

# ROSE CITY YACHT CLUB

## ROSE CITY YACHT CLUB NEWSLETTER

Commodore: Bruce Newton  
Vice Commodore: Barnaby Tuttle  
Secretary: Ian Cannon

Rear Commodore: Cathy Skatch  
Directors: John Osborne, Brandon Soule,  
Amy Larimore, Jim Calnon, Lisa Mork

May 2026



### From the Bridge

Bruce Newton, Commodore



### Vice Commodore's Report

Barnaby Tuttle, Vice Commodore

Spring is here and it has been warmer and drier than normal – great weather for boating. We had a large turnout for Clean Your Boat Day and many thanks go to Chris Richard for cooking enough pizza to feed everyone. Opening Day is coming up on May 2nd with a full day of fun activities. I hope to see lots of members there.

Late last year Commodore Cathy Skach formed a Social Initiatives Work Group. That group conducted a member survey to learn what kinds of new activities folks would like to see. Cathy circulated the results of that survey and the group's preliminary ideas (see email dated April 11). At the April General Meeting there was a discussion and strong endorsement of the ideas. So be on the lookout for more educational clinics, casual "Let's go sailing" events on Saturday afternoons, casual races, more activities during cruises, more open boat events, and more support for members cruising north. Be sure to check the online calendar regularly so you don't miss out.

Greetings, Rose City Yacht Club!

Spring is here and the Club is buzzing with activity. It's great to see winter washed from our boats as we prepare for Opening Day, and the Clubhouse looks sharp thanks to our dedicated work parties and freshly polished floors. Thank you to everyone who helped.

Work hours update: we've completed 632 on-site hours and 520 off-site hours, for a total of 1,142 hours.

Please note that June 10 is fast approaching. 82 members remain short on required work hours and 46 have none recorded. We have a major work party opportunity on Saturday, May 9, and the final chance to earn hours is June 6. That leaves only six weeks to meet requirements before penalty fees apply, so please take action now. If you're facing hardship, contact me before the May meeting so we can find a solution. If you haven't joined a work party yet, you're missing out — when I first joined, those events introduced me to the spirit of RCYC and helped me make great friends.

Clubhouse rentals and events: we have one rental for the OWSA meeting on Wednesday, May 27, from 6–8 PM. The Clubhouse will be decorated for Ladies Dinner on Friday, May 29, and Saturday, May 30.

Thank you for your continued support and participation.



### Opening Day at RCYC

Saturday May 2nd

- 9:30 am Continental Breakfast
- 10:45 am Captains Meeting
- 11:30 am Flag Ceremony
- 12:30 pm CRYA Parade
- 12:45 pm RCYC Boats depart Club
- 2:30 pm Live music by True North
- 3:30 pm Hot Dog and Brat Social  
with potato salad, chips, cake & beverages



## Secretary's Report

Ian Cannon, Secretary

In April, the Board approved new members Jerry Barnes and Valerie Kennedy, and Mike Evans and Alissa Garcia. Jerry is a previous member of RCYC and Mike has spent time around the Club. Jerry's previous boat, L'Orca, was severely damaged by a whale in the Oregon Offshore Race in 2011. Jerry, Valerie, Mike, and Alissa currently have a Schock New York 36 called Desperado.

We also had the opportunity to meet prospective new members Alex Jones and Christina Dittman. Alex has been boating since childhood and has experience with cruising and racing. His work background is in Governance Risk Security & Compliance, and he has home remodeling skills. Christina grew up sailing on the east coast - Nantucket. Her grandfather was a Commodore of a yacht club there. She has a background in marketing, technology, and databases. She ran a Women & Tech program at her last company.

## Club Forums

By CJ Volesky

With summer coming on and the Club becoming more active, I want to make the new members aware and remind the existing membership that the Club forum is a good resource for members to ask questions, trade information, list items for sale, find crew or a boat, share updates, organize outings, post event details, and much more. The more we use the forum, the more valuable it becomes.

Whether you're searching for crew, sharing photos from your latest sail, or keeping up with Club news, the forum keeps you in the loop. It's quick to access and easy to use. Don't miss out—log in, explore, and be part of the conversation that keeps our Club community strong.

You can access the forums on our website by logging into the members section and clicking on "Forums", under the "COMMUNITY" heading. If you have trouble getting access, you can email me and I can assist you with getting set up.

Here is the direct link:

<https://rosecityyachtclub.org/RCYCforums/>



Photo by: Hannah Powell



Photo by: Hannah Powell

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## RCYC Education

*René Emch, Education Lead*

Spring is here, or should be. Education clinics are on going, maybe helping us on our way to the best season ever!

By the time this issue of the Foghorn comes out, “The Replaceables” Clinic will be in the books.

However, there are a few upcoming clinics to look forward to attending.

Saturday, May 16 from 9 to 11, RCYC will host the first joint RCYC / SYSCO education session. SYSCO asked me this winter if RCYC could be made available for some of their planned educational sessions. I agreed – A rising tide floats all boats. SYSCO chose to hold a “Crew Connect Event” to discuss crew work. Many of the topics are relevant for cruising and racing. Speakers will be Greg Brown, Malcolm Orendurff, Kim Karper and Jacqueline Pitter. Each will bring their different perspective on how a crew can work together to help achieve boat nirvana.

According to Greg Brown, SYSCO Education Lead, “Crew Connect is for newer sailors looking to build confidence and experienced crew who enjoy sharing what they’ve learned along the way. Come swap stories, ask questions you’ve been holding onto, and pick up practical tips you can use on your very next sail. It’s an easygoing way to sharpen your skills, meet more of the crew, and feel more at home on the water.”



Photo by: Walter Keutel

Later this year, I hope to bring some chalkboard / on-the-water combined clinics. Seeing as some of the planned time will be on the water, these clinics might be announced on shorter notice to take advantage of a good weather forecast. So read your emails.

Here are a couple of clinics that may happen:

- “In & Out” – a clinic on strategies for leaving and entering our sometimes tricky, never the same current, or marina.
- “Sail Trim & Boat English” clinic – Not quite a language course, but rather what to do with all that running rigging and boat shape. Again, Basic 101 sail shapes, hull shapes and how they make your boat go.
- “Anchor and Hold Fast” or “How to stay put” – Basic, useful stuff for a quiet lunch or restful night on the hook.
- “A sail boat’s turbo mode” or Basic 101 Spinnaker – Don’t be shy about getting that sail out of its bag and let it breathe some fresh air.

Let’s get out there, be safe, wave at each other and have a better time with some of the knowledge we might have gained.

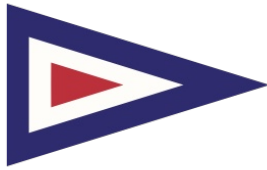


Photo by: Hannah Powell

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# RCYC Social Activities

Laura Richard



Hello Members!

It's time to think about **Opening Day** coming up on Saturday, May 2, 2026. The theme this year is "Spring into Boating!" and we are ready to do just that! We have a busy day planned and we need volunteers to make this a wonderful day for all.

We'll start with our **Continental Breakfast** at 9:30am for everyone to gather and get excited for the day.

The Captains Meeting will be at 10:45am followed by the **Flag Ceremony** at 11:30am (the Sea Scouts return this year to attend to our flags).

Afterwards, you will have an hour to finish decorating your boat as the **CRYA Parade** starts at 12:30pm and those participating in the parade will need to depart the Club at 12:45pm.

When we return, we will have live music by **True North** once again performing at 2:30 that will take us into an early **Barbecue Dinner** of Hot Dogs and Brats along with potato salad, chips, cake and beverages.

With this exciting day, we will need volunteers:

\_\_\_ 4 people for the Breakfast shift starting at 8:30am.

\_\_\_ 4 people for the Dinner shift in the galley starting around 2:30pm

\_\_\_ 4 people to attend to the Barbecues also at 2:30pm

\_\_\_ 5 people for the Clean Up shift starting at 5:00pm

And know that hours worked during this event count as work hours. So please contact [laurarichard@me.com](mailto:laurarichard@me.com) to volunteer.

Here is the schedule:

9:30am. Continental Breakfast

10:45am. Captains Meeting

11:30am. Flag Ceremony

12:30pm. CRYA Parade

12:45 pm. RCYC Boats depart Club

2:30pm. Live music by True North

3:30pm. Hot Dog and Brat Social

Happy Opening Day and I hope to see you there!



Images from last year's Opening Day



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## RCYC Happenings

### May 2026

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- 2 Opening Day, all day
- 4 Knauti Krafters, 10:00 a.m.
- 9 Work Party #3, 9:00 a.m.
- 11 Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 14 Pacific Northwest Offshore Race
- 16 Education Session, 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- 18 Knauti Krafters, 10:00 a.m.
- 20 Foghorn Deadline
- 20 General Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 22-25 Memorial Cruise
- 23-24 Swiftsure Race
- 29 Decoration Day, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- 30 Ladies Dinner, 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

### June

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- 1 Knauti Krafters, 10:00 a.m.
- 6 Work Party #4, 9:00 a.m.  
(Last chance for first half work hours)
- 8 Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 13 RCYC Medium Distance Race. 2:00 p.m.
- 15 Knauti Krafters, 10:00 a.m.
- 17 General Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 19 thru 21 School's Out Cruise
- 20 Foghorn submission deadline
- 27 Walk 5 BBQ, 5:00 p.m.

## Moorage Matters

*Matt Richard, Moorage Chair*

Moorage Activity during the last month:

RJ Barnes and Jackie Brown have been allowed to have a **second** boat, a Ranger 25, moored in the moorage and have been temporarily assigned to Slip 9 on Walk 5 as a sublet. The slip is assigned to Earle Taylor.

Tod and Deedie Bassham with their Wavelength 24, Dragonfly, have also been allowed to have a **second** boat moored in the moorage and will be temporarily assigned to Slip 18 on Walk 3 as a sublet. The slip is assigned to Marcin Manek and Joan Cromwell.

New member Joe Bruzda with his Pocket Rocket 22 sailboat, has been assigned temporary moorage in Slip 1 on Walk 3. This commences a sublet from the assigned slip owner Allan Weber.

New members Tressa Yellig and Adam Zimmerman with their Schock Harbor 25 sailboat, Hipnautic, have been assigned temporary moorage in Slip 6 on Walk 3. This commences a sublet from the assigned slip owner Terry Annis.

In a mutually agreed trade of slips, Chuck Fisher and Karen Jacobson have been reassigned to Slip 16 on Walk 2, and Tod and Deedie Bassham have been reassigned to Slip 11 on Walk 1.

Current Moorage Availability Status:

There is one member with a larger boat awaiting moorage on Walks 1, 2 or 5. Estimated wait time for this member is 3 months to a year. There are 3 members with boats around 30 feet awaiting permanent moorage on Walks 3 or 4. Estimated wait time for these members are 3 to 10 months. There are currently five active sublets in the moorage.



Winter Moon

Photo by: Rick Samuels

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## Burgee History and Symbolism

If you attended the Opening Day festivities, you likely noticed the various burgees flown by our Officers. While many of these symbols are intuitively obvious, others carry a deeper history. As I have moved "through the chairs" of our governing offices, I'll admit I never fully questioned the symbolism of the different flags I've flown—until now.

While it might seem counterintuitive for a naval officer to display a "fouled" anchor—which in practice is a maritime hazard where the cable is tangled around the fluke—the symbolism on a yacht club officer's flag is steeped in tradition and administrative history.

Here is why that tangled anchor remains a mark of high office:

The fouled anchor was originally the personal seal of the Lord High Admiral of Great Britain, Lord Charles Howard, in 1588. It later became the official seal of the British Admiralty. Since early yacht clubs modeled their traditions, uniforms, and flags after the Royal Navy, the fouled anchor was adopted as the "seal of authority." When a Commodore flies this flag, they are signaling their role as the "admiral" of the club's fleet.

In nautical terms, a "clear" anchor is ready to be dropped. A fouled anchor, however, represents a vessel that is "moored" or "at rest" under the watch of its officers. Symbolically, it represents the weight of responsibility. By "owning" the fouled anchor, an officer demonstrates the ability to handle the complexities and "tangles" of leadership—signifying resilience, experience, and the stability required to navigate the club's daily challenges.

From a design standpoint, a plain anchor can look static on a flag. The addition of the "rope" (the cable) winding around the shank adds movement and tradition. In heraldry, this is known as a "Live Anchor."

According to the definitive standards for U.S. Yacht Clubs—often considered the "bible" of maritime heraldry—officer flags identify rank at a glance. In the American tradition, rank is determined by the color of the "field" (the background) rather than the number of stars.

Each of our officer flags features the fouled anchor surrounded by a circle of thirteen stars, signifying the original thirteen colonies. You can distinguish the "Line of Command" by the following color-ways:

- Commodore: A blue field with a white fouled anchor and stars.



- Vice Commodore: A red field with a white fouled anchor and stars.



- Rear Commodore: A white field with a red fouled anchor and stars.



- Secretary and Treasurer can be interpreted intuitively.



By contrast, the Club Burgee remains our familiar triangular pennant, which identifies our Club home regardless of who is at the helm.

The next time you see these flags snapping in the breeze at the Clubhouse or out on the river, remember that they represent more than just a rank. They are a nod to centuries of maritime history and a visual promise of the officer's commitment to the stability of our Club.

Whether your own anchor is currently "clear" for a run downwind, or you are happily fouled behind a cozy island somewhere for the night, we all sail under the same shared tradition.

See you on the water!

*Cathy Skatch*



## A View from the Rear

*Cathy Skach, Rear Commodore*

It was wonderful to see so many of you—both in the Clubhouse and on the screen—at our recent membership Meeting. Our recent COLA vote was an important driver to bring us all together! As Bruce has already announced, the vote passed by a wide margin. We'll be setting our Club's financial future on a more solid foundation in the process.

Our Yearbook team has announced the 2026 Digital Yearbook has hit the website, with two versions of the PDF. One of them is optimized for mobile devices (phones) and has single pages so it's easier to scroll and read. Be sure to download a copy of this one onto your phone so that you're never without a phone number you may need! The other version is the print desktop & tablet version and appears in spreads (side-by-side pages). The high-quality printed edition will be following in early to mid-May. A quick update for this month—the Commodore's Ball will be at the Portland Yacht Club again next year. Mark your calendars for Saturday, February 27th, 2027. A fun little mnemonic for remembering is 27/27!

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Boat Cleaning  
Photo by:  
Ken Stephens

Email articles, announcements and photos to:  
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