

Commodore: Tod Bassham  
Vice Commodore: Gary Brown  
Secretary: Cathy Skach

Rear Commodore: Loren Beach  
Directors: Mark Holzmänn, Kathy Souhrada  
Kelly Brown, René Emch, Barbara Weiss

October 2023



### From the Bridge

*Tod Bassham, Commodore*

Summer temperatures linger, for a while, but fall is on its way. Time to put away summertime toys and start prepping for the long wet days of winter. With the rains a-coming, one thing we all should do is make sure our dewatering devices (bilge pumps) do not inadvertently discharge oil or fuel into the river. At the Club, oil discharges into the river have occurred multiple times in the last two months from at least three different boats. Each episode required volunteers to deploy the spill kit, using booms and absorbent cloths to contain the spill. The Coast Guard has investigated at least one spill. The Coasties praised our spill containment protocol and, fortunately, decided not to impose fines on the responsible boat owners (or the Club). But these spills should not have happened at all.

The basic problem is inattention. Many boats at the Club sit for months without being used or even visited. Inattention and neglect are even more common during the cold, winter months. Winter brings lots of rain, which means bilges full of water, which in turn means automatic bilge pumps will spew bilge water into the river. In some boats, oil or fuel can easily find their way into the bilge and get pumped overboard.

How to prevent this? Most boats with inboard engines have an engine pan, but the pan may not be completely isolated from the bilge. Keep your engine and fuel lines well maintained. But even a well-maintained engine will sometimes drip or leak. Inspect your setup and look for ways that oil or fuel can escape the pan or otherwise drip into the bilge. Use absorbent pads in the pan or elsewhere to prevent (or at least slow down) oil reaching the bilge.

Frequent inspection is the key. Ideally, everyone in the Club would come down at least once a week to inspect their boat and, if necessary, empty the bilges (by hand if water in the bilge is contaminated). If due to travel or other reasons you can't inspect the boat and bilges every week, ask a fellow Club member to do it for you and offer to inspect theirs when they are out of town.

This might even be a new Club tradition. Every weekend during the winter months a coalition of the willing can meet at the Clubhouse at a designated



*Photo courtesy of  
Vickie Nissen Stringfield.*

*From the Bridge continues on Page 2.*

time, start the coffeemaker, and then go out and inspect their boat and bilges and dock lines, etc. If someone can't make it but would like to have their boat looked at, they can authorize another Club member to go on board and take a gander. Then we all troop back to the Clubhouse for coffee and snacks. Or, even better, go out sailing!

In other news, the Big Picture Budget Review Committee presented an initial report to the Board at its September meeting. The Committee's basic finding is that over the last few years our expenses have exceeded our revenue by an average of \$40,000 per year, mostly due to the fact that we have not increased our dues and fees for over a decade despite significant inflation and increased costs. The Committee recommends increasing dues and fees to cover current expenses and to index dues and fees in the future to inflation. In addition, the Committee recommends building up the Capital Improvement Fund and the Emergency Reserves Fund, using the extra revenue available after the dock and dredge loans are paid off in the next two years.

And we do have some big capital expenses coming up. The Breakwater Committee inspected our aging wave attenuator recently and found, as expected, significant rot in the stringers and decking. The logs and pilings seem fine, but it is clear we will need to replace at least the stringers and decking in the near future. That will be an expensive project, particularly if we hire it out.

We also have deferred dredge maintenance to perform. Our dredge needs to be hauled out next year and bottom-painted, among other repairs and improvements. As some of our deeper-keeled boats have discovered recently, if we don't dredge our marina every year, we become a beach club rather than a yacht club.

But I am confident we have the skills and resources to handle the challenges of our life on the river.



## Vice Commodore's Report

*Gary Brown, Vice Commodore*



Lorena and I joined RCYC in 2017. We were looking for a marina right on the river where we could moor our deep-draft Beneteau First 35, "Get Set Go," and the Do-It-Yourself quality of the Club appealed to our way of going about most things. Little did we know how easy it would be to get involved in the community and activities here and what it could lead to. We have made many good friends and have learned so much. I have had no aspirations of leadership at the Club, but it's in my nature to usually say "yes" when someone asks for my help. My first responsibility was grillmaster and also have been sounding the marina for five years in support of dredge operations. I was surprised by the invitation a couple years ago to serve as Secretary, and then Vice Commodore for this year. And now, the Nomination Committee has recommended me as the Commodore for 2024. I'm willing to give it my best shot if the Club thinks I'm the right person for the job next year.

*Vice Commodore's Report continues on Page 3.*



Now retired from an electrical engineering career, and with our five children grown up and out of the nest, Lorena and I are involved in a variety of volunteer activities through church and community and like to be busy. I enjoy racing and cruising sailboats. Sailing highlights from the past year included skippering "Get Set Go" in the Pacific NW Offshore and racing in the SYSCO Tuesday night series on the Merit 25 "Gold Rush" that we co-own with a couple of other good friends in the Club. Woodworking is a favorite hobby. I like to build furniture and wooden boats. Having completed two sailboats for our family, I'm now working on a 25' powerboat, which is in the final paint and varnish stage. Community service includes volunteering as an instructor at a boat-building organization for middle/high school students.

One vision I have for the Club is that it is a place where camaraderie abounds through a vast array of boating, social service, and educational activities. We all have skills to share that improve the quality of our facilities, our experience at the Club and our seamanship on the water. I've personally learned much at educational clinics taught by members and have enjoyed teaching classes on asymmetrical spinnakers and splicing soft shackles. Sharing what we know can extend beyond sailing skills to other hobbies/interests and strengthens our collective community and friendships.

Speaking of sharing what we have to offer, all of us have committed to contribute our time and efforts to maintain and improve the Club. To date, members have worked about 3500 hours so far this year. That's fantastic — keep up the good work! Fall Work Parties have started, and dredging activities are ramping up, too. Plan to work all your required hours plus more, if possible, well before the end of the year. (While I just love tracking people down at the end to remind them to wrap things up, I'd rather spend my time fixing frozen pipes or cleaning the shop.) Note that the calendar year for work hours ends DECEMBER 10. Click on the [How Many Work Hours Do I Have?](#) link on the Forms and Documents page in the Club Members area to find out how many work hours you have so far (updated every couple of weeks). See the [Calendar](#) for the Work Party dates for the second half of the year.

For any who want to rent the Clubhouse/patio, there is an updated application form on the Club website on the [Forms and Documents](#) page. Fill it out and send to me, Gary Brown.

And, finally, anything else that needs to go on the calendar can be sent to me, too. That includes all events for 2024. Let's get these on the calendar by the end of October.

Happy Autumn and end-of-year boating!



## Secretary Salutations

*Cathy Skach, Secretary*

At the Board meeting earlier this month, we met Jeff and Harmony Burright from Salem. They sail an Islander 36. Jeff has loved sailing since childhood, and Jeff and Harmony started sailing together in 2008. They learned to sail a big boat together. After Harmony graduated from graduate school, they took a three-year trip through Panama, back up to Mexico. They sold their 30' boat, and after being home for a week, Jeff was online looking for their next boat. They picked up a Northwest 21. Their Islander 36 is currently in Newport. Look for them at the General Meeting!

New members David and Cindy Argo were sworn in at a special General Meeting held before the August Board Meeting. They were impressed with the Club and that there are 10 Catalina 30s in the Club. They are looking forward to meeting everyone.

One member sends her thanks for the Club's generous gift of convalescence flowers: me! Thank you, everyone, very much! I had hernia surgery on August 25 and am recovering nicely.

It is with a sad heart that I report Jim Jonsrud's passing on September 10. He had additional strokes and was left without speech and passed two days later. Jim and Bette were about to celebrate their 56th anniversary on September 23. Bette said that it was so close, she's going to count it. Happy Anniversary, Jim and Bette!



*Jim and Bette Jonsrud.*



**RCYC Ship's Store**

**Shop online & at the Club** for products to show your colors.

Contact **Terry Foren** to order: [nirecap@comcast.net](mailto:nirecap@comcast.net)



## Work Parties

*John Osborne*

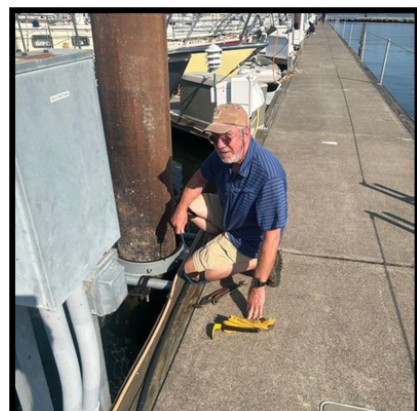
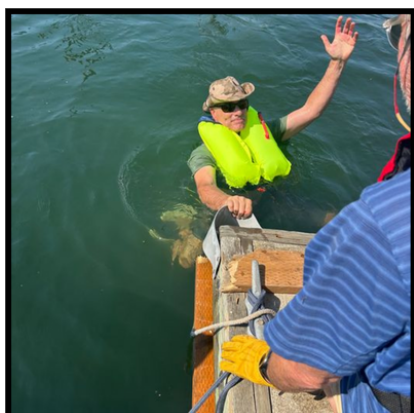
The first Work Party of fall was well attended, and we got a lot of work items done. Pam Corey led the group and kept things well organized and productive. Kathy Souhrada got us going with coffee and breakfast snacks and provided us with a wonderful chicken salad lunch.

The Work Parties not only keep the marina in great shape, but are also a nice opportunity to meet your fellow members from different Walks and get to know them. We have a wealth of experience from different backgrounds that helps us tackle sometimes technically challenging tasks with ease.

Thanks to all for a great start to fall. None of this happens without everyone's generous participation. Remember, only three more Work Parties left to get your hours in for the year. Next one is 9/30.

By the way, we are still in need of folks to step up as Leads for the last three Work Parties. Please let me know if interested.

Brandon just can't stay out of the water!  
Always fun to see how long it takes before it happens. I believe Rene won the bet on this one.



*Photo courtesy of John Osborne.*



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## RCYC Land Yacht Cruise

*CJ & Roxana*

The fall RCYC Land Yacht cruise is coming quickly. We will be spending the weekend at Nehalem Bay State Park on the coast the weekend of October 13th thru the 15th. Set between the ocean and the bay, Nehalem Bay State Park is situated on a four-mile sand spit.

The campground sits among shore pines, just a sand dune away from the beach. The park has beach access to the Pacific and to Nehalem Bay.

A forested 1.8 mile-long bike path provides a breathtaking view of the bay. You may see deer and elk grazing and a variety of birds. Kayaking, crabbing, fishing and clamming are popular activities. Kayak tours and horseback rides are available close by.

All are welcome to attend. Make your reservations before they are gone. We are on loop E. So get your RV, trailer, or tent ready. Good fun will be had so come join us.

Let us know if you are coming and hope to see you there. Check out the post on this topic on our cruising forum for more information.

[Campground Map](#)



## Moorage Matters

*Matt Richard, Moorage Chair*

There are no new moorage movements to report this month. The moorage remains fully assigned, and there don't appear to be any vacancies coming up over the next several months — well, maybe one on Walk 3.

The mid-September cruise to West Dock was a fun time for all who attended. The Club has one more planned cruise for the year on the weekend of October 6th thru the 8th to East Dock (Bartlett Landing) on Government Island. I would really encourage all you cruising types to join us on the October 6th weekend for one last hurrah.

After that it will be time to get ready for fall and winter on the river: time to double up mooring lines and remove all your burgees, flags, streamers, and battle ribbons from your rigging. Remove or securely tie furling sails and tie off any halyards and running rigging that could whip against masts and such. Check your moorage lines for wear, and check your fore and aft snubbers. Are they set up correctly and doing the work they are designed to do? Check your dock space; the only thing you should see is a dock box tied to the dock and maybe a hose and a bottom brush. If you have a dinghy, please ensure that it is locked. Okay, enough of that, time to go clean my boat!



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# From the Rear

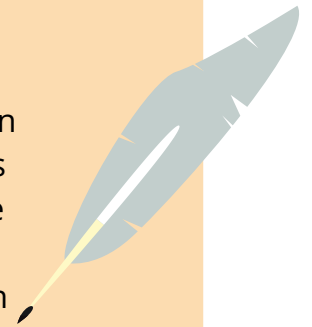
*Loren Beach, Rear Commodore*

Massive congratulations to our members presented as nominees at the September 2023 Board Meeting as candidates for the 2024 Board.

## 2024 Slate of Board Members:

**Commodore:** Gary Brown  
**Vice Commodore:** Cathy Skach  
**Secretary:** Barbara Weiss  
**Rear Commodore:** Tod Bassham

**Director:**  
Mark Holzmann  
Greg Douglass  
John Osborne  
Mark Engdall  
Bruce Newton



The 2024 slate was announced at the General Meeting in September. While Rene Emch, Kathy Souhrada, Kelly Brown, and I will be leaving the Board at the close of the year, we plan to continue on in various volunteer positions and remain active.

Unless there are “nominations from the floor” at the October General Meeting, this slate can be approved by our membership at that meeting. Note that a quorum is required for the October meeting, whether remote by Zoom or in person.

If additional nominations are received from the floor, there will be an election at the November General Meeting. The Nominating Committee consisted of Judy Oxborrow, Toby Elliott, and Carl Corey, chaired by the Rear Commodore. We met regularly starting in mid-May.

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## 2024 Board Member Nominee Bios

### Vice Commodore: Cathy Skach

I have served as a Director and as Secretary for the Club. Initially, when I was asked to be a Director I agreed to go through the Chairs if asked later on. I hesitantly agreed. In the beginning I felt reluctant because I believed that Officers somehow knew all about the infrastructure of the Club (and many who know me have heard my qualms). After much thought and discussion, I’m now ready to move forward and continue on through the Chairs. I’m grateful for the support of our past VCs and Commodores (I’m looking at you, Matt and Loren). I’ve been told that at RCYC the Officers are never operating alone but have the support of previous officers.

As VC, I hope to continue Gary’s improvements to the Club’s Work Hour program and maintain what he has accomplished to date, such as a very accurate work hour reporting tool. I will keep on top of reporting work hours regularly and also help members know when they are nearing deficient status.

The Club has asked me to help out as an Officer, and I would like to do my best to honor that request.

*Nominee Bios continues on Page 7*

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**Secretary: Barbara Weiss**

Hello! I'm Barbara Weiss, RCYC member since 2018 and co-owner of the intrepid S/V Sea Lilly. I was a Director on the Board this past year and look forward to fulfilling my duties as Secretary in 2024. Cathy Skach, 2023 Secretary, is leaving some mighty big shoes to fill -- fingers crossed I'll live up to her example! RCYC is, hands down, the best moorage and boating community on the Columbia (albeit speaking from more from the heart than experience). My goal is to help keep RCYC viable and relevant in the coming years by seeking ways to strengthen our position in the larger community as an organization that actively welcomes and strives for a diverse membership.

**Director: Mark Holzmann**

Born in Portland Oregon, I have been sailing on the Columbia River the past 40-plus years, and Rose City Yacht Club has been Valerie and my home port for 26 years. Val and I have three grown children who still enjoy an evening sail with their folks. I have served as Membership Chairman for the past 11 years, and this will be my third year as a Board Member. We sail a Catalina 36 we purchased 29 years ago. All this to say we have been around a long time. The Club continues to improve and build each year, and I feel blessed and fortunate to be a part of such a great community.

**Director: Greg Douglass**

I am Greg Douglass. My wife, Josiane, and I have been members of RCYC since 2016. I'm not sure that I have any special talents or qualifications that would make me a good Director, but if I'm chosen I promise that I will listen carefully to the members' issues and be responsive. I would be happy to serve.

**Director: John Osborne**

Kathy and I joined RCYC in Jan 2021. Prior to joining, we had been keeping our Catalina 30 at Tomahawk Island Marina for many years. We are so happy we made the move. One year later I was asked to sign on as Work Party Program Lead. Being new to the Club, I was concerned that I would soon be in over my head. No surprise that the depth of the members would not let me fail, and I have enjoyed meeting most of our Club in a very short time. I now know what is in almost every cupboard and behind every door along with the many systems that comprise our marina. It has been a wonderful learning experience, especially working with so many dedicated members.

After almost two years in the Work Party role, I was asked to consider becoming a Board Member. I look forward to this new position and will be continuing to reach out to see what is needed to support our Club.

**Director: Mark Engdall**

I surely made the right decision when I asked you to allow me to join RCYC. My only regret is that I didn't try to join years sooner. The people I have met here have so much knowledge and so many skills, and they are very willing to share them. The activities I have been involved with have been totally fun, and it seems I always learn a great deal. I hope to be up to the tasks assigned to me and bring as much kindness and enjoyment in working with other members as they have shown to me. Thanks for your consideration and allowing me to participate.

*Nominee Bios continues on Page 8*

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## Director: Bruce Newton

Hello, members. I am a fairly new member but have already had the opportunity to work on dredging, gate repair, plumbing, and several other jobs around the Club. Earlier this year the Commodore asked me to serve on a short-term committee called the Big Picture Budget Committee, and that has proved to be an interesting and important project. Before retiring I worked as a scientist for the federal government in natural resources management. I've been active in the sailing community and have served as Commodore and Board member for both SYSCO and OCSA. I have served on other nonprofit boards and once a week volunteer for Habitat for Humanity building houses. Our boat is Kestrel, a Merit 25, that we use mostly for racing and the occasional cruise. We have a great Club, and I'm looking forward to helping it thrive into the future.

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## RCYC Activities

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### October

- 2 Knauti Knitters—10:00 am
- SYSCO Board Meeting—5:30 pm
- 6-8 Bartlett's Landing Cruise
- 9 RCYC Board Meeting—7:00 pm
- 13-15 Fall Land Yacht Cruise
- 14 RCYC Work Party—9:00 am
- RCYC New Member Orientation—9:00 am
- 16 Knauti Knitters—10:00 am
- 18 November Foghorn deadline
- RCYC General Meeting—7:00 pm
- 21 Walk 2 BBQ

### November

- 4 RCYC Work Party—9:00 am
- 6 Knauti Knitters—10:00 am
- SYSCO Board Meeting—5:30 pm
- 11 Walk 3 BBQ
- 13 RCYC Board Meeting—7:00 pm
- 15 RCYC General Meeting—7:00 pm
- 18 December Foghorn deadline
- 20 Knauti Knitters—10:00 am



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Check the website calendar for updates and more information about RCYC at [www.rosecityyachtclub.org](http://www.rosecityyachtclub.org)

Need something added to the calendar?  
Contact Vice Commodore Gary Brown.

Email articles, announcements and photos with "Foghorn" in the header to [RCYCFoghorn@gmail.com](mailto:RCYCFoghorn@gmail.com) by the **18th** of the month

- YOUR FOGHORN TEAM -  
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