

RCYC General Meeting Minutes
July 15, 2026 (7:00pm)
Live at the Clubhouse and via Zoom

General Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order: Commodore Bruce Newton
 - Board members in attendance: Bruce Newton, Cathy Skach, Lisa Mork, Jon Osborne, Ian Cannon
 - Welcome guests
2. Agenda adopted by acclimation
3. Program: Tom Trimmer, Owner, [Custom Marine Products](#)
 - Introduced by Chris Sheesley –Tom has been a cruising sailor for over 40 years on the great lakes, and he put solar power on his boat about 16 years ago. He claims to be currently on a six-week cruise to test equipment on his research platform. Tom is coming to us from northern Lake Huron in Canada from his boat.
 - Reliable onboard power while cruising can make the difference between a fantastic experience or a marginal one. Solar energy is an excellent power source, but choosing the right panel size and pairing it with the necessary components for a high-performance system can be a daunting task. Tom founded CustomMarineProducts.com to provide reliable systems for marine solar power. There is a great deal of reference information on the website.
 - There are different types and grades of solar cells. Price points and efficiency are differentiating factors. In the marine environment, with variable lighting conditions and possible shade, higher grade shade tolerant cells are preferred. Power output degrades with higher temperatures and lower angles to the sun.
 - The solar controller is also an important component. Commercial controllers are not designed for the marine environment. Marine grade controllers will be much more moisture proof. Pulse-width modulation (PWM) controllers are ok for small installations, but maximum power point tracking (MPPT) controllers are recommended for larger systems and provide much more power output. The controller can be optimized for the battery system.
 - The website includes a spreadsheet to help calculate the electrical loads and other aspects of the system.
 - Lithium ion batteries charge faster and more efficiently and can also be discharged further than lead acid batteries. Lithium ion batteries are preferred for solar power systems.
 - Solar can be combined with other charging sources (alternator or wind), but the alternate sources of power must be considered when configuring the system.
4. Swearing in New Members
 - No new members to swear in.

5. Introduction of Prospective Members - Kathryn Elsesser and Steven McGeady
 - Kathryn and Steven own three boats: a Caliber 38 cutter that is kept in Tacoma, an Erickson 23 here on the Columbia, and a 32 ft Maine lobster boat
 - Kathryn went on Phil Lewis first Offshore Race and has been a member of OWSA.
 - She has done racing on the Columbia and some deliveries.
 - Her first experience sailing was as a small child on her grandfather's boat
 - She has been on the Newport to Bermuda and other races.
 - They enjoy sailing their Caliber in the San Juans.
 - Kathryn can do handi-tasks and is a professional photographer.
 - Steven is knowledgeable with software, knows Victron systems, and celestial navigation.
6. Minutes of Previous General Meeting – Posted on web
 - Approved by consent
7. Reports of Officers and Directors
 - Commodore – Bruce Newton
 - Appointed Nominating Committee: Cathy Skach, Gary Brown, Judith Lebzelter, Mark Salholm
 - Fourth of July Land Cruise went well with about 100 attendees and a dozen open boats. There was great food and music.
 - Interstate Bridge Crossing (I-5 over Columbia River bridge replacement) Bruce sent comments to USCG on behalf of RCYC. I-5 bridge construction impacts to navigation expected in 2030. For a 17 month period, sailboats will require a bridge lift. We proposed establishing fixed lift times so that river users can plan their travel. Also, sharing limited lift times with commercial traffic is a concern. The deadline for comments is July 25.
 - Vice Commodore - Barnaby Tuttle
 - Work Hour Report - So far in the second half of the year there have been 151.8 total hours, with 125.8 on site.
 - Clubhouse Rentals – Booked for World Cup Final (Spain v Argentina).
 - Rear Commodore - Cathy Skach
 - Website Review Report
 - Produced by Sydney Cole (daughter of member Dan Cole) as her senior project for her Business Management college program.
 - Improvements were recommended for ease of use for the membership page, navigation, and the forum.
 - Several of the recommendations are being implemented, most notably updating visuals on the membership page.
 - The web page 'theme' is also being updated
 - The report was a very professional product, at no cost to the club
 - We are very grateful to Sydney for her work
 - Discussion at the meeting included: why don't we accept online payment? (We're working on this and anticipate being able to accept credit cards online). We are also planning online forms for membership instead of the current paper process.

- Secretary - Ian Cannon
 - Communications – no report.

8. Directors' Reports

- No reports.

9. Committee/Contact Reports

- Activities - Laura Richard – Lazy Days Cruise starts this upcoming weekend. If you can't make it by boat, you can still join the potluck on Thursday evening in Cathlamet.
- Racing – Ben Emery – no report – But Ben and his boat *Penelope* are participating in the Pacific Cup race from San Francisco to Hawaii. He's about half way (1200 miles) there. In addition to *Penelope*, two other Portland boats (*Free Bowl of Soup* and *Gem*) are participating in this race.
- CRYA - Toby Elliott – no report
- Education - René Emch – no report
- Moorage Report - Matt Richard – Attached.

10. Unfinished Business

- None.

11. New Business

- Authorized vendor status was approved at the Board Meeting for:
 - Cook Engine
 - Branshore Marine
 - White Owl Windsports Marine Services
- Authorized vendor status allows these vendors to access our moorage without a member being present and requires that they furnish proof of insurance.
- The list is being updated and will be posted on the webpage when available. Some of them are advertisers in our Yearbook.
- Membership Status Changes
 - Frank and Janet Patrick from Active to Active Life status effective June 30 approved by the Board in at the July Board Meeting.

12. Gwinner Awards:

13. Good of the Order:

- Chris Sheesley mentioned upcoming speaker topics: Multihulls for Monohullers, the Executive Director of NW maritime Center, and Columbia Land Trust about the Ecology of the river.

14. Tell Tales: During the race, Ben Emery was fishing and got three tuna strikes. He was unable to land any of the fish due to the plastic safety cover being still on the hook!

15. Adjournment @ 20:20.