



Marina del Rey Historical Society



Volume 4, Issue 1 ~ January, February, March, April 2015

Marina del Rey Turned 50!



Photo Christine Rohde

Smoke is seen rising from cannons firing from the tall ship *Irving Johnson* (left) upon the 83-foot long topsail schooner *Amazing Grace* (right), bedecked with flags and under full sail, in a mock battle.

by Willie Hjorth

A gala weekend-long celebration took place in Marina del Rey April 10, 11, 12, 2015 to commemorate its 50th birthday!

Participating in the festivities were four tall ships, the 113-foot long brigantine *Irving Johnson*, the twin tall ship to the *Exy Johnson* that visited Marina del Rey for the 50th Birthday Bash celebration.

The tall ships are part of the Los Angeles Maritime Institute (LAMI) TopSail Youth Program, a non-profit group created as a character building organization to help at risk youth prepare for life through the discipline and teamwork required to safely handle a tall ship. *Amazing Grace* (a third tall ship) is berthed in San Diego and serves as

the platform for the LAMI leadership training program and is available for private charters and memorials at sea. During the weekend event, this traditional American sailing craft used as ships of the U. S. Navy in the 19th century displayed remarkable speed when reaching up and down the Marina

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L.A. County Supervisor Don Knabe



Three Dog Night



Del Rey Yacht Club Boat Parade



R&B musicians performing at Fisherman's Village



Rikki Barker,
Enthusiastic Tour Guide
(PA System Donated by
Maritime Communications)



Vendors and Visitors, Burton Chace Park

MdR Turned 50!

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del Rey main channel under full sail." The fourth tall ship visiting was *Bill of Rights*, a 95-foot topsail schooner built as a replica of an early 1800s clipper-bowed privateer.

Rides aboard the four tall ships were the most popular activity of the weather perfect weekend during Marina del Rey's water festival and land side MarinaFest in Burton Chace Park.

The Marina was officially dedicated on April 10, 1965 and re-commemorated in a ceremony on Friday, April 10, 2015, in Burton Chace Park. The county event was hosted by Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe who cut a very elaborately decorated huge cake, enough for several hundred people in attendance!

The event was followed by a free live concert by Three Dog Night, a popular 1960s band, and culminated

in a spectacular fireworks display, illuminating the entire shimmering Marina waterway.

As a result of widespread effective public relations announcements by the Marina del Rey Visitors and Convention Bureau, thousands of people were treated to on-board tall ship tours, tall ship mock battles, an in-the-water boat show, a classic car concourse, and dozens of vendor booths at Burton Chace Park with children's attractions as well.

Del Rey Yacht Club presented a boat parade led by the tall ships and a radio broadcast historical narration.

The Marina del Rey Historical Society provided historic harbor tours in conjunction with Hornblower Yachts, and sponsored the community center history

presentation by Robert Krauch, retired journalist/author/historian.

Demonstrations by the Outrigger Canoe Club and the U. S. Coast Guard Air-Sea Helicopter Rescue Unit added to the pulsing spectator excitement as well as reminiscence of classic vintage cars, and 1960s pop music played by a DJ.

In addition to the festivities at Burton Chace Park, a water-taxi service transported attendees to and from Fisherman's Village to listen and dance to music performed by R&B groups, Friends and Floyd and the Fly Boys.

There was something for everyone who attended. A Good Time Was Had By ALL!

Here's to the next 50!! 🍷



U.S. Coast Guard Helicopter Rescue



Twin Tall Ships, Irving and Exy Johnson

Photo Adam Singer



Robert Krauch

by David Maury

As part of the Marina del Rey 50th celebration weekend, Marina del Rey Historical Society presented a live talk with local historian Robert Krauch. Today a retired journalist, and Playa del Rey resident, Krauch is the author of the 1964 Westways Magazine article "Ducks, Dredges and Developers," recounting the various failed attempts to create a harbor in the swampy area north of Playa del Rey, prior to Marina del Rey's construction.

For those that missed the presentation, a limited number of copies of the 1964 article are available upon request from the Marina del Rey Historical Society. The article is also on display at Tanner's Coffee, 200 Culver Boulevard, in Playa del Rey. ☺



Photo Mike Yokotake

50's Chevrolet Corvette



Photo Rick Olson

Classic Woodie



Photo Mike Yokotake

Exy Johnson Brigantine



Photo Mike Yokotake

50's Ford T-Bird



Photo Mike Yokotake

MdR Historical Society Tour Boat

To see a video of the Del Rey Yacht Club Boat Parade, shot by Adam Singer, go to the site below. The video was submitted to the MdR Historical Society courtesy of Joshua Merel, DRYC Vice Commodore, and Lynne Silverstein, DRYC Office Manager.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N0boh0azO58>





Marina del Rey Historical Society
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Visit us...

MdR Historical Society Gallery
Fisherman's Village
13737 Fiji Way, Ste. C-3 ~ Marina del Rey



Sailing in Marina del Rey

Photos: Greg Wenger Photography

The Marina del Rey Historical Society would like to thank the following volunteer tour guides for their very successful guided history tours during the MdR 50th Birthday Bash!



- ~ Sandy Abouaf
- ~ Rikki Barker
- ~ Christine Clark
- ~ George Etter
- ~ Patricia Etter
- ~ Kellie Fennessy
- ~ Pat Garrett
- ~ Suzy Haber
- ~ Jeannette Hjorth
- ~ Maureen Hunt
- ~ Rich Namerow
- ~ Charleen Perron
- ~ Mike Priest
- ~ Ann Sacks
- ~ Susanne Skaggs
- ~ Barbara Slavin
- ~ Sharon Stewart
- ~ Carol Watkins
- ~ William Watkins

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

Marina del Rey Historical Society Volunteer Staff

- | | |
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Photo Mike Yokotazz



Photo Mike Yokotake