



# EXPERIENCE THE WILD GOOSE

*Former Yacht of the Legendary John Wayne*

Homeport: Newport Beach • 136 foot - 25 foot beam

## *History of The Wild Goose*

- 1942:** United States Navy Minesweeper YMS 328, this vessel was first launched at Ballard Marine & Railway Co. in Seattle. There were 481 minesweepers made and today only four of them remain – Wild Goose is among one of them.
- 1955:** Purchased and renamed La Beverie (“The Beautiful Dream”) by its Canadian owners. She was later purchased by Max Wyman, a Seattle lumber tycoon and re-named The Wild Goose II.
- 1965:** She is purchased from Wyman for \$116,000 by John Wayne, who dropped the “II”. She was used as “The Duke’s” private getaway, for family and friends’ excursions to such places as Santa Catalina Island, Cabo San Lucas, British Columbia, Alaska, Bahamas, and Mazatlan.
- 1979:** John Wayne took his last trip on Wild Goose in April to Santa Catalina Island two months before his death.
- 1979:** Wild Goose is sold to a Los Angeles area attorney for \$750,000, with the goal of utilizing the vessel for corporate charters.
- 1991:** Purchased for an undisclosed sum by the Wild Goose Yacht Corporation, she undergoes extensive repairs and renovations totaling almost \$3.5 million.
- 1993:** Hornblower Dining Yachts entered into a partnership with Wild Goose Yacht Corporation, to be the managing operator of this magnificent vessel. The Wild Goose returns to her original homeport of Newport Beach and is available for private charters.
- 1997:** Hornblower Cruises & Events (formerly Hornblower Dining Yachts) purchases Wild Goose, taking over both ownership and operation.

## *Facts about John Wayne and The Wild Goose*

1. John Wayne loved this yacht. If he had had his way, he would have left the yacht as close to its original condition as a Navy minesweeper as possible.
2. The Wayne family took many trips on the yacht: up the coast to Canada and Alaska, down the coast and around the tip of Baja California, and of course, his favorite place, Santa Catalina Island.
3. John Wayne also lived on the yacht in Newport Beach for about 2 months while recuperating from surgery.
4. John Wayne's real name was Marion Michael Morrison.
5. He attended college at USC, where he played football.
6. Pilar Wayne became his third wife; they were married in 1954.
7. John Wayne had a total of seven children.
8. John Wayne stood six feet, four inches and in 1965, during a major remodel to the yacht, most of the ceilings were raised six to eight inches to accommodate The Duke's height.
9. John and Pilar Wayne, and their two children temporarily moved into the Newporter Inn (now the Hyatt Newporter) in 1965 while they awaited completion of their home in Bayshores.
10. John Wayne won an Oscar for Best Actor in the movie "True Grit" in 1970.
11. The last movie that John Wayne made was "The Shootist."
12. John Wayne's last public appearance was as presenter of the Best Picture Oscar at the 51st Annual Academy Awards, in 1979.
13. John Wayne passed on June 11, 1979 of complications from cancer, and is buried in an unmarked grave in Pacific View Memorial Park, in Newport Beach, California.

## *Main Deck*

### **Entryway**

As you enter the yacht you will notice a Wild Goose plaque hanging directly in front of you. This was actually a gift Patrick Wayne gave his dad. John Wayne hung it on the aft deck during his years owning the yacht.

### **Grand Salon**

The large room on the main deck includes the Duke's Round Table, which was used for poker parties and dining when John Wayne owned the yacht. The Grand Salon originally had canvas roll-down window coverings; although most of the time it was used as an open-air patio. The diving mask on the hatch to the lower staterooms was used in one of The Duke's movies. The lower staterooms, due to USCG regulations, are not accessible (they require two ways in and out). This space was home to several guest/vip staterooms which John Wayne named after movies he starred in. Dean Martin was known to have stayed in the "Red Witch" stateroom and Sammy Davis, Jr slept in the "Poseidon" stateroom.

## Fireplace Room



Yes, it's called the "Fireplace Room" because there is one. Unfortunately, cannot use it - fire on a big wood boat is not a good mix. The movie posters and pictures of The Duke were not here originally, he previously would use this room to hang plaques that he received from his travels. Originally, this room was used more for a family room and den. John Wayne would bring his SAG screeners and watch movies while on trips. The furniture is authentic from the days; the settee was used as a sort of couch and the table was used to play poker with the Rat Pack. The wet bar and soda fountain, which the kids say never worked properly, is also original. The large mural on the wall was commissioned by John Wayne, and depicts a naval battle of Admiral Nelson.

## Galley

Originally, this was the crew and family kitchen. The Wayne family employed a total of 3 to 4 full-time crew for the yacht, and many of them lived aboard the yacht at different times. The galley contained a walk-in freezer so that the Duke could bring back part of a glacier from Alaska for shaved ice in his cocktails. The kitchen also featured a large table in the middle, and often The Duke would join his crew here for meals and card games. The galley now has been updated with cooking and prep space to provide hot, seated meals for up to 150 guests. A dumbwaiter has been installed to bring food up more quickly, and safely.

## Second Deck

### Library

Originally, this room did not exist. When John Wayne owned the yacht, this area was an open back deck – the third deck had not yet been added either. Wayne sold the yacht two weeks before his death (he did not want his family to carry the financial burden). The new owner decided that the size of the staterooms was not sufficient, so they enclosed most of this deck and created this stateroom. We actually "show off" the restrooms (heads) on this yacht, the one here in particular! Note the gold sinks and furnishings (not real gold), and the sheer size of this restroom. There used to be a large four-poster bed in the corner, and the wall at the very back slides completely open to give access to the poop deck – and a great panoramic view of the harbor. The poker table, and animal-print poker chairs used to be on the poop deck. These items, and the leather chair, ottoman and desk are all from John Wayne's era of ownership. We since have removed the bed, and brought the poker table inside to protect it.



### Kid's Stateroom

Two of the Wayne children sort of "grew up" on the yacht – Aissa and Ethan. Their initials and the year 1965 are carved in the bunk beds they used – carved by the last skipper of the yacht, Bert Minshall (who had also the longest tenure on the vessel). Marisa Wayne also spent time on the yacht, later in The Duke's life. John Wayne would actually lock the kids in at night to keep them safe. The little porthole window above the top bunk was used to look out over the back patio deck. There is a little head back through the stateroom, complete with shower (which is currently non-functional); the kid's head connects through to the master bath.



## Master Stateroom

Yes, this is the room – and the bed – where John Wayne slept. Most all of the furniture here is authentic from the days he owned the yacht (you can see them in old pictures of the yacht). The dressers have decorative railings, and the drawers all have latches or locks to prevent things from sliding to the ground as the yacht moved through the open ocean. The closets all have bolt latches for the same reason. The master bath has a full makeup mirror, note the decorative finishings. The door hidden to the side connects through to the kid's head.

## Bow



The large white power winch that you see in the middle of this deck was used in the early days of the yacht's life in the Navy. It was retrofitted afterwards to be used to lift power skiffs and other light watercraft on and off the yacht. To take it off would leave a gaping hole in the deck, therefore it remains. The blue tarp-covered items are "buoyant apparatus", also known as life rafts, which the USCG requires for a vessel of this size (as well as 150+ life jackets). You can see we have the front part of the bow roped off – our Captains get very nervous when people try to re-enact the "I am the king of the world" scene from the movie Titanic.

## Pilothouse

During events, guests are welcome to come to the pilothouse to talk to the Captain, and maybe even steer the boat around the harbor! In the pilothouse, you can see the ship's wheel, telegraph and the magnetic compass. These three items are left from the yacht's early days as a Navy Minesweeper. The yacht is outfitted now with the modern marvels of seafaring – sonar/radar, a fax machine, Global Positioning Satellite, and even an autopilot navigation system. The leather chair in the corner was indeed the chair that The Duke received from the set of "In Harm's Way" and he used to sit in during voyages. It's written that he didn't really like to pilot the yacht, although he did often when it came back into Newport Harbor. When he did, inevitably it was done too fast, and with the horn blasting. The little room you see down below is the Captain's bunk. The Captain of the yacht in John Wayne's day mostly lived onboard, and this bunk allowed him to stay close to the command and control of the yacht. Above the pilothouse, accessible from the dining deck, is the fly bridge, with the wing controls to help dock the yacht. Wing stations are used because the Captain cannot see the dock adequately (if at all) from the main pilothouse.

## Upper Deck

### Dining Room



This room includes a full bar and seating for up to 144 guests. This deck never fully extended the length of the yacht in John Wayne's day. The front part was the roof for the staterooms, and was used for housing water toys and equipment. After The Duke sold the yacht, the smokestack was raised up and the third deck was extended out to the back of the yacht. A large, light-blue logo of a wild goose flying was painted on the deck. Eventually a rail was added around the entire perimeter, to allow for tenting of the deck for events. The back 2/3 of the railing was removable to allow helicopters to land (the logo serving as a landing marker). Hornblower Cruises & Events built a fully enclosed, climate controlled dining deck, complete with clear isinglass windows for a full view of the surrounding sights.



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