



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

July/August 2026



From the Bridge

Bruce Newton, Commodore

Summer is here! I hope everyone makes the time to get out and enjoy sailing. The winds so far this year have been very good – consistently stronger than the forecasts. Even if you don't take the boat out, come on down to enjoy the cool breeze and sunset from the patio. The grills are available, as are plates, glassware, and utensils from the Clubhouse. And don't forget that you can rent the Clubhouse for private events.

RCYC had a very strong showing for the PNW Offshore International Yacht Race from Astoria to Victoria, BC. We had nine boats participating - more than any other club. And one week later four RCYC teams participated in the Swiftsure International Yacht Race. Congratulations to all the RCYC teams.

The Ladies' Dinner was a great success. Lisa Mork and the team created a magical night in Spain. The food was excellent, the decorations were amazing, the live music and flamenco dance demonstration were fun, and the raffle raised \$1,200 which will be used to purchase a new microwave oven for the galley and the rest will be donated to the selected charity, The Jeremy Wilson Foundation.

Next up, get ready to embrace the ultimate relaxation with the Lazy Days Cruise between July 18 and 26. This cruise isn't your typical fixed schedule; it's designed for maximum enjoyment and flexibility. You can tailor your time to any portion of the cruise that

fits your schedule, joining up with folks at any leg that suits you. Some members even turn it into an extra-long vacation, adding another week, while others might not start until the second week and simply invent their own plan or align with those on longer schedules. The entire idea is to laze along and do whatever suits your fancy! There's no single Lazy Days method, just endless possibilities for summer fun and connection on the water. Contact Bill and Nina Kramer for more information.

Our sister club Vancouver Lake Sailing Club is re-starting their youth sailing school. The program will run through the summer on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Younger kids will sail on O'pen Bic sailboats that were donated years ago by RCYC. Contact VLSC for more information. Also, RCYC members are very welcome to stop by on Wednesday evenings to socialize and hop on a boat for some dinghy sailing.

See you on the water.



Secretary's Report

by Ian Cannon

New members Eric and Amber Purdell were approved at June's Board meeting and sworn in by Matt Richard at the June General meeting. There were no prospective members this month, and no other membership changes or resignations.



Vice Commodore's Report

By Barnaby Tuttle

RCYC Cruising

By Bill and Nina Kramer

Summer is upon us, and we are right in the heart of sailing season. Between the cruises, races, and BBQs, Rose City is a real beehive of activity. I'm ready to get out there and enjoy it all. As a friendly monthly reminder, now is the best time to complete your work hours. December has a way of sneaking up on us before we know it. So, why not grab a project now and get those hours checked off your list?

RCYC has had an incredibly productive first half of the year. Not only have all members completed their required work hours, but many have already exceeded their annual obligation—and we're only halfway through the year. Congratulations and thank you to everyone who has contributed their time and effort to keeping our club running strong. Here are our work-hour totals through the first half of the year:

Onsite hours: 1,517

Offsite hours: 1,324

Total hours: 2,841

That's an outstanding accomplishment. Well done, everyone, and thank you for your continued dedication to Rose City.

See you on the water!



Register your work hours for the second half of the year by scanning the QR code or clicking the QR.

Ahoy RCYC, please plan on joining your friends on these summer RCYC cruises.

July: The Lazy Days Down River Cruise officially is scheduled for Saturday 7/18 to Sunday 7/26. Some members start early and many add on an extra week or whenever you want. The main event, you don't want to miss, is the Pot-Luck Dinner in Cathlamet on Thursday 7/23 at 6:00 pm. The dinner will be in the picnic shelter at the Elochoman Marina. To reserve a slip in Cathlamet, at the Elochoman Marina, please call the marina 360-795-3501. The marina has cabins to rent and RV parking if you are not able to come by boat.

The goal is to meander your way down river to Cathlamet for Thursday and then to continue on wandering until you decide you are ready to come home. Many boats include a trip to Astoria. There will be an email with more details.

August: Pirates Family Fun Cruise, Friday 8/7 to Sunday 8/9. We're going to Schwitter's Landing on Government Island. Cathy Skach, our Rear Commodore, is planning a fun filled weekend, don't miss it.

September: Labor Day Weekend Cruise to Beacon Rock, Friday 9/4 to Monday 9/7. We're going to the newly refurbished Beacon Rock Docks at Beacon Rock State Park.

We hope to see you on the water.

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PIRATE'S CRUISE

AUGUST 7 – 9, 2026
Schwitter's Landing Docks, Government Island

"Fun & Adventure for Kids of All Ages!"

GAMES & LOOT

- **High Seas Adventures:** Exciting pirate-themed games organized for children, families, and scallywags of all generations.
- **Grand Costume Contest:** Don your finest pirate attire! Prizes will be awarded for the most creative and authentic outfits.
- **Treasure & Prizes:** Plenty of fun rewards and pirate booty to be won throughout the weekend.
For the Kids: Walk the Plank–Land version, Dig for Buried Treasure, Tattoo & Face paint Station, Scavenger Hunt, Cannonball Toss, Message in a Bottle Relay, Costume Contest
For the Adults: Knot Tying Contest, Costume Contest, Shipmate's Tug-o-War.

THE CRUISE SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7

Cracker Barrel Social

5:00 PM – Kick off the cruise weekend with hearty snacks and club camaraderie.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

Saturday Potluck Feast

6:00 PM – Bring a dish to share! Followed by the highly anticipated *Costume Contest Winner Announcements*.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9

Pancake & Sausage Breakfast

9:00 AM – Fuel up with a warm galley breakfast before we square away our lines for home.

👉 [**SIGN UP HERE FOR BREAKFAST**](#) 👉



DON YOUR GEAR, READY YOUR CREW, AND PREPARE TO SET SAIL!



Impressions from the 2026 Pacific Northwest Offshore

This year's 50th celebration of the PNW Offshore race saw a strong turnout including nine RCYC boats, covering both ORC and cruising divisions. Huge kudos to all the RCYC boats who represented us in the race. Congratulations to the RCYC podium finishes! Several of us put a few words together giving our impressions of the race. Presented here, in alphabetical order of the name of the boat, to avoid any charge of favoritism on my behalf. Thank you, George, for providing some photos from the race. Hope to see even more boats on the start line next year!

-Ben Emery, 2026 Race Lead.

Chris Sheesley | *Escapade*

For me, this was a boat delivery disguised as a race. By entering the race, I wanted – and received – the support, safety, checklists, advice, motivation, inspections, deadlines, and more to nudge the river-locked *Escapade* across the Columbia River Bar and up to the Salish Sea. Now, imagine that you saw our last place position as we struggled along behind the fleet up the coast. My dismissal of the racing aspect of this event might appear to be retroactive rationalizing. But, I assure you as stated in *Escapade's* entry write up; "We are in the cruising class because life is already stressful enough. We are fanatically mellow and our racing goals are: 1) Keep well astern of the real racers, and 2) Be amazed if we come in second (to last)."

While this was my sixth time offshore along the Washington coast, it was my first as skipper of my boat. It was uncomfortable, slow, bumpy (5' to 7' confused seas), cold, wet, and stressful. Back home, friends and family knew I went sailing and invariably pictured piña coladas and palm trees. When they inevitably ask if I had fun, I replied, "It's as though I've just returned from climbing my own Mt. Everest. It wasn't really enjoyable, but I feel a tremendous sense of achievement."

Other upsides included the collegiality of my fine crew of five, time with other RCYC sailors, and an emotional pride in *Escapade* as she bounced through

a wicked sea like a gazelle dodging a pride of lions. When we arrived in Victoria, I would have plucked her out of the water and given her a hug if I could have.

Brian Moore | *Kaiju*

Ahoy, RCYC! Cast your good eye on a tale of 540 briny miles and six brave souls packed like sardines into a 1978 Yamaha 33, *Kaiju*. This was the crew's first proper taste of the deep blue. Local racing taught 'em how to hoist a sail, but the offshore run to Victoria taught 'em the dark arts of ocean navigation and endurance. How did we survive without a mutiny? Proper shipboard discipline! We kept the galley and head cleaner than for a naval inspection. Our secret weapon? A lightning fast Jetboil and an insulated carafe for immediate hot tea and instant mashed potatoes while underway. The real plunder awaited us at 0300 Saturday in beautiful Victoria. To celebrate landfall, we raided the local waters for fresh oysters and spot prawns. We shucked the beauties right on deck and devoured the prawns raw while they were still twitching—by the gods, it tasted amazing!

Six of us slept aboard—cozy as a nest of rats. The 77-hour journey home, featuring brief raids on Astoria and Kalama for hot grub, capped off the adventure.

Stop hugging the docks! Prep your crew, and let's get an RCYC armada on the line next year!

Ben Emery | *Penelope*

"What does an eight thousand pound mako shark... with a brain the size of a flat head V-8 engine... and no natural predators, think about?" "About freedom... About the deep blue sea."

-Deep Blue Sea, 1999.

Turns out it's not just genetically modified sharks from B grade movies that dream of the deep blue sea... *Penelope* has a dedicated crew of offshore aficionados who are always ready to join us on an adventure. This year co-skippers Naja and Ben were joined by Elisa Fu (6 PNWO races on *Penelope*), Denis Vannier (5 PNWOs with us plus many on other boats), Jason Haugen (joining *Penelope* for the second time) and Adrian Carlson (for his first offshore race!)

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Impressions from the 2026 Pacific Northwest Offshore (Continued)

I'm always in awe of people who can remember every last detail of their races. For me, the combination of excitement and sleep deprivation quickly leads to the race fading to a few standout moments. Memories from this year: The crowd of around 40 boats first milling chaotically at the virtual start line then uniformly pointing their bows up the coast like a school of fish. Feeling Penelope power up and surge ahead when the wind backed enough for us to launch our new asymmetric spinnaker (code name: Rash Decision). The smell of hot pork pies pulled out of our oven in the middle of the night. Sea lions off Cape Flattery powering through the swell like a pack of wolves. The quiet determination of the crew to keep the boat moving when the wind died in the straits. Our subsequent elation happened when Penelope caught the edge of a wind line that plucked us up like true believers in the rapture, speeding us through race rocks and beyond. Lastly, the murmur of our chatter over bubbles and whiskey as we decompressed after the race in the softly growing light of dawn at the Victoria Docks.

I'm already looking forward to 2027.

Barnaby Tuttle | *Sea Sponge*

Many of us have proudly discussed the Rose City Yacht Club's achievement as far entrants and victories in the Pacific Northwest Offshore race. I'd like to contemplate the deeper and more mysterious emotions and drive that lead us across the bar in pursuit of our undiscovered selves. This may be our personal Mount Everest, but why do we climb that mountain? What are we looking for? I was up for most of the 48-hour voyage. As skipper, my mind continued scrolling my vessel. I really didn't sleep for the first few days. We were down a number of crew members due to seasickness. Perhaps we were more of an infirmary than a race boat. We had what is called a checkered sea state, swells coming from 2 different directions. Sea Sponge sailed through confused and nauseating moguls.

Leading up to the race there was a lot of chaos and very little practice. I had a very busy spring with travel obligations, my day job and club responsibilities.

Signing up for the race was not the most responsible decision for me to make and I considered backing out. The purpose of the race is pleasure and at the time I was getting none. However, the boat was ready, robust and met all the safety requirements of the race. But the idea of entering this legendary international yacht race should be a joy, not a chore.

The big day arrived way too quickly and we slinked ourselves like cats from the four corners of the world onto Sea Sponge. Sea Sponge slinked herself to the start line. As we sauntered our way towards the Columbia River Bar the melancholy upon my heart evaporated. I became the self that I rarely am. After we crossed out beyond the jetties I, as skipper, addressed my crew. It is a Sponge tradition. "Ladies, Gentlemen... there are mountains in our minds and mountains in the sea and mountains we create in our minds so that we may climb them. Here we are free, alone in this vast wilderness of ocean. Here we have value, and remember that there are more billionaires in this country than souls with the courage and determination to be here. The sea is our destination and the finish line is only an end." I could feel my heart awaken from a long slumber, Joy!

The race is defined by placements, victories and statistical designations. To me this is the smallest part. Whether we admit it or are aware, we are driven by a philosophical engine and the chase to find our humanity and to find the undiscovered parts. At sea we disconnect from the meaningless. Social media, news cycles and rage have no place here.

As our minds disconnect from the noise and confusion, we are forced to focus entirely on the vessel, environment, and survival. Maybe not being able to sleep is a blessing. I only get to feel this alive a few hours a year before I return and reconnect to the numbing background noise and mental beatdown. It is on us to "camel up" on contentment. But we can't lose ourselves in the existential subterfuge, we were here to race and win. Sea Sponge placed 3rd in class, and perhaps 1st philosophically?

Continued Next Page

Impressions from the 2026 Pacific Northwest Offshore (Continued)

Kaleidoscope of chaos, vomit, lots of vomit, Cup of Noodles, ginger candies, confused seas, water in the cockpit, broken wall, broken door and then the finish line. Victory! We had arrived.

Several days of purpose and cohesion with great friends had ended. The crescendo had become an echo as we watched the sunrise on Victoria Harbor. It had been a long 48 hours of staying awake. My crew and I drank beers on the bow toasting to the sunrise and the Offshore community. Now it is time for sleep.

George Kapllani | *Swift*

A few of us from RCYC entered the PNW Offshore Race in the Cruising class. My friends, Deedie and Tod Bassham, Marcin Manek from our Club joined me on Swift along with my friend Margaret Readings who came all the way from Toronto. I could not have asked for a better crew. We meshed so well that the stories and laughs never stopped. It was my first offshore race. I was excited and plenty nervous about how I'd hold up in open water this time round. Tuesday's shakedown didn't start well. I felt sick almost immediately and we discovered our wireless B&G wind instrument had quit. So we went old school: yarn on the shrouds and a finger in the air.

Thursday felt different in part because of the increased dosage of meclizine and scopolamine patch behind the ear. We went out with 45-plus boats into cloudy and unusual conditions. Two swells cross each other, one from the NW and one from the SW at six to seven feet every six seconds. Mogul skiing on water is the best way to describe it. Some of us got seasick and the others quietly stepped in with four-hour shifts. We had rain coming sideways then found ourselves becalmed overnight in the straits near the Canadian shore. All told, the weather was kind with nothing over 18 knots. Then again, we had no working wind instrument so who really knew.

After 200-plus miles we found ourselves in a half-boat-length duel with Aja out of Astoria just four miles from the finish. We edged them over the line. Turned out we'd placed second in class. A genuine surprise given we were mostly just trying to prove to ourselves that we belonged out there. I'm deeply grateful to the crew on Swift. We're already scheming about the next adventure. And maybe just maybe enough time will pass before May 2027 that we'll point Swift offshore again.

Medium Distance Race

Craig Johnson

Jim Foster, Peter and I set out on Peter's Etchells. The winds were intense with gusts nearing 30 knots. Our helmsman, Jim Foster, had just celebrated his 82nd birthday. He cleverly cheated the start line with just enough time returning to have a clean legal crossing. We were off... 15 knots steady NE and we were hooked up. Peter feathered the main sheet as the 25 knot gusts hit the sails. His expertise showed, keeping the boat on its feet as we shot up to the windward mark. I soon appreciated his skill as the Etchells do not provide an accommodation for reefing. My job at tending the jib was rather easier, so I spent my time encouraging the captain/crew with each gust ... "Getty-up old girl!" I was apprehensive as we readied to launch the spinnaker on the downwind leg.

"Are you sure this is advisable? How will we get it down?" I questioned as the gusts topped 25 knots.

Jim pipes up: "If God wants our spinnaker down, then he will bring it down!"

What a spectacular time sailing with my racing buddies!



July 2026

3 Set-up Day, 10:00 a.m.
4 4th of July (Land Cruise), 1:00 p.m.
10 Knauti Krafters, 10:00 a.m.
11 New Member Orientation, 9:00 a.m.
13 Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
15 General Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
17-26 Lazy Days Cruise
18 Kalama
19-20 Walker Island
21-22 Wesiport Slough Dock
23-24 Cathlamet
25-26 Astoria West Basin
20 Foghorn Deadline
20 Knauti Krafters, 10:00 a.m.

August

3 Knauti Krafters, 10:00 a.m.
7-9 Pirates' Cruise
9 Pirates' Cruise Breakfast, 9:00 a.m.
10 Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
15 Work Party #5, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
17 Knauti Krafters, 10:00 a.m.
20 Foghorn Deadline
22 Commodores' Breakfast 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
22 Private Event-Mork 2:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.a



Photo by Ken Stephens

Moorage Matters

Matt Richard, Moorage Chair

Moorage Activity over the last month:

Andy Curry had placed his Flicka 24 into Slip 12 on Walk 3 and started a sublet from David Paul and then after about 2 months removed his boat from the slip ending the sublet.

Mark Dunham in Slip 28 on Walk 1 and Pam Dunham in Slip 25 on Walk 1 have exchanged slips.

RJ Barnes and Jackie Brown with their Ranger 25, have sold and removed their boat from the moorage and have ended their temporary assignment to Slip 9 on Walk 5 as a sublet. This was a second boat situation.

New Members Alex Jones and Christina Dittmann with their Catalina 30, Knot So Fast, will be temporarily assigned to Slip 9 on Walk 5 as a sublet.

Tressa Yellig and Adam Zimmerman with their Schock Harbor 25 sailboat, have been reassigned temporary moorage from Slip 6 on Walk 3 to Slip 20 on Walk 1. This ends the sublet from Terri Annis in Slip 6, and commences a sublet from the assigned slip owners Richard Peek and Laura Ritter in Slip 20.

Dennis and Jan Stewart have removed their Tartan 37, named Four Fires, from the moorage and relinquished Slip 13 on Walk 2.

René Emch and Karen Feulner, with their Yamaha 33, named Cando, have been reassigned to Slip 13 on Walk 2 from Slip 22 on Walk 5.

Eric and Amber Purdell with their Siltala Nauticat 36, named Vega, have been assigned to Slip 22 on Walk 5.

Current Moorage Availability Status:

There are currently no members awaiting new moorage on Walks 1, 2, or 5. There are currently 3 members awaiting regular assigned moorage on Walks 3 or 4 but all are presently occupying a sublet slip. Estimated wait time for these members is 3 to 9 months.



A View from the Rear

Cathy Skach, Rear Commodore

Going North Seminar

June 7, 2026

The Nominating Committee, which recommends our 2027 Officers and Directors, is forming now and will be officially appointed by the Commodore at the August Board Meeting. I will be leading this committee, and we will have just over a month to review opportunities before presenting our recommendations to the Board in September.

If you've never considered serving as an Officer or Director before, I want to personally invite you to think about it. Club governance isn't about rigid bureaucracy; it's about stewardship. It takes a variety of voices, backgrounds, and fresh perspectives to keep our traditions alive while steering RCYC into a vibrant future. You don't need a lifetime of committee experience to make a difference, just a care for our community and a willingness to share your unique talents.

If you are interested in serving on the Board or as an Officer next year, please contact me. I would love to grab a coffee or jump on a call to describe what these potential roles look like. The Club truly welcomes your help!

Save the Date! Next year's RCYC Commodore's Ball will be held on February 27, 2027 (the sound of "2-27-27" has a great ring to it!). We will once again be gathering at the Portland Yacht Club, and we've lined up a fantastic new dance band called Pressure Point. It promises to be a great time for everyone, so mark your calendars!



Get your RCYC gifts here!
Order online from RCYC's website
—or—
contact CJ Volesky at
cjroxs08@gmail.com



Photos by Vickie Nissen



Email articles, announcements and photos to:

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by the 20th of the month

Your Foghorn Team

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