

Teen Scene column

By Becky Ware

Junior, Acalanes High School

Last summer I made a two week voyage from Oakland to Hilo, Hawaii on Lynx, a replica 1812 privateer tall ship. There were five students and a professional crew of eight. Christopher, the captain, was a joy to sail under and he was one of the people that encouraged me to go on this trip.

We got under way on a Tuesday afternoon. We motored out the Golden Gate and encountered some choppy seas. Then we all practiced various drills including man overboard, fire and abandon ship. Practicing drills is important because when the real thing happens each person will know what to do and where to go without having to think too hard about it. After dinner we were broken into watches, of four hours each. While on watch, the four crew members rotated between look-out and helmsman and also did the chores allotted for that watch. Chores included deck wash, polishing brass, cleaning the head, cleaning the floor of the saloon, and galley clean up.

The food was amazing and there was never a time where I was hungry, there were always snacks, and the food was hot and ready to go at the same time everyday. From 2-4 in the afternoon we had class. The students gathered aft and the crew members taught various things, including navigation, charting, how to do boat checks, the war of 1812, Captain Cook, the history of Hawaii and how to use a sextant.

On the fourth day we got to



Becky Ware at the helm
swim; there was no wind and the water was crystal clear. We rigged up a rope swing and people were jumping off the ratboards. The water was very cold but at the same time very refreshing. It also gave us a chance to wash our hair.

Throughout the trip we all had the opportunity to go aloft. It sure is a thrill going aloft while underway, with the boat swaying underneath.

On Sunday we had field day, and deep cleaned every part of the ship. My watch was in charge of the aft cabin, so we had to lemon oil all of the finished wood, sweep and wash the floor. Other watches were in charge of cleaning the saloon and head, or cleaning the galley.

Towards the end of the trip the students began to really feel like they were a part of the crew. Daily chores and setting and striking sails came so easily. Our last day was bittersweet as we arrived in Radio Bay, and were greeted by family and friends. I was sad to leave the ship behind and all of my new friends, and I couldn't have asked for a better group of people to sail across the Pacific Ocean with. I had a blast and it was definitely a life changing experience.

For more information, go to www.privateerlynx.org

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