



# Golden Rule News



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## VFP Golden Rule Project

A National Project of Veterans For Peace

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## Mission Statement

The original nuclear protest boat, the Golden Rule will sail again to promote a nuclear free future, to educate about the dangers of radiation to humanity and the environment, and to support peaceful alternatives to war.

## ***Golden Rule Sails for a Nuclear Free, Peaceful World***

May 2017



## ***Golden Rule's Summer Voyage to Support UN Treaty to Ban Nuclear Weapons!***

***by Gerry Condon***

As the *Golden Rule* peace boat sails down the California coast this summer, she will have new wind in her sails. The UN negotiations for a Treaty to Ban Nuclear Weapons are energizing the movement for nuclear disarmament, as is public concern about the very real possibility of nuclear war. President Trump's missile attack on Syria, his dropping of the "mother of all (non-nuclear) bombs" on Afghanistan, and his threats of a preemptive strike on North Korea are causing great alarm in the U.S. and around the world. Many people are nervous because Donald Trump is "carrying the nuclear

football," and has "his hand on the nuclear button." Senator Markey of Massachusetts and Representative Lieu of California have introduced legislation that would require a Congressional Declaration of War before a president can initiate a first strike nuclear attack.

Veterans For Peace (VFP) is launching its own campaign for nuclear disarmament. Now an international organization, with chapters in the United Kingdom, Japan, Okinawa and South Korea, Veterans For Peace also has NGO status at the United Nations. The Trump Administration is not representing the people of the United States during UN negotiations to ban

nuclear weapons, so the 32-year-old veterans' organization will help fill that void.

"We want the U.S. people to be represented at these historic talks," says Barry Ladendorf, president of Veterans For Peace. The group will attend the UN negotiations, which reconvene on June 15. The Treaty to Ban Nuclear Weapons is expected to be approved overwhelmingly by the UN General Assembly in early July. Veterans For Peace is also organizing an international veterans peace conference at the United Nations in late 2018.

The historic antinuclear sailboat, *Golden Rule*, will be the "flagship" of the Veterans For Peace disarmament campaign as it sails down the coast of California this summer. The theme for this year's voyage is

**BAN NUCLEAR WEAPONS!  
No New Nukes! No First Strike!**

***IN THIS ISSUE of Golden Rule News, you will find details about the Golden Rule's 2017 voyage, as well as about the UN Treaty to Ban Nuclear Weapons, the Markey/Lieu No First Strike bill, the recent accident at Hanford Nuclear Reservation, and our new Peace Action and Sailing Camp. Also learn how you can help the Golden Rule keep sailing for a nuclear-free world.***

## 2017 Preliminary Sailing Schedule

This is an exciting, ambitious schedule – down the California Coast from Eureka to San Diego with side trips to Sacramento and Petaluma

Leave Eureka	Sat 6/10
Noyo / Caspar /Fort Bragg	Sun 6/11 - Wed 6/14
Bodega Bay	Thu 6/15 - Sun 6/18
<b>San Francisco Bay and Sacramento River</b>	
Peace Action Camp	Wed 6/21 - Wed /28
Sausalito	Thu 6/29 - Sat 7/1
San Rafael	Sat 7/1 - Sun 7/2
Vallejo	Sun 7/2 - Mon 7/3
Antioch	Mon 7/3 - Wed 7/5
Reunion! Phoenix of Hiroshima	Wed 7/5 - Thu 7/6
Antioch	Thu 7/6 - Fri 7/7
Walnut Grove	Fri 7/7 - Sat 7/8
Sacramento	Sat 7/8 - Wed 7/12
Walnut Grove	Wed 7/12 - Fri 7/14
Antioch	Fri 7/14 - Sat 7/15
Petaluma	Sat 7/15 - Wed 7/19
Half Moon Bay	Wed 7/19 - Sat 7/22
Santa Cruz	Sun 7/23 - Wed 7/26
Monterey	Wed 7/26 - Sat 7/29
Morro Bay	Sun 7/30 - Wed 8/02
Santa Barbara, mini-Peace Action Camp	Thu 8/03 – Wed 8/16
(VFP Convention)	Wed 8/9 – Sun 8/13
Ventura/Oxnard	Wed 8/16 - Fri 8/18
Marina del Rey	Fri 8/18 - Tue 8/22
Long Beach	Tue 8/22 - Fri 8/25
San Diego	Fri 8/25
Peace Action Camps	To be announced

### New Program! “Peace Action and Sailing Camps!”

This is a chance for veterans, youth, women and others to join together to learn to sail, learn the principles of non-violent direct action, participate in an action planned during the camp, and learn about nuclear issues today. It will be a lot of fun and you might be chosen for future crew!

The first camp is from June 21 – 28 in San Francisco Bay. There will be two or three in San Diego this winter and a 2-day version is being planned in Santa Barbara, August 4-5.

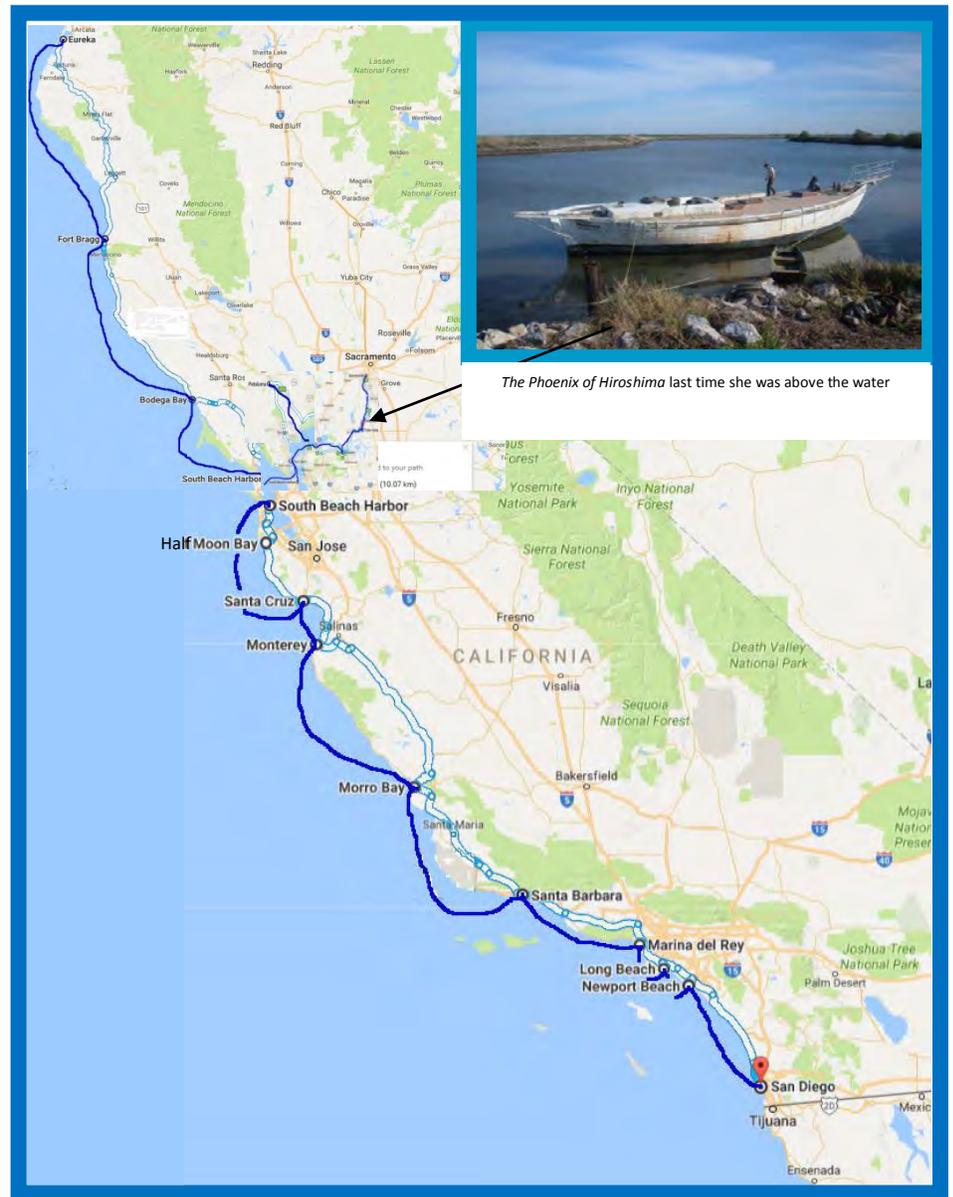
Contact Jim Summers, [poozles@hotmail.com](mailto:poozles@hotmail.com), for more information or fill out an [application](http://vfgoldenruleproject.org/peace-pirate-camps/) at [vfgoldenruleproject.org/peace-pirate-camps/](http://vfgoldenruleproject.org/peace-pirate-camps/) and return it to [vfgoldenruleproject@gmail.com](mailto:vfgoldenruleproject@gmail.com).

## The Golden Rule to visit the Phoenix of Hiroshima!

The same year that the Golden Rule sank and was brought up from the bottom of Humboldt Bay, the Phoenix of Hiroshima sank only a short distance away! The Phoenix has been located and efforts to raise and restore her are underway!

On Thursday July 6, the two boats will reunite on the Mokelumne River, which flows into the San Juuquin River, which in turn meets the Sacramento River at Antioch.

There will be a big celebration of the reunion, the first we know of since 1958 when the Golden Rule handed the baton to the Phoenix in Honolulu.



**The Golden Rule 2017 Voyage Map**



Chuck DeWitt,  
Restoration Coordinator

### Winter / Spring Maintenance in Home Port

The Golden Rule is in the Eureka Public Marina at the end of B dock undergoing maintenance, repairs and upgrades.

So far, Michael Gonzalez has improved the ice box by giving the ice compartment a drain into the bilge and reducing the size for ease of removal and cleaning.

The mizzen mast was bending backward under too much tension, so Ed Fracker and Michael Gonzalez changed the rigging to ease the stress.

Tim Dellas has worked on the inverter and electrical system.

Sanding, painting and varnishing are underway with the help of Don Matthes and Tim Dellas.

Every day that the weather permits, Chuck DeWitt is at the boat doing whatever it takes. All of the rusting bolts have been replaced. He works his fingers to the bone scraping the old varnish so new can be added.

#### Lots more to do!

We still need lots of help -

- Repair main mast, rigging
- Improve electrical systems and galley
- Install heating and ventilation
- Repair propeller shaft seal

Please call Restoration Coordinator Chuck DeWitt, 707-445-4790 or email [chuckdwtt@gmail.com](mailto:chuckdwtt@gmail.com) to help!

### Event Volunteers Needed

The 2017 voyage will be very exciting! With many educational stops between Humboldt Bay and San Diego, we need a lot of help with many roles to play!

Event organizers, authors, speakers, photographers, and videographers are all needed and appreciated.

Please contact Helen Jaccard, 206-992-6364 or send an email to [vfpgoldenruleproject@gmail.com](mailto:vfpgoldenruleproject@gmail.com).

If you don't have the time, please donate: [vfpgoldenruleproject.org/donate-and-help/](http://vfpgoldenruleproject.org/donate-and-help/)

### Women's March to Ban The Bomb

The Women's March Ban the Bomb is a women-led initiative building on the momentum of movements at the forefront of the resistance, including the Women's March on Washington. "It will bring together people of all genders, sexual orientations, ages, races, abilities, nationalities, cultures, faiths, political affiliations and backgrounds" to **march and rally on Saturday, June 17th 2017 in New York City** with sister marches around the world in support of negotiations taking place at the United Nations for a treaty banning nuclear weapons.

Sponsored by the [Women's International League for Peace and Freedom](http://www.womensmarch.org), a steering group member of the [International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons \(ICAN\)](http://www.ican.org)



**Crew and Captains Spots available**  
Would you like to crew the Golden Rule? Apply at:

<http://www.vfpgoldenruleproject.org/crew-application/>

A modest stipend is available for licensed captains.

### Nuclear News

#### UN to Ban Nuclear Weapons

This spring the United Nations convened negotiations on a treaty to BAN NUCLEAR WEAPONS - "a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination." This new international agreement will place nuclear weapons on the same legal footing as other weapons of mass destruction, including chemical and biological weapons, which have long been outlawed.

The negotiations at UN headquarters in New York began in late March and will continue from June 15 to July 7 2017. Governments, international organizations and civil society representatives will participate.

In conjunction with the negotiations, civil society groups are meeting to discuss how they can best support this historic initiative at the UN.

#### No New Nukes!

Obama's one trillion dollar nuclear "modernization" program to develop and deploy new nuclear weapons and delivery systems is against the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. Instead, the weapons should be dismantled - No New Nukes!

#### No First Strike!

Veterans For Peace has endorsed the "Restricting First Use of Nuclear Weapons Act" introduced by Senator Edward Markey (D-Mass) and Rep. Ted Lieu (D-CA). The bill would prohibit a first use of nuclear weapons by the United States unless Congress first declares war.

**No President should have the power to start a nuclear war.** A

petition to block President Trump from being able to launch nuclear weapons was presented to Congress on May 5 after garnering nearly a half-million signatures.

# Nuclear Waste Tunnel Collapses at Hanford



Thousands of workers at the 580-square-mile Hanford Nuclear Reservation in Eastern Washington had to evacuate or “take cover” on Tuesday May 9 after a 20-foot x 20 foot portion of a 350-ft-long tunnel used to store contaminated radioactive materials collapsed. Department of Energy contractors have been working here for decades there to clean up radioactive materials left over from the country’s nuclear weapons program.

**“It appears that this is a potentially serious event,”** said Edwin Lyman at the Union of Concerned Scientists. “Collapse of the earth covering the tunnels could lead to a considerable radiological release.”

The collapsed tunnel is one of two that run into the Plutonium Uranium Extraction Facility (PUREX). The section that collapsed was “in an area where the two tunnels join together,” according to the DoE.

The PUREX facility was used to extract plutonium from spent nuclear fuel and remains “highly contaminated,” the agency said. Highly radioactive equipment from the plant was piled on railcars that were pushed into the tunnel and left.

An August 2015 report by Vanderbilt University’s civil and environmental engineering department said the PUREX facility and the two tunnels

had “the potential for significant on-site consequences” and that “various pieces of dangerous debris and equipment containing or contaminated with dangerous/mixed waste” had been placed inside the tunnels. By May 11, workers had dumped 53 dump trucks of sand and soil into the hole, covering it up as they have covered up many of the hazards at Hanford.

**“That waste has to be taken out of there at some point,”** said Kevin Kamps of Beyond Nuclear. “What do you do now, dig it out?”

Washington State Governor Jay Inslee ordered the federal government to determine the cause of the collapse and to assess the risk of more collapses in the immediate future.

The tunnel collapse is a small symptom of much bigger problems at the Hanford Reservation.

**Hanford is also dealing with 56 million gallons of highly radioactive waste in 177 underground tanks,** 149 of which are single-walled tanks built before 1965. Many of them are leaking into the soil and ultimately into the ground water and the Columbia River. Ultimately the DoE plans to make glass out of this waste so that it will stop migrating into the environment. However, the design of the plant to make the glass (vitrification) was inadequate and

must be completely re-done. It is now scheduled to open in 2039!

There are also 1,936 highly radioactive capsules of cesium and strontium stored in underwater tanks at an aging Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility (construction finished in 1973) near the Columbia River in a basin that could be at risk in a severe earthquake.

Environmental cleanup work at the PUREX plant, which is near where the collapsed tunnel is located, has been delayed because of a lack of money.

**The Tri-City Herald Editorial Board wrote,** “Potential risks across the entire Hanford nuclear reservation should be evaluated and ranked, and what funds there are should be allocated accordingly.

*“It is all nasty, frightening stuff.”*

*“Every federal budget cycle, we wonder how much congressional funding will go toward Hanford cleanup.”*

*“The emergency - and reaction - caused by the collapsed tunnel should serve as a reminder to federal lawmakers that the radioactive waste at Hanford is real and it is dangerous.”*

*“It is their obligation to get rid of it.”*

## **You Can Help Keep the Golden Rule Afloat**

**The Golden Rule is reaching thousands of people.** This year’s program reaches beyond the choir, by offering public speakers and education to churches, civic clubs and many different kinds of organizations. We are taking our message of peace to the people and encouraging them to see that when we work together, Peace is Possible.

**Please send a check to:**

VFP Golden Rule Project  
PO Box 87  
Samoa, CA 95564

**Or you can donate online at:**

[www.vfpgoldenruleproject.org](http://www.vfpgoldenruleproject.org)