



VetsBoats Foundation Newsletter

Spring 2025 Edition

A Message from the Helm

As we sail into 2025, the VetsBoats Foundation continues its mission to restore health and well-being to military veterans through the transformative power of wooden boats and sailing. Our programs, rooted in camaraderie and hands-on engagement, have touched the lives of over a thousand veterans and their families, and this year promises new partnerships, expanded outreach, and exciting milestones on the water.

Recent Highlights and Events

Sailing for Healing: Veterans Take the Helm

Last year, VetsBoats hosted over 20 memorable days on the water in Sausalito, partnering with Call of the Sea aboard the tall ship *Matthew Turner* and Wylie Chartes aboard the catboat ketch *Derek M Baylis*. Veterans from all branches participated in a two-part program: morning training included safety briefings and hands-on sail handling, followed by an afternoon sail on San Francisco Bay. The events were more than just a day out; it was a powerful reminder of the healing that comes from teamwork, purpose, and the open water. As one participant, Lindsay Remer, shared, “The hands-on training on the boat — I no longer feel useless”.

Clover’s Restoration Nears Completion



Clover's Pot o' Gold Party

Tonight, March 15
5:00pm - 8:00pm
Sausalito Yacht Club
100 Humbolt Ave, Sausalito,
CA



Featuring



Sixpenny
Celtic music
Direct From Dublin
(Dublin, California, that is)

Over St. Patrick's Day we celebrated the success of our flagship restoration project. The 68-foot gaff-rigged cutter *Clover* is approaching a major milestone. After years of dedicated effort from veterans, volunteers, and community partners, *Clover* is preparing for her sea trials this year. The restoration has been a labor of love, involving everything from recaulking the main cabin top to restoring her original rigging. The vessel now stands as a testament to resilience and teamwork, ready to serve as a floating classroom and sanctuary for veterans seeking renewal.

Welcoming New Vessels: Sunda Joins the Fleet

In addition to *Clover*, the Foundation recently welcomed *Sunda*, a 1941 Ben Seaborn-designed sloop, into our growing fleet. Donated by longtime stewards Bob and Colleen Rogers, *Sunda* brings new opportunities for training and adventure. With ten boats now in our network, we can offer more veterans the chance to experience the magic of sailing and the unique therapy it provides..

Looking Ahead: Spring and Summer 2025

Adventure Cat Partnership at Pier 39

Mark your calendars for April 25, 2025! VetsBoats is thrilled to announce a new partnership with Adventure Cat Sailing Charters. This collaboration will offer veterans and their families a chance to sail from San Francisco's iconic Pier 39, expanding our reach and impact throughout the Bay Area.

Expanding Our Impact: 500+ Veterans to Sail in 2024

Our goal for 2024 is ambitious: introduce over 500 veterans to the joys and challenges of sailing. Through partnerships with veteran service organizations, local agencies, and community volunteers, we are working to ensure that those who have served our nation find community, purpose, and healing on the water.

Community Service and Support

VetsBoats is now an approved organization for veterans seeking community service opportunities. We help veterans access earned benefits and stay connected through surveys, regular engagement, and ongoing events. Our programs are designed not just to teach sailing, but to foster lasting bonds and a supportive network for veterans and their families.

Spotlight: The Power of Wooden Boats

“The best thing that I’ve found for vets — for myself first, and for others — is that when you have problems in life, just add water. Add salt water, if you can, and add salt water on a wooden boat. Those problems diminish; they take the right proportions. And if you can do that in a community with other vets, then you’re very fortunate.”

— Terry Moran, Founder

Wooden boats are more than vessels; they are symbols of craftsmanship, tradition, and resilience. For many veterans, working on these boats — sanding, painting, restoring — is a path to mindfulness and recovery. Sailing them together builds trust, confidence, and a sense of shared purpose that is vital for healing from trauma and isolation.

How You Can Help

Volunteer and Participate

We invite veterans, families, and supporters to join us. Whether you are interested in sailing, restoration, or community outreach, your involvement makes a difference.

Vessel Donations

Our robust vessel donation program welcomes inquiries from those wishing to contribute boats to our cause. Each donation helps us expand our fleet and reach more veterans in need.

Stay Connected

Follow us on Instagram (@vetsboats) for event updates, photos, and stories from the water. Visit our website for the latest news, volunteer opportunities, and ways to support our mission.

Final Thoughts

As we reflect on nine years of service, ten boats in our network, and over a thousand veterans introduced to sailing, we are reminded that our greatest strength is community. Together, we are charting a course toward hope, healing, and renewed purpose for those who have served. Thank you for being part of the VetsBoats journey.

For more information, event details, or to get involved, visit www.vetsboats.org or contact us directly. Fair winds and following seas!