

Latitude 38

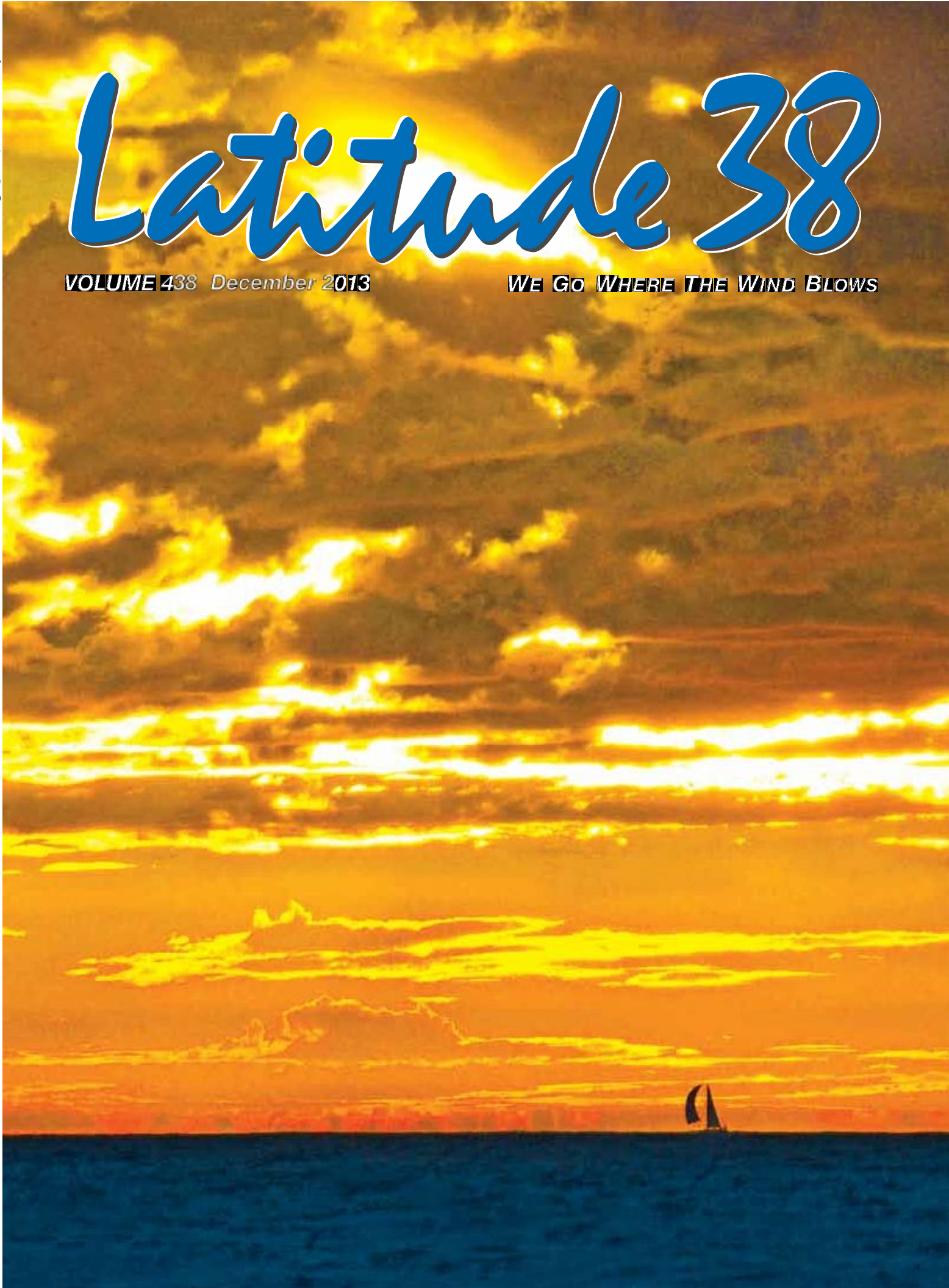
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VOLUME 438 December 2013

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DECEMBER 2013

VOLUME 438





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LETTERS

been that a simple, well-cared for charter boat ends up in much better condition than most seldom-used private boats. Nelson knew what he was talking about when he said, "Men and ships rot in port." But remember the 'well-cared for' qualifier.

We haven't had any experience with other yacht management companies, but as far as we're concerned, BVI Yacht Charters has done us right in keeping our cat in very good condition. It hasn't been cheap, but the cost has been worth it. The best indication of our overall satisfaction is that we intended to keep the boat for just three years, but are now about to start our seventh year. We're not guaranteeing a yacht managed by some company in the Caribbean is a good idea for anybody else, but it's worked great for us.

One of the main reasons we went with BVI Yacht Charters is that their program allowed us to use our boat as much as we wanted, when we wanted — including the high season. This was unlike The Moorings and Sunsail programs, which only allowed a max of two weeks' use in high season. That just wasn't going to work for us. However, we've been told that starting this year, The Moorings has a new program for people who want to use their boats for as long as they want in the high season. Mind you, you'd be buying a new boat, they aren't cheap, and you'd be losing a ton of charter income. That said, we were also told that there were buyers waiting in line to buy new cats for the slots in The Moorings program. Furthermore, all the Moorings 46 cats that were timed out of the program after five years were snapped up like hotcakes.

↑↓WHO SHOULD GET OVER WHAT

I don't know why others worry about why we refer to ourselves as 'Americans'. In 1776, or thereabouts, this nation became the United States of America. That is our official name. There are no other countries that carry that distinction. The Estados Unidos de Mexico is the closest one to that. Canada is just Canada. None of the other countries in North America, Central America or South America use 'America' in their name.

I don't know for sure, but I believe there might be a little jealousy involved when people from other countries say they are 'Americans', too. All I do know is that we have always used the term 'American' to denote our people. Like it or don't like it. Get over it and don't let your sails luff. There are more important things to concern yourself about.

J.R. Smith
Manhattan, KS

J.R. — "Get over it," you say? That's the kind of self-centered attitude that rankles all the Americans who don't live in the United States. All you know? Why don't you ask people who live elsewhere in the Americas what they 'know'? And if you don't know why people "worry" about what we call ourselves, why should you worry what they call themselves?

By the way, next year's J/24 North Americans aren't being held in the United States. They're being held out of Paradise Marina in Mexico.

↑↓NEW COLUMBIA 50 OWNERS' WEBSITE

I wanted to let *Latitude* readers know there's a new website just for Columbia 50s. While it's far from complete, it's at least now 'up for comment'. The address is columbia50.weebly.com.

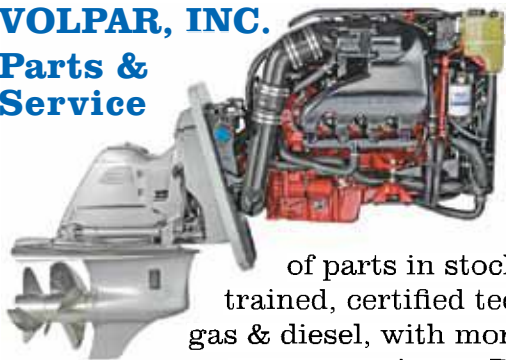
P.S. Thanks for all the great reading over the years.

Kevin Reilly
Skylark, Columbia 50
Coronado

Readers — Ah, the Columbia 50s, with the famous 'blister top' common to all the Bill Tripp-designed Columbias of the

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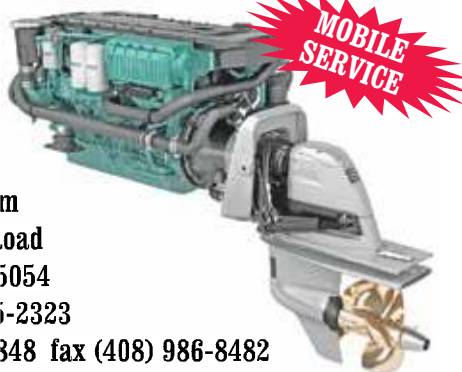
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1960s and '70s. Columbia made them in darn near every two-foot increment from 22 to 57 feet in that company's heyday.

When the first Columbia 50 was launched in 1965, it was the largest production yacht built in the United States. Based on the



WEBB LOGG

Columbia 50s are beefy boats with an impressive ocean sailing pedigree.

fact that the 50s displaced 32,000 lbs and were built before the oil crisis of 1971, their hulls are nearly an inch thick of solid fiberglass. Sixty-two 50s were built between 1965 and 1972. Perhaps the most famous

was Steve and Linda Dashew's *Intermezzo*, which they sailed around the world before coming up with their Deerfoot line of boats.

The Columbia 50s were available as sloops, yawls and schooners, although we never saw any of the schooners. The only yawl we ever saw was *Simoon*, originally owned by actor John Hall, who raced her successfully in the 1967 *TransPac*. The next owner sailed her to Tahiti, then abandoned her in front of the Tahiti YC for four years. It was then that our friends 'Broken Bottles' Bob and Gayle Jensen of Ukiah, along with three others, bought *Simoon*. When they got to Tahiti, the new owners had to hack two feet of coral off the bottom. Despite never having sailed offshore before, the partners headed north to Hawaii with a French navigator who didn't speak much English. He wasn't that good a navigator either — they had to let him dinghy ashore at some island in the Tuamotus to find out which one it was.

When the boat got back to San Francisco, the Jensens bought out the partners and, unable to sell her, decided to take her cruising. Bob and Gayle ultimately would make five long trips into the Pacific with *Simoon*, covering over 100,000 miles in 15 years. This was in the days before GPS and its precursor *SatNav*, and Gayle did all the navigation.

↑↓ **BABY, ONE MORE TIME**

Did you guys catch the report in *Market Watch* that ships in the Indian Ocean and approaches to the Red Sea have been using Britney Spears music to scare off Somalia pirates?



WEBB LOGG

What's not to like about a little Brit-Brit?

as: "I'm a slave for you. I cannot hold it. I cannot control it. I'm a slave for you." We think those lyrics are music to the ears of terrorists.

Tom Van Dyke
En Pointe, Searunner 31
San Francisco

Tom — We didn't catch the report, but we're not sure if that's such good strategy. Correct us if we're wrong, but we thought most terrorists had secret carnal lust for young blond American temptresses such as Britney, particularly when they are half naked and slither through lyrics such as: "I'm a slave for you. I cannot hold it. I cannot control it. I'm a slave for you." We think those lyrics are music to the ears of terrorists.

↑↓ **LOOKING FOR INFO ON THE MACGREGOR 36 CAT**

The MacGregor 36 is a very large and fast catamaran, with