

Commodore: John Flenniken
Vice Commodore: Ethan VanMatre
Secretary: Karen Finch

December 2013



Notes from the Helm

John Flenniken, Commodore

I've heard it said, "The older you get the faster time passes." I must be very old since it seems like in a wink of an eye, a full year has passed. Now I find myself writing my December Foghorn column. It is a good time to look back on that stretch of time and reflect, as we often do, when we write our Christmas and New Year's letters to our friends and family. Let's stop first to remember and note a final farewell to members Ardath Arfmann, Joe Denman, Bob Dressler, Anita Reynolds and former member Jim Corlett.



Our Commodore shows off his winning at the Walk 1 dinner and fund raiser as Members watch on.

Bill Kramer handed me a Club in great shape: sound finances, full moorage and a Club membership eager to take on any task, no matter how mundane or how challenging. You only need to ask, and willing and able members appear. I am pleased to be able to do the same for our incoming Commodore.

This year was also a building year. Here is a list of significant project leaders: Our Dredge Czar Brad Jensen and able crew moved underwater mounds of sand out of the moorage into the spoils pond, so we could enjoy late summer and fall sailing in a fully usable moorage. Project Manager Chuck Pennington and crew completed the upgrade to the water line on Walk 4. Project Manager Chuck Silver

was our on-site supervisor for the Clubhouse exterior upgrade - new windows, siding, soffits, gutters and down spouts. Bob Phillips oversaw the stripping and refinishing of the Clubhouse floor. Floating Docks Advisor Tom Stringfield worked tirelessly on the wooden pile replacement project: removing five wooden piles, adding seven steel piles, and creating two new slips for the moorage as a result. Director Mark Basel and committee took on



Pat Adams is heading home after a RCYC Work Party, and still smiling.



November RCYC calendar men? Na, part of your piledriving and dredge crew: Bob Fellman, Jim Hackley, Tom Stringfield, and Brad Jensen.

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the lighting project for Walk 4 that will add LED lights to the marina as we abandon the overhead lighting attached to the pilings. These were the major projects requiring the most work hours and capital.

Jean Beatty's work in 2012 and changes to the activities calendar for the Walk BBQ's resulted in huge turnouts. We implemented a rotation schedule and coordination with the new Activities Committee of Linda Latham, JoNell McClary and Jean Silver, who made these social events and activities fun and enjoyable. RCYC racing, under Racing Chair Jim Calnon, grew again as race participation increased. Program Chair Steve Erickson found and scheduled knowledgeable and entertaining programs for the General Meetings throughout the year. Work Party Chair Mike Moen planned and organized the five work parties completing the annual maintenance tasks. Cruising Chair Ron Moran worked with CRYA to make sure our cruising venues remained interesting and fun. I say "Thank you" to outgoing Ice Czarina Anita Fallon, who kept the ice chest full for all our events and cruises. A "Thank you" to Matt Richard our new Grill Master. He has removed from the Commodore, one nagging problem, by ably maintaining the Club's grills. A "Thank you" to Tom and Cathy Nelson, Reciprocal Chairs, for updating the Club's reciprocals' list. They have begun the transition to an updated list on the web. Directors Alan Boguslawski, Ann Roehm and Rick Royce are leaving the Board and have contributed mightily to the effectiveness and focus of the Board. Alan assisted the enhanced effort on recycling. Annie worked to make the landscaping more attractive with the container gardens, and helped the activities committee and the walk BBQ leaders plan for these events. The results are evident in the year's successes. Rick assisted the Club with the galley, prepared the Ladies Dinner and was a reflective voice and advisor. Thank you to all of you for the assistance you have given the Club and me.

In membership changes we saw five members leave to be replaced by twelve new members. To say the moorage is FULL is an understatement. Moorage Chair, Loren Beach, has worked his miracles. New members got permanent slips, or were given temporary slips as owners were away cruising or in dry dock, but we still have a waiting list. Loren is one of those quiet competent types who our Club depends on for smooth operation of one of our most important reasons for existing - a place

to moor our boats. There are other "quiet competent" members as well: our Treasurer - Judy Oxborrow; Long Range Planning Committee - Randy Webster and Mike Oxborrow; Finance - Karen Jacobson and Carl Nielsen; Port Captain - Lynn Easton and Resident Members - Ron and Karen Billion; the entire Yearbook Committee, and the Foghorn editors and graphics personnel. A very special "Thank you" to Legal Advisor, John Kneeland, who has served RCYC for the past forty-six years and to whom the Club owes a debt of gratitude. All those who I have mentioned, help keep the machinery of the Club, vital and functioning. "Thank you" to First Mate Penny and her committee for planning and hosting the Ladies Dinner, and for her assistance throughout the year. Of course, the special quality of our membership that lives the spirit of "Do it yourself", to you I say, "Thank you, again." All these efforts have made this year a vital, productive, active and fun experience. The more I worked at the Club the more I realized what a really special community we share. As a New Year's resolution please consider how you can participate and help RCYC continue to succeed. See you at the upcoming Christmas Ships party and gift exchange and thank you for a great year!



Hans Geerling chatting with Doug Crombie. Doug is also applying for membership and he will be introduced at RCYC Wednesday General Meeting.



Secretary's Notes

Karen Finch, Secretary



Please welcome the following new Members who were sworn in at the October General Meeting:

- Brian and Diane Terrett
- Sam Lanahan

Welcome! We look forward to seeing you at the many upcoming RCYC events.



Moorage Matters

Loren Beach, Moorage Chair

Dredging is underway. If you are moving your boat in or out of the moorage let the operators know so that they can move over and drop a swing cable to the bottom while you pass.

When you visit the moorage during any hours that the dredge is operating, be sure to check the gauge(s) for river level and hold up fingers to show the operator what that river level actually is. Some independent confirmation is helpful for the crew working inside the noisy machine, and a smile is always appreciated.

The piling replacement project on Walk 4 is complete. If your boat on Walk 3 was moved forward in its slip, to allow the crane barge access to the fairway, you might need to visit your boat, and move it back so that its bow pulpit does not overlap the walkway.

The remaining weathered wood finger-dock corner triangles on walk two are now upgraded to hi-density plastic, and plans are afoot to start replacing remaining plywood triangles on Walks 3 and 4 with plastic as well.

Water is now turned off on all walks to prevent pipes from freezing and breaking during mid winter. We normally refill those lines at the first work party in the spring.

Parking Lot: keep an eye out for any heavy equipment operations on the east or south sides. Best not to park in those areas. A heavy truck and big low-boy trailer or sand hauler will take up a lot of room turning and lining up to go in or out through the slide gate.

This time of the year it's customary to remind members to check on and reinforce your lines, chafe gear, and snubbers; also, to winterize your engines and water systems.

Consider yourself reminded!

Fair winds and happy holidays to you all.



Dear Members:

Your Board has been working on the proposed Guest rule change since the October Board meeting, to achieve a more welcoming tone. That process was described in the Board meeting minutes and also by a letter published in the Foghorn, requesting further comment. Comment was received and the Board wrote Rules, to replace E1 and E3, printed below. All other moorage rules remain unchanged.

The comment period remains open until the December 9th Board Meeting, where the Board will vote on the wording. You may email comments to any Director or Flag Officer before the meeting. All Board Meetings are open to the membership and you may come and make further comment should you desire.

Sincerely,

John Flenniken, Commodore

E. OTHER MOORAGE RULES

1. Invited guests are welcome at the Club and shall be afforded access to the Club during their visit. Invited guests are individuals invited to the Club to join the member, or who are attending Club events, individuals or organizations using the Club for functions, or members of reciprocal yacht clubs.
2. Guests are expected to comply with the rules and By-Laws of the Club. The Club reserves the right to remove anyone who does not comply with the rules.
3. Members and guests of members shall conduct themselves in a manner which will bring credit to RCYC.

NAUTICAL READS

Bill Kramer

This month's book is tied to the theme of the Commodore's Ball. World Cruising Routes, now in its 6th edition, is a useful book with which to plan your ocean passage. It covers which routes to take to get the best use of the wind and when it is safe to go. You will find out why the best way to get back to Portland from Mexico is via Hawaii. Even if your horizons don't extend that far it is fun fireside reading.

Today's information is not always in a book. Laura Jernegan: Girl on a Whaleship is a web site. Laura was 6 years old when her family set off on a 3 year whaling voyage in 1868. This site has Laura's journal as well as lots of interactive information about whales and what it was like to be on a whaleship. The web site is produced by Martha's Vineyard Museum in Edgartown, Massachusetts, where Laura's family set out. Check it out at www.girlonawhaleship.org.



Vice Commodore's Report

Ethan VanMatre, Vice Commodore

The New Year is just a few days away, and my year as Vice Commodore is nearly over. The time went by quickly and there have been many interesting moments. Soon I will step up and become your Commodore. That prospect appears daunting, and at the same time the challenges enticing. The progression of officers - Secretary, Vice Commodore, Commodore, Rear Commodore - is a good thing. Gain experience and move on to greater responsibilities. Take the lead and then "retire" to advise the new Commodore. Continuity in institutional knowledge is very important.

One of the jobs of the Vice Commodore is to track work hours. Each regular member "unit" is required to perform six hours of service in the first half of the year, and six in the second half. Many of us fulfill our work hours at work parties; some on the dredge and others as Committee Chairs. Some keep the Clubhouse clean and neat while others cut the grass and plant flowers. There are also special projects.

Life members do not have to put in work hours, and yet looking over the list of hours I see that RCYC life members have put in hundreds of hours. Officers and Committee Chairs earn their hours through the service in their office and looking at the list I see that they give of their time far in excess of their twelve hours.

There are a few members, each year, who have not been able to get in the twelve hours they need. Work gets in the way, or life or health issues interfere. In certain cases hours can be waived by application to the Board. Another way to fulfill your work hours is by working on a special project that the Work Party Chair needs to get done. Worst case for those needing hours is to charge the member for each hour lacking, and the price is steep.

That brings me back to Committee work. Each year a few members drop off Committees and need to be replaced. Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs earn work hours and typically lets you work at your own pace and time. As the incoming Commodore I am charged with appointing Committee Chairs and I have a few openings. The outgoing members will be happy to do some training and help you get going. Interested?

The Club needs a Dredging Adviser, Education Chair, Fleet Captain, Programs Chair, Work Party Chair, and 2 couples for Yearbook ads. I'm sure a few open positions have slipped my mind. Interested in helping out? Send me an email. There are a few Committees that want to increase their numbers too. If you are interested please contact a Committee member to see if help is needed.

Lastly, I sent emails to every Committee member (hopefully I did not overlook anyone) with two thoughts in mind. First, asking if they would stay on for 2014. But secondly, and much more important, I wanted to thank them for the service they performed for the Club. Their service is often above and beyond the minimum required and it often goes unnoticed. I wanted to be sure they knew how much we appreciated those things that they did. Next time you see them, remember to thank them.

RCYC CLUBHOUSE & YARD STEWARD OPPORTUNITY!

Sign up now to be a Clubhouse or Yard Steward for 2014. This light duty can be done completely on your own schedule. Signing up (plus performing the tasks!) will satisfy your work commitment for 2014. This is a convenient and flexible way to meet your RCYC work hour obligation for next year.

Contact RCYC Clubhouse Chair Jas. Adams at 503-349-0840 or jadams@teleport.com.



Larry Roberts, Roy Ciappini, Maxine Ciappini and Laurel Roberts enjoying the Happy Hour during the Walk 1 "BarBQ".

Dredging

Dredging has been completed in the Walk 1 fairway.

By the time you read this, the dredge will have been moved, and dredging started on Walk 2.

Thanks to all the folks that volunteer:



Fly our Burgee on Mt. Hood!



'Tis the change of the seasons. Looking at the eastern backdrop of our Sailing Season we notice a new layer of white. It is time to put away our sails and winterize our engines. It is time to redirect our communion with Mother Nature creating our own wind, flying down the slopes of Mt. Hood, riding the terrain.

Adult Midweek Ski -- come fly with us at Timberline!

Timberline Lodge

Shuttle/Discounted programs (22-passenger airporter). We own the hill on Mondays! Carpool the rest of the week

Pick & choose your days:

- January & February -- three Mondays each month (not going on holiday week)
- March & April -- except Spring Break (Spring Pass \$120 good through May).

Silcox Hut Adventure

Upper Timberline Lodge - full alpine experience at 7000' (no need to ski to enjoy this)

March 9-10 (Sunday/Monday) we own the upper mountain for 24 hours!

- 2 meals, bedding, snow cat ride 2-way; lift not included.
- \$160/person -- deposit deadline for reservation: December 15, 2013

Details at ski4fun@q.com or phone 503-768-3936 to get registered and on board. Carpooling is also available.

Talk to me! Annie Roehm

Soup & Sail Salad & Sweets



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2014

Kick off the NEW YEAR right by gathering with your RCYC friends for soup & sail, salad & sweets! Weather permitting, Commodore Ethan VanMatre will lead the Club's first 2014 outing on the river.

- Please bring a can of New England style clam chowder before 12:30 to add to the soup pots.
- Hot soup will be served beginning at 1:00PM.
- Sourdough bread and salads will be provided.
- Bring your leftover holiday sweet treats to accompany our dessert platters!

Linda Latham, Jean Silver, JoNell McClary & Kathy Pickwick Activities Co-chairs for the New Year



Walk 1 Fund Raiser



PARTY ON!

By Richard Pickwick

Our Walk 1 BBQ event was a terrific success; thanks to those who assisted, and who made it a fun and enjoyable evening. We had ninety-eight members attend and we accommodated all of them with a few more pots of pasta prepared by our terrific galley crew.

Ron Moran made our auction a huge success. Club members contributed \$802. Seventy-six dollars of the money collected will go to Youth Sailing. The balance of \$726 will go towards one or more purchases for the Club. Two suggestions were speakers for our patio and a bench

overlooking the moorage. A wireless microphone had been suggested previously. However, Ethan and Natasha VanMatre are donating that. We welcome additional suggestions from our Members.





Lynn Easton presented Tom Stringfield with a captain's hat in honor of a job well done on the piling project.



Foghorn Copy Deadline: 18th of the Month.

Please send your titled articles and photos to ALL Foghorn volunteers listed below:

EDITORS: Judy Oxborrow: judy87807@comcast.net

Gail O'Neill: gailejog@frontier.com

Alan Bergen: alan-at-home@comcast.net

Joyce Jensen: joyceandbrad@msn.com

GRAPHICS: Vickie Nissen: vknissen@frontier.com

Robert Phillips: rlphillips@web-ster.com

Rhonda Boguslawski: rhondalmb@netzero.net

PHOTOGRAPHERS: Hans Geerling, Yvonne Lamont & all Club Members with cameras!



Rose City Youth Sailing Society

Pam Sesar

We have some wonderful contributors to RCYSS, and even some who donate on a quarterly basis. Any amount is appreciated and used wisely. Please remember us in your end-of-the-year giving.

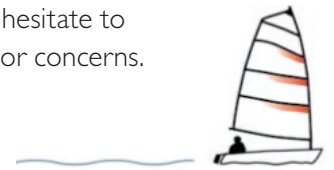
The CGRA (Columbia Gorge Racing Association) sponsored some amazing events this past year. What great experiences for our children and for the adults. Thank you to all the members and volunteers.

Vancouver Lake continues to provide a quiet peaceful setting for your youth to learn to sail and practice racing. Willamette Sailing Club continues to grow and promote sailors of all ages. What a great 2013.



RCYSS plans to continue our support to these programs. We want to especially ask you to encourage children to attend sailing regattas and classes. We want to continue to grow sailing in our area. We need more children to start. Do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Thank you so very much as always. We look forward to a great 2014.



RECIPROCAL

This will be our last reciprocal column in the Foghorn. We hope that some of our suggestions this past year have piqued your interest in going North into Puget Sound and British Columbia next summer. We also hope they made your cruising this past season a little more interesting. Perhaps you explored some new yacht clubs and met a few new boating friends along the way, because of our Foghorn articles.

Our RCYC home page will soon have listings of all our reciprocal clubs and their web addresses. We have been working for a number of months with a website called yachtdestinations.org that lists most of the clubs with which we have reciprocity. You might log onto this site just to see what it is all about. This is a great resource when you are cruising and want specific information about a particular club. Be sure to take your smart phone, pad, or laptop with you so you can access these websites.

Remember to always have your RCYC membership card with you and fly our burgee.

Finally, be sure and let us know if you find discrepancies in the reciprocal listings, or if you find new clubs you would like us to contact for future reciprocity.

Best regards,

Tom and Cathy Nelson, Reciprocal co-chairs

A View from the Rear

Bill Kramer, Rear Commodore

The year is drawing to an end and there is a nip in the air. As the end of my last year on the Board draws near, I am encouraged to know that a great Board of Officers and Directors will be overseeing the Club next year. Under Ethan's leadership, RCYC will get the care and feeding it needs to continue to be a great place of which to be a part. Speaking of taking care of the Club, a big thank you to Tom Stringfield and his crew for all their hard work making the piling project a success.

I am working with a fantastic committee to plan the 2014 Commodore's Ball. The Ball will be on Saturday February 1st, 2014 at Riverside Golf Club. This year's theme is World Cruising Routes. Please put the date on your calendars and plan to attend. It is a fun party where we say thank you to Commodore John Flenniken and First Lady Penny Flenniken and welcome Ethan VanMatre as our new Commodore, and Natasha VanMatre as First Lady. All new members who have joined since the last Commodore's Ball will receive complimentary tickets to the event. Tickets for the rest of us will be \$36.00, a great deal for a rib eye, halibut or vegetarian lasagna dinner and dancing to the Fabulous Essentials.

RCYC Recycling Program

By Alan Boguslawski

RCYC Trash & Recycling Chair, Jim Johnsrud, is concerned that the Club's recycling program may be failing.

Whenever our recycling container becomes contaminated with non-recyclable items such as plastic bags, our sanitation company must dump the entire recycling container into the garbage collection destined for the landfill. Even when the recycling dumpster does successfully get routed for recycling, Jim sees that many recyclable items are being deposited in the garbage dumpster, adding to the landfill.

RCYC is an Oregon Clean Marina, and it is incumbent upon our members to strive for recycling success, as we do in our own homes. Members also need to take responsibility for their guests by sharing with them our trash and recycling policies and procedures, which are repeated below.

Also, the RCYC Board, at their November meeting, adopted an amendment to the Clubhouse Use Rules. Contamination of the recycling containers may result in forfeiture, by groups using the Clubhouse, of up to 50% of the cleaning/security deposit, as determined by the Board. All members will be expected to comply with these policies:

Used motor oil: Used motor oil can be recycled at RCYC. Used motor oil is collected and stored in a container in the green shed. The green shed is in the SW corner of the parking lot. You can either pour your used motor oil into the container or leave it next to the container in a see-through jug, such as a clean used milk bottle. Only used motor oil may be recycled. Any other substance in the oil, such as fuel or anti-freeze, ruins the used motor oil for recycling. Do not leave oil by the dumpsters. Our garbage hauler will not pick it up. If you do not want to take your used oil to the shed, take it home.

Hazardous waste: Do not leave hazardous waste at RCYC. Hazardous waste should NEVER go into the trash dumpster. Proper

disposal of fuel, anti-freeze, batteries, paint and any materials defined as hazardous waste is your responsibility. Do not leave any of these materials by the dumpsters. The garbage haulers will not take them. Hazardous waste should NEVER be dumped on the grounds or in the water at RCYC. This not only causes a mess, but it could cause RCYC legal problems and expensive fines. ALL hazardous waste MUST be taken by YOU to a hazardous waste facility. Metro has 2 hazardous waste facilities, Metro Central Station, 6161 NW 61st Ave., Portland, 503-234-3000; and Metro South Station, 2001 Washington St., Oregon City, 503-234-3000.

Trash: Trash that is generated at RCYC or on your boat during a cruise or project can go into the trash dumpster. Please make sure that your trash ends up inside the dumpster. Trash left next to the dumpster does not get picked up. (Also the dumpster is not the place for trash from home.)

Recycling: Recyclable materials, except glass, go into the dumpster

marked recycling. It has signs indicating what may be recycled. Glass goes into the 2 smaller blue containers labeled for glass. Only items listed on the signs should be recycled. These include clean paper, cardboard, metal cans, milk containers, juice and soup cartons, empty aerosol cans, scrap metal under thirty pounds and thirty inches, plastic bottles and tubs (no lids). Any item contaminated with food debris needs to be treated as trash. Items that cannot be recycled at RCYC may be recyclable if you want to take them to a collection site.

Deposit Containers: RCYC does not have a procedure for deposit containers. If you do not want to return them, you may recycle them in the glass or recycling bin.

RCYC UPCOMING Events, Meetings, and Functions:

December 2013

- Dec 2 Knauti Knitters, 10:00 am
- Dec 6 Christmas ships potluck, 6:00 pm
- Dec 9 RCYC Board Meeting, 7:00 pm
- Dec 11 OWSA General Meeting, 6:00 pm
- Dec 13 Private Party
- Dec 15 RCYC Music Group, 2:00 pm
- Dec 16 Knauti Knitters, 10:00 am
- Dec 18 RCYC General Meeting, 7:00 pm
Foghorn Deadline
- Dec 31 Informal New Years Eve Party, 6:00 pm

January 2014

- Jan 1 Soup and Sail, 10:00 am
- Jan 6 Knauti Knitters, 10:00 am
- Jan 13 RCYC Board Meeting, 7:00 pm
- Jan 15 RCYC General meeting, 7:00 pm
- Jan 18 Foghorn Deadline
- Jan 20 Knauti Knitters, 10:00 am

• Check the web site for updated Club dates and more information about RCYC. Also view and/or download your Foghorn from the RCYC web site: www.rosecityyachtclub.org



RCYC Volunteers Turn Piledriving Project from a 3 Day Job into 2 Days

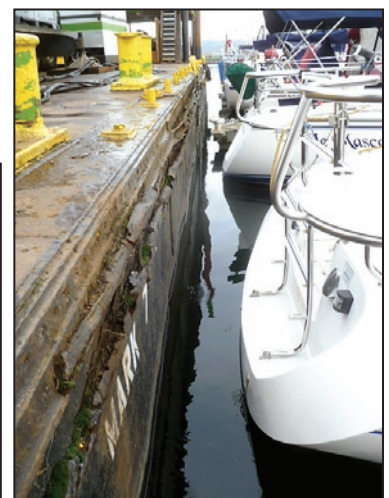
Thanks to terrific efforts by our RCYC piledriving support (crew listed below) and to our crafty piledriving contractor, we finished the work a day early, with no problems to report. The crane barge moved out of the marina on the evening of November 8. Walk 4's old wood pilings have been replaced with new steel pilings, and we have new berths available at the ends of Walks 3 and 4. Dave Kibby will be working on electrical service for these new berths in late November. Please let Dave or me know if you can lend a hand.

To those who moved their boats out of their Walk 3 or 4 slips or forward in their Walk 3 slips to give the piledriver room to work: thank you. To those of you who were unable to get to the marina to move your boats, Loren Beach and Jim Hackley moved your boat for you. If you have not already returned your boat to your own slip, it's time to move back. To understand why we asked you to move your boats, look at the photos to the right. One shows Walk 3 with all boats moved forward. The other shows Walk 3 with the crane barge in front of Lynn Easton's house. Imagine what would have happened to boats hanging several feet beyond the ends of their fingers. The piledriving crewmembers who moved the crane barge are wizards at working it into tight spaces. The tug *Coal Creek*, strapped to the front of the crane barge, is really a supersized bow thruster that kept the front end of the crane barge precisely aligned in the fairway. Despite a minimal amount of room for error, it did not touch a thing while it was moved into and out of our marina and along the Walk 3 fairway.

We temporarily moved many of the boats on Walk 4 back into the Walk 4 fairway to keep them away from piledriving work. Walk 3 and Walk 4 boat owners, if you haven't done so please check your mooring lines and re-tie them as necessary, to make sure your boat is moored the way you want it. Also check your shore power cord to make sure that it is secured to stay out of the water, that it is routed the way you want it and that your strain relief ties are intact. Several ties were deteriorated and they fell apart as we unhooked your cords to move your boats. Replace your strain reliefs if necessary.

Our RCYC piledriving volunteers were: **Steve Barrett, Loren Beach, Ron Billion, Lynn Easton, Bob Fellman, Terry Foren, Paul Glynn, Jim Hackley, Doug McClary, Ron Moran, Mike Oxborrow, Bob Phillips, Rick Royce, Mike Schumann, and PYC ringer Dick Dominey.** Please give these men a pat on the back when you see them. Their efforts are why our 3 days of work was done in 2 days and why things went so smoothly.

Tom Stringfield



BILGE PUMPS

Alison Mazon

Quietly standing sentinel in the bilge while your boat spends most of its time alone in its slip is usually a single, hidden, forgotten bilge pump. How fit for duty is this bilge sentry?

I find a high percentage of bilge pump "systems" asleep on watch. If the hull perimeter were breached, the water would just walk on in and the pump wouldn't respond for any number of reasons. I find many owners assume the pump is adequate, the wiring is in good order, the automatic switch or float switch is powered up, there is nothing extraneous in the bilge to interfere with pump operation, and the discharge hose to the thru hull fitting is functional.

Common Failures:

1. No power to the float switch
2. No power to the bilge pump
3. Float switch that isn't mounted
4. Debris fouling the float switch
5. Debris causing a bilge pump to rotor lock
6. Debris restricting the bilge pump inlet
7. Bilge pump that isn't mounted
8. Bilge pump shaft bearing/bushing frozen
9. Stuck one-way valves
10. Disconnected discharge hoses
11. Kinked discharge hoses
12. Discharge thru hulls too low to the waterline

Bilge Things You Should Know:

1. What switches have to be ON to supply power to the automatic or float switch?

Don't assume you know! Prove to yourself exactly what switches have to be in what position.

2. If I pour a bucket of water in the bilge, will it automatically pump it out and how long does it take? Hearing a pump run doesn't automatically mean it will pump the water overboard – if a hose is holed or comes loose or has been kinked or a one-way valve sticks, very little to no water may actually leave the vessel.
3. Is there any debris in the bilge? An oil absorb pad that isn't tied off away from a pump and switch qualifies as debris – it can prevent a float switch from activating or prevent the float switch from turning on after the water is discharged.
4. Is the bilge pump strainer clean? Pull a submersible pump from the base and inspect. Lift up a suction hose and check the strum box strainer.
5. Is the pump and float switch secured to the structure? Physically pull on them.
6. Is the automatic or float switch mounted high enough above the bilge pump to ensue they will turn off and not allow the pump to run endlessly? Test by pouring in water to verify.
7. Is the bilge pump wiring secured high above the bilge water?
8. Are the wiring connections made with secure crimp-type connectors? Try to pull the wires out of the connectors.

9. Are the connections inside heat shrink tubing that has a heat activated adhesive to completely seal the wiring?
10. Do you really need a one-way valve? If you can eliminate it, you should. They will stick sooner or later – either open or closed.
11. How old is the pump? Is it time to retire that old trooper with a new soldier that is ready to face the battle of the bilge?
12. Items that reduce flow are step down hose connectors, corrugated hose, 90 degree fittings, one-way valves, undersize thru hull fittings, kinked hose, undersize wiring, poor connections.

Boats don't sink because bilge pumps fail. Boats sink because of water getting into the boat. So, anything you can do to keep water on the outside will pay big dividends!

1. Clogged cockpit drains are such a common source of boats sinking it is sad. Builders typically fit boats with substandard, undersize cockpit drains. Inspect your drains frequently throughout the winter. That same bucket of water you slopped in the bilge should be slopped in the cockpit from time to time. Watch how quickly the water flows out and where it exits. Have a young, flexible "volunteer" below with a flashlight to inspect the drains while you slop buckets of water into the cockpit. Be certain you know where all of your cockpit drains are. Builders are good about hiding them under hatches and

inside storage lockers. It is amazing how little debris it takes to totally clog a drain. I have found spider egg pouches, fish hooks, cigarette pack cellophane, dog hair, human hair, seeds, leaves, remnants of seagull lunches, etc. completely block drains. In a heavy rain, the cockpit becomes a cistern to collect rainwater and funnel it into the boat. Pull on the hoses. Inspect for corroded clamps. Look for leaking hoses. A T-fitting in a drain is a sure clog point. You may have to flush them out with a jet of water.

2. Dripping propshaft packing glands are notorious for working a bilge pump to the point of exhaustion.
3. Deck leaks will let more water into a boat than you would think. During one of the many Los Angeles droughts, an often-quoted statistic was that a dripping faucet could fill a bathtub in a day. I don't know about your bilge, but mine isn't nearly that big!
4. Freeze damaged raw water strainers. The boat won't sink until the strainer thaws. Always close all seacocks except cockpit drain each time you leave your boat. Hang your ignition key on the engine seacock to remind you it's closed.

If you do all of the above, you will have fulfilled the duties of a good commander and your troops will protect your ship through the long winter campaign.

Merry Christmas!



RCYC Annual Christmas Ships Potluck Dinner and Gift Exchange

Friday, December 6, 2012

Social Time: 5:30 • Potluck Dinner 6:00 • Gift Exchange 7:00

Dessert will be provided.

Choose a gift or steal a gift. Gifts should be \$5-\$10 and something you would like to receive, not a “white elephant”. Join us as we start the Christmas Season on the River at RCYC.



3737 NE Marine Drive
Portland, OR 97211
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

