

WindWord

The Newsletter of the Footloose Sailing Association

Leave your disability at the dock

Thank-you Donors for another great season!



Footloose keeps the costs of running the program down by using an all-volunteer crew. However, funds are required for moorage, insurance, licenses, boat maintenance, equipment and administrative costs.

Please see Page 3 for a list of the people and organizations that supported Footloose in 2025.

Upcoming Event

The Mid-Winter Potluck

Saturday, January 10, 2026

At the Emmanuel Episcopal Church
4400 86th Ave. S.E.
Mercer Island

12:00 – 2:00 p.m.
setup 11:00 a.m.

Bring what you like or just show up!



Footloose is a member of



Move United is the national leader in community adaptive sports.

Footloose is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) organization funded entirely by donations.

At The Tiller Winter 2026



Footloose always has ongoing efforts by volunteers in meetings, fund raising, administration, outreach, paperwork, accounting, maintenance, trailer and boat sales. A big thank you to the Footloose Volunteers as well as all the businesses and organizations that support us!
You can keep up with Footloose on our facebook page:
[https://www.facebook.com/FootlooseSailing Association/](https://www.facebook.com/FootlooseSailingAssociation/)
or at our website: footloosedisablesailing.org.
fair winds,
Captain Bob

Ahoy Footloose Sailors!

In the winter dark and cold, I miss those warm sailing days! We had good weather for our shut down day and now the boats and trailers are all put to bed at North Leschi and various members' homes. The black trailer is in storage at Factoria.

We had a wet beginning to our sailing summer with two events rained out, but the two night Blake Island camping trip went well and as did most of the ten scheduled day sails out of North Leschi on Lake Washington.

We will have the annual mid-winter potluck party in 2026 on January 10 with great food and lots of camaraderie. The annual Loose Screw award will be awarded there. Look for the where and what time details here in this newsletter!

We are setting our sails towards our upcoming sailing season starting with setup day on April 25 at 10am and our first day sail on May 2. There will be more information on the rest of the schedule in the spring newsletter.



2026 Board Members

The Bylaws of the Footloose Sailing Association state: *The management of all the affairs, property, and interests of the Association shall be vested in a Board of Directors.* The 2026 Board is as follows.

- President – Bob Ewing
- Vice President – Kris Henning
- Treasurer – Yvonne Tsui
- Secretary – Rowly Stow

Members-at-Large

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Peter Carr | Bean Fairbanks |
| Nancy McCraney | Ken McKenzie |
| Richard Rowe | Keith Seiler |
| Eulalie Sullivan | |

2025 Footloose Disabled Sailing Donors

We are extremely grateful for the donations made by the following individuals and organizations.

Individuals

Lynn Berger
Diane Brening
Mark Canton
Wanda Crow
Robert Dall
Tim Davidson
Mike Dolan
Bruce Ford
Bruce & Peggy Gladner

Michael Graves
Thomas Holden
JJessica K Hodgins
Eric Laschever
Allison Laurel
Sharon Mayo
Sam Olson
Diane Richards

William & Debra Rogers
Craig Shank
Hobie Stebbins
Rowland and Sue Stow
Eulalie Sullivan
Run-Hwa W Tsui
William Vannice
Lesley Chapin Wyckoff

Organizations

Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Mercer Island
NW Marine Trade Association
Putnam Family Charitable Fund

Rucoda Foundation
State of Washington CFD donations
Vanguard Charitable - Bagshaw Fund

Tarragon Property Services LLC

Tarragon, in a tremendous show of support, matched any donations made by their employees to Footloose. The following employees joined the team supporting Footloose.

Myra Chastain
Susan Conley
Sharon L Eller
David Krueger
Kevin McKenzie
Kimberly Mitchell

Avery Owen
Brian Pearce
Heather Peterson
Heather Rabago
Jordan Reyes

Magda Snowden
Krystle Stover
Heather Strom
Kara Thresher
Terra Walsh

MEMORIES OF AN OCEANICS SAILING ADVENTURE

By Barry North



Walking up the gangway on that rainy night of October 25 and looking up at the tall masts and yardarms, it was hard to believe that the last time I was aboard, I was able to climb up those masts and out on the yardarms to furl and unfurl the sails. Focusing my sight back onto the deck, I stood at the massive wheel, remembering the first time I was assigned to steer the ship. And the brass which requires constant polishing with Brasso! I often helped with that assignment. Although as a teacher, participating in the chores onboard were voluntary, I gladly accepted the tasks.

Finally, the day I was waiting for for at least 6 months arrived. After 52 years, I would get to step aboard the Statsraad Lehmkuhl in Seattle, Washington. The three-masted bark is 111 years old, one of the oldest tall ships still sailing and not relegated to museum ship status. She had just arrived in Seattle on one of her around-the-world voyages.

It was November 2, 1972, that I first stepped aboard the ship in Bergen, Norway. At age 26, I had landed a job as a teacher for Oceanics School, based in New York, that chartered the ship. Steve Paulus, one of the students from those years, did some research to locate as many of the students, teachers, officers, and crew as possible for a reunion. The first reunion was several years ago in Minneapolis, which I attended on Zoom. Steve has also sailed aboard the ship several times in the last few years. When he found out that she was planning a stop in Seattle in October of 2025, he gleefully notified us.

Before leaving the deck and out of the rain, I walked over to the railing. When I did, I was suddenly transported to the many minutes I spent at the rail leaning out staring at the sea, at times with a longing in my heart to spend the rest of my life on the vast ocean.

Escaping the cold and wet, I walked to the companionway, climbing down to the warmth below. How many times did I go up and down those stairs? Walking into the banjers or galley, I was greeted by 12 of my former students and four fellow teachers.

I had had a chance to chat with some of them the evening before when we had dinner in Bremerton. Reuniting with my former shipmates was indeed a highlight of the evening.

Since the ship had been completely restored recently, many things looked different. However, it was not too difficult to recall how the banjers looked 52 years ago, and that brought memories of the many meals I ate there.

(continued on next page)

MEMORIES OF AN OCEANICS SAILING ADVENTURE (continued)

One meal especially stood out. In a storm in the Bay of Biscay off the coast of France, it was almost impossible to eat breakfast there since bowls of oatmeal were flying around everywhere, causing the floor to be like a skating rink.

Walking around below brought back many other memories. Even though the library was no longer where it used to be, I recalled one of the many times I sat there teaching a class. On this particular occasion, the ship was heaving and pitching so violently that I had to end the class short, fly up to the deck and head to the rail where I instantly vomited overboard.

One feature of being aboard that evening was dinner, a simple meal such as the ones I experienced for the months I lived aboard. What a pleasure to be there with my fellow shipmates and meet their families. It was also a treat to be there with my husband Dinh so that he got a glimpse of that memorable part of my life.



Barry at the helm, 1972



Barry returns to the helm, 2025

A Reminder

Volunteers who plan to attend more than three Footloose events in one season or sail with a participant in a dinghy must pass a *Background Check* and take Move United's *Awareness Training* course. Information on how to get the *Check* and *Training* will be published in the Spring Wind Word. If you have questions now please contact us at info@footloosedisabledsailing.org

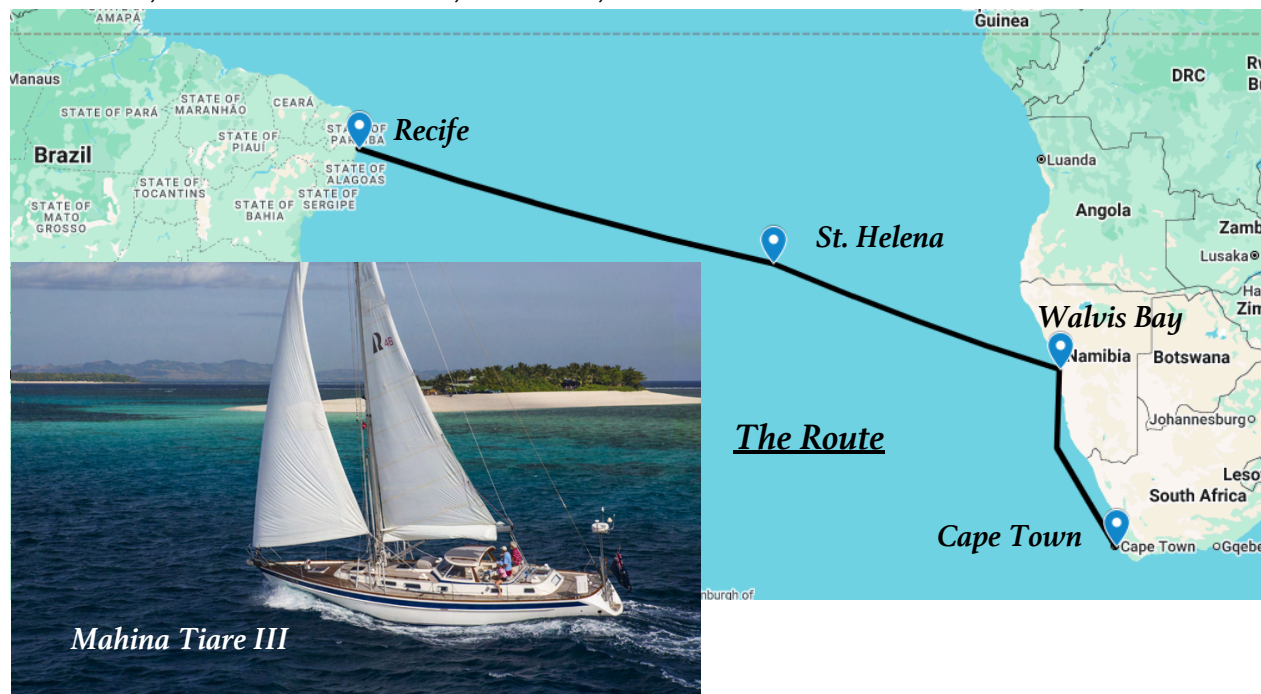


Adobe image

Please forward a copy of Wind Word to anyone who may be interested in participating or volunteering with, or supporting Footloose.

Footloose Members To Sail Across The Atlantic

Footloose volunteers and board members Eulalie Sullivan and Keith Seiler will be sailing across the Atlantic Ocean this winter. Leaving Cape Town, South Africa on January 10 they will sail north to Walvis Bay in Namibia. From there the boat heads west, stopping in St. Helena before reaching her final destination, for Eulalie and Keith, at Recife, Brazil.



This voyage is part of the ARC 2025-2026 Rally, organized by the World Cruising Club. The Club sets up six offshore and ocean crossing rallies, of various lengths, each year. These are cruises rather than races, with the Club vetting who can enter, providing onshore and on-the-water support, and hosting various events at the ports of call.

They will be sailing on *Mahina Tiare III*, a 46-foot Hallberg-Rassy sloop, along with the captain/owner and one other sailor. The boat's sail area, with working jib, is 1,076 square feet. The manufacturer's speed diagram shows a maximum speed of over 9 knots.

The Cape Town-Walvis Bay leg is expected to take 4 to 6 days. The crossing to Recife will take 21 to 28 days, with a 3-day stopover at St. Helena. The voyage will finish in mid-February.

They should experience warm temperatures and the advantage of the anti-clockwise flow of both the ocean current and the southeast trade winds. However, there may be some excitement. cruiserwiki.org warns "Line squalls followed by stronger winds and sometimes heavy rain, are often encountered in mid ocean, and towards the north eastern Brazilian coastline." Fog often occurs towards the deserts of Namibia. "About 3 days in any summer month *rollers* occur at St Helena...making landing almost impossible."

We wish them the best of luck and hope they share their experience in the next Wind Word. You can track their voyage by downloading the YB Races app and opening the ARC 2025-2026 race.