

A distinguished San Diego legend, both as the region's oldest workboat and oldest yacht – the symbolic ancestor of almost all the boats now seen at any time on San Diego Bay.

[View email in your browser](#)



Maritime Museum Of San Diego Launches Restored 1902 *Butcher Boy* To Sail And Appear In Regional Yachting Activities

The Maritime Museum of San Diego is proud to report the completed restoration of

fastest boat on the water, because she needed to be. Built to deliver fresh provisions to the large vessels that could not enter San Diego Bay, she would not be economical unless she could make fast runs to weather from the downtown waterfront to the Coronado Rhodes. From her modest beginning, *Butcher Boy* was destined to become a distinguished San Diego legend, both as the region's oldest workboat and oldest yacht – the symbolic ancestor of almost all the boats now seen at any time on San Diego Bay.



The *Butcher Boy* restoration project was organized to return the boat to her original sailing condition and undertaken as a public exhibition and educational project at the Maritime Museum of San Diego's former San Salvador build site at Spanish landing.

According to Raymond Ashley, Ph.D., K.C.I., President/CEO of the Maritime Museum of San Diego, "*Butcher Boy* will re-emerge onto San Diego Bay, as beautiful and spirited as the day she was launched nearly 100 years ago, ready to provision with a bit of the past and carry mariners back to our roots. *Butcher Boy*, originally commissioned in 1902, and

from the Ellen Browning Scripps Foundation, Lynne J. Eddy, Bob and Marion Wilson, John and Nancy Todd, Russell Thomas, the Ancient Mariner Sailing Society and many others.

The Maritime Museum of San Diego exhibition schedule for *Butcher Boy* includes a private display for members at Opening Yacht Club ceremonies at San Diego Yacht Club April 24, Southwestern Yacht Club May 15, and Coronado Yacht Club, May 29. Her debut also includes participation at regional sailing competitions seen on San Diego Bay including the Ancient Mariner Sailing Society Yesteryear regatta, May 7 and Kettenburg regatta June 24-26, and Lipton Cup, October 27-29. The public can often find a good spot to witness these local races on Shelter Island, Harbor Island and downtown San Diego along the embarcadero.

Butcher Boy has been in the Maritime Museum of San Diego's possession since 1972 and though she has benefitted from partial rebuilds and efforts to stabilize her, by 2018 it was clear she was in need of a complete restoration or she would be lost to rot. In response to the Maritime Museum of San Diego's appeal to save her, the maritime community came together to provide the funding needed for materials, and a group of volunteers gathered under the direction of Peter Wilson, former maintenance director at the Maritime Museum. In May 2018, she was moved from the display cradle at the Maritime Museum of San Diego to the Spanish Landing build site where restoration began.



them so that they could be recreated with new materials. In June 2019, the crew of carpenters began the careful task of disassembling her one board at a time. Slowly and carefully, the restoration crew reframed her, keeping the original keel, but having to recreate nearly everything else, from bow to stern.

By March of 2019 the work crew was ready to lay hull planks and brought in shipwright Vince Sardina to assist. The last, “whiskey” plank was laid with a small celebration in September and the crew began work on the deck house, painting, and fiber glassing. By the beginning of 2020, riggers joined the group to install spars, hardware, lines and canvas while the finishing paint, varnish and waterproofing was completed.



Unfortunately, Covid-19 closures required that *Butcher Boy's* April 2020 relaunching to be postponed for nearly two years. Kept trailered and undercover, she is now ready to get back out on the water.



Dr. Ashley adds, ‘we are forever grateful to the volunteers who restored *Butcher Boy*. We could have not completed this restoration without their donation of time and passion. The crew included volunteers David Clark, Terry Goodbody, Robert Granoff, Bill Fisher, Chris Frost, Ken Houseman, John Kerley, John Kessler, John Martin, Mac McQuinn, Dan McNaughton, Barbara Ring, Jeff Saar, Eileen Stevenson, Tim Stephens, George Sutherland, Rich Thorpe, Craig Wisner, Jim Winn, Bob Wisner, and John Leighton, who photo documented the volunteers work.”

Click the link below to learn more about Butcher Boy's history as restoration of this regional treasure

<https://sdmaritime.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/ButcherBoyRegionalTreasure.pdf>



[Follow on Twitter](#) | [Friend on Facebook](#) | [Forward to a Friend](#)

Copyright © 2022 Maritime Museum of San Diego, All rights reserved.



[unsubscribe from this list](#) | [update subscription preferences](#)