SONJA NOVOTNY

[**sonja.lee.novotny@gmail.com**](mailto:sonja.lee.novotny@gmail.com) **· +1 (605) 857-3361 · Skipper SV Ventura (Privilège 42 catamaran)**

## MARITIME EDUCATION

Training Resources Maritime Institute of San Diego March 2019 - December 2019

**US Coast Guard Certificates Earned**

* Master 100 Gross Tons (USCG MARITM-281)
* USCG Sailing Endorsement
* Officer-in-Charge of a Navigation Watch Credential
* Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping (STCW)
  + USCG Maritime Security Awareness
  + Personal Survival Techniques
  + First Aid & CPR
  + Personal Safety & Social Responsibilities
  + Basic Fire Fighting
* FCC GDMSS Radio Operator License (DO)
* Medical Certificate (ENG-1) with ongoing participation in random drug testing program as required by United States Merchant Marine Ship’s Master Credential
* US Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC)
* USCG Assistive Towing Endorsement

**Supplemental Maritime Institute Courses Completed**

* Marine Diesel Engine Maintenance
* Marine Electrical Systems
* Maritime Leadership and Management
* Seafaring Teamwork Leader

US Coast Guard Auxiliary, San Diego March 2019 - December 2019

**USCG Courses Completed with Certificates**

* Boating Skills and Seamanship
* Weekend Navigator
* Safety at Sea

American Sailing Association (ASA) (Harbor Sailboats Yacht Club) September 2018 - Current

**ASA Courses Completed with Certificates**

* ASA – 101 Basic Keelboat Sailing
* ASA – 103 Basic Coastal Cruising
* ASA – 104 Bareboat Cruising
* ASA – 114 Cruising Catamarans Made Easy
* Weather Forecasting
* *Checked out for independently skippering rental sailboats up to 50ft for several weeks at a time*.

US Sail and Power Squadron (Member - San Diego Chapter) September 2019 - Current

**SDSPS Courses Completed with Certificates**

* Advanced Piloting
* Marine Communication Systems

Women’s Sailing Association (Member - Orange County WSA-OC) March 2019 - Current

* **Dockside and Convention Clinics Attended**: General Boat Maintenance and Rigging, Winch Repair and Maintenance, Canvas Repair, Dinghy Handling, The Art of Motor-Sailing, Up the Mast, Avoiding Mistakes, Mishaps and Mayhem, and Buy That Boat (Financial and Legal Aspects of Sailing)
* Social sailing excursions including skippering boats to Catalina for weekend raft ups, midnight sails, and whale watching expeditions with other WSA-OC members and guests.

## YACHT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

SV Ventura (Owner / Skipper - 42ft Privilège catamaran) October 2019 - Current

* Safely navigating and mooring/anchoring vessel in locations where charts are known to be inaccurate, though building a library of routes and tracks and amassing local sailing knowledge.
* Dynamic weather routing for passage planning, simultaneously referencing a variety of apps for marine charting and satellite imagery while targeting multiple anchorages as options depending on current and predicted sea state and wind conditions.
* Presentation and proactive maintenance of the yacht, regular checks on equipment, and keeping a detailed log complete with dates, contractors, and financial details.
* Sourcing working solutions in remote locations in the South Pacific with limited resources available.
* Chartering offshore sailing excursions to outer islands and offshore destinations for 2-6 guests, performing roles of Captain, Deckhand, and Stew simultaneously. Sometimes for pleasure, often for sailing education.
* Prioritizing safety of vessel, guests, and crew at all times, while coordinating passages, excursions, entertainment, and provisioning.
* Successfully weathering six cyclone seasons constantly present on the boat with no damage or injuries, including several Category 5 and 4 storms in New Caledonia and Fiji. Well versed in storm preparation and adept at navigating rivers to secure the vessel to mangrove trees.
* Full time live-aboard since October 2019.

SV Celtic Song (Crew Leader - 42ft Pacific Seacraft monohull) February 2019 - December 2019

**Owner: USCG Captain Diane Berol - La Jolla California, USA**

* Instructed bluewater cruising/sail training curriculums in San Diego Bay, coastwise, offshore passages, and excursions to islands in Mexico and California.
* Classes taught: Navigation, Weather Routing, Basic Sailing, Heaving To, Reefing, Man Overboard Maneuvers, Docking, Anchoring, Mooring
* Tested crew for skill aptitude and sailing fundamental familiarity, record keeping via checklists.
* Responsible for general vessel maintenance including sails, electrical and mechanical equipment, rigging and lines, provisioning, navigation and passage planning, weather routing, and in-depth working knowledge of all boat systems.

## SAILING PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

* + - Crew/Skipper offshore and near coastal passages in Southern and Central California for 2 years, variety of monohulls ranging up to 55ft LOA.
    - Crew for offshore and near coastal passages in the Gulf of Mexico twice per year, three weeks each trip for 5 seasons. (SV Adagio – Jeanneau Sun Odyssey DS 55ft LOA)
    - Crew on racing catamarans 12+ years on lakes, Pacific Ocean, and the Gulf of Mexico.
    - 20+ years pleasure sailing with family and friends near San Diego Bay, coastal cruising, and offshore, on Midwest and mountain inland lakes, onboard various sail and power boats and personal watercraft, beginning at age 8.