Ready to set sail

Historic ship will lead club’s annual regatta

By MARY SUE ANTON
ThisWeek Correspondent

The historic tall ship Elissa will set sail down Galveston Bay, leading a parade from the Houston Yacht Club April 20.

The event is part of the HYC’s annual Elissa Regatta, April 19-20 at the Houston Yacht Club in Shoreacres.

The 10 a.m. parade will depart from the club and end at the Clear Creek Channel entrance to Clear Lake near Seabrook.

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Neil Akkerman, Houston Yacht Club commodore

“As the oldest yacht club in Texas, we are honored to once again have this opportunity to support the Elissa.” HYC commodore Neil Akkerman said. “Having the 120-year-old ship anchored nearby on our opening day will make this weekend a highlight of our year-long centennial celebration.”

Akkerman said more than 100 boats are expected to participate in the parade. He encouraged all area boaters to join in the festivities.

He said boaters wishing to participate should meet at 10 a.m. at the entrance to Bayport Channel near Red Bluff and proceed to Barbour’s Cut.

Proceeds from the event go to the Texas Seaport Museum toward the maintenance of Elissa.

The square-rigged Elissa was launched in October 1877 from a shipyard in Aberdeen, Scotland and sailed into the port of Galveston in 1883.

In 1975, the Galveston Historical Foundation purchased the ship. Volunteers pitched in to restore the ship, using most of her original iron hull and recreating the rest from viewing old pictures. Today, Elissa’s home is in Galveston Harbor, where the ship is a part of the Texas Seaport Museum.

For more information, call Maureen Goddard at 281-240-0925 or the Houston Yacht Club at 281-471-1255.