



## ROSE CITY YACHT CLUB NEWSLETTER

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

Rear Commodore: Loren Beach  
Directors: Mark Holzmann, Kathy Souhrade  
Kelly Brown, René Emch, Barbara Weiss

April 2023



### From the Bridge

*Tod Bassham, Commodore*

After what seemed like months of walking around with shoulders hunched against the icy blast, it was a distinct relief to come down to the ramp to see sun on the water and a bunch of happy Club members prepping their boats for the spring and summer. Toby Elliot led a well-attended first Work Party on March 4 that started the process of waking up our sleeping beauty from her winter nap. Work Party lead John Osborne prudently decided to delay restoring the water system until a forecast cold spell passed. But on March 16 a dedicated team opened the spigots, and pure Bull Run water is now available to fill our tanks and clean the mold from our decks.

Water was made available just in time for the first cruise of the season to Bartlett Landing the weekend of March 18-19. As it turns out, that is a popular weekend. The third Saturday in March is traditionally the date for the first RCYC race of the year, the Frostbite. An education event was, at one point, scheduled for that Saturday, but the Frostbite was moved up a week, and the education event was ultimately bumped to allow for the St. Paddy's day party. This reduced the potential four-way conflict to only two conflicting events but still forced our members to choose between cruising and the St. Paddy's party. Hmm. In the fall, I think I will lock the Social, Cruising, Racing and Education leads in the same room and not let them out until they come up with a coordinated calendar of Club events that minimizes conflicts.

If you recall, last month's From the Bridge discussed a perceived problem with lagging in-person attendance at recent General Meetings. In January and February, only a handful of folks showed up in person, while the vast majority of members preferred to attend via Zoom. If this is the wave of the future, I questioned whether it was worth the effort to hold the in-person aspect of the meeting. Maybe we should just switch to all-Zoom. Before taking

that radical step, I wanted to conduct an experiment to see if a weekend time and date, with more robust social event incentives, might boost in-person attendance and keep alive the long-standing tradition of in-person socializing at the General Meeting. So I proposed seeking Board approval to move the March GM to the following Saturday afternoon.

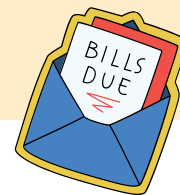
Well, I got an earful from a number of folks who preferred not to meet on a weekend. Board members seemed split on the idea, so I bravely retreated, resigned to the demise of in-person GMs on my watch. Yet, lo and behold, we actually had decent in-person attendance at the March 15 GM, something like 25 people in the room. It probably helped that (1) it was now daylight saving time, so the sun was still up for the commute in, and (2) Mark Salholm prepared some yummy home-baked muffins and banana bread. In hindsight, the problem may be seasonal,

*From the Bridge continued on page 2*

### Reminder from Your RCYC Treasurer

Second quarter billings will arrive in your inboxes **April 3**. If you do not see yours come in that day please contact me at [karenj@bray-cpa.com](mailto:karenj@bray-cpa.com). The bills are due April 30 and are delinquent if paid after that date.

*Karen Jacobson*  
[karenj@bray-cpa.com](mailto:karenj@bray-cpa.com)



involving understandable reluctance to brave the winter weather in January and February, plus, of course, lingering concerns about Covid. Maybe next year we should do all-Zoom for the dark January and February meetings and do hybrid meetings the rest of the year.

At the March 13 Board meeting, the Board briefly discussed "Hosted Events" at the Clubhouse. Under the Clubhouse rules, Hosted Events are meetings and events held by an authorized RCYC lead or representative involving non-members or outside organizations. Examples include a CRYA calendaring meeting hosted by our RCYC representative or a social held after an RCYC race. Hosted Events do not require a rental contract or rental fee. They are distinct from "Sponsored Events," which are events held by outside organizations sponsored by any RCYC member who belongs to the organization. Sponsored Events require a contract and payment of a \$200 fee to rent the Clubhouse.

The question arose whether certain meetings and events, such as a SYSCO Board meeting or an OCSA Race Clinic, could qualify as Hosted Events. The short answer is yes. A designated RCYC lead, such as the Race lead, or the Education lead, can host Corinthian organizations' racing or education-related meetings and events. Such meetings and events clearly benefit RCYC members. Because they are hosted by an official RCYC representative in the exercise of their appointed duties, they are, in essence, RCYC meetings or events. Note: Hosted Events would not include other organizations' social events, parties, etc. Such events are allowed only as Sponsored Events.

April 15 at 1:00 pm RCYC will hold a "Going North" seminar, where those of us planning or dreaming about taking their boat to the outstanding Salish Sea cruising grounds can exchange ideas and information about preparation, passage, itinerary, buddy boating, and rendezvous possibilities. Even if you are just curious, come join us!



## Vice Commodore's Report

*Gary Brown, Vice Commodore*

This article was scribed on the heels of a sun-filled day with much activity at the Club. The Lifesling Training group made their way from the Clubhouse to the breakwater to rescue live crew mates from the dockside and then crash-test dummies from the water. Another group brought The Green into the Clubhouse to finish decorating and to cook for the St. Paddy's Day dinner, and others were out on their boats scrubbing The Green with pressure washers a buzzin' and scrub brushes a brushin'. Some were going out for a sail, and others were on their way back from a cruise to Bartlett's Landing. Yes, it is good to put winter behind!

The first Work Party was a success, and over 1,000 volunteer work hours have been completed year-to-date. Once again, a reminder that each membership is to perform at least 8 work hours by June 10 (without \$ penalties). There are plenty of things to do so jump right on it. See the [Calendar](#) for Work Party dates.

To see how many Work Hours your membership has accumulated to date, the [Work Hour Lookup Tool](#) is found in the Members section of the Club website on the Forms and Documents page.

The Board approved a couple tweaks to the Work Hour Top Performers program for 2023. The classy "Work Hour Hero Patch" along with some valuable Ship Store credit will be awarded to all memberships that complete > 100 work hours for the year (including on-site and off-site work), with the top 3 memberships in this group, with the most hours, receiving free admission to the 2024 Commodore's Ball.

Everyone knows that we put in the work because we love the Club and like to serve alongside our friends, and it's not about the trinkets, but this program gives well-deserved recognition in a fun way to those who gives well-deserved



*Vice Commodore's Report continued on page 3*

recognition in a fun way to those who really go well above and beyond the minimum requirement. And more importantly, there is so much to do that we could not possibly maintain such a moorage and Club on just the minimum required work hours. Thank you, thank you!

For booking the Clubhouse and Patio, send requests to Gary Brown. The rental policy is found on the RCYC website [HERE](#) and the application form is [HERE](#).



## Secretary Salutations

*Cathy Skach, Secretary*

According to the great Seer of Seers, Sage of Sages, Weather Prognosticator Extraordinary, Punxsutawney Phil, we are officially out of winter as of March 16.

I've noticed a few camellias blooming, and we've had a couple of 50° and 60° days, so perhaps we can put up our heavier coats and bring out the spring rain gear.

Congratulations go out to new members Chris Hathaway and Meg Devoe, owners of a Catalina 27 named *Andromeda* (from Craigslist), their family boat. They brought it down from Idaho with their 2 1/2 year old and 11 year old through all the big Columbia River dams. Chris, a Portland native, works for a nonprofit that works on Columbia River issues and is part of the lower Columbia Partnership and has spent a good part of his life water skiing, sailing, swimming and going to the beach on the lower Columbia River. The river is a big part of his life.

New member applicants Jeremy and Shannon Chedester (Beneteau 30), Linda Starr (Ericson 23), Chris and Linda Loughran (Yamaha 25) were introduced to the Board.

On February 22, we lost long-time member Maxine Ciappini. She was 94. Her husband, Roy, passed several years before and was Club Commodore in 1978. They sailed their Lido 14 with the Willamette Sailing Club before joining RCYC. During their life of sailing, they had a Santana 22, a Santana 27, and a GulfStar 37. Their last boat was a Troy Lee trawler called *Sirena*. They enjoyed cruising up and down the coast, the Gulf Islands, Canada and the San Juans. There are no plans at this point for a service.

Kathie Kneeland's Celebration of Life will be held Sunday, March 26, from 2 pm to 5 pm at the RCYC Clubhouse. All who would like to attend are welcome.

Keep Jim Johnsrud in your thoughts as he recovers from his stroke. He is home now after successful surgery and is doing physical and occupational therapy as well as six weeks of antibiotic infusion therapy. Bette says he has his full strength back for walking, but the full recovery will be a long haul. She says to let everyone know he is "working hard to get back to his old ornery self!"



## Commodores' Ball Floral Fun

These women spent a day working to create beautiful flower arrangements for the Commodores' Ball. Those who were fortunate to have been gifted with an arrangement that night from the table decorations can attest to the beautiful arrangements. We appreciate their efforts. Reports have it as being hard work, tons of fun and laughter and bonding — just what RCYC is meant to be.



From left to right - Laura Richard, Cathy Thiele, Rosemary Barrett, Kathy Beach, Liv Ormond, Linda Shaw, Fran O'Bryant, Sue Pennington, Cathy Nelson, Kathie Ray-Annis, Jean Beaty, Roxana Volesky, Marili Reilly, Deedie Bassham, and Julie Schumann.



## 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)



## Opening Day is Coming

*Matt Richard, RCYC Opening Day Fleet Captain*

**Saturday, May 6** - Please reserve the day!

Opening Day is when yacht clubs celebrate the official start of the boating season. There is a light breakfast, a flag-raising ceremony in the parking lot, a boat parade of our members moving in synchronized fashion at about 5 knots 50 feet apart in 3 rows with as many boats as join in the tradition. We'll be competing with the other yacht clubs as to who looks best out there. You don't want to miss out. Plan to be there! There will be a sign-up sheet on a clipboard at the front of the Clubhouse.

**Bonus #1** — Every participating boat that has its Coast Guard VSC (vessel safety check) sticker earns the Club extra points on Opening Day. Rick Samuels and Tony Phipps are VSC inspectors. Either member can do your inspection, so set up an appointment and get yours done at your earliest convenience!

**Bonus #2** — To top off the day, what could be better than music and food on such a grand day! In the afternoon there will be live music from Gareth Tabor and his band True North! And then to finish out the day, we'll have a barbecue potluck hosted by Walk 4.

Thanks for your participation!



## RECIPROCAL UP-DATES

*Tom & Cathy Nelson, Reciprocal Co-chairs*

It's time again to start thinking about cruising plans for the upcoming summer months. We are all experiencing the results of inflation, and this is also true of overnight rates at marinas. As many of you are already aware, our RCYC yearbook has a list of 130 some reciprocal clubs, many in Washington and British Columbia, but others in Oregon, California, Alaska, Hawaii, and Mexico. Most of these clubs will allow free moorage for one or two nights and a minimal charge for electricity. The only criteria is to show your 2023 RCYC membership card and fly the RCYC burgee while at a reciprocal dock.



A note of caution for those of you heading north into British Columbia: the past few years we have encountered a few clubs that are requiring proof of \$2 million in liability insurance in order to stay at their facility. If you have insurance that will meet that criteria be sure and take your policy with you; otherwise, it would be prudent to call ahead and check on each club's requirements. Also, remember to access [yachtdestinations.org](http://yachtdestinations.org), which provides a great deal of information about most of our reciprocal clubs.

If you are planning to cruise in Washington or British Columbia we have used the Waggoner Cruising Guide publication for information regarding anchorages, safe harbors, crossing the border, and general knowledge about the areas from Olympia, Washington to southeastern Alaska. It is updated every year, and we have always found it to be very accurate in its content.

As you travel and explore this summer, if you discover yacht clubs that are not in our yearbook but are interested in reciprocity, please get the name of the person you talked to and a phone number, and we will pursue getting them on board.

Also, if you find any discrepancies in the yearbook's list of clubs, please let us know.

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# Paradise Found, Yacht Racing in the Virgin Islands

Brandon Soule

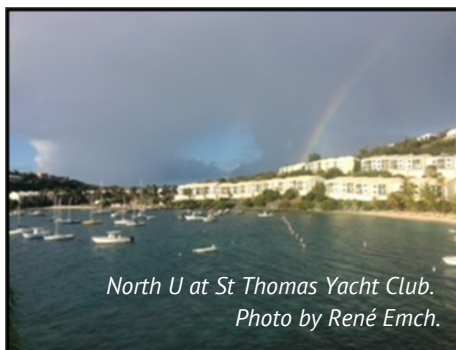
If you asked me two weeks ago if I ever thought I would be racing sailboats in the Virgin Islands with world-class, professional sailors, my answer, based on my experience, would have been an emphatic “not in a million years...”

And yet here I am, Day 1 of 5 at the famed St. Thomas Yacht Club crewing on an IC-24 race boat named *Stinger*. *Stinger*'s crew consists of Lincoln White, professional sailing coach of the US Coast Guard Sailing Team, and two great friends who are experienced yacht racing enthusiasts, Karen Feulner and René Emch. We are sailing off the mooring and tacking onto the race course with 10 other boats. Each yacht is filled with students wanting to sail fast with guidance from their North U Coach. These talented crews hail from sailing meccas such as Long Island, Annapolis, Chicago, Spokane, Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, San Diego and many other places.

How is it possible for a neophyte like me to crew alongside successful racers and professional sailors? The answer is simple, North U! North U is the training division of North Sails, which the American Sailing Association recently acquired. North U's founder and director is Bill Gladstone, who like the coaches in the North U program has a distinguished racing career. Bill shares his experience and teaches with humor and easy-to-understand subjects. Similarly, the North U coaches share Bill's teaching style so that a sailor, any sailor, can learn something new and hone their skills.

The winds are out of the east at 21 with gusts to 25 mph, we've reefed the mainsail, and white caps break and roll under us; we jockey for starting position as the countdown begins. We are close to the other boats, and you can hear voices on the wind emphasizing how important it is for a great start and to be ready to trim the sails. As Foredeck, I am listening and watching the other boats, but in all the excitement wrap the working jib sheet counterclockwise on the winch as the race signal sounds! The winches on other yachts grind jibs into tight foils as they leap forward, their crews hiking over the side, all eyes to the windward mark. *Stinger* stalls as I grind the winch and the jib sheet unwraps! Coach, Helm, and Main anxiously wait for me to trim the jib as we pursue the others. It seems like an eternity as I wrap the winch clockwise and trim the jib for power. My heart and mind race as I mumble to myself, “No more foredeck issues” and wish I was wearing a t-shirt with “I'm sorry!” printed in big letters on the back of it.

The merits of having a North U coach on your boat are many, but immediate feedback and demonstration of proper technique helped me the most. An obvious mistake like wrapping a winch incorrectly presents a learning opportunity on how to prevent it from happening again by review of your actions leading up to the mistake. If you are an experienced sailor seeking greater performance through refined technique, then your coach instantly relates to your level and shares his or her wisdom that benefits you the most. Everyone wins when it comes to sailing and learning this way.



*North U at St Thomas Yacht Club.  
Photo by René Emch.*



*Black Pearl on  
a fast start.  
Photo by  
Brandon Soule.*



*Stinger rounding the mark.  
Photo by Brandon Soule.*

The practical sailing experience I gained on boat handling, sail trim, and tactics in 5 days of sailing at North U with friends was more than I could have gained in many seasons sailing casually. It was intense at times as we love to race but rewarding and most importantly fun! The best part was Portland sailing was well represented in the North U program at the St. Thomas Yacht Club this year. Ambassadors to the sport such as Rose City Yacht Club's Gary Brown and daughter Tracy Brown, Karen Feulner, René Emch, and Sean McElderry were all in attendance along with Kerry Poe, North U coach and owner of the North Sails Oregon Loft. It was an incredible experience, with memories and learning lessons that will last a lifetime. As for me? I'm going to nail the proper wrapping of a sheet on a winch technique before next year!





## Moorage Matters

Matt Richard, Moorage Chair

Spring is here, finally, and with that water has been turned back on to all the walks, the shower is once again open, and the pump out station is ready for use. Let's get this boating season underway!

This month will be the annual Spring Dock Walk by the Commodore, Moorage Chairman, and a Director or two. We will be looking for clean boats with adequate mooring lines and proper snubbers in place and another look for up-to-date registration. Hope we find your boat in this condition.

Laura and I did something different a few weeks ago. We volunteered our boat, *Blue Moon*, for race committee duty for the RCYC Frost Bite races on March 11. We were joined by members Beth and Tony Phipps, Toby Elliott, Mark Engdall, and Susan Applegate as race committee with Eric Rumkis as the Principal Race Officer. We had a great time, and it was an excellent way to spend an afternoon on the water. The only thing missing that day

was decent wind, but that just made it all the more challenging for some excellent and crafty skippers on the course. I encourage you to give race committee boat duty a try. If you are interested please contact our Race Captain, Brian Moore.

Here are the moorage movements and changes in the past month:

- New members Marcin Mereck and Joan Cromwell with their Catalina 25 have moved from a sublet in Slip 12 on Walk 3 to an assigned Slip 9 on Walk 3.
- New members Andy and Robin Curry with their Westerly Centaur 26 have moved into Slip 12 on Walk 3 as a sublet.
- New members David and Krista Price with their Gemini 105Mc have been assigned to Slip 18 on Walk 2. Expect to see the boat near the end of March.
- New member Peter Kavanagh with his Etchells 30 has moved from a sublet in Slip 4 on Walk 4 to an assigned Slip 1 on Walk 3.



## St. Patrick's Day Party



Photo by Vickie Nissen.



Photo by Richard and Kathy Pickwick.



## RCYC Activities

### April

- 1 Red Cross CPR Class, 8:30 am
- 3 Knauti Knitters, 10:00 am
- 7 RCYC Ladies' Dinner Prep Meeting, 10:00 am
- 8 New Member Orientation, 9:00 am
- OCSA Racers Meeting, 1:30 pm
- 10 RCYC Board Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 15 Work Party, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
- Going North Meeting, 1:00 pm
- 17 Knauti Knitters, 10:00 am
- 18 May Foghorn Deadline
- 19 RCYC General Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 21-23 Schwitter's Landing Cruise
- 22 Sail Materials Class, 9:30 am
- 26 OWSA Meeting, 6:00 pm
- 29 Work Party, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

### May

- 1 Knauti Knitters, 10:00 am
- SYSCO Board Meeting, 5:30 pm
- 5 Opening Day Set Up, 9:00 am
- 6 Walk 4 BBQ
- 8 RCYC Board Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 11-14 Pacific Northwest Offshore Race
- 13 Tony & Beth Phipps private party, 5:00 pm
- 14 RCYC Fly Your Flag Beer Can Race
- 15 Knauti Knitters, 10:00 am
- 17 RCYC Ladies' Dinner Set Up, 10:30 am
- RCYC General Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 18 June Foghorn Deadline
- RCYC Ladies' Dinner Set Up, 9:00 am
- RCYC Ladies' Dinner, 5:30 pm
- 26-29 Coon Island Cruise



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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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