



Happy new year!
No Y2K worries please!

It's the 25th day of Elul in the year 5760
(Hebrew calendar)

Ahoy! A new year is beginning so let's get down to business!

#1 Pay your dues now for the year 2000 - It will cost you less!

We are in a good financial position with a healthy bank balance. So, we need less money! The new structure is:

US members	\$10.
Canadian members	\$17. in US \$
Foreign members	\$22. in US \$

Unless you are a recent joiner your membership expires when the clock strikes 12.

#2 Let's get back to basics. Our prime purpose has always been to help each other through the exchange of information between members. It's nice to hear what's been going on in "Vega land" but we haven't been swapping the technical data like we could be. We need more data about your improvements, problems and concerns. *It can't get printed if you don't send it.*

Please, Please. Please give us your new address when you move!

Last month was a banner month for undeliverable mail - five (5) members did not get their newsletter.



DUES ARE PAYABLE RIGHT NOW!



Vega Association of Great Britain

Mr. S. Rosen
10615 Whitman Circle
Orlando
Fl. 32821
U.S.A.

76 Burdon Lane
Cheam,
Surrey,
SW2 7BZ

14 September 1999

Dear Sid,

First of all, I would like to thank you and all the members of A.V.A. for contributing so generously to Mike Freeman's Round Britain retirement cruise to raise funds for the 175th. anniversary of the Royal National Lifeboat Institute. I have just returned from helping a new VAGB member bring his Vega from Copenhagen to Medway. On my arrival at home last week, I found a letter from Mike Freeman and an account of his voyage. I am enclosing a copy for you, which might make a few installments of your wonderful newsletter (when letters are in short supply!)

Last year at the I.F.R.'98 on the Medway it was very nice to meet Ross and Pat Dring and their son Reed from U.S.A. They keep their boat "Critters" on Lake Michigan, - a venue less like the Medway cannot be imagined! They were, like all the European Vega owners fascinated by the huge mud banks that appeared every twelve hours out of the very places that they had been sailing over a few hours earlier. I hope to meet them again at next years I.F.R. 2000 in Holland.

I do not know when I will be near your neck of the woods Sid, but when I am I will phone you to say "hello", my son still works in New York so you never know.

Meanwhile I will say goodbye, my love to you and Florence, and thank you again for your kind support for Mike Freeman.



Love,
Diana

Tis the
season

for the
holly

so this issue
is devoted

to being
jolly

let's have
some fun

and lots of
good cheer

forget
your woes

HAPPY
NEW YEAR!

Burma
Shave!

Old "geezers" will remember the Burma Shave
signs along the highways: 1920 -1930's



Fuel Tank Cleaning (without removal)

The less fuel in the tank when the job is carried out the better. Remove all the small bolts around the inspection cover on the top of the fuel tank, try not to disturb the orientation of the top and bottom collar rings as they are easier to re-assemble at the end of the cleaning process. Lift the inspection cover and move it to one side so there is just enough room to insert a garden hose. This will run from the bottom of the tank to either a diesel container below the Vega (siphon process) or to the sea-water pump (which will be used to pump fuel rather than sea-water). Empty the tank of all clean fuel, check the state of the fuel as you near the bottom of the tank. Once empty don "the marigolds" and wipe out the tank with clean sponges. Remove all the jelly like substance and clean thoroughly. Remember - "The cleaner the fuel, the fewer problems"

Brian Blakeney - Vega "Notyarc"

A note from Pam & Iver Theilman

7 Hoffman St.
Petawawa, ON
K8H 2J4
Canada

Dear Sid,

Pam and I have continued to enjoy your efforts with the club newsletters. "Tara" is continuing to give us much pleasure and the more we sail her the more we appreciate her sailing qualities and practicality. While we only have a 50 mile stretch of the Ottawa River to sail on, it is the most picturesque stretch of the whole Ottawa River, in our opinion : sandy beaches, cliffs, and a number of bays to duck into. I had a couple of extra pictures of the area - so I have enclosed them for your viewing.

We have not gotten out on the boat as much as we would have liked due to house renovations and the wedding of our oldest daughter who is now heading back to Bahrain via Venice. We plan to sail a bit more in September as the boating season ends about the middle of October due to the marina preparations that have to be made for the winter freeze up.

Thank you for your efforts.

All the best

Pam & Iver
"Tara", #2490

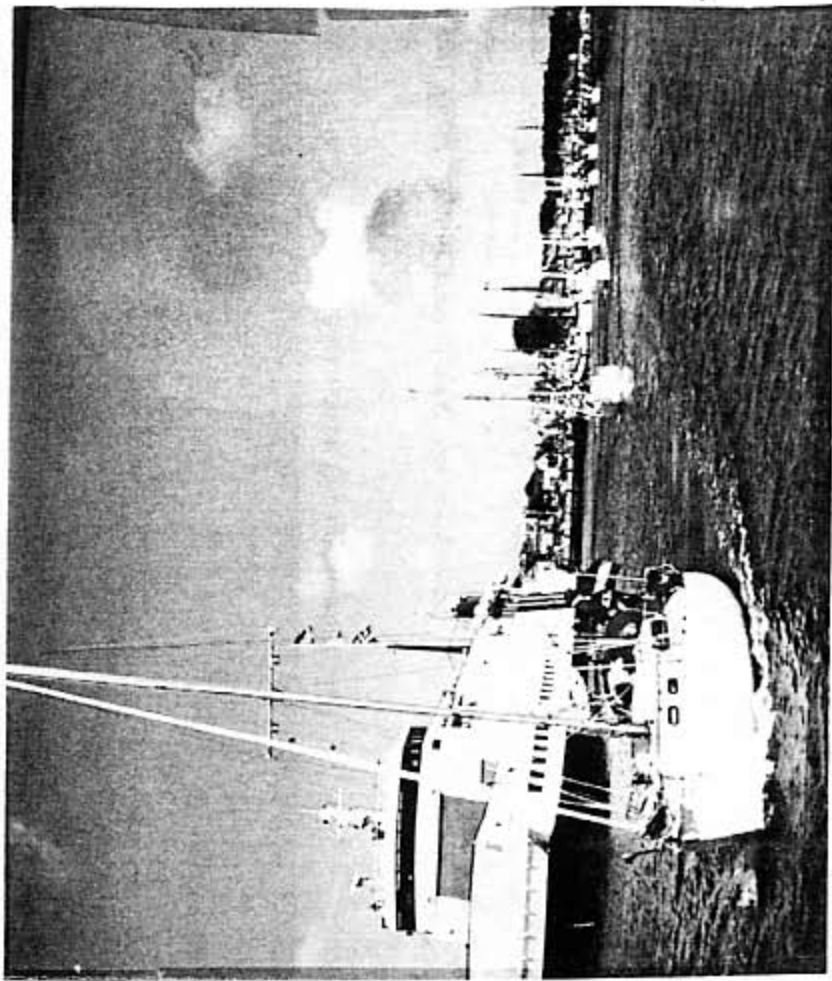
What is a boat?

A boat is a hole in the water lined with fiberglass or wood into which you pour a lot of money.

What is sailing?

Sailing is like standing under a cold shower with your clothes on while tearing up \$100 bills.

Here come the Vegas!



From: Vega Bulletin #84, Kring Van Vega Zeilers, Netherlands - 15 Nov '99

Suggested reading!

GOOD OLD BOAT *Magazine*

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Maple Grove, MN 55311-2655

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www.goodoldboat.com

karen@goodoldboat.com

KAREN LARSON, EDITOR

**ON THE TWELFTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS
MY TRUE LOVE GAVE TO ME...**



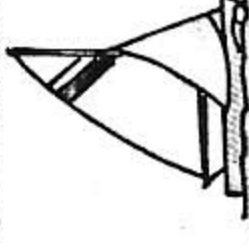
12 BOUYS
BOBBING



11 TILLERS
TURNING



10 ANCHORS
DROPPING



9 SCHOONERS
TACKLING



8 STORM
FLAGS
FLAPPING



7 CREWMEN
HIKING



6 SKIPPERS
SHOUTING



5 GOLDEN
CLEATS



4 SPINNAKERS



3 WINCHES



2 TURTLED BOATS...



AND A SEAGULL ON A
DINGHY!

just a little mirth:

A Red-Neck Love Poem

by Skeeter (Sweet Talker) McClusk.

Collards is green,
my dog's name is Blue
and I'm so lucky
to have a sweet thang like you.

Your hair is like corn silk
a-flapping in the breeze.
Softer than ole' Blue's
and without any fleas.

You move like the bass,
which thrill me in May.
You ain't got no scales,
but I luv you anyway.

You have some'a yore teeth,
for which I am proud;
I hold my head high
when we're in a crowd.

On special occasions,
when you shave under yor arms,
well, I'm in hawg heaven,
and awed by your charms.

Still them fellers at work,
they all want to know,
what I did to deserve
such a purdy, young doe.

Like a good roll of duct tape
yo're there fer your man,
to patch up life's troubles
and fix what you can.

Yo're as cute as a junebug
a buzzin' overhead.
You ain't mean like those far ants
I found in my bed.



Cut from the best cloth
like a plaid flanned shirt,
you spark up my life
more than a fresh load of dirt.

Yore complexion, it's perfection,
like the best vinyl sidin',
despite all the years,
yore age it keeps hidin'

Me 'n' you's like a Moon Pie
with an RC cold drank,
we go together,
like a skunk goes with stank.

Some men git roses
on that special day,
from the couller at Kroger,
"That's impressive," I say.

Some men buy fine diamonds
from a flea marker booth.
"Diamonds are forever,"
they explain, suave and couth.

But for this man, honey
these won't do.
Cause yor'e too special
you sweet thang you.

I got you a gift
without taste nor odor,
more useful than diamonds...
IT'S A NEW TROLL'N MOTOR!

Signs Around The World

By Barbara B. Bergstrom

This has absolutely nothing to do with Vegas or sailing. It is just to put a smirk on your face & help "make your day"! Have a good one!



In a Copenhagen airline ticket office:

We take your bags and send them in all directions.

On the door of a Moscow hotel room:

If this is your first visit to the USSR, you are welcome to it.

In a Norwegian cocktail lounge:

Ladies are requested not to have children in the bar.

At a Budapest zoo:

Please do not feed the animals. If you have any suitable food, give it to the guard on duty.

In the office of a Roman doctor:

Specialist in Women and other diseases.

In an Acapulco hotel:

The manager has personally passed all the water served here.

In an advertisement by a Hong Kong dentist:

Teeth extracted by the latest Methodists.

In a Bucharest hotel lobby:

The lift is being fixed for the next day. During that time we regret that you will be unbearable.

In a hotel in Athens:

Visitors are expected to complain at the office between the hours 9 and 11 a.m. daily.

In a Yugoslavian hotel:

The flattening of underwear with pleasure is the job of the chambermaid. To get it done, turn her on.

In a Japanese hotel:

You are invited to take advantage of the chambermaid

In the lobby of a Moscow hotel across from a Russian Orthodox monastery:

You are welcome to visit the cemetery where famous Russian and Soviet composers, artists, and writers are buried daily except Thursday.

In an Austrian hotel catering to skiers:

Not to perambulate the corridors in the hours of repose in the boots of ascension.

On the menu of a Swiss restaurant:

Our wines leave you nothing to hope for.

On the menu of a Polish hotel:

Salad a firm's own make; limp red beet soup with cheesy dumplings in the form of a finger, roasted duck let loose, beef rashers beaten up in the country people's fashion.

In a Hong Kong supermarket:

For your convenience, we recommend courteous and efficient self-service.

In a Zurich hotel:

Because of the impropriety of entertaining guests of the opposite sex in the bedroom, it is suggested that the lobby be used for this purpose.

On the box of a clockwork toy made in Hong Kong:

Guaranteed to work throughout its useful life.

Detour sign in Kyushi, Japan:

Stop: Drive sideways.

In a Swiss mountain Inn:

Special today - no ice cream.

In a Bangkok temple:

It is forbidden to enter women even a foreigner if dressed as a man.

In a Bangkok dry cleaner's:

Drop your trousers here for best results.

In a Rome laundry:

Ladies, leave your clothes here and spend the afternoon having a good time.

In a Tokyo shop:

Our nylons cost more than common, but you will find they are best in the long run.

The following letter is from Danish Vega skippers Ruth & Jorn Cardura

Partner Albin Vega No. 2186 of Ishoej, Denmark
Year One - the 59th day as a long distance-sailor
638,0 sailing miles behind us and 110 ltr. diesel bought



The 25th July, 1999: Sunday - Buitenhafen in the city of Kampen,
at the canal Gelderse, Netherlands.

BULLETIN NO 6 - Dear family, friends and sailors!

If Germany is a long green boulevard - then Holland is a farm, cut up in tiny bits like a pizza by the innumerable canals - and we could for the rest of our lifetime get around and still find new wonders.

ROUTE AND ARRIVALS: In our last bulletin, we finished at the most western place of this year's traveling in the city of Nieuwegein (east of Rotterdam) and only 35 sm to South of Amsterdam. When going east again the current gave us an average speed of 3,5 knots (6,5 kilometers), although we increased the RPM by 12,5%. Still we had a lot of power in our Yanmar 18hp - nice to know if we one day should get into REAL STRONG CURRENT.

We turned left at the end of Nider Rijn and since then we have enjoyed the current going with us on the Gelderse IJssel. And the sun and the temperatures and the places we have seen (with often less than two hours traveling) are just marvelous. And remember, this is not holydays, it is a lifestyle - believe me. There are silent, thoughtful days as well as joyful days - and if you find the rhythm, the capacity of your appetites, then you can go on for ever and ever.

THERE ARE DAYS OF APPETITE AND OPEN EYES. we have rushed around, gobbling in churches, museums, street chasing, eating the best whenever suitable, and most of all rumouring around, falling into theater festivals, a church chimes concert, a flower market and formidable streets with remnants or fully restores houses from 14-1500 a.c.

And there are days when we sit, just SIT around doing nothing. It is as if your soul digests the impressions- which can overwhelm you. Personally I am fascinated of the variation of horses, cows, geese, sheep and wild birds by which we are being constantly surrounded. The smaller places we choose to get into are so completely silent and beautiful that we always depart that "we did miss something; we must come back next year". And there we come to the decision:

OUR FOUR YEAR PLAN SHALL NOT INCLUDE GREAT BRITAIN! The reason why? We found that in a million years we would not see enough of the North and middle European countries. The cards and the handbooks already bought and paid for give us a staggering amount of tours and directions within the continent. So - we will be too busy with the canals and therefore abandon the overseas!

Today you can find us (at least for a couple of days) in Kampen, which is the most Northern city we will visit. East of the Gelderse IJssel you shall imagine, that we in



a crisscross of the cities Zwolle - Zwartsluis - Meppel - Assen- Gronningen and by traveling in a complicated pattern of nice, narrow, alluring and fascinating canals with lots of small locks (sluices) shall cross the border between Holland and Germany and end up leaving the Haren-Rutenbrock Kanaal again. We intend to go to Lubeck the same way we started 59 days ago, but this time it shall be with pleasure rides - small distances' lots of happy hours/days in the places we dropped or rushed through in our outgoing. frenzy days.

After 59 days out here in the "reality", your humble travelers still do not belong to the flock of the "experienced", but as one new-beginner to another we can tell:

MONEY/MONEY/ AND MONEY? WHAT ABOUT THE ECONOMY? I cannot give the answer on behalf of the younger couples, who get a year of duty and spend their time going into the Mediterranean, neither can I advise anybody about favorite routes, suitable distances or even the ultimate investment in equipment and boat/motor. But of the day-to-day expenditure, the ordinary costs and the minimum capital at the beginning of your three month trip I dare to whisper of my experiences.

1. Books & canal cards
2. Harbour payments including electricity & excluding bathshowers
3. Diesel and gas for the pantry
4. Meals excluding alcoholic drinks/nonalcoholic drinks/restaurants
5. Bus, a few restaurants, museums, drinks, ice cream, sweets
6. Repair, surprises, Correspondence, photos.

THE MOTOR? Here is the final answer: never trust anybody but your favorite shipyard or engine workshop! If your engine was never repaired: pay for a thorough "examination" - do as much as possible when it comes to renewal, spare parts and "just-in-case" repair. In the Danish Vega Club you can get a cheque list for the engine preparations. Come to the winter meetings.

The mast is on board and with you the whole bloody 44s sM if you insist on sailing in competition at Hoorn, IJsselmeer. Make up your mind, what it is worth, and build your necessary equipment accordingly. We have decided to let the mast stay home, because we are going in the canals according to our four-years-plan, and that means traveling and wintering without a mast in Southern European countries after the Vega International Friendship Regatta.

WE SEND OUR KINDEST REGARDS and love to you all: May you be happy in the same extent that we are! Our next bulletin follows soon -

DO NOT FORGET: COME TO THE VEGA REGATTA IN HOORN-IJSSELMEER - You can do it!

Yours

JORN & RUTH CARDURA



A note from Pam & Iver Theilman

7 Hoffman St.
Petawawa, ON
K8H 2J4
Canada

Dear Sid,

Pam and I have continued to enjoy your efforts with the club newsletters. "Tara" is continuing to give us much pleasure and the more we sail her the more we appreciate her sailing qualities and practicality. While we only have a 50 mile stretch of the Ottawa River to sail on, it is the most picturesque stretch of the whole Ottawa River, in our opinion : sandy beaches, cliffs, and a number of bays to duck into. I had a couple of extra pictures of the area - so I have enclosed them for your viewing.

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Thank you for your efforts.

All the best

Pam & Iver
"Tara", #2490



MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU!

Anchored at Seal Bay

In the morning I picked mussels off the rocks at low tide and let them hang from the side of the boat in the net, to rinse themselves clean. I threw a few cans of beer in the net to keep the mussels company and to cool off for the afternoon.

For the first time the sun was hot enough to warm the sunshower, filled with salt water, to 110°. Heating fresh water on the stove, I sat down in the cockpit and washed thoroughly in the salt water, using the hot fresh water for rinsing. It was excellent, almost as good as a hot shower at home. Almost.

I started reading *Snow Falling on Cedars*, in the cabin out of the sun. Definitely not a page turner but after the cardboard characters and predictable pacing of *Executive Orders* it was a nice change. I wrote a few letters then rowed over to a rocky cove shaded from the afternoon sun for more reading. A delightful, relaxed day.

Just before sunset, I ended the day with a cold beer and mussels marinara cooked fresh over a bed of linguini al dente. Days like this are why people cruise the quiet waters.

From our website: <http://www.targetsoft.com/vega>

"A month singlehanded in Maine" by Dave Pomerantz

(Dave's photographs are fantastic)

Poking fun at myself

I look in the mirror and what do I see?
a real old "geezer" looking back at me!
Everything I do - so does he
why is he imitating me?

What's left of his hair is very thin
and he has a big bag hanging down under his chin.
he walks so slow - with a funny gait
He has to start early so he won't be late.

It's hard to remember from 5 minutes ago
But go back 50 years & he's in the know!
Talk about the army and he's ready to enlist
Everyone wishes he'd cease and desist.

He keeps talking about sailing
on that little Vega that he had
He was always at at ease
except when the weather was bad.

Up the bay, down the bay
into the creeks he would go
If there was a raft-up
he was always sure to know!

He lives with his memories
which he can never forget
But the keys to his car
he hasn't found them yet.

Does he belong in the family?
I'd like to know - **could he be me?**

Sid

Parts for sale!

Sept 20, '99

Dear Sid,

I have some Vega Items for sale if you deem them a legitimate bit for our newsletter:

1. A spinnaker in near perfect condition.
2. A #1 jib in serviceable shape some-what stained and worn).
3. An MD6A inboard engine with all attendant parts: shaft, variable pitch prop, etc.

All items will be sold cheap. Details and prices can be learned by writing or calling me:

Ed Clement
19690 Clement Lane
Rogers, AR 72756
Tel: 501-925-1603

(I sure enjoy the newsletter)

Sincerely,



Ed Clement
"Puffin" #1356



James Villa
82 Schermerhorn St. - #4B
Brooklyn, N. Y. 11201

January 4, 2000

Dear Sid,

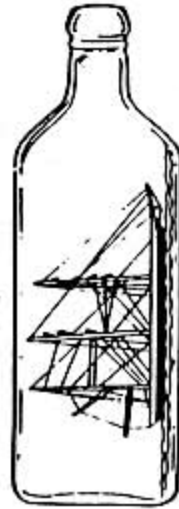
Enclosed is my check for the year 2000. Thank you for all your effort. I don't have much to report. Several years ago I took out the entire interior of Dodi II down to the bare hull and replaced the liner with 1/2 inch thick fiberglass matting and new bright white naugahyde. Another year I totally rewired the boat and installed 12 switch electrical panel. Last year I rewired the mast for a new wind machine as well as well as lights.

I turned 75 this year but I still race my boat. I won the trophy for the most consistent finisher - I finished last in every race! One time, however, I almost lost my position! I was able to recover by doing an intentional 360 and getting my spinnaker fouled. We here on Lake Michigan don't have the exciting sailing that those do in other parts of the . Sometimes I get waves 2 to 3 feet high.

Currently I am working part time at a West Marine store here in Michigan City. With my reputation as a high performance sailor, sometimes someone will ask me a question.

Please keep up the good work!

Dick Brauer
Lodi II



December 12, 1999

Mr. Sidney A. Rosen
10615 Whitman Circle
Orlando, Florida 32821

Dear Sid,

Thanks for the e-mail and enthusiastic welcome to your fleet. We looked for a Vega for quite a while and are very pleased to join your group. Thank you for all the effort that you have obviously put into what seems like a "labor of love!"

My wife and first mate, Debra, is a neophyte sailor who fell in love with our Vega at first sight. In another life I owned (and loved) a 62 Dutch built Rhodes Meridian which carried a wooden spar and boom. She had all bronze fittings, loads of mahogany and real lead ballast. The Vega is a worthy successor and a joy! We feel privileged to be among your group. Please consider us friends.

Our very best wishes to you and yours and the Vega fleet for the coming holidays and the new century ahead. May the winds be fair and at our backs!

Cheers,

Jim Villa
Jim Villa