

Photos by Annick Gauthier



High Flying Sailors Visit Port Townsend and Port Ludlow

Acrobatics and Ballet in the Rigging

By Richard Hazelton

It's always fun when the circus comes to town, but when it sails in, that's truly something different.

Delphine and Franck Rabilier left Brittany, France in 2004, to explore the world in their cold-molded Gin Fizz, designed by Michael Joubert, the 37-foot sloop *La Loupiote (Little Light)*. Like most cruisers, they needed to think about ways to supplement their income along the way. Franck had grown up with a circus background and he and Delphine were doing acrobatics just for fun. "We had the idea that we could combine our two passions, sailing and acrobatics," said Delphine.

Their school-bus-yellow boat has a flush deck which gives them the platform for their spectacular act. And, of course, the rigging provides a ready made stage for performing their aerial acrobatics. Asked if they'd done any special rigging, Delphine replied, "There is no special rigging. The stress we put on it is nothing compared to sailing."

After having performed in France, Spain, Portugal, Morocco, Caribbean Islands, East Canada, Bermudas, Panama, Costa Rica, Mexico and Hawaii Islands, Delphine and Franck pulled into British Colombia for the summer to present their two unusual performances. They have created two silent productions, initially for the Society of the old quarts of Montréal (where the couple performed over 150 shows) inspired by circus, dance and theater, performed on their sailboat.

Their first show, "The Navigators," influenced by Buster Keaton and silent films, is a parody of navigational maneuverers that pokes fun at the mishaps of bungling sailors.

The second show, "Between Wing and Island," deals with male-female relationships in a spectacle of aerial choreography and acrobatics in a duet that ranges from love, humor and poetry to earth, sea and sky.

The shows are suitable for audiences of all ages and last 20 minutes each. They are free, but the artists are not paid for their work and invite the public to make donations to help them and their two daughters Ondja (3) and Loéva (11) continue their great adventure around the world.

Seattle sailor Bob Connel spearheaded their visit to Port Townsend. "The reason I got involved was that I read an article about them, saw that they were going to be in the Salish Sea for part of the summer and the article stated that people willing to host them should drop them an email.

Photos by Annick Gauthier





The Rabiliers, L-R; Delphine, Ondja, Loéva and Franck.

We attempted to get them into the Port of Seattle but it had to be during Boat week in early June and they had not yet arrived from Hawaii. They have spent the last month or so between Victoria and Vancouver and told me they were heading south again the first week of September, so I called Point Hudson and made some slip reservations. They are charming people." After Port Townsend, they will also be doing three days of shows in Port Ludlow.

After their visit to the Northwest, the Rabiliers plan to sail down to San Francisco at the beginning of September, then continue on to Mexico and west to Polynesia and New Zealand.

If you'd like to host them for future shows in your area, additional information is available on their website for *La Loupiote*: www.voilierspectacle.com email: laloupiote@gmail.com

Port Townsend
August 19 and 20, 2011
Point Hudson Marina
5:00 The Navigators
7:00 Between Wing and Island

Port Ludlow
August 23, 24, 25, 2011
5:00 The navigators
7:00 Between Wing and Island

PORT of EVERETT MARINA

Be Our Guest!

Guest boat slips only 75-cents/foot/night

Portofeverett.com

Tulalipresort.com

Come Visit the West Coast's Largest Public Marina

FREE shuttle to theTulalip Resort Casino



Whatever floats your boat, we can do it... from tinkers and lazy jacks to carbon poles and bloopie riggers... we make sailing magic!



Andy Schwenk
360.770.7035
nwrig@cnw.com

NORTHWEST RIGGING

www.northwestriggingInc.com



Sailboat stage for some super acrobatics

TWO SWINGERS: Husband and wife from France take their act before the mast

Special event

La Loupiote

Where: Dock in front of Granville Island Public Market
When: Today-Sunday, July 6-10, Aug. 3-7 & 10-14, shows 5:30 & 7:30 p.m.
Tickets: Free to the public. By donation (except today), vollierspectacle.com and granvilleisland.com

More@TheProvince.com

- For the next few weeks the water in front the Granville Island Public Market will be home to French performers Franck & Delphine Rabillier who use their sailboat as a stage for a unique marriage of theatre and acrobatics. Dana Gee of DGTV got a sneak peak of the pair in action. Check out the video at theprovince.com



French acrobats and sailors Franck and Delphine Rabillier perform a series of stunts aboard their boat La Loupiote at Granville Island on Wednesday. JASON PAYNE — POSTMEDIA

BY DANA GEE
THE PROVINCE

This summer a pair of French swingers will be calling Granville Island home.

And they hope members of the public will drop by and see them.

Now, for the record, Franck and Delphine Rabillier do their swinging off their boat's mast, boom and rigging. They are a unique pair of acrobats whose stage is the 37-foot sailboat the *La Loupiote.*

"We started long ago because we both loved sailing and acrobatics, so we mixed them," said Franck.

Since setting sail from Plouer Sur Rance in north of Brittany in France in 2004 the couple have logged 20,000 nautical miles around the globe.

Joining them on their journey are their two daughters Ondja, 3, and 11-year-old Loéva.

Before landing here at Granville Island, the family spent 18 days crossing the Pacific from Hawaii.

"It's a nice time because it is family time," said Franck as his kids, who he said wasted no time finding the landlubbers playground when they arrived, played below deck. "We are all together. We have time to play together. We like it."

The couple say they have no immediate plans to permanently dock. That decision depends on their health, the children and how they do as a family.

While there is plenty of time out in the open ocean the couple quickly points out that that time is spent focused on the safety of the journey.

"On the ocean, it is not the time to create," said Franck.

"Yes, we need to stop to create shows," added Delphine.

Here for this leg of their adventure the highly skilled and emotive pair will be doing two 20-minute shows each day. The first one is the very funny "Navigator," a Buster Keaton inspired parody of a captain and his crew. The second show is a beautiful, high-flying aerial ballet about the relationship between men and women entitled "Between Wing and Island."

"It's universal what we are doing," said Delphine. "We did it in Morocco and the reception is the same as Montreal or anywhere."

dgee@theprovince.com
twitter.com/dana_gee

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Two shows this weekend

From page 49

The second show is called Between Wing and Island and begins at 8 p.m.

La Loupiote will be anchored approximately 10 metres from shore, clearly visible, and the best spot to watch from will be by the Garden Bay Pub and Marina. After the show is over, the two like to visit with the audience, answer questions and pass the hat for donations that will finance their journey.

After Pender Harbour they sail to performances on Salt Spring Island and Sidney, and then south to the U.S. west coast. It's a pity they could not stop in Gibsons for Sea Cavalcade, but as the performers note, it took a year of advance contacts to set up the current shows. Find out more about the travelling acrobats at www.voilierspectacle.com.

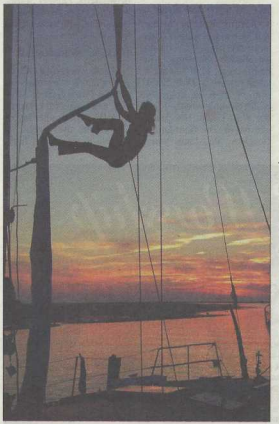


PHOTO SUBMITTED
Acrobat Delphine Lechifflart performs against a Portuguese sunset.

TRAVELLING PERFORMANCE

Acrobatic couple sail to Garden Bay

JAN DEGRASS
Arts & Entertainment Writer

In 2004, the acrobatic French couple of Delphine Lechifflart and Franck Rabilier embarked on a lifelong dream. They fixed up a half-finished boat they had bought, and they sailed from Europe with their daughter (now 11) in *La Loupiote* across the Atlantic then south to the Caribbean on the first leg of their journey around the world. On the way their family grew, and they now have a three-year-old who has known no home but the sailboat.

"When we met, we dreamed of sailing together," said Lechifflart.

Many couples might share this romantic notion, but what makes this couple unique is their ability to perform aerial acrobatics at ports on their voyage, utilizing their boat as a stage visible to audiences on shore. Together, they perform gravity-defying acts of grace and strength told in stories of interest to kids and adults.

The two have worked together for 20 years; Rabilier was trained in France in circus arts and he taught Lechifflart aerial performance skills. They both took more training in Switzerland, and also appeared in theatre productions.

Recently they've been showing their talents at Vancouver's Granville Island. This week the couple will sail to Pender Harbour to give two performances on Saturday, July 16 and Sunday, July 17. The first show, The Navigators, is about 20 minutes long and starts at 6 p.m.

See TWO SHOWS page 51



Fall Activities Guide: B 1-3

Truth Event Go to Mars Saturday: A5

Studio Tour: page 6 of ThisWEEK



The Leader

August 24, 2011
Issue 34/Vol. 122

SERVING PORT TOWNSEND & JEFFERSON COUNTY SINCE 1889

$1.00

Seattle dirt set for Mats Mats

By James Robinson of the Leader

"Muck" generated while boring the Seattle waterfront tunnel is bound for the old Mats Mats Quarry, just north of Port Ludlow.

Seattle voters gave their final blessing on Aug. 16 to a $2 billion, 1.75-mile, 52-foot-wide, deep-bore highway tunnel to replace the aging Alaskan Way Viaduct. Tunnel supporters say the elevated highway is a proven risk to collapse during an earthquake.

Dirt removed to excavate the tunnel would be barged to the 117-acre waterfront site in Jefferson County for disposal and to help reclaim the quarry.

Work in Seattle should begin later this year, but it is not yet known when boring would produce spoils that would be barged to Mats Mats. An estimated 808,000 cubic yards of dirt may be displaced by tunnel construction, which would be enough material to cover a football field with soil 378 feet deep.

"We're getting calls from neighbors, because they saw it in *The Seattle Times*," said Al Scalf, Jefferson County's director of community development. Among the callers' concerns, Scalf said, were air- and water-quality issues and project-related barge traffic to the Mats Mats peninsula, located on Puget Sound about four miles north of the Port Ludlow master-planned resort.

Scalf said environmental documents indicate four barges, each capable of carrying 2,300 cubic yards of material, may travel daily to the quarry pier.

The reclamation plan for the Mats Mats quarry – as described in a 2003 environmental impact statement – calls for 4.8 million cubic yards of clean fill "imported from outside sources" to complete the reclamation of a rock quarry that opened in the 1930s, Scalf explained.

See QUARRY, Page 9 ▼

Money woes slow PT library project

Pink House ribbon-cutting is Saturday

By Nicholas Johnson of the Leader

A sluggish economy is forcing city and library officials to phase in a $9.8 million library project considered a package deal until now.

City staff and key members of the Port Townsend Public Library Foundation have agreed to redefine the project into four distinct pieces, each to be achieved individually. City Manager David Timmons said he would propose to the City Council a policy language change regarding the project in September.

The phasing means redundancy, such as having to relocate resources, books and furniture more than once. It also means interruption of library services.

The $140,000 renovation of the Charles Pink House at the corner of Lawrence and Harrison streets next to the Carnegie Library in the Uptown Historic District is phase one. Money for that project has been secured through the foundation's fundraising efforts. The city is expected to open bids for construction this week, and work is expected to begin in mid-September and be completed by the end of the year.

The library plans to host a construction kick-off celebration for the Pink House renovation from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 27.

The festivities include a "Let's Build" story time followed by face painting and the creation of a banner to be displayed during construction. At 3 p.m., Joey Pipia is set to do a magic show, and the foundation plans to thank Gray Wolf Ranch for its $50,000 donation toward an expanded computer center.

Youth Services Librarian Jean

Recall moves ahead in Quilcene

First in 40 years in Jefferson County

By James Robinson of the Leader

The recall of Quilcene fire commissioners Dave Ward and Mike Whittaker can move forward following a Jefferson County Superior Court opinion issued Aug. 18.

In the opinion, Jefferson County Superior Court Commissioner Keith Harper found that "none of the charges [listed in the recall petitions] were frivolous or unsubstantiated," and that the facts presented in a recall hearing Aug. 16 appear to indicate that Ward violated his oath of office and that Ward and Whittaker each committed malfeasance or misfeasance on three occasions.

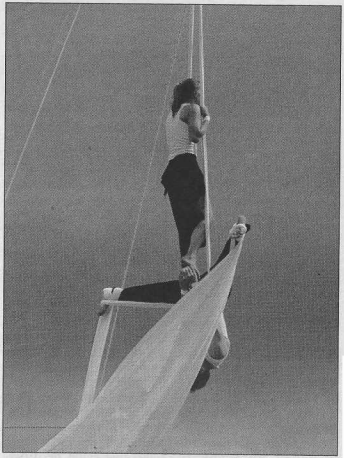
The recall petitioners now must gather signatures required to put a recall question on a future ballot. State law prohibits a recall election from occurring between a primary and general election, although a recall question could appear on the

See RECALL, Page 9 ▼



Hanging by a sail There are two more opportunities to see French sailors Delphine Lechifflart (pictured) and Franck Rabilier perform "high-wire" acts from the rigging of their 40-foot sloop, *La Louplote*. Catch them at the Port Ludlow Marina, 1 Gull Drive, at 5 and 7 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday, Aug. 24-25. This scene is from an Aug. 19 performance at Point Hudson Marina in Port Townsend. Photo by Kathie Meyer

'Cirque du sail' comes to area harbors



Sailors Delphine Lechifflart and Franck Rabilier perform acrobatic moves on their sailboat *La Loupiote* in both Port Townsend and Port Ludlow this week. Submitted photo

As they slowly make their way around the world, French sailors Delphine Lechifflart and Franck Rabilier perform "high-wire" circus acts from the rigging of their 40-foot sloop, *La Loupiote*. Their next two performance stops are in Port Townsend at Point Hudson, 103 Hudson St., on Friday and Saturday, Aug. 19-20; and at the Port Ludlow Marina, 1 Gull Drive, from Tuesday through Thursday, Aug. 23-25.

Trained in the circus arts as a youngster, Rabilier grew up to be an engineer. Once he met the athletic Lechifflart, the two began to practice acrobatic routines just for fun. Later, they decided to buy a sailboat and create special shows performed using the mast, boom, rigging and other parts of their sailboat as a stage to exhibit their acrobatics prowess.

Having begun their cruise in Brittany, France, in 2004, the duo has performed in hundreds of harbors from the Great Lakes to Martinique, west to Panama and north to Mexico. They are currently en route from British Columbia to San Francisco before heading to Hawaii.

Their first show, "The Navigators," is inspired by Buster Keaton and silent films, and is a parody of navigational maneuvers that poke fun at the mishaps of maladroit navigators. It is presented at 5 p.m. at both locations.

The second show, "Between Wing and Island," deals with male-female relationships in a spectacle of aerial choreography and acrobatics that ranges from love, humor and poetry to earth, sea and sky. It is presented in both locations at 7 p.m.

The shows are suitable for audiences of all ages and last 20 minutes each. They are free, but the artists are not paid for their work, and a hat is passed for donations to help them and their two daughters continue their great adventure around the world. Additional information is available at voilierspectacle.com.



A WEEKEND OF WOWS

- JEFF BRIDGES SINGS HIS 'CRAZY HEART' OUT AT CHATEAU STE. MICHELLE
- Katie's spooked in 'Don't Be Afraid of the Dark'
- Nearby fare gets served up fresh at Local 360

WEEKEND PLUS > SECTION E



MAKING A GOOD SECOND IMPRESSION

Mike Carp has made the most of his latest stint with the M's

SPORTS > C1

FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, 2011

The Seattle Times

WINNER OF EIGHT PULITZER PRIZES

SUNNY AND WARM
High, 81. Low, 57. > A6
seattletimes.com/weather

75¢ $1.00 outside King, Pierce, Snohomish, Kitsap counties

Independent and locally owned since 1896 | seattletimes.com
1.6 million readers in Western Washington, in print and online

State's voters in very bad mood

POLL SHOWS GREAT DOUBT OVER FUTURE

Worries about troubled economy; dwindling faith in government

BY ANDREW GARBER
Seattle Times Olympia bureau

OLYMPIA — Washington state voters are more worried about the future than ever.

A statewide poll released Thursday by Stuart Elway shows their mood at its lowest ebb since he started the survey back in 1991.

"There seems to be kind of resignation to it. That yeah, it's bad and it's not going to get better anytime soon," Elway said. "Seven in 10 people think any noticeable improvement is more than a year away."

A separate national poll, also released Thursday, found mounting voter anger at Congress, particularly at on the recent debt crisis that threatened to push the nation into default for the first time.

The Associated Press-GfK poll found that approval of Congress has dropped to just 12 percent, down from 21 percent in June. And more than half of respondents said they want to see their own House member out of office next year.

It all adds up to an unsettled electorate.

"What troubles me right now is I'm pushing 30 years old, and the market is pretty dead," said Ron Rust, of Seattle, who works in the Internet-marketing industry. "I'm nervous for my future and my retirement because I don't think Social Security is going to be around. And I'm just watching my 401(k) do nothing except get smaller."

There's plenty to fret over with a stream of economic data indicating a struggling economy. Gov. Chris Gregoire recently warned of yet another round of deep state

See > POLLS, A8

NATIONAL POLL finds approval of Congress sinks to 12% > A6

STRETCHING THEIR SEA LEGS



PHOTOS BY ERIKA SCHULTZ / THE SEATTLE TIMES

ABOVE: *Delphine Lecoffart performs Wednesday with her husband, Franck Rabilier (not pictured), while suspended from the mast of their sailboat.* BELOW: *Jamie Theirin watches the husband-and-wife acrobatic company perform in Port Ludlow.*

A French couple is in Seattle this week to perform an acrobatic show suspended from the mast of their sailboat, which is also their home.



BY DEBORAH BACH / Times Music Northwest

Long-distance sailors typically are driven by a desire to explore new horizons, a passion for being at sea or some combination of both.

But Delphine Lecoffart and Franck Rabilier may be the only ones driven by their love of performing acrobatic shows while suspended from the mast of their sailboat.

The French couple, who will perform two shows at Elliott Bay Marina in Seattle on Saturday and Thursday, use the mast, boom, rigging and other parts of their sailboat to perform aerial acrobatics. Since leaving their home in northwestern France in 2004, they have performed in Europe, the Caribbean and South America before heading for British Columbia and Washington for a series of shows this summer.

While would-be wanderers might drool with envy over the

See > ACROBATS, A10

WEB EXTRA

Watch the show: *See more photos, and watch video, of the world-traveling acrobats.* seattletimes.com

STALLED 520 BRIDGE TOLLS NOW SET TO ROLL IN DECEMBER

FROM 'OVEROPTIMISM' TO 'WE'RE CONFIDENT'

But challenges remain; Eyman initiative looms

BY MIKE LINDBLOOM
Seattle Times transportation reporter

Tolling on the old Highway 520 floating bridge is now expected to begin sometime in December, a year later than the state Department of Transportation (DOT) had initially hoped.

The delays are costing $1 million a week in lost toll revenues — money to support construction of a replacement bridge — and have caused tensions between the state and its tolling contractor.

"We're confident we can start tolling SR 520 in December with a system that is reliable, accountable and able to handle more than 100,000 daily transactions," David Dye, deputy transportation secretary, said Thursday.

At one point the state had announced a toll startup in April, and launched an extensive marketing blitz in February to encourage early sign-ups for the electronic "Good to Go" transponders.

But the state's contractors ran into problems, both with sluggish customer service and with the technical challenges of counting tolled trips and merging those into a new statewide toll-accounting system.

Craig Stone, urban-corridors administrator for the DOT, acknowledged Thursday that there has been "some overoptimism" by the state, "and clearly overoptimism by the vendor."

The state initially had wanted to start tolling 520 as early as last fall, and received bids promising it could be done. Stone says he

See > 520 TOLLS, B2

Information

"GOOD TO GO" PASSES: Learn more, or sign up, at goodtogo.org

Eastern Seaboard braces for Hurricane Irene's fury

MONSTER STORM ON 'NIGHTMARE' PATH

Tens of thousands flee; landfall expected Saturday

BY MITCH WEISS AND EZTE SUHESHTEIN
The Associated Press

BLOCTON, N.C. — A monstrous Hurricane Irene tightened its aim on the Eastern Seaboard on Thursday, threatening 55 million people along a shore-hugging path from North Carolina to New England. One of the nation's top experts called the trajectory his "nightmare" scenario.

The Category 3 storm with winds of 115 mph — the threshold for a major hurricane — would be the strongest to strike the East Coast in seven years, and people already were getting out of the way.

Tens of thousands fled North Carolina beach towns, farmers pulled up crops, and the Navy ordered ships to sea so they could endure the punishing wind and waves in open water.

All eyes were on Irene's projected path, which showed it bringing misery

See > IRENE, A3

EXTREME WEATHER: 'the new normal' > Close-Up A3



CHARLES DHARAPAK / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A message is left for Hurricane Irene on one house, left, as a resident boards up another Thursday in Nags Head, N.C.

Index

Classified ads

< Acrobats

FROM A1

STRETCHING THEIR SEA LEGS

French acrobats bring sailboat show to town

places the couple and their two young daughters have visited, Lechifflart said their journey is less about experiencing exotic ports than it is about performing.

"The first idea for us was to continue our art, but in our sailboat," she said during a recent stop on Salt Spring Island in British Columbia. "As we want to share our art everywhere, we choose to travel."

And then there's the sailing. "We love sailing and being alone on the sea, connected only with the natural elements," said Lechifflart, 41.

How it began

As love stories go, Lechifflart and Rabilier's is the stuff of novels. They met in Paris in 1992 through friends while Lechifflart was studying art history at the school of the Musée de Louvre. Rabilier was an engineer and consultant, but his heart lay elsewhere.

Rabilier, 43, went to a circus training school as a child in Reims, about 80 miles from Paris, and caught the performing bug. His parents weren't keen on the circus as a career, steering young Franck into engineering instead.

But his interest in performing was kindled. After meeting Lechifflart, Rabilier started teaching her acrobatics. At first it was just for fun, but over the next decade they started working at it more seriously, taking classes in acrobats and theater and learning specific techniques.

In 1999 they started their own company, La Loupiote (which means "small light" in Old French), to mix circus and theater. They performed on streets and in theaters, honing their skills.

They also had another abiding interest: sailing. Both had sailed with their families as children and longed to get back on the water. In 2000, the year their daughter Loéva was born, they bought a half-finished, homemade boat, then spent the next four years finishing it. The plan was to take their show on the road — or more accurately, the ocean.

"Circusnavigation"

They went on tour in 2004, spending the next couple of years performing at ports in France, Portugal and Morocco. Initially, they had no plans to sail around the world on their 40-foot boat, also named La Loupiote. But French cultural officials were lukewarm about their work, Lechifflart said, making it difficult to get financial support.

"When we were performing, we were not performing in a theater or a certain place recognized by the [ministry of] culture," she said. "We were performing in a harbor, and they think there is no culture in a harbor."



Delphine Lechifflart and Franck Rabilier do their acrobatic show Wednesday on their sailboat, La Loupiote. The couple will perform Saturday and Thursday at Elliott Bay Marina in Seattle.

And so began the couple's circumnavigation or "circusnavigation," as Lechifflart calls it. In 2007 they traveled in the French Caribbean and Canada, returning to France the following year to be with Rabilier's ailing father and await the birth of the second daughter, Ondja, now 3. Then they returned to their life of sailing and performing.

They are currently performing two 20-minute shows they created — "The Navigators," a Buster Keaton-influenced parody that pokes fun at inept sailors, and "Between Wing and Island," a duet focused on male-female relationships.

Performing on a sailboat is vastly different from being on a circus stage, Lechifflart said. The performing area is much smaller and there's little space to store the equipment typically used by circus performers. The couple use masks and aerial ribbons, but little else in the way of props.

The biggest challenge, though, is weather. The possibility of wind and waves makes some moves too dangerous to perform. A show in Quebec was canceled because of strong winds, while rough seas scuttled another one in the Caribbean. Rain also means a cancellation.

"The natural elements are our enemy or our partner," Lechifflart said. "It's so beautiful when you perform outside between the sea and the sky, but sometimes if there is some wind or some waves, it's difficult for us."

The shows at Elliott Bay Marina are free, as are the couple's other performances.

Acrobatics on a sailboat

Delphine Lechifflart and Franck Rabilier will perform "The Navigators" at 5:30 p.m. and "Between Wing and Island" at 7:30 p.m. Saturday and Thursday at Elliott Bay Marina, 2601 W. Marina Place, west of Pier 91 in Magnolia.

The shows are open to the public, and the couple's boat will likely be docked on G or H dock.

More information: www.voilierspectacle.com

They were paid for their performances in France, but in other countries they pass a hat for donations. The family lives on about $800 a month (about half that in Central America), saving money by avoiding marinas and not eating in restaurants.

The money they make is enough to live on, Lechifflart said, and they plan to travel and perform indefinitely.

"We can live without a lot of things and without a lot of money," she said. "We won't be rich, but it's not our goal."

Deborah Bach is the editor of Three Sheets Northwest (http://threesheetsnw.com), a local online news partner of The Seattle Times. The site provides news, community and resources for boaters in the Northwest.

UW
PIANO SALE
On Campus
Music Building

A massive piano sale will take place at the University of Washington and will include Yamaha grand and vertical pianos on loan to the School of Music. Other pianos for sale include Yamaha Disklavier, Yamaha Clavinova digital pianos, and new Bösendorfer and Schimmel pianos. Used pianos for sale include restored Steinway, Kawai, and more.

For Advance Appointments on Friday or Saturday, Aug 26 and 27, or for Information, Call (206) 616-3456

YAMAHA PIANOS ON LOAN TO UW
To Be Sold At This On-Campus Sale

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
SUNDAY AUGUST 28
11am-5pm

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON
School of Music

For Information or Appointment
CALL (206) 616-3456

Sale warranties and delivery by Classic Pianos Bellevue – Institutional Program.

Sale held on campus in the Music Building. Campus maps online at: washington.edu/maps

THIS WEEKEND ONLY



PHOTOS BY ERIKA SCHULTZ / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Lois and Clark Ruggles, of Port Ludlow, prepare to watch the husband-and-wife acrobatic team La Loupiote perform on their sailboat Wednesday in Port Ludlow, Jefferson County.

CIRCUS ON A BOAT

Sailing acrobats hang out in Santa Cruz

By JESSICA M. PASKO
jpasko@santacruzsentinel.com



BILL LOVEJOY/SENTINEL

Delphine Lechifflart and Franck Rabilier, who have performed on their boat around the world since leaving France in 2004, perform in Santa Cruz on Saturday.

SANTA CRUZ — Delphine Lechifflart and Franck Rabilier left their home in northwestern France in 2004 to sail the open seas and perform aerial acrobatics suspended from their 40-foot yellow sailboat.

The couple has performed all over Europe, throughout the Caribbean, and in both South America and North America.

They're currently touring California, with a slate of shows in the Bay Area before heading south to Los Angeles. This week, their travels brought them to Santa Cruz Harbor for two days of shows sponsored by the Santa Cruz Yacht Club.

The couple performs awe-inspiring tricks using the mast, boom, rigging and other parts of their boat, La Loupiote, old French for "small light." Their two daughters accompany them on their journeys, and their youngest began sailing with them when she was just more than a month old. Their eldest daughter, 11, is homeschooled on the boat and she sometimes participates in her family's shows.

Lechifflart dreamed of becoming a clown or an archaeologist as a child, before studying scenics and eventually getting into performing arts.

Her husband began his career in engineering before training in circus arts.

Calling their performances, "Cirque du Sail," the couple perform solely for donations, which allow them to continue their dream of living a life on the water, sailing from port to port.



BILL LOVEJOY/SENTINEL

Franck Rabilier and Delphine Lechifflart perform on their boat in the harbor Saturday afternoon.

Dozens of people packed the deck outside Aldo's Harbor Cafe Saturday evening for the couple's second day of performances in Santa Cruz, and others lined up along the path that wraps the harbor. Even a few canoers pulled their boats up alongside a dock to watch the show.

It was a gray, drizzly autumn evening but La Loupiote managed to brighten the day as Lechifflart and Rabilier performed a 20-minute comic show inspired by old silent movies called, appropriately, "Sailors."

Children of all ages squealed as the two combined slapstick humor with tight-rope walking and a little bit of trapeze-style gymnastics.

"Thank you very much," said Rabilier as they finished their afternoon performance. "We left France with the hope of sharing our hearts all over and your donations allow us to continue to share our stories."

The couple performed to an original soundtrack by a French musician, and there were copies for sale at Saturday's performance.

Later Saturday, the two were scheduled to perform a sort of romantic ballet called "Between Wing and Island," which combines aerial choreography with acrobatics, love and humor, according to the description.

EVENTS



CONTRIBUTED

The French acrobat troupe La Loupiote will perform two shows on a sailboat in the Santa Cruz harbor on Friday and Saturday.

Acrobatics on a boat

Sentinel staff report

A family of French acrobats will perform this weekend in Santa Cruz, on an unusual stage. The troupe La Loupiote will present two shows of acrobatics on the rigging of a sailboat in the Santa Cruz Small Craft Harbor.

The shows will take place Friday and Saturday afternoons on the Aldo's side of the harbor. At 4:30 p.m. each day, the group will perform "The Sailors," an acrobatic clown show, and at 6 p.m. each day, the performers return with "Between Wing and Island," a romantic duet performance. Donations are requested for the show. For more information on La Loupiote, go to www.voilierspectacle.com.

Alameda Journal

Volume 24, No. 27 • Newsstand 25 cents 400 Friday, October 7, 2011

HIGH-FLYING FRENCH ACT SAILS INTO ALAMEDA



RAY CHAVEZ/STAFF

Franck Rabilier, top, and his wife Delphine Lechifflart perform on their sailboat "La Loupiote" during their visit to the Encinal Yacht Club in Alameda on Saturday. The French couple performed two days over the weekend at the yacht club. They are sailing around the globe and doing their aerial acrobatics. Their act was featured in a recent issue of "Latitude 38," a mariner's magazine.

French Couple Set To Perform Acrobatic Show From Their Boat

TBC

It could be because of chance, or maybe just luck but La Paz residents are in for a treat, Cirque du Soleil style, thanks to the amazing organizational skills of Arnold Candray.



Lechifflart and Franck

Last August, Arnold Candray had the privilege of watching a remarkable performance by a French acrobatic team (Delphine Lechifflart and Franck Rabilier) at a marina in Seattle, Washington. Lechifflart and Franck have sailed worldwide, including the Caribbean, South America and Europe and have performed their splendid acrobatic routine with musical accompaniment and colored lights on their 40-foot sailboat, LaLoupiote.

They perform on LaLoupiote. It is also their home.

After their performance in Seattle, Candray, who owns a home here in La Paz, had the opportunity to meet the French couple and found out they had plans to head down the Baja. Candray, so impressed with their show, made contact with local marina owners in La Paz to see if there was a chance to have LaLopiote sail into the bay of the city and host a few performances.

The pieces seem to be falling into place and at press time, Marina de La Paz (January 20th & 21st) and Marina Palmira (January 27th & 28th) have stepped forward with offers of boat slips for actual show performances. Other dates could be scheduled as other marinas in the city have been in talks as well. Please check the January 9th edition of the Baja Citizen for confirmed dates and times of the performances aboard LaLoupiote.

Lechifflart and Franck perform for free, but pass a hat for donations. The show at Marina de La Paz, for example, will have 30% of donations received earmarked for FANLAP, Fundacion Ayuda los Niños de La Paz. Their performances generally run 20 minutes long.

Thank-you to Candray for his continued support in bringing LaLoupiote to La Paz. If you would like to learn more about Lechifflart and Franck, head to their webpage at: www.voilierspectacle.com.

January 9th, 2012

Milgard WINDOWS & DOORS
Clearly the best.
Call (612) 146 1685 or 174 7629
atejeda@bajawindows.com.mx

THE BAJA CITIZEN
Your Community Newspaper.

Happy New Year To All Of Our Readers!

YEAR: 3 Nº: 73 PUBLISHER: Hally J. Productions S. de R.L. EDITOR: Gari-Ellen Donohoe

Cirque La Loupiote in Marina De La Paz

Dates have been set!

After having performed in France, Spain, Portugal, Morocco, Caribbean Islands, Eastern Canada, Bermudas, Panama, Costa Rica, Mexico, Hawaii Islands, and West coast of the state, French acrobats Delphine Lechifflart and Franck Rabilier have pulled into La Paz for January to present two unusual performances. They created two silent productions initially for the Society of the old quays of Montreal (where the couple performed over 150 shows) inspired by circus, dance and theater on a sailboat. They are using the mast, boom, rigging and other parts of their sailboat as stage to exhibit their acrobatics prowess.

Their first show, "The Sailors", inspired by Buster Keaton and silent films, is a parody of navigational maneuvers that pokes fun at the

Continues on page 19



Lechifflart and Franck