

Rossmoor sailor has competed in race on the bay for 46 years

By Nancy Kaye
Contributing writer

"I keep busy."

That's how Duncan Carter describes his daily life. But perhaps that phrase doesn't adequately portray the life of the 81-year-old Rossmoor resident who is a boat racer, a nature photographer, a bridge player, an ex-board member and former president of Rossmoor's Third Mutual.

Lining the walls of his dining room are exquisite, professionally-done color photographs of flowers, trees, rocks and animals that Carter has taken over the years. The display is deserving of a one-man show.

At least for now, though, and for the last 66 years, the photography hobby has come in second to Carter's favorite pastime – sailing. He just completed his latest sailing race, the 57th Annual Bullship Race, which ran from Sausalito to San Francisco. He's participated in this race for 46 years.

One-person boat

If you imagine him on the bay in a large, elegant yacht, complete with crew, you would be way off base. No, his boat, an El Toro, is all of eight feet long and holds only one person – himself. He stores it in his garage.

"Once, I had a 14-foot outboard. But this El Toro is the smallest boat I've ever owned," said Carter. "I built it myself in six weeks when we lived in Oakland. I did it in an open carport on a jig."

It wasn't the boat's fault that he finished the recent



News photo by Mike DiCarlo

Duncan Carter with his 2010 Bullship Race hat and sweatshirt

"Bullship" race 17th out of 24.

"I got a pretty good start. In fact, people said I started out in fourth place," he said. "Most of the racers went straight across the gate. But because of expected ebbing on the San Francisco shore, I, and four others, headed for Fort Mason. We went too far. It was a strategic error."

And while he didn't win any fancy award, Carter at least earned a sweatshirt with the name of the race emblazoned across the front.

Of the 24 competing in the race, Carter was the second oldest; another contestant beat him in age by one or two years.

The average age of the racers was about 45. But Carter holds the record for the number of years in participation in the Bullship race.

According to Carter, the somewhat disreputable name of the race, "Bullship," goes back about 60 years. Members of the Richmond Yacht Club liked to chat with each while bouncing around in their small sailboats. Hence, the name of the race.

Staying close to the water

Born in Idaho, he moved to Honolulu at nine months of age. He met his Maui-born wife, "Brucie," when they were in the fifth grade. He and his



Carter in his El Toro, competing in the 57th Annual Bullship Race, which ran from Sausalito to San Francisco

friends surfed and boated on Waikiki.

In 1950, Carter graduated from UC Berkeley with a degree in agriculture.

"Everybody wanted me back," he said. The Army wanted me back. I said, 'No thank you.' Instead I went to work for Del Monte in agricultural research and regulatory affairs."

Carter and his wife moved to Rossmoor in 1985.

Currently, he participates in six or eight boat races each

year. He also writes reports for the yachting magazine "Latitude 38."

When asked how he envisions his future in boating, Carter replied, "I'll probably keep going as long as I can. It's fun."

But he points out that the sport of sailing is generally going downhill. "It's expensive," he said. "People are riding mountain bikes instead of sailing. A plastic El Toro now costs \$5,000. I built mine for \$162 in 1963."

Helpful hints and resources offered by Genealogy Society

The Mt. Diablo Genealogical Society will meet on Thursday, May 20, at 1:15 p.m. in the Pacific National Bank, 1910 Tice Valley Blvd., near CVS in the Rossmoor Shopping Center.

The meeting room is located through the main entrance of the bank.

The guest speaker will be Virginia Kysh. She has presented genealogy classes and seminars for many years. She is a nuts-and-bolts speaker with many helpful hints for using the computer and other resources in doing genealogy research.

A question-and-answer session will follow the presentation.

The Mt. Diablo Genealogical Society welcomes guests and new members. Annual dues are \$20 for an individual and \$25 for a family membership. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month except for holidays and the month of August.

Membership is open to residents and nonresidents. Paid members receive a monthly publication of The Digger, which has plenty of interesting articles and information for genealogists. Members can receive an online version or a mailed hard copy if requested.

For information about the club and its activities, contact Peggy Johnson at 937-6598.

Domino scores

On May 3, domino winners were: Joan Young 327, Ann Shadle 323, Pat Quarto 321, Doris Hand 319, Margaret Leong 315 and Jackie Zeterberg 315.

High scores for Saturday, May 1, were: Jeannie Johnson 336, Walter Roosli 329, Jim Ford 321.

The Domino Club meets regularly on Monday evenings in the

Oak Room at Gateway Clubhouse. Play begins promptly at 6:45 p.m.

On Saturdays, the Domino Club meets at noon in Multipurpose Room 2 at Gateway. This is a great opportunity to learn and practice the rules and etiquette of Fives, the domino game that the club plays.

Everyone is welcome to play and learn about dominoes.

New Kids hosts Hawaiian luau

Aloha, nui, aloha means a big welcome, and that is the message of New Kids on the Block (NKOTB). It will have a Hawaiian luau Saturday, June 5, in the Dollar Clubhouse. New Kids is a social club for single men and women born in the '30s, '40s and '50s.

The social hour starts at 5:30 p.m. with hosted mai tai cocktails and puupuus (hors d'oeuvres). Wine, beer and soft drinks will also be served.

Hawaiian cuisine, which is a blend of Polynesian, Japanese, Chinese, Filipino, Korean, Spanish and Portuguese cultures, is on the menu. The exotic buffet, served at 6:30 by Hamilton, will include South Sea salad, fresh fruit salad, mai kai coconut chicken, pineapple/ginger pork, fried rice, Hawaiian bread rolls, banana cream pie and decaffeinated coffee.

Reservations are required. The cost is \$22 for members and \$26 for guests. Reservation checks, payable to NKOTB, should be mailed to Reservations Chairwoman Bev Hudson at 1185 Leisure Lane No. 3 or left in club's mailbox at Gateway.

Reservation deadline is Tuesday, June 1. Early reservations are advised as the event sells out early. No checks or cash will be accepted at the door.

It is suggested that attendees come colorfully dressed for the occasion with aloha shirts, muumuus, sarongs, flowered shifts and for the more daring, grass skirts.

Dues for 2010 are \$10. For membership information, call Membership Chairwoman Claudia Edwards at 683-9653.

Stitchers looking for new members

Anyone who sews may join the Rossmoor Stitchers this month. The Stitchers meet every Thursday morning from 9 a.m. to noon in the Sewing Arts Studio, followed by a brown-bag lunch.

Children's clothes and items for layettes continue to make up the majority of the items made by this talented

group of volunteers. In addition, many of the club's busy sewers work on items to be sold at the annual bazaar held in November.

Visitors are always welcome and some gift items are available for purchase on Thursday mornings.

Because this group is busily sewing for charity, they are unable to accept re-

quests for alterations or personal sewing.

Experienced sewers are more than welcome to join this happy group.

Donations of fabric and yarn are always appreciated and can be dropped off Thursday mornings.

For information, call President June Gailey, 256-6862.