

Golden Rule News

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Mission Statement

The original nuclear protest boat, the Golden Rule will sail again to promote a nuclear free future, to educate about the dangers of radiation to humanity and the environment, and to support peaceful alternatives to war.

Golden Rule Sails for a Nuclear Free, Peaceful World

November 2015

The Golden Rule is Home in Humboldt Bay!

The historic sailing vessel *Golden Rule* sailed a victory lap around Humboldt Bay on Friday, October 16, 2015. She is on B dock at the Eureka

Public Marina, for restoration and repair through the winter. Contact us to come sailing!

Humboldt Bay is her home port, where five years ago she was discovered underwater with two huge holes in her side. She was lovingly restored by Veterans For Peace with dozens of volunteers and hundreds of donors.

Arriving on the Golden Rule were Captain Ed Fracker of King Salmon and crew members Michael Gonzalez of Trinidad, David SanGiovanni of Eureka, and Helen Jaccard of Seattle. Other crew members included Jan Passion of Pleasant Hill, Dave Robson of Baltimore MD, A.J. (Skip) Oliver of Sandusky OH, Ron Kohl and Allen McAfee of San Diego, Machai St. Rain of Chapel Hill NC, and Nelson Camp of Southampton PA. The time spent in transit, sailing with supporters, and public speaking was intense and non-stop, so the crew deserves a great big thank you from all of us!



San Francisco Bay

Golden Rule arrived in San Francisco Bay on Monday, September 21, International Peace Day, for a three week visit promoting a nuclear-free, peaceful world.

Her presence during "Fleet Week" was a great contrast to the warships parading by, as she brought a message of peace and nonviolence.

"Nuclear weapons are still with us and the threat of nuclear war is very real," said the *Golden Rule's* Captain Ron Kohl "We are dismayed that the U.S. government plans to invest One Trillion Dollars into upgrading its nuclear arsenal, instead of reducing and eliminating nuclear weapons, as called for in the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty."

The Veterans For Peace Golden Rule Project is calling for an end to nuclear energy as well.

"The ongoing nuclear meltdown at Fukushima, Japan reminds us of the dangers of radiation poisoning posed by nuclear power plants," said *Golden Rule*

crew member Helen Jaccard. "Nuclear power is the flip side of nuclear weapons, and we don't need either of them," said Jaccard.

A special thanks to Norman DeVall for sailing his boat next to us so we could get great pictures of *Golden Rule* with the *Golden Gate Bridge*.

Santa Cruz

We were welcomed by Veterans For Peace, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and many other supporters. Don Lane, the mayor of Santa Cruz, presented us with a very nice proclamation!

Dolphins, sea lions, harbor seals and sea otters came right into the harbor and next to the boat.



The fantastic maiden voyage of The *Golden Rule*: Humboldt Bay to San Diego and Back



Press Conference in Santa Cruz



One of our youngest supporters.



We were warmly welcomed with a potluck lunch and educational event hosted by the Monterey Peace and Justice Center in Seaside, near the harbor in Monterey.

Supporters held potlucks and cooked us meals all along the way. A big thanks to Susy Cervantes (San Marcos), Mary Johnston and Gil and Joy Robledo (Santa Barbara), and Joseph Schultz (India Joze restaurant in Santa Cruz) who prepared feasts. Thank you Kathleen Hernandez for organizing the Marina Del Rey potluck and the Ocean Protection Coalition for the potluck in Fr. Bragg!



The crew met with Mothers For Peace in San Luis Obispo (Morro Bay), who are striving for shutdown of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power plant.

Gunter Hamburger from Germany discussed nuclear issues with the crew, in Germany and around the world.

Thanks to Jane Swanson and Henriette Groot who coordinated our stay.



Santa Barbara folks gave us a big welcome in front of the Maritime Museum.



David Krieger and Rick Wayman of Nuclear Age Peace Foundation meet with the crew to discuss nuclear disarmament and ways the two groups can collaborate.



In the distance is *Golden Rule* as seen from the Santa Monica Arlington West Memorial to the people killed in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.



Golden Rule (upper left) sailed past the Santa Barbara Veterans For Peace *Costs of Wars* display.

Thanks to: "D" Nunn, Sheila Goldner, Joy and Gil Robledo, Harry Meserve, Judy Malcolm, Sherry Conable, Mathilde Rand, JeanChas Morris, Janice Tong, Marcia Heath, Lois Salo, and the many more supporters than we have room to mention!



We had a moving press event at the Chain Reaction Peace Sculpture in Santa Monica. It is a 26-foot high nuclear bomb mushroom cloud made out of chains.



Longtime local antinuclear activist Jerry Rubin told us of the history of the sculpture, designed by famed political cartoonist Paul Conrad. Jerry just broke a 6-month liquid only fast in support of global nuclear weapons abolition.

Blase Bonpane of the Office of the Americas gave a great speech about how the nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki was the beginning of a militarist U.S. foreign policy.



Machai St. Rain sings the *Golden Rule* theme song.

Jessica Reynolds Renshaw, whose family completed the 1958 voyage to the Marshall Islands nuclear test zone when she was 14, aboard the *Phoenix of Hiroshima* and Leo "Bud" Feort, an Atomic Veteran exposed to multiple atomic blasts in the Marshall Islands, present their stories to an audience in Long Beach.

Spectacular Launch and Party



The Golden Rule rolled down the tracks on June 20 into Humboldt Bay. Hundreds of spectators cheered, including guests from Japan and folks from all over the United States.

One of the original crewmen, Orion Sherwood, was on hand as were several family members of others.

The Vessel was Blessed, Christened and as it entered the water a fire boat pumped long streams of water over her, horns sounded and a flotilla of Kayaks and other smaller boats accompanied her across the bay. Humboldt Bay hasn't seen a launching of this magnitude in many decades.

Leroy and Dalene Zerlang quite simply made all this possible. Without their love of historical wooden boats Veterans For Peace would probably never have been able to rebuild this beautiful vessel. In honor of Zerlang and Zerlang Marine Services a company star was placed on the prow of the boat to be worn forever more.

Humboldt Bay to San Diego

On July 23, Captain David Robson, First Mate Jan Passion, and Crew Members Michael Gonzalez and Helen Jaccard sailed out of Humboldt Bay, headed for San Diego. While we waited out high winds in Half Moon Bay for three nights we had visits from members of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and a very nice friend brought us a pie! Jan left us in Half Moon Bay and Dr. A. J. "Skip" Oliver came on as our new First Mate after being shore support for the first part of the voyage. Gerry Condon, VFP National Board Vice President, became our shore support person at that port and for the remainder of the voyage. Gerry also wrote the press

releases and coordinated with local organizers in all the cities where we stopped.

The most difficult part of the journey was going around Pt. Conception.

We saw dolphins, whales, sun fish, harbor seals, and sea lions as well as phosphorescence at night. What a treat!



Dr. A. J. (Skip) Oliver, Michael Gonzalez, David Robson, and Helen Jaccard celebrate a successful journey to San Diego.

The arrival was covered by at least three local TV stations as well as radio and print media.

Veterans For Peace Convention

The *Golden Rule* was the star of the show at the convention.



Orion Sherwood of the 1958 crew attended, hammed it up, and thoroughly enjoyed being crew again.

From San Diego all the way back to Eureka, Veterans For Peace chapters were there for us – providing food, housing, speaking opportunities, press conferences and support.

Thank you Friends (Quakers) and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Jane Addams Peace Association and many other organizations for your help and support!



VFP members and Golden Rule crew attended Hiroshima and Nagasaki remembrance events. They rang the Freedom Bell.



Dr. Akiko Mikamo whose parents both survived the Hiroshima blast and Ikunosuke "Mike" Kawamura, a Hiroshima survivor, enjoyed their sail in San Diego Bay.



Mark Zambon, who lost both legs in the Afghanistan war, was able to do things with his prosthetic legs that the rest of us could not – he had a lot of fun at the tiller.



The favorite event for many VFPers was the Hornblower Cruise. Captain Julie Peets, with 150 VFPers on board, cruised right past the Golden Rule.



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Golden Rule's Northwest Voyage Spring and Summer 2016

The Golden Rule will sail to the Northwest starting in mid-May, including up the Columbia River to the Hanford Nuclear Reservation where a radioactive superfund site is being mismanaged.

Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action near the Bangor Trident Nuclear Submarine Base is a sponsor of the 2016 season and is planning events in the Puget Sound area.

Navy war ships arrive in Seattle August 3 for "Fleet Week". *The Golden Rule* will provide a contrasting message of peace, just as we did in San Francisco this year.

The Golden Rule will be in Port Townsend for the annual Wooden Boat Festival September 9 – 11.

How you can participate

Do you live in the Northwest? Please sponsor the voyage, help us plan events and raise funds.

Would you like to Crew? We need qualified Captains, preferably familiar with northwest waters. Apply online!

Sponsor the *Golden Rule*!

Thanks to our many donors, we were able to restore the boat and successfully sail to San Diego and back. We need help to prepare for 2016 and money for the journey itself.

We need a life raft and immersion suits, repair and maintenance equipment, a fresh water tank, and much more just to start the journey.

Please send a generous tax-deductible donation to:

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Or use Paypal from our website:

www.VFPGoldenRuleProject.org

Thanks for keeping us afloat!

Congressional Bill to Eliminate Nuclear Weapons

HR-1976 calls for global abolition of nuclear weapons and specifies conversion of weapons spending to environmental restoration and clean energy. Tell your Representatives to support this important legislation!

Pope Francis calls for an End to Nuclear Weapons

Pope Francis said at the United Nations on September 25, "The ... Charter of the United Nations set forth the foundations of the international juridical framework: peace, the pacific solution of disputes and the development of friendly relations between the nations. Strongly opposed to such statements, and in practice denying them, is the constant tendency to the proliferation of arms, especially weapons of mass destruction, such as nuclear weapons. An ethics and a law based on the threat of mutual destruction – and possibly the destruction of all mankind – are self-contradictory and an affront to the entire framework of the United Nations, which would end up as "nations united by fear and distrust." There is urgent need to work for a world free of nuclear weapons, in full application of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, in letter and spirit, with the goal of a complete prohibition of these weapons."

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon also demands nuclear disarmament.



"The beauty of man and woman is exemplified by the *Golden Rule*.

The scarifying ugliness of man is exemplified by the atomic bomb and its successors. We truly play a game of 3-card monte when we get into the discussion of should we or should we not drop the bomb. Who are we kidding? Atomic weaponry is an abomination. If anyone does drop the bomb, then the game is over. Atomic weaponry must be outlawed by the world."

-- Ed Asner

***The Golden Rule is Sailing for a Nuclear Free World.
Your Continuing Support Is the Wind in Her Sails.***

Please send a generous tax-deductible donation to:

VFP Golden Rule Project, P. O. Box 87, Samoa, CA 95564

Or donate through PayPal from our website: **www.VFPGoldenRuleProject.org**

We owe a huge thanks to our captains David Robson, Ron Kohl and Ed Fracker; our crew Michael Gonzalez, Jan Passion, Helen Jaccard, Dr. A. J. "Skip" Oliver, Machai St. Rain, Nelson Camp, and Allen McAfee. Skip Oliver and Gervy Condon were shore support and Port Captain Leroy Zerlang kept us safe from bad weather.



1958: George Willoughby, Albert Bigelow, Orion Sherwood and Bill Huntington



2015: Jan Passion, Michael Gonzalez, Helen Jaccard and David Robson



Captains David Robson and Ron Kohl



Allen McAfee, Michael Gonzalez, Ron Kohl, Helen Jaccard and friends in Santa Cruz



Dr. A. J. "Skip" Oliver



Machai St. Rain and Helen Jaccard



Michael Gonzalez, a Japanese dignitary, Helen Jaccard, Nelson Camp



Helen Jaccard, Ed Fracker, David SanGiovanni, Michael Gonzalez



Port Captain Leroy Zerlang

I support the **VFP Golden Rule Project!** I want to help Veterans For Peace sail for a nuclear free world. Veterans For Peace is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization. Please make your tax-deductible checks payable to: VFP Golden Rule Project. Mail it to PO Box 87, Samoa, CA 95564

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