

SIGHTINGS

bright star update

Remember *Bright Star*? She's the 53 ft gaff cutter undergoing restoration in Richmond. In the November issue, we reported on co-owners Jeff Rutherford and Antony Leighton who had been working on the boat for several months. Their goal was to have her ready to race in the Master Mariners Regatta on March 23.

We stopped in recently to see how work was going. Jeff wasn't quite as optimistic about the completion date now as he was back then. Though he and Antony have devoted full time work to the project, restoring an old classic is a slow process — especially when you want it to be a real showpiece when it's done.

If the old girl doesn't make it for her "grand entrance" into the Master Mariner fleet, she's still come a long way since we last laid eyes on her. She's no longer the musty derelict (or so it seemed to our untrained eye) that they trucked down from Bethel Island last April. The boat now sports 62 new laminated frames, about half of the new planking she's due, and a new deck, deck beams and coachhouse. In one of few concessions to modernization, the coachroof, main deck and upper cockpit surfaces are all skinned with fiberglass. Those surfaces will eventually be covered with fir planking, as they were when the Edson Shock design was launched in 1935.

What needs to be completed? "Planking, painting, put the deck on, repair and paint the rig, put that on, put the interior in..." Jeff grins. "But we *will* be ready for the Master Mariners — the 1988 Master Mariners."

—jr

