

FC News

Editor: Ron Walton

Winter 1998

Welcome to the Winter 1998 issue of the **FC News**. And thank you to everyone who wrote or telephoned me in 1997 to pass on news about their Falmouth Cutters. I hope you all have great sailing plans for 1998. I know I do. I also hope you all find the time to write to me about your boats in 1998. The more often I hear from you, the more often the **FC News** will be published.

Congratulations to Jason Seeny. Jason has ordered FC # 36 from the Sam L. Morse Co. and is currently residing in Costa Mesa while she is built. Have you selected a name for her yet Jason?

Speaking of boat names, I still don't know the names of FCs # 26 and 34? Presumably they have names; could their owners please write? Also, FC # 20 *Aspeden*, which was mentioned as being for sale in the Autumn 1997 **FC News**, has new owners. Does *Aspeden* also have a new name?

In this Winter 1998 issue of the **FC News** are letters from five boats: *Sapo*, *Aspeden*, *Shoestrings*, *Calculated Risk*, and *Maid of Slapton*. Of particular note are the letters from *Sapo* and *Maid of Slapton*, from the far sides of the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, respectively. *Sapo* is currently in Malaysia, on her way to an eventual circumnavigation according to her skipper Mary White. And, *Maid of Slapton* is based in the United Kingdom. How many Falmouth Cutters are out there blue water cruising right now? If you are, or have been, we would all like to hear from you about your adventures.

Did you all see the December 1997 issue of **Cruising World** magazine? If not, look for it. There is a short article in it, with several photos, about FC # 33, *Seacall*, owned by John and Kay Hoffman. John and Kay have very cleverly modified *Seacall* to be used as a fifth-wheeler when trailering her from their home in Michigan to a chosen cruising ground. I hope John and Kay can find time to write soon and provide details about the modifications they made to *Seacall*'s systems.

Thank you.

Ron Walton
Mijita, FC # 5
1671 Via Rancho
San Lorenzo, CA 94580
(510) 278-3335

Sapo, FC # 10

“*Sapo* is in Malaysia. The route: Mexico, French Polynesia, Cooks, Tonga, Marshalls, Vanuatu, FSM, Guam, Philippines, Borneo, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Malaysia -- 4 years +.”

“I am finding all parts of planet Earth beautiful and worth the trouble to visit, although some places are better for boats. Speaking of which, *Sapo* has never failed to meet the challenges of the Pacific Ocean; Philippine, Sulu, South China Seas; Singapore, Malacca Straits; and Andaman Sea. With my life (not to mention comfort and happiness) dependent upon a vessel of which ‘everything is essential and everything breaks’ I am very glad that *Sapo* is built so well.”

“Clearly an FC can circumnavigate. If you decide to follow in my wake I recommend simplification -- ‘down’ grade as opposed to upgrading. And back up everything; get two of everything possible. Skip refrigeration (no ice either), use a bucket instead of the head, and don’t install or stow anything on deck -- at best it gets in the way, at worst it washes off. I still have jerry jugs & propane tanks on deck - but it surprises me!”

“I’ve been in the tropics 4 years or so - still sweat a lot, but dread the thought of being cold. Must drop below 30 / 35 degrees to get around S. Africa and I’m already dreading it even though its more than a year away (at best).”

“Tra-la-

Merry Christmas,”

Mary White

It sounds as if you are having a great time. Are you singlehanding? From your letter it sounds as if you are. Can you fill us in on the history of your voyage? What made you decide to go? How did you prepare yourself, and *Sapo*, for the voyage? At the Sam L. Morse Co. they thought you were going to New Zealand. Why did you not do the “Coconut Milk Run”? Where do you store your dinghy?....

Ron Walton

Aspeden, FC # 20

“We have sold *Aspeden* on Sept. 31, to a very, very nice couple (a generation younger than us) who, we think, will take care of her, love her as much as we did, and take her sailing into much wider circles than we ever did.”

“*Aspeden* will stay in her slip and harbor she has been in for 14 years. We will see her daily and say Hi.”

“We are not without boats of course, the ‘Captain’ has a beautiful Beachcomber Dory with red sails. She lies in the bayou that is our back yard, and can be sailed in the Mississippi Sound or the Bay of St. Louis. Also there is a 15’ Boston Whaler for fishing. You can see we will not be lost on land only.”

“Thank you again and best wishes, good sailing to you and all FC cutter owners.”

Lore & Carroll Allen

Shoestrings, FC # 21

“I bought hull No. 21, built in 1983 and delivered to the original owner in Washington State, from a well known local yacht designer/builder three years ago. I have sailed it with my family along much of the West Coast of Florida, with an occasional assist from a 9.9 Suzuki outboard. ‘My boat’, which is how my wife refers to it, is named *Shoestrings*. An owner or two ago, it was named *Tatoed Lady*, which was one of the boats you had been unable to locate. I recently built a 7.5 foot, 60 pound, plywood sailing dinghy to lie on the foredeck, an arrangement that has worked well so far, except that I wish the dinghy was about four feet longer. My previous boat was a 16 foot plywood cat-yawl I built that drew only 22 inches and taught me a lot of bad habits; I can report that the FC takes the ground well. Fortunately the bottoms here are mostly sand or mud, but I’m hopeful that an old dog can learn new tricks. I have to keep saying to myself, ‘three-and-a-half feet, three-and-a-half feet’.”

Alan Linn

Calculated Risk, FC #31

“My name is Robert Young. I am the new owner of FC 31, currently called *Jenny G.*. This name will be changed. I am a former Naval Officer and Merchant Mariner working for MSC in Virginia Beach, VA.”

“My address is good until February, when I hope to be closing on a new home. I will update you when it happens.”

“FC 31 is sitting in West Palm Beach, FL, while I figure out how to bring her home, up here. She is in need of a refit, TLC, a new rig and rigging, and some minor repairs and woodwork to start. Eventually she should have a new interior, more in line with that of *Seraffyn*, her cousin.”

“My ultimate goal is to follow in the footsteps of her larger cousin, then hopefully trade up to a BCC or similar.”

“If you know of any owners on the East Coast from NJ to SC that might have a trailer I could borrow or

rent, I'd appreciate their phone numbers/ addresses."

Robert Young

In a telephone conversation, Robert told me he plans to rename his Falmouth Cutter *Calculated Risk*. Therefore I have put her on the owner's list with that name. Previously, FC #31 was owned by Mark Martin, but I had her mistakenly listed as being owned by Sam Lippincott.

Ron Walton

Maid of Slapton, FC # 32

"Currently I am in the middle of a years leave of absence from my job as an airline pilot. It is rapidly becoming apparent that travelling one hundred times slower is good for the health not least because breakfast time really feels like breakfast time every day. Maybe after nearly forty years up there it is time to concentrate on important things down here."

"Preoccupation with some family matters and moving houses has really meant a lot less time with my boat than I had planned for this summer. I have a number of projects in mind for this winter while she is ashore but I will write more on this in the future."

"For the moment let me just say that the *Maid of Slapton* is berthed in Dartmouth which is a couple of days sail east of Falmouth. Next year I shall take her there. The FC is much admired by those who see her and the traditionalists, who go below, are quite amazed by the way in which the space has been used for the owner's benefit."

"Please keep the FC News going. Its good to keep in touch with 'goings on' in what is a rather small and selective group."

Keith Smith

A Mystery for the Fleet

According to Roger Olson, there is no FC # 13. But there are two FCs # 7, *Aurora* and *Anne Marie*. Can anyone in the fleet shed any light on this?

Have Trailer, Will You Lend It?

From time to time Roger Olson and I have been asked by Falmouth Cutter owners whether or not there is a trailer available to borrow or rent. For example, the previous owner of *Mijita* borrowed a trailer from another FC owner to bring *Mijita* back from Mexico after his first voyage down. And Robert Young, owner of *Calculated Risk* FC #31, is looking for a trailer he might rent to move his boat. Would any of the FC owners with trailers be willing to make their trailers available to another FC owner? If so, contact Roger Olson at the Sam L. Morse Co. (714) 645-1843 or me, Ron Walton, at (510) 278-3335.

Have Trailer, Will Sell It!

Doug Walling, owner of the Bristol Channel Cutter *Calliste*, has a Trailrite 3 axle trailer for sale. It has only 60 miles on it, is like new, and he is asking only \$2,800 for it (original cost over \$6,000). According to Doug, this trailer can be adjusted to carry a Falmouth Cutter, has a 16,000 lb. GVW, has a 2-5/16" ball, and has 2 tie down straps and winches. Telephone Doug at (714) 723-6513, or FAX him at (714) 723-0816, if you are interested.

Wanted: a Falmouth Cutter

During the past several months I have received telephone calls from several people interested in buying a used Falmouth Cutter. If any of you are planning to sell your boat, here are their names, *etc*:

Doug Landers
723 S. 8th Street
Fargo, ND
58103

Mike D'Andrea
657 Bimini Avenue
Marco Island, FL
34145
(941) 389-2492

Ross Collins
383 E. Reed Street
San Jose, CA
95112
(408) 998-2313