



Golden Rule News

Golden Rule
PROJECT

May 2022

Sailing for Peace in a Time of War



Maintenance and repairs in Humboldt Bay

In September Golden Rule sailed home to Humboldt Bay for routine repairs and maintenance. Thanks to our many volunteers - Scoty Russell, John Reidy, Gordy Anderson, Chuck DeWitt and (not pictured) Peter Aronson, Shawn Leon, Chip Sharpe and Jim Truitt! Thank you Leroy Zerlang, for the use of the boatyard, supplies and employees!

Great Loop Organizers Needed



From Sept 2022 through Dec 2023 the Golden Rule will sail around the eastern United States, called the "Great Loop", on a mission to educate the rest of the country about how they can help stop the possibility of nuclear war.

Schedule: bit.ly/GRStops

Map: bit.ly/GRGLMap

Meetings for Great Loop event organizers are held every Tuesday at 5:30 PM Pacific by Zoom at bit.ly/GROrgZoom Or phone in to 669-900-6833, Meeting ID 638 387 2592 Password 1234

Sailors and Guests welcome!

Most transits between ports will be daytime only and we can accommodate both sailors and guests on the *Golden Rule*. To request to sail with us (guests, too), please fill out the crew application form at vfgoldenrule.org/crew-application.

Volunteers, please let us know how you can help: vfgoldenruleorg/volunteer

San Diego

In January and February we visited San Diego and Ensenada, Mexico. We had a Covid-safe indoor event, online and outdoor presentations, and took dozens of people sailing! The San Diego Veterans For Peace worked hard to make it all happen. Thanks to John Falchi, Jack Doxey, Denise Sellers, Ed Fox, Bruce Gustafson, Vic White, Gil Field and Gary Butterfield!

We marked UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons first anniversary on January 22.

Gary Lynn, Peace Resource Center and VFP, talked about how the military and weapons industries are not sustainable, consume enormous quantities of resources and emit huge amounts of greenhouse gas emissions. Also about talked about the VFP Nuclear Posture Review, tinyurl.com/VFP-NPR.

George Gastil, Lemon Grove City Council, San Diego Friends Meeting, Friends Committee on Legislation of California and Professor at San Diego State University spoke on "The Politics of Peace and Climate Action" and the nuclear ban treaty.



We also honored our skipper Wil Van Natta, who died in a tragic accident in December. We showed the film "Making Waves: Rebirth of the Golden Rule" which features Wil prominently. A few of his family members attended and his sister Carol said, "You have no idea how much this means to our family!". We scattered Wil's ashes from the *Golden Rule* near San Diego and Ensenada - places where he is well remembered for his service to people in need.

How I Spent My Winter Vacation - or - Learning and Living on the *Golden Rule*

By Captain Chris Appleton, Buffalo, NY

Starting the Conversation: I first heard of the *Golden Rule* sailboat in the fall of 2021. She was to sail from Hawai'i to San Francisco, and later would be trucked to Minneapolis, Minnesota to begin the Great Loop around the eastern half of the US. Interested in the sailing itinerary and fascinated by her history and continuing mission as an educational peace boat, I made a few donations and chatted with project manager Helen Jaccard about buddy-boating down the Mississippi River together. At the time I was planning on sailing my own boat on part of the Great Loop.



(right to left) Captain Chris Appleton, skipper Steve Buck, Tim Dellas, and Ren Jacob sailed from Humboldt Bay to San Francisco

My Mission: Both the *Golden Rule*'s and my own Great Loop journeys were put on hold for a year (thanks, Covid). Eventually I found myself laid off from my job at a boatyard and driving across the country from Buffalo, NY to Eureka, California. My mission: help deliver the boat from its home port in Humboldt Bay south to San Diego, run educational day trips with people interested in an anti-nuclear future, sail to Ensenada, Mexico to sail with deported veterans, and back to San Diego and north to San Francisco.

West Coast Sailing: Having never sailed in or even really visited California, I was excited to see the west coast and its world-class cruising grounds, and in this regard I was not disappointed. Highlights of the trip included sailing under the Golden Gate Bridge, the forests and cliffs of the Big Sur coast, the great rock of Morro Bay (the "Gibraltar" of California, I was told), and the sea life – the whales, bioluminescence, the ubiquitous dolphins and seabirds – and let's not forget those comically arfing, blubbery denizens of seemingly every harbor in California: sea lions! There were also the weather delays, challenges, and boat repairs that

pretty much go with any sailing trip, starting with the tsunami warning on the day we were supposed to leave Humboldt Bay (that was a weird one, and, thankfully, a non-event in Humboldt). We had a terrific, picture-postcard 12 hour 'reach' between Ensenada and San Diego. We had a wild day leaving San Diego: a great sail that ended with a potent little squall that the good ship handled with barely a shrug – which is much more than can be said of her wide-eyed crew!

Interesting People: But I was even more lucky to have other deep and enduring experiences on the *Golden Rule*. She's a lucky ship, as Helen likes to say, and attracts people who not only *believe* that a better world is possible, but also who personally *act* to make the world a better place.

Take *Golden Rule* Project Manager Helen Jaccard, for instance. Hers is a constant juggling act of public events, finding captains and crews, managing boat repairs and docks.

Jim Brown, San Diego VFP Chapter President was a self-described "gung ho Marine" during the Vietnam War. Over the years, as his attitude and mind changed, he became a peace activist and member of VFP.

Korean War veteran Stan Levin shared a few hair-raising stories of his time in the Navy – many of which he had been unable to talk about for years. Now Stan is an outspoken (and often hilarious) peace activist who also has devoted considerable effort to helping the homeless in San Diego.



I met Mike Kawamura by the Yokohama Friendship Bell on Shelter Island in San Diego (next to where the *Golden Rule* was docked). Mike was two years old and living in Hiroshima in 1945 when the atomic bomb was dropped, remembering a "bright light" in the sky. He has since become a long-time peace activist and a leading member of the San Diego WISH foundation (the World Initiative to Safeguard Humanity).

Ann Barron, a grandmother dynamo patiently explained to me during one of our sails about the importance of civil disobedience and direct actions (as opposed to large marches and protests) to promote awareness of social justice and change.



Deported Veterans: Meeting the deported veterans in Ensenada, Mexico was another unforgettable and eye-opening experience. Previous to this I was probably like most Americans, completely ignorant of this largely forgotten and conveniently overlooked group of outrageously wronged veterans. We spent three days in Ensenada, meeting and sharing meals with them after going on day sails in Ensenada Bay. Heroically, these vets have remained organized to help and keep track of each other, and to agitate from afar for the US government and President Biden to make good on their promises to make an effort to repatriate these veterans.

The Lucky One: And so, because of these and many other experiences like it, I've come to believe that while the *Golden Rule* may be a lucky ship, really it was *me* who was the lucky one. And not only because I got to have an awesome three months of sailing and travelling on the west coast, but more because, with her tan bark red sails set and the Veterans for Peace dove and peace symbol flying, she's a beacon of hope and an antidote to our frighteningly over-militarized and war-mongering world. The *Golden Rule's* message of sanity, peace, and a nuclear-free future, as well as the constellation of activists and supporters that surround her, are likely the world's best hope for the future.

Yea, I was the lucky one, alright.

"GOLDEN RULE: A JOURNEY FOR PEACE"



The **trailer** for the new documentary "Golden Rule: The Journey for Peace" is out! The trailer is for a film about the Veterans For Peace historic sailboat, its mission to stop nuclear weapons and the sail back from Hawai'i to California. We are really looking forward to seeing the entire documentary--SOON!

Thanks to crew member and filmmaker Nolan Anderson and his production team!!!

View the trailer:

redfordcenter.org/films/the-golden-rule

Assure a Successful Voyage - Donate Now!

With your help, the Great Loop voyage will allow the *Golden Rule* to visit 28 large cities and 68 small towns, bringing awareness of nuclear issues to thousands of people at a moment when more people than ever are concerned about the possibility of nuclear war.

Please make a tax deductible donation

- Online at vfpgoldenrule.org
- By check to: VFP Golden Rule Project
PO Box 87, Samoa, CA 95564
- Call Helen Jaccard, 206-992-6364 with credit card information.

The Golden Rule Committee has Openings

Do you have experience as a peace or anti-nuclear activist, with boats, or non-profits? Would you like to help decide where the *Golden Rule* sails, how the boat is maintained, and the nuclear education program?

The *Golden Rule* Committee is particularly interested in recruiting younger activists and people of color for these important leadership positions.

If interested, please fill out a volunteer form at vfpgoldenrule.org/volunteer or email Helen Jaccard at vfpgoldenruleproject@gmail.com,

We Cannot Allow the Ukraine Crisis to Lead to Nuclear War!

By Gerry Condon

The war in Ukraine is extremely dangerous. It is killing and maiming hundreds and possibly thousands of innocent civilians. There can be no excuse for that. War is never the answer.

Wall-to-wall media coverage is creating a war fever in the US and Europe. What is absolutely needed is a ceasefire and negotiations to end the war as soon as possible. Instead, the Biden administration is sending advanced weapons of war, and talking openly about breaking Russia's back. Military budgets are being increased in the US and Europe. Weapons manufacturers are licking their lips.

Risking nuclear war

Most disturbing is the real possibility of nuclear war. Russian president Putin has hinted that he would resort to using tactical nuclear weapons if he determines that Russia's existence is imperiled by the US and NATO. Putin's statements are consistent with Russia's nuclear posture, which considers nuclear weapons to be a last resort defense against the superior conventional forces of NATO.

Leaders on all sides of this conflict are recklessly playing nuclear chicken – gambling with the fate of human civilization. This is totally unacceptable and must be reversed. We must call on the Biden administration to support diplomacy that respects the legitimate security concerns of both Ukraine and Russia. Short of a global nuclear catastrophe, this war will eventually end with a negotiated settlement, the contours of which are already widely known. So why not sooner rather than later?

Rising public awareness of the nuclear danger

There is a bit of a silver lining for us optimists. More people are aware of the danger of nuclear war than at any time since the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962.

This is very much a "teachable moment." People will be more open than ever to listen to what anti-nuclear activists have to say. We can build support for the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and for other measures to step Back from the Brink of nuclear war. We can call on all nine nuclear powers to pledge never to be the first to use nuclear weapons, and to take nuclear missiles off of hair-trigger alert.

Golden Rule - Hope through Action

It is at this tenuous moment in human history and in this political climate that the *Golden Rule* peace boat will be sailing around the "Great Loop," visiting scores of towns and cities throughout the Midwestern, Southern and Northeastern states.

The *Golden Rule* will bring a strong message that people are ready to hear: Nuclear Weapons are immoral, illegal, and we the people can abolish them.

Through education and actions, Veterans For Peace and the Golden Rule Project can help prevent a nuclear war. We will bring petitions to be delivered to Congress, sample letters to the editor, local Resolutions in support of nuclear abolition and powerful speakers who will inspire people to take action. And we can empower people to press for negotiations instead of more weapons in Ukraine.

This voyage could not be more timely.

Urgent Lessons and Demands

A nuclear war could end life on Earth as we know it. As was stated in January by China, France, Russia, Great Britain and the United States, "a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought."

Nuclear weapons must be abolished, along with the institution of war itself, which should be an anachronism by now. Superpower confrontations that risk nuclear war are unacceptable.

We in the US must press our government to end its military adventures around the globe and to seek peace with Russia and China, as well as with all of the nations of the world. The People must demand that our government pursues good faith negotiations – not only to end the war in Ukraine, but to abolish nuclear weapons once and for all.

For action ideas, flyers and leaflets go to the website of the Peace in Ukraine Coalition peaceinukraine.org.

Veterans For Peace Nuclear Posture Review

In anticipation of President Biden's Nuclear Posture Review, Veterans For Peace has released a "correct posture" that would bring about safety from accidental or intentional nuclear war. It presents a sane US position with respect to other nuclear nations - a posture of all-out cooperation instead of full-spectrum dominance. tinyurl.com/VFP-NPR