

Lending a Hand

Lafayette resident helps at America's Cup

By Rebecca Eckland



Thomas Maher

Photos Doug Kohen

Thomas Maher has been a sailor as long as he can remember. His father, Chris— also an avid sailor—always had a boat moored in Alameda and introduced him to the sport. Maher began racing at about the age of eight. “I always just wanted to win,” said Maher of his early sailing days. He recently served as a shore hand for Team China in early America’s World Cup events, the newest team addition to one of the oldest existing organized competitions around.

Maher landed on Team China when a friend of Chris’s called months ago with the news that the team needed a shore hand for the AC World Series and the World Series in San Francisco from August 10-26. Maher— whose love of sailing has not diminished in the years— joined the team.

Although Maher’s official title was shore hand, he did much more. He repaired the hulls of damaged boats and was aboard the coaching boat to monitor the crew. “In the

world of sailing, you have to be a jack of all trades,” he said.

He also acted as a “local representative,” offering suggestions for places to eat and where to pick up supplies needed for the boat.

His favorite memory was his experience on the coaching boat. “Being on the coaching boat was amazing,” he said. “You get to see the technology working firsthand.”

A new technology used by the team was the wing sail boat, which is much faster than previous models. “You have to work hard, be a quick learner,” said Maher who hadn’t worked on a wing boat before.

Maher enjoyed his time with the crew. “The guys were surprisingly fun to be around,” he said.

He did admit that there were moments when communication became an issue for the multinational crew. “With people from New Zealand, France and of course, China, there was a few times when things got a little mixed up,” he explained.

He is thankful for the opportunity to participate. “I was just glad I got the experience to be around such a high level of the sport. Since sailing is not a well known sport in China it was really cool to be a part of something that spreads the sport that I love to the

other end of the globe,” he said.

The teams will return to the bay on October 1-7 for the preliminary competitions that lead up to the actual America’s Cup, which will be sailed in San Francisco Bay in the summer of 2013.

“If the team calls and if my teachers let me disappear for a few weeks, I’ll be in San Francisco,” he said. Currently a student at Cal Poly, Maher hopes to use his degree program, he’s majoring in communication and marketing, to keep close to the sailing life he’s always known.

“I want to be able to use my marketing knowledge to help promote the sport,” he said.



U14 Lamorinda Girls Take Second Place

Submitted by Chris Easter



Front Row, from left: Emma Nushi, Adriana Uyehara, Lindsay Easter; middle row: Mia Lineweaver, Greta Kohls, Rosie Cruz, Caroline Clark, Katherine Larson, Jessica Carlin; top row: Morgan Rogers, Tova Ricardo, Cecilia Gee, Hannah Fishlow, Jadey Sadoff, Olivia Fishlow, Maggie McGuire. Photo provided

The Lamorinda United U14 girls continue to coalesce as a team and the Stanford Summer Classic Tournament results prove it. On August 18th, they had easily their best day as a team as they played near perfect soccer in two impressive victories, defeating the San Luis Obispo Storm 4-1 and the Sunnyvale Alliance Devils 5-1.

Day two was more difficult as the home team, Mountain View/Los Altos Typhoon, gave

Lamorinda all they could handle in 2-2 tie.

Fortunately, due to their dominance on Day 1, the U14s advanced into the finals on Sunday evening to take on Ajax East Bay. Ajax won 2-1. While just missing on their bid for first place, U14s were satisfied with their level of play and they hope it is a foreshadowing of things to come as they look towards the fall league, which commences in September.

Magic Dominate Weekend Tournament

Submitted by Greg Davis



Back row, from left: Coach Jasko Begovic, Kaitlin DeVries, Holland McDonald, Molly Davis, Vanessa Vaisnor, Jackie Nichols, Kate Minden, Coach Haris Obic; front row: Kierra Krawec, Mia Grillo, Molly Ikeya, Emily Smith, Samantha DeVecchi, Anya Li; not pictured: Keeley Murphy, Annie Midthun, Lauren Van Stralen. Photo provided

California Magic’s U13 girls’ team continued their winning ways on Labor Day weekend at the Sonoma County Classic Soccer Premier Division 1 Tournament in Santa Rosa. Outscoring their opponents 16-1 over the tournament, the girls beat a tough premier-level Sonoma County Alliance team 2-0 in an intense semi-final to advance to the championship on

Sunday. The Magic played stellar team soccer and posted a 2-0 win to take the championship. Five different players scored goals and assists came from almost every teammate in the tournament. “This weekend our players excelled in playing more than one position and they continued learning the many different ways to compete,” said Head Coach Haris Obic.

Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified

Music Lessons
Piano/guitar w/Robbie Dunbar
 All levels welcome!
 I travel to your home.
 M. A. Music Composition
 Piano tuning as well!
 925-323-9706
 robbiednbr@gmail.com

For Sale
Upright Weber Piano for sale in Moraga. 1967 model. Was purchased from and tuned by a professional tuner for our daughter's piano lessons a few years ago. Some imperfections in the wood on one area, but in great shape. \$700 or BO. Call (925) 330-1983.

Painting
T & T PAINTING CO
 27 Years Experience Int & Ext
 Our Workmanship & References
 Speak for Themselves
 CA Lic # 616357 BONDED
Steve Thaw 376-3380 Moraga

Construction
SWARTS CONSTRUCTION
 • Free Estimates • Seismic Retrofit
 • Drainage • House Leveling
 • Remodel • 35 yrs. Lamorinda
925.250.6610
www.swartsco.com
 INSURED BONDED Lic# 975406

Windows & Gutters
Reliable Window Cleaning
 Friendliness & remarkable results.
 Windows, Gutters, Pressure Washing. (925) 254-7622
 ReliableWindowService.com

Piano Lessons
Piano Lessons in Moraga
 Dr. Gosia Kossakowski (MTAC, CM)
 925-247-0894 chopinsf@aol.com

House Cleaning
www.totalclean.biz
 Serving Lamorinda since 1985.
 Insured and bonded 376-1004.

LET ME BRIGHTEN YOUR HOME!
 Specializing in high quality interior painting
 Lic.#953962/Bonded/Insured
AN INSIDE JOB
 Mark Alexander
 Owner
 I'm local, and I'm a very nice guy!
(925) 370-6558 • (925) 787-6684 cell
 grizzmark@sbcglobal.net

Concept Builders
 Remodeling, Home Repair & New Construction
 Bonded & Insured. License no. 842563
 (925) 283-8122, Cell: (925) 768-4983

Rain gutter
Vickers Rain Gutter
 Installation, repair, roof & gutter cleaning
 Serving Lamorinda since 1984, Many styles of gutters with soldered downspouts.....Senior discount....free est....lic 677426. I do the work myself & take pride in it.....Ken 925-687-8831

Computer lessons
On-Site Computer Service
 • All Major Brands • Troubleshooting • Wireless Networking • Data Recovery • Website Design & Hosting • Technology Consulting • Virus/Spyware Removal
 • Affordable Rates • Certified Technicians
925-322-9577 • 510-225-5061
 www.fastteks.com • wli@fastteks.com

Monica's Cleaning
 Residential & Commercial Janitorial Services
 Lic. Free Estimates (925) 348-3761

Grout & Tile
Say "Goodbye" to Ugly Grout!
 • Grout Tile • Cleaning Sealer
 • Repair & Restoration
 The Grout Specialist Co.
 CA Lic#970721
 925-323-3914, www.groutspecialistco.com

Handyman
 Fix, Paint, Repair anything.
 Professional & Reliable
 Call Terry 925-788-1663

Plumbing

WE HOP TO IT!
(925) 377-6600
 LeapFrogPlumbing.com

Insurance
Totalintegrityinsurance.com
 20+yr Lamorinda resident.
 My independent insurance brokerage is here to serve you.
 Over 100 top carriers = great pricing and coverage for Biz Gen Liab, W Comp, Homes, Auto, Life. (925) 247-4356 0E90108

Hauling
FLO'S HAULING
 Quick & easy - reasonable rates
(925) 521-4767

Tree Service
East Bay Tree Service.
 377-8733. Fine pruning, large tree removal, stump grinding
 License #805794
Tree & brush removal.
 Poisoned Oak removal. 376-1995,
 Licensed, insured & bonded