

# Meet Some Local Racers

Here are the stories of some local racers, how they got into sailing and racing. This can be you in a few years!

## Alejandro H

Alejandro started sailing as a teenager in his native Chile while spending a summer as a liveaboard with friends. He was pulled into beercans by local skippers prowling the docks in search of crew. The bug bit and didn't let go, and within a year he was doing bluewater (open ocean) passages, cruising, and keelboat racing. A firm believer in sailing on "OPB" (other people's boats), Alejandro does not own or plan to own a boat (yet), as his happy place is crewing on races and chartering in remote locations. Since moving to the US, has been actively participating in the Berkeley Yacht Club beercans and J/105 Fleet. He lives with his wife and two children, who do not share his passion for sailing, but are amenable to hopping on a chartered boat in a warm climate with moderate winds.

## Peter K

Peter K started sailing in the Bay Area in 1997 after moving here following grad school at MIT. He started doing the Berkeley beercans by just showing up on O dock after reading about it in Latitude 38. He later signed up at OCSC in Berkeley, where he was a captain on cruises in Mexico, Belize, and the British Virgin Islands. He graduated to "in the bay" races on the weekends, the ocean, and even the Pacific Cup race. He'd always been jonesing to own his own boat and after a loooong search and several failed efforts, he bought an Islander 36. The boat is kind of a project that he enjoys working on, casually day sails, and even races some. He eventually hopes to retire and sail as long and as far as he can, perhaps even to Greece or a Coconut Milk Run across the Pacific. He's a singlehander for now, but remains ever hopeful of finding a cruising/racing partner.

## Nick G

Nick G's first race was onboard his new boss's Express 37 during a Wednesday night Richmond YC beercan race immediately after graduating in 1996. He has since regularly raced monohulls and multihulls from 15 to 60 feet in the Bay, the Caribbean, and the Pacific. He now skippers his own 37 foot racing sloop with an enthusiastic and skilled crew ranging in age from 15 to 70 years.

## Tony P

Tony started sailing in the UK in the 60s. He continued sailing in Toronto and eventually San Francisco when he moved here in the early 70s. Since then he has owned, and successfully raced, 7 different sailboats. On several occasions, Tony has chartered sailboats in the Caribbean and the Bahamas. He was also a watch captain on a winning boat in an Around the World Race. Tony raced an Express 27 in the 2024 Pac Cup.

## Gregory C

Greg considers himself a lifelong sailor who grew up in Sacramento sailing on local lakes. He moved to San Francisco in his late twenties and started sailing there after meeting boat owners at Latitude 38 magazine crew parties. This included racing, which he still does regularly. Beercan racing is the informal fun weekday racing, and the serious ones are on weekends. He is on his fifth boat, and sail or race all over the west coast.

## Memo G

Memo G races cars professionally, and sailboats for fun. He was born in Mexico and his parents were sailing back and forth to La Paz and San Francisco. He was sailing on the ocean when he was 9 months old. As a pre-teen kid, he started sailing El Toros and Sabots and Lasers. He loved sailing, and since his job is racing cars, he loves competing generally. He spent 4-5 years crewing before he bought a boat. Then he started racing his own boat, starting at the smaller races and various beercan races at yacht clubs. One year, he raced in a non-spinnaker division with his 87-year old mother in a race with about 130 boats entered, and we won overall.