



Summer 2019

Golden Rule Arrives in Hawai'i!



After sailing for twenty days across the vast Pacific Ocean, the *Golden Rule* peace boat arrived back in Hawai'i, 61 years after her storied voyage to stop nuclear bomb tests in the Pacific.

Veterans For Peace President Gerry Condon and Col. Ann Wright were among the cheering supporters as the *Golden Rule* come through the channel towards Waioa Harbor in Hilo on the Big Island of Hawai'i.

Native Hawaiian Welcome



Captain Milosz Kaczorowski, First Mate Tom Rogers and crew members Chris Mayer and Tate Furr were welcomed by Native Hawaiian Elders Keoloha Piscotta and Desmon Haumea at a press conference on August 2. It was a wonderful and moving occasion – several of us, including the Elders, were in tears.

Helen Jaccard read a Resolution from the Hawaii State Legislature welcoming the *Golden Rule* and Crew to Hawaii. And so our 2019 Hawaii adventure begins!

An Activist's Voyage: Crossing the Pacific on the *Golden Rule*



By Tom Rogers, First Mate

We start looking for land from 100 miles out. Hawai'i is a big island with high mountains; we should be able to see them over the horizon. It's been 20 days of water and sky. Each of us visits the bow pulpit and scans the horizon, nothing but water and a layer of clouds. Look at the chart plotter, still 25 miles out. It's hard to miss the Big Island. The horizon ahead is still nothing but water and clouds. Are these clouds different from the rest? We've been watching the movement of clouds for three weeks. These clouds aren't moving. Finally, a narrow band of green between the water and the clouds. Check the chart. We're 10 miles out... OK, we're here.

I started this voyage in 1966 when my draft notice arrived. Friends were fighting and dying on the ground in Vietnam. I took my notice to the navy recruiter and signed up. Later I volunteered for submarines, competed for a college program and earned a degree and a commission. I served in four different nuclear submarines as a watch officer, chief engineer, executive officer, and finally commanding officer. I'm not sure when I decided to make the navy a career; they just kept making me offers I couldn't refuse. But

I was always just a hippie who joined the navy to dodge the draft.

I lived with nuclear weapons for most of my career. I understand the unlimited destructive power of thermonuclear weapons. After the end of the Cold War in 1991, I started to question the role of nuclear weapons in US national security policy. By 1995, after the fall of the Soviet Union, I was openly criticizing our government's failure to pursue nuclear disarmament from a position of strength. I retired as a Navy Captain in 1998.

I found the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action in 2003. Since then I have been a nuclear weapons abolitionist. Nuclear weapons are evil. We owe it to the children to rid the world of this threat to human life on our planet. Now, with scientific understanding of the effects of nuclear winter, we must accept that a major exchange of nuclear weapons will kill billions. If I understand this and fail to act, I am complicit. So I act.

While I was doing Ground Zero's work next to the Trident Submarine Base in Bangor, Washington, Chuck DeWitt and his crew of Veterans For Peace volunteers and activists were restoring *Golden Rule* in Leroy Zerlang's boatyard in Humboldt Bay, California. In the summer of 2016 *Golden Rule* visited the Pacific Northwest. I embarked as a crew member and helped sail *Goldie* during the Portland Rose Festival military parade of warships. We showed our VFP colors to thousands of citizens, including many sailors on the navy warships. Later that summer in Puget Sound, I was privileged to sail *Golden Rule* on the Hood Canal in the first waterborne nonviolent action

against the Bangor Trident Base since the arrival of USS Ohio in 1982.

When Albert Bigelow and his Quaker crew sailed *Golden Rule* into the Pacific in 1958, they demonstrated their willingness to confront nuclear weapons in the most direct way they could imagine. They sailed to disrupt atmospheric nuclear testing and raise public awareness to the immorality of those horrible weapons. Sixty-one years later I was honored to reenact their voyage. Our mission was to sail from California to Hawai'i across 2200 nautical miles of open ocean. Apart from some modern electronics and safety equipment, we sailed the same way the original crew did, alone on a vast ocean. *Golden Rule* is a sixty year old wooden gaff rigged ketch. She steers with a tiller. There is nothing remotely comfortable about living on board.



I was the only returning member of the last crew. With a new engine and upgraded exhaust system, we met on board for the first time on June 16.

Our captain, Milosz Kaczorowski (front), 30, is a professional sailor from Warsaw, Poland. (Back Row) Chris Mayer, 58, is a retired computer programmer. I'm first mate, 72. Tate Furr, 19, is a college student. We worked together for three weeks getting *Golden Rule* seaworthy again.

Milosz did a comprehensive inspection from top to bottom, generating lists of work to be done. The crew worked tirelessly repairing, upgrading, and restowing *Golden Rule*. Chris installed a new 100 watt solar panel. Tate installed new stainless steel lifelines. I installed new water bladders and upgraded the potable water system.

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We all learned to live and work together. Milosz made countless repairs and adjustments to the rigging. He went up the masts several times before leaving San Diego and once while underway.



There were setbacks, but everyone pulled together behind Milosz and we finally headed west on July 11.

My personal low point came on day 3. I was on night watch tethered in the cockpit. We were on a broad reach with 2 reefs in the mainsail. A large wave crashed over the side, filled the cockpit and dislodged the wooden grate from the deck. As I positioned myself to put the grate back in place a second wave hit me in the chest, threw me out of the cockpit, and I landed against the hard case that protects our life raft. My ribs were injured and one kidney was bruised. Milosz took my watch. It was a time for discernment. Can I continue the voyage? Even if I can, how long will it take me to recover? In the space of a minute I went from being an asset to a liability. It took 12 hours to decide whether to abort the mission and return to San Diego. It was my call. I decided I could work through the injury. It took about 2 weeks before I was 100% again.

Before we passed halfway we finally got the "fair winds and following seas" that sailors wish for.

After leaving San Diego, Milosz read "The Voyage of the *Golden Rule*, An Experiment with Truth" by the first *Golden Rule* captain, Albert Bigelow.



He carefully studied the section on twin head sails and decided to try the concept at sea. We sailed for over

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1200 miles with a similar sail configuration, making about 5 knots.

It got warm. Tate caught five fish. Helen asked if other crew fished, and Milosz responded, "We only have one rod so Tate is the chief fishing officer.



He does have three dedicated coaches giving him priceless advice."

Four sail boats from the TransPac race passed *Golden Rule* early in the transit.

We stood three hour watches. Fifteen nautical miles per watch. One hundred twenty nautical miles per day. Even though *Goldie* never stopped pitching, rolling and cork screwing, this was the time for reflection. We are this tiny boat on a vast ocean, sailing for a purpose. We know there are people watching our track. Many send words of encouragement over the satellite link. This voyage is important.

We arrived in Hilo, Hawaii on July 31. Milosz, Chris, Tate and I have gone our separate ways. It was a privilege to sail with those young men. I hope the next crew is just as good. I know that *Goldie* is seaworthy enough to continue the voyage, but she will need a professional captain and continuing maintenance to keep her that way.

Onward to the Marshalls, Guam, Okinawa, and finally Hiroshima a year from now for the 75th remembrance of the bombing!

Nuclear weapons, climate change and rampant militarism continue to threaten human existence. How many times must the cannonballs fly before they're forever banned? The answer my friend is blowing in the wind...

Tom Rogers is a retired navy Captain, a submarine commander, a nuclear weapons activist, and first mate of the Golden Rule. He lives in Poulsbo, WA with his bride, Chrissy.

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A Valiant Attempt



After weeks of preparation, Ce Bee, Tom Rogers, Captain Dan Lappala and Jamie Skinner left San Diego May 1, headed for Hawai'i.

On May 3 they had to turn around when Captain Dan discovered seawater in the engine oil. A faulty exhaust system had allowed seawater to enter the engine. Back in San Diego, PacWest Marine determined the engine was too badly damaged to save and needed to be replaced.

By the time we paid for the engine kit, re-designed exhaust system, labor and repair dock, the cost was nearly \$18,000!

Supporters contributed up to \$1000 each, including Helen Jaccard, Gerry Condon, Chuck DeWitt, Nelson Camp, Leroy Zerlang, Ann Wright, VFP Chapter 56 (Humboldt Bay), Peter Aronson, Jim & Barb Truitt, Dave Robson, Jan Passion, Steve Morehouse and Maggie & Charlie Herbelin. Thank you!!!

Upgrades!

For over a year volunteers and crew members worked to assure that *Golden Rule* is a vessel capable of safely crossing the Pacific ocean.

After four years of use, *Golden Rule's* beautiful sails were not only faded but falling apart. It cost almost \$8,000 but the new sails are beautiful!

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Kettenhoffen Marine, who made the sails, gave us a big discount on the sail cradles and donated the graphics - thank you Bob Kettenhoffen!

Other upgrades included a gimballed propane cooktop, anchor gear, leather chafing gear on the main mast, engine, life lines, navigation lights at the top of the mizzen mast, handheld VHF radios, satellite internet and phones, personal locators (AIS) for each life jacket and a solar system.

Celebrate this historic voyage with a generous donation

The generous tax-deductible donations of *Golden Rule* supporters made these repairs and upgrades possible. Please continue to keep the *Golden Rule* sailing! You can donate at vfgoldenrule.org, send a check to VFP *Golden Rule* Project, PO Box 87, Samoa, CA 95564, or call 206-992-6364 to make a credit card donation.

Bon Voyage and Welcome Home to Hawai'i



Puna Kalama Dawson visited San Diego and welcomed us to "come Home" to Hawai'i. Puna is a Hawaiian elder, keeper of knowledge and hula instructor.

Puna came from Kaua'i bringing a message of Welcome and Aloha to the *Golden Rule* and Project!

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Golden Rule and Phoenix together again



On June 30 Jessica Reynolds Renshaw visited the *Golden Rule*. Helen Jaccard read the correspondence for accepting the baton back from the *Phoenix* to represent both boats on this voyage.

Jessica and her family sailed the *Phoenix of Hiroshima* into Honolulu onto the same dock as *Golden Rule* in 1958. They took the baton and finished the voyage to the Marshall Islands while the crew of the *Golden Rule* were in jail. They represented both boats in 1958 in the attempt to stop nuclear bomb tests.

Both boats sank in 2010, and although Veterans For Peace and Quakers and other old wooden boat lovers managed to restore *Golden Rule*, *Phoenix of Hiroshima* remains at the bottom of the Mokolumne River (Sacramento River Delta). The Reynolds family and the *Phoenix's* Board of Directors spent years trying to get the boat raised so she could be restored, but she is too far gone. With sadness, they had to give up on the dream of the two boats sailing together to the Marshall Islands and Japan next year.

The *Phoenix* Board of Directors donated \$11,000 to help the *Golden Rule* and Jessica brought a nicely mounted piece of the *Phoenix* for the *Golden Rule* to carry. This time, *Golden Rule* will represent both boats in an effort to bring about global nuclear disarmament and end the possibility of nuclear war.

Thank you for your generosity!

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Peace in the Pacific voyage

With tensions running high between the U.S., North Korea, Russia and China; withdraw from arms control treaties; and a new nuclear arms race, Golden Rule is in the Pacific to **Challenge Nuclear Madness and Militarism!**

The goals of the voyage to Hawai'i, the Marshall Islands, Guam, Okinawa, Korea and Japan are to:

- Support the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons;
- Support steps to avert the possibility of nuclear war; and
- Raise awareness of the dangers of all nuclear activities and militarism to the environment and humanity.

Challenging Nuclear Madness and Militarism begins in Hawai'i!

Hawai'i is a prime target for nuclear missiles coming from Asia. Hawaiians became very aware of this possibility with the false alarm of a nuclear attack last year. The Hawaiian islands are home to dozens of military facilities, some of them huge.

Pohakuloa - Changes are coming to this 22,971-acre live-fire training range. The Hawai'i Supreme Court ruled 5 - 0 on August 23 that the state hasn't properly managed the ceded lands leased to the US Army on the Big Island of Hawai'i. The court ruled that the state failed to prevent the area from "falling into ruin." The Army did not "make every reasonable effort to ... remove or deactivate all live or blank ammunition upon completion of a training exercise" or to "remove or bury all trash, garbage or other waste materials" as the lease agreement specifies.

"The Department of Land and Natural Resources failed to live up to this most basic duty at Pohakuloa," said Clarence Ching, a Native Hawaiian Cultural

Practitioner, one of two who filed the suit against the State of Hawai'i.

The state of Hawai'i must now plan to take better care of the land.

Special Ops Invasions - The US military is planning Special Operations missions all over the Hawaiian islands! According to *West Hawai'i Today*, training will occur in the near-shore waters, harbors, bays and land-based areas on Oahu, Hawai'i Island, Kauai, Maui, Molokai, and Lanai. Near Mauna Kea County park, for example, they plan to conduct "special reconnaissance role-playing scenarios". Using public land to practice military invasions all over the Hawaiian Islands is unacceptable.

Kaho'olawe - This tiny island, like so many others, was completely destroyed, having been a U.S. bombing range from 1945 to 1990.

Protests starting in 1976 ultimately resulted in the island being returned to the people, and Native Hawaiians are slowly restoring the island. They have recently finished a watershed restoration project. Volunteers planted 20,000 drought-resistant native plants to reduce erosion and carefully moved 120,000 pounds of rock by hand, taking care not to remove cultural artifacts. Unexploded ordinance posed additional dangers.

Depleted Uranium - The U.S. Army tested uranium-based Davy Crockett nuclear weapons at Pohakuloa Training Area on Hawai'i Island and at Schofield Barracks on O'ahu, contaminating the environment with depleted uranium. The use of DU weapons in military practice exposes military personnel and the public to health risks.

Mauna Kea Telescope - Native Hawaiians and allies are uprising against the thirty meter telescope planned for the top of Mauna Kea on the Big Island of Hawai'i, saying it is "One too big, one too many."

Telescope developers are not consulting Native Hawaiians about their sacred mountain and are breaking environmental laws and agreements.

This protest is about indigenous rights just as was the Standing Rock protest. Similar to Standing Rock, thousands are blocking the road in nonviolent protest.



Helen Jaccard, Gerry Condon and Ann Wright presented a VFP flag and message of solidarity to the elders.

Pacific Missile Range - With the U.S. withdrawal of the Intermediate Nuclear Forces agreement, the United States has started a new arms race. Intermediate-range missiles could be tested on Kaua'i as early as November.

China said it "will not stand idly by" if the U.S. deploys intermediate-range missiles in the Indo-Pacific region. Russian President Vladimir Putin said Russia would deploy new intermediate-range missiles only if the United States does, and called for urgent arms control talks.

Hawaiian Island schedule

July 31 - Sept 9	Hilo (Big Island)
Sept 11 - 29	Maui
Oct 1 - 8	Lana'i
Oct 10 - 17	Moloka'i
Oct 20 - Nov 30 O'ahu	
Oct 20 - Nov 3	Honolulu
Nov 4	Pearl Harbor
Nov 5 - 11	Wai'anae
Nov 11-14	Hale'iwa
Nov 15-18	Kane'ohe
Nov 20-30	Honolulu*
Dec 1 - 12	Kaua'i

* haul-out, prepare for ocean crossing

If you know of a group that might like a presentation, please contact us.