Historical Society by helping them to expand their historical database and website. ❧

## Historical Community Mural

by Willie Hjorth

Wells Fargo Bank recently launched a project to design historic printed murals for its local bank branches. Imagery was requested that related to the early development of communities in the main categories of historical landmarks, street scenes, transport, people of the community, and significant industries and documents.

Marina del Rey Historical Society provided twenty images to the home office of Wells Fargo covering the categories of early Marina del Rey and its environs. The above mural **North Marina del Rey** is the result of their selection and is anchored to the south wall of the Wells Fargo Bank, 13400 Washington Boulevard (at the



North Marina del Rey "Mural Key"

corner of Glencoe Avenue and Washington Boulevard (across from Costco).

The mural is five feet high by twenty-three feet long. The "Mural Key" is posted at the bank referencing all the scenes and crediting your Marina del Rey Historical Society for source material.

The Historical Society is very appreciative of Wells Fargo's acknowledgment of local communities pictorial histories. The mural brings vision to the past and personifies the goal of the MdRHS motto, "If we do not collect, preserve and digitize the history of Marina del Rey, much will be lost." ❧





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Stamp

*"If we do not collect, preserve, and digitize  
the history of Marina del Rey,  
much will be lost."*



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Photos: Greg Wenger Photography

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## ***"Pelican Rock" Discovered Again***

It happened a little over three decades ago, in the late winter of 1983, when February's "wicked winter waves" pounded Santa Monica Bay beaches and Marina del Rey's detached breakwater, very near the north entrance.

The force of a gigantic wave lifted a huge rock, 10 to 12 feet across and weighing 8 to 13 tons, onto the top of the north entrance breakwater--resting the rock on its approximately three-foot edge--where it remains today.

The "monument" has gained a sailors'

moniker: *Pelican Rock*. Over the years, the perching pelicans have "decorated" the huge up-tilted rock with numerous deposits, leaving white streaks on both the front and back sides of the "now" monument to those winter waves.

**Bob Krauch** is a long-time Playa del Rey resident, historian and retired newspaper correspondent. He recently had two 17 year old visitors from Norden, a town in northern Germany, who learned the history of the huge, three decades old rock, *Pelican Rock*, on the Marina's breakwater. 🦅



Torben Tuinmann & Helke Schulzek, visitors from Germany