

PELORUS

Pelorus: a fixed compass used to take bearings relative to a ship's heading.

The Quarterly Newsletter of

Central Coast Women For Fisheries, Inc.

Incorporated May 4, 2006



Summer 2022

A Message from CCWF President

Hello CCWF Friends,

I saw the other day that our organization has been serving the fishing community since 2006. Well done ladies! I believe we can be proud of what we have accomplished and hope you will all continue to be involved to keep us going strong.

CCWF recently held elections for the board of directors. The new board is now: Lenore Ward President, Sharon Rowley Vice President, Tacy Lee Treasurer, Sheri Hafer Secretary and Becka Kelly Director. I wish to thank these women for their leadership, and also all the other women who have been involved in the background to make us successful. Please feel free to connect with any one of these women with your ideas. We usually have our general membership meeting at this time of year, but have decided to postpone this until fall because of busy summer schedules. Hopefully we will meet at the beautiful Yacht Club in Morro Bay again. In the meantime, your board is continuing to be active, so don't hesitate to talk to us.

As you will see in this newsletter, we had a successful Albacore Enchilada Fundraiser this year. We want to thank all of those who helped out that day. We do have several other events coming up, beginning with Saturday, June 25th. We will be at the Marine Swap Meet in Morro Bay with hot coffee, hot chocolate with home-made marshmallows and baked goodies. Anyone wanting to help at the event or bake something it will be very much appreciated!. Contact anyone on the board and let us know. We are also trying to plan an educational event with the Maritime Museum in October, and will possibly be joining in on the Avocado/Margarita Festival this fall.

I have continued to talk about those interpretive signs we want to install in Morro Bay and later in Avila as well. Well, it is a long process, but we are making progress. The signs are with the artist at this time for the layout of the information. Next we will be continuing to work with the city on permits and placement. We have been approved for a generous grant from the Central California Joint Cable/Fisheries Liaison Committee to assist in the funding of these signs. We wish to thank them for their support.

CCWF thanks you for being a member!

Hoping you are having a fun and relaxing summer and we hope to see some of you around town.

Lenore Ward, President CCWF

Volume 17, Issue 2

Inside this issue:

Albacore Enchiladas	2
CCWF Scholarship Recipients	2
Aloha	3
Michele Leary Scholarship	3
CCWF Board	3
Cooking with Friends	3
Pages From the Past: a Fishing Family	4
Pages from the Past continued	5
A Few Memories Of Grace	6

Email:
ccwf@womenforfish.org

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2022 Albacore Enchilada Fundraiser



CCWF had the 2022 Albacore Enchilada Fundraiser on Saturday April 30, 2022. As usual the location was the Morro Bay Community Center. The fundraiser was a success and the trays of 4 enchiladas sold out fast.

We had a crew of fishermen to cut the prime tuna in small chunks and plenty of ladies to assemble the fresh ingredients. A huge THANK YOU goes out to all that came to help make the enchiladas and sell them.



A special thank you to **Marlyse Battistella** and **Maria Mockler** for making a really nice lunch for everyone who came to help at the fundraiser.



Fishing Heritage Scholarship Program

For the 2022/23 school year we have 6 scholarship recipients. They are:

Student:

Alyssa Cefalu
Leah O'Brien
Avery Sowell
Emilie Giannini
Gregory Cullen
Tyler Lee

Fisherman Related to:

Fred Cefalu
Jeremiah O'Brien
Bill Blue
Joe Giannini
Roger Cullen
Self and brother Jesse Lee

CONGRATULATIONS to each of these students. We wish them all the best.





ALOHA: (In Hawaiian, “Aloha “ means love: CCWF uses it to say both “hello” and “farewell” with love.)

Our Aloha committee is there for you. The committee sends cards and flowers, but we need you to make the call and let us know of the need and the address. Members are encouraged to contact the committee and help CCWF observe occurrences throughout our community, whether happy or sad.

For Aloha announcements
Contact:
srowley303@gmail.com
805-674-4854

Cards were sent to Marlyse Battistella,
Tacy Lee and
Terry Gummerman’s family



CCWF Board of Directors

President:
Lenore Ward lenoredw@gmail.com
Vice President:
Sharon Rowley srowley303@gmail.com
Secretary:
Sheri Hafer somethingsfishy@charter.net
Treasurer:
Tacy Lee 4tacyl@gmail.com
Director:
Becka Kelly bkelly@morrobayca.gov

Thank you!

To the Central California Joint Cable/Fisheries Liaison
Committee for giving CCWF grants in 2022.

CCWF Newsletters

If you would like to have your newsletter,
The Pelorus, emailed to you, contact Sharon
Rowley: srowley303@gmail.com
If you already have it emailed and have no
printer and would like a hard copy, let
Sharon know that too.

Captain Michele Rowley Leary Memorial Scholarship Update

The 10th annual Captain Michele Rowley Leary Memorial Scholarship was presented to two Morro Bay High Seniors, Alana Pollard and Jackson Howell. Each received \$900 at the Senior Tribute and Awards night at the high school on Tuesday, June 7th. Alana’s plans are to go to Cuesta College and Jackson will attend St. Mary’s College of California in the fall after a couple of classes at Cuesta College this summer to get a head start. He is interested in history and law. We wish both of these hard working students all the best.
Michele’s daughter, Amanda Leary, and her mother, Sharon Rowley, are glad to be able to keep this scholarship going. We also give these scholarships in the memory and honor of commercial fisherman **Tom Roff**.

COOKING WITH CCWF and FRIENDS

Fresh Pineapple Salsa/Marinade for Fish *Submitted by Sheri Hafer*

- 1 Cup Teriyaki Marinade
- 2 Tbls. Pineapple juice
- 1 Cup chopped fresh or canned pineapple, drained. (You can use mango as well)
- 1/4 Cup finely chopped red onion
- 2 Tbls. Chopped red bell pepper
- 1 Tbls. Chopped fresh cilantro
- 1 Tbls. Minced fresh jalapeno Chile pepper * can sting and irritate the skin; wear rubber gloves when handling and do not touch eyes.

Mix and place in covered glass bowl. Place fish in the marinade and refrigerate for at least 30 minutes. After the fish is cooked, spoon over the top.
Enjoy.

Pages From the Past

A Fishing Family

by Sharon Rowley

In 1967 Charlie Lanini began his life-long career as a fisherman at age 14 and over fifty years later in 2022 he still works on the ocean. While still a student at Morro Bay High he worked summers and weekends as a deckhand on the Mallard out of Roses Landing. The captain was Bob Gannon who was popular for bringing in good catches for his passengers, including rock fish and albacore. Most people that remember Bob regard him as legendary. During the 1960's and 70's the sport fishing landings on Morro Bay's waterfront were plentiful. Besides Roses Landing where Charlie worked, there was Virg's Landing, Grahams Landing, Brebes Sport Fishing, and 5th Street Landing. Near the bottom of Beach Street the boats Lucky Strike, Gladly I and the Sarda Sarda took passengers out too. In earlier days there was also Harts Landing, Mikes landing, Richie's Bait Shop that ran the "Craby Joe" (spelled that way in an ad) and Ferguson's Landing which sold tickets for a fishing trip for \$4.45 in 1948.

Charlie continued working on the Mallard after high school and he and Captain Bob stayed with the boat after it was sold to Virg's Landing in the mid 1970's. They also crewed on some of Virg's other several boats. Bob Gannon passed away in the late 1970's and in 1977 Charlie decided to buy his own boat and go commercial fishing for rock fish. He bought the Xiphias with his good friend Bart Strauss as a partner. Charlie and Bart fished regularly and worked hard to be successful and pay the boat off. Sometimes the swells at the Morro Bay harbor entrance were very unpredictable because of shoaling that took place. The Army Corp of Engineers wrote in a report that "Morro Bay is known as one of the most dangerous harbors in the United States". The Core wrote that from 1962 to the year of the report, 1993, "there have been 20 deaths and 67 injuries caused by steep and breaking waves at the harbor entrance." It's been better since the mid 1990's because it has been dredged on a regular basis, which deepens the channel to make it safer. Coming home with a boatload of fish on Friday March 13, 1981 an unexpected steep swell caught the Xiphias and capsized it. Charlie drifted to the beach on the sand spit but young Bart, at 29, didn't make it and left behind a wife, Patty Strauss and a son, 9 year old Shane. Like other accidents that took the lives of fishermen, it saddened the close knit community of Morro Bay. His name, B. Strauss, is engraved on the Anchor Memorial on the waterfront.

After the loss of the Xiphias (which is a Greek word for swordfish) Charlie's course changed a little but didn't keep him from making his living at sea. When Virgil Moores established his sport fishing landing in Morro Bay in 1954 he also brought a live bait operation to the area. The bait boat would go to sea and catch anchovies and sardines, then unload them into receivers on the docks at Virg's Landing. This live bait kept many sport fishing and commercial vessels supplied with their bait. Virg brought his first bait boat up from southern California called the Standard. On one of the Standards trips in 1958 it was taking a load of bait to deliver in Avila and sank near Point Buchon. For many days a lot of searching went on, including the Coast Guard cutter Alert that was stationed in Morro Bay, but only two bodies were found. The Standard and 4 crewmen were lost and there was only speculation on why it sank. Virgil then bought another bait boat from Bill Odette in Newport, CA named the Billy Boy. That would be the bait boat for the next several decades at Virg's Landing. It had a few different crews before Charlie took it over when he ran it from 1981 to 2004.

Virg's Landing had a fleet of 5 to 7 boats at different times over the years and Charlie and his crew kept them supplied with live bait. They would salt some of it in barrels for a bait supply when the Billy Boy wasn't able to fish during the winter storms. While still operating the Billy Boy, Charlie earned a 100 ton Coast Guard license in 1985 so he could captain Virg's passenger boats for fishing trips too. Over the years he ran about every boat Virg's had at one time or another. The largest was the 90 foot Admiral which he worked on full time starting in 2007. The Admiral ran local day trips, multi day trips and farther offshore for albacore.



Charlie and Pam Lanini 2022

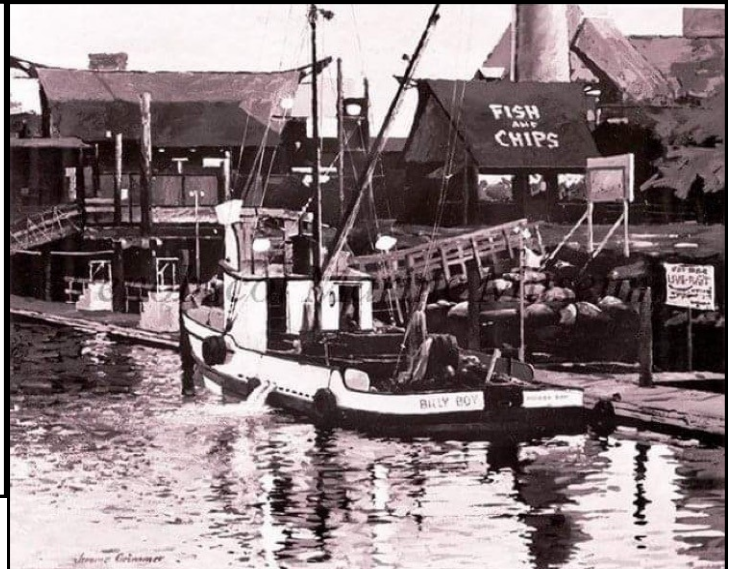
Pages From the Past continued....

Charlie has other family members in the Morro Bay fishing business. His brother Jay Awa is a fisherman and his late mother, Miki Awa was a fixture on the waterfront for many years as a fish filleter. Charlie and his wife Pam of 43 years have been a happy and supportive couple. Pam worked at Virg's Landing for 14 years doing office work and helping to get the boats out every morning. She also did the bookkeeping for all of Charlie's endeavors through the years, along with keeping a cozy welcoming home for themselves. Like many family members of local fishermen, Pam has spent times out near the harbor entrance, near Morro Rock, either waving good-bye at the start of a fishing trip or watching for the first sight of Charlie's boat coming home from sea. Because of CCWF there is now a statue there named "For Those Who Wait," which honors the families of fishermen who have done just as Pam and countless others have done for decades, hoping their loved ones come back safe.

Except for a 3 year break when Charlie and Pam went to live in West Virginia to be with Pam's elderly mother, Charlie has lived and worked on the ocean out of Morro Bay. He has worked with crew members that have come and gone but became close friends with them. He's had proud moments with his crew many times as they have come home with a big load of fish and a feeling of success. He has loved watching and helping countless passengers catch fish and having fun, including teaching kids and "first-timers" to fish. He also likes to fish for perch commercially from shore and enjoys the many beautiful beaches in the areas where he fishes. Being a fisherman has it's perils and joys and is hard work, but it's a way of life Charlie says he loves



Charlie's mother Miki in picture on left, the second person from the right front. She's filleting fish at Gold Nugget Seafoods which was located at 2100 Sunset, in Morro Bay. Many filleters were kept busy there from 1972 to 1988.



For over 40 years the Billy Boy kept Virg's Landing's fleet of boats and other boats in the harbor supplied with anchovies and sardines. The live bait enhanced the halibut and albacore fishing and when they brought in big sardines the lingcod count would usually go up.

Charlie Lanini as a deckhand on the Mallard in the 1970's. He's holding a nice King salmon that he netted for a passenger and as you can see the sacks of rock fish are pretty hefty.



Charlie's daughter Wendee with her two boys Ty, 18, and Kaden 20. Wendee grew up to know the way of life for fishermen. Raising her boys while living in Oregon, Wendee has made sure they went fishing through the years. They also always look forward to a fishing trip with Charlie when visiting in California.



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Please Note: The Quintana Road
address for mail is a postal box
only.

www.womenforfish.org

A Few Memories of Grace

CCWF has had many fundraisers since the organization was incorporated 18 years ago in 2004. It always takes a lot of help in many ways. One Morro Bay lady frequently helped CCWF by selling tickets for our fundraisers, such as for fish fries and the albacore enchiladas. This was Grace Poletti, or Grandma Grace, as she was lovingly called by many in the community. She would typically buy 15 to 20 tickets, sometimes more, and then make sure the local firemen, police officers or some family in need got the tickets.

Grace Poletti was extremely kind and has a long history of volunteering and service to the Morro Bay community and was honored as “Citizen of the Year” at one time. She did many things behind the scenes too. One was at the end of summers when school was about to start Grace would pick a few kids she knew who were in need meet them with their parents at the local Rite Aid Store. Grace told them to wander the store pick out all the school supplies they wanted. She made sure they threw in a few personal items like shampoo and hairbrushes too. Grace was happy to pay for it all, and looked forward to doing this every year.

Many years ago, when her husband Willie was alive and before they moved to Morro Bay, they lived on a ranch just north of Cayucos on Highway 1. They would leave a key in a box near their mailbox for people to open a gate across the highway. The gate was for a road that led to Villa Creek, a popular place to get black abalone. Their key got used over the years by a lot of appreciative people and families who got abalone, fished and had a good time on the Villa Creek beach.

Grace, who passed this last January in 2022, was 97. A couple of years ago, the Morro Bay fire department and police department paraded their vehicles by her home with lights and hollers to wish her a happy birthday while she sat outside to wave at them. They were honoring this incredible lady that they loved.