

RCYC General Meeting Minutes
Sept 16, 2026 – 7:00pm
Live at the Clubhouse and via Zoom

General Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order: Commodore Bruce Newton
 - Welcome guests
2. Adopt Agenda. Adopted by unanimous consent.
3. Program: Larry Graf is the founder and designer of [Aspen Power Catamarans](#) and the [Aspen Carbon Cat](#). He and Stephen Grimmert told the story of a 5-day, 500-mile expedition from Ilwaco, WA, upriver to Clarkston, ID, via the Columbia and Snake rivers. Along the way, the team navigated major dams and locks, commercial traffic, changing river conditions, and winds gusting over 30 knots. Larry will share how the expedition was planned, the challenges encountered, and what traveling such a remarkable waterway in three small carbon-fiber tenders taught the crew about efficiency, preparation, and seamanship
 - They build Carbon Cat tenders in Burlington Washington.
 - These small tenders have been taken on a number of long trips to demonstrate their seaworthiness and durability.
 - They are made from vinyl ester and e-glass over carbon fiber. This results in a durable and light boat suitable for everyday use.
 - On this trip they were able to transit 5 of the 8 locks in the boats and had to trailer around 3 of the locks.
 - Here is a link to video of the trip: [Columbia River Expedition Video | Aspen Carbon Cat](#)
4. Swearing in New Members
 - Kathryn Elsesser and Steven McGeady were sworn in by Matt Richard (past commodore).
5. Introduction of Prospective Members
 - Eric and Christa Slaughter
 - Eric and Christa just bought Kaiju and are excited to be part of our community. They have moved Kaiju to Tomahawk Bay but would like to move back soon. They are hoping to be moored near Vela Volta.
 - Christa's mom was a self-taught sailor and gave Christa her introduction to sailing. Christa has sailed catamarans in the Caribbean and has also sailed on a 12 meter. She sailed with Chris Sheesley from up north.
 - Eric grew up in Toronto and learned to sail on Lake Ontario. He enjoys cruising more than racing.
 - Christa has some skills with boat diesel and electrical. She is also experienced at coordinating groups (as a school principal).
 - Eric has a construction background and currently works in manufacturing windows.

6. Minutes of Previous General Meeting – Posted on web

- Approved by unanimous consent.

7. Reports of Officers and Directors

- Commodore – Bruce Newton

- No dredging this year!!

- Everywhere in the fairways is at or below minus 7ft.
- An email has gone out to the club. If you were counting on dredging to get your work hours, be looking for other opportunities.

- Aquatic weeds

- Weeds have been growing more than in previous years. Bruce thinks that this may become the new normal. The excess growth may be due to less rainfall, lower flows, lower water levels earlier in the year, and warmer water temperatures.
- We have had a couple of ad-hoc weed cutting events. It seems like the weed cutting season may be mid-July through early September. We are looking for someone to lead a committee to take this task on. Perhaps this group could also be responsible for removing debris along walk one.
- We are not sure what other marinas are doing at this point in time. Waterfront Organizations of Oregon (WOO) has had a couple of meetings about this. No one seems to have a great solution at this time.

- Pipe storage dock replacement – David Wood is leading this effort. Please volunteer to support this work – an opportunity for work hours.

- Staffing changes – Abby Boudaris has stepped down as the WOO representative, and Susan Applegate has stepped up to take her place.

- Vice Commodore - Barnaby Tuttle

- Work Hour Report – 3184 hours so far this year.

- Clubhouse – Private event on 9/19, Oregon Women's Sailing Association on 9/23, Walk 1 BBQ on 9/26, Work Party on 10/3. A Celebration of Life for Herman Fisher on 10/3 at 3pm and a Celebration of Life for Don Belshaw on 10/10 at 3pm.

- Rear Commodore - Cathay Skach

- Nominations Committee

- Thanks to the Committee (Cathy Skach, Mark Salholm, Gary Brown, and Judith Ledzelter)
- The proposed officer slate is Bruce Newton for Rear Commodore, Barnaby Tuttle for Commodore, Ian Cannon for Vice Commodore, and Lisa Mork for Secretary
- The proposed Directors are John Osborne, Jim Calnon, Brian Moore, Michael Valenti.
- If there are no other nominations, the group can be adopted by acclimation at the October meeting. If there are other nominees, there will be an election at the November meeting.
- Walk 1 Barbeque on 9/26, including a Let's Go Sailing pod sail starting at 2pm.

- Secretary - Ian Cannon
 - Communications – no report.

8. Directors' Reports

- None

9. Committee/Contact Reports

- Activities - Laura Richard – no report – the next BIG activity is the Christmas Party
- Clubhouse Steward - Ally Richard – no report
- CRYA - Toby Elliott
 - Hadley's Landing has a new ramp in place, and the dock is getting updated too.
 - There is discussion of renaming the group and trying to get broader support.
 - Metro is purchasing the west end of Hayden Island, and there is hope to get a destination dock there in the future.
 - Ridgefield WA is considering development that might eliminate their boat ramp.
 - Funds have been allocated to study the situation at Sand Island where there is a missing link to the outer dock. Some yacht clubs have volunteered to do minor repairs.
- Dredge Report - David Wood – no report.
- Education - René Emch - no report.
- Moorage Report - Matt Richard – Report attached.
- WOOO - Abby Beaudouris – no report.
- Cruising
 - Next year's schedule is under development. It will include Hadley's Landing and Beacon Rock.
 - This year's Beacon Rock cruise was good. The weather was a bit spotty, but most managed to avoid the rain. There was good food, good hiking, and a good happy hour.
 - Upcoming cruises include Bartletts Landing next weekend and Schwitters Landing in
- Ship's Store – RJ Barnes
 - There are new products and the inventory is being updated.
 - Check it out online. There is a link from the Club webpage.

10. Unfinished Business

- Final report from the Social Initiatives Workgroup – Cathy Skach
 - The PowerPoint presentation is saved with the September 2026 Board Meeting Minutes on the Website.
 - The workgroup has met quite a few times over the last year.
 - The work of the group included two membership surveys.
 - Members report being engaged in the club and enjoying the current activities.
 - Several recommendations for increasing engagement and added activities.
- Bylaws revision to modernize voting
 - Reminder that there will be an upcoming vote to update the Club Bylaws regarding moving to online voting. There was quite a bit of input after the last hybrid vote that members would prefer a more streamlined system.

- The vote will be online prior to the October meeting, but attendance at the October General Meeting will be required in order for a membership's vote to count.
- A quorum is required, as is a 2/3 majority. The new wording was sent out with the meeting invitation and is attached.

11. New Business

- Membership status changes
 - Marcin Manik and Joan Cromwell moved from Active to Inactive status effective Oct 1.
- Proposal that we should have someone assigned to track the Interstate Bridge Project.

12. Gwinner Awards: John Osborne nominated Laura and Matt Richard for their barbeque on Sand Island in support of the Long Distance Race. Supported by acclamation. The Commodore noted that we got a lot of compliments for how the race went. Jason Haugen used the Club Launch Rosie to pull several boats of the sand when they grounded.

13. Good of the Order: Thank you Mark Salholm for the delicious dessert!

14. Tell Tales: Vela Volta and Kaiju ran aground.

15. Adjournment @ 20:30

Rose City Yacht Club
Moorage Report
September 14, 2026

Moorage Activity:

Bobby and Libby Muerth with their Hunter 320, named *Moon River*, have permanently departed the moorage. They have relinquished their Slip 23 on Walk 2.

Gareth and Janet Tabor, with their Newport 33, named *Cadenza*, have been reassigned to Slip 23 on Walk 2 from Slip 31 on Walk 2.

Tressa Yellig and Adam Zimmerman with their Schock Harbor 25 sailboat, have been reassigned temporary moorage from Slip 20 on Walk 1 to Slip 23 on Walk 1. This ended the sublet from Richard Peek and Laura Ritter.

Brian Moore with his Yamaha 33, has sold his boat and the boat has departed the moorage. He has relinquished his Slip 29 on Walk 2.

Alex Jones and Christina Dittmann with their Catalina 30, named, *Knot So Fast*, have been reassigned to Slip 29 on Walk 2 from Slip 9 on Walk 5. This ended the sublet from Earle Taylor.

Jeremy and Shannon Chedester with their Beneteau 30, named, *Bon Vent*, have been reassigned to Slip 31 on Walk 2 from Slip 21 on Walk 4.

Tressa Yellig, with her Schlock Harbor 25, named *Hipnautic*, has been reassigned to Slip 21 on Walk 4 from Slip 23 on Walk 1. This ended the sublet from Tom Foeller.

Current Moorage Availability Status:

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

Matt Richard
RCYC Moorage Chair

Modernizing RCYC Voting Procedures

Final as approved by the Board on June 8, 2026, and revised September 14, 2026

Executive Summary

Our current "hybrid" voting system—requiring both an online ballot and live attendance (inperson or via Zoom) for validation—has become a significant barrier to member participation. This proposal outlines a transition to a secure, fully online voting model to increase engagement and streamline club administration.

Current Challenges

Since the pandemic, our voting process has relied on a two-step process in which members first cast a ballot online (for secrecy) and then a "roll-call" is held at a meeting to validate attendance. This process has many disadvantages:

Low Engagement: The process is described by members as "tedious and painful," discouraging many from participating at all.

The Participation Gap: In the April vote, while 42% of eligible memberships cast a ballot, one-third of those votes were disqualified because the members could not attend the live meeting.

Administrative Burden: Conducting a manual roll-call of attendance by memberships that cast a ballot is time-consuming and prone to error.

Options

Option	Description	Pros	Cons
Return to in-person paper ballots	Revert to prepandemic physical meetings only.	Simple and traditional.	Effectively disenfranchises members who cannot attend physically.
Status quo	Maintain online ballots validated by live attendance.	No Bylaw revisions required.	Continued low participation and administrative frustration.
Secure online voting	Authenticated voting via the RCYC website.	Highest participation; eliminates rollcall; professionalizes administration.	Requires revision of the Bylaws.

Recommended Option: Secure Online Voting

To ensure the integrity of the vote, the new system will utilize our existing website infrastructure.

Authentication: Access is restricted to members via their secure WordPress login.

Validation: Automatic tracking of User IDs and Unit IDs ensures only Active Memberships vote and enforces the "one vote per membership" rule.

Inclusivity: The Voting Committee will provide assisted-voting alternatives for members with technical difficulties.

Time for adequate discussion: The Club would continue the practice of first touch/second touch; providing two opportunities at General Meetings to fully discuss and potentially modify any proposal prior to membership voting.

Required Bylaw Revision

To implement online voting, a proposal to revise the Bylaws would need to be put to the membership. Because this would be a revision of the Bylaws, the proposal would have to be approved by two-thirds of the eligible memberships voting.

On June 8, 2026, the Board voted to recommend to the membership the following revision to the Bylaws.

Revise the Bylaws as follows: In Article III, Section 2, strike the words "present at the meeting" and in Article III, Section 3, strike the words "present at a meeting"

Later that summer a third section of the Bylaws specifying "hybrid" voting was discovered. It is the article on board and officer elections. It provides for a vote by acclamation at the October general meeting unless a nomination is put forward. In that case, an election is to be held in November and a hybrid voting model or paper ballots is specified.

On September 14, 2026, the Board voted to add the following to the revision recommended to the membership.

In Article XII, Section 3, revise the third sentence to read "In the event that any nomination is made at the October General Meeting, ballots shall be distributed and an election will be held prior to the November General Meeting" and strike the second and third paragraphs.

Timeline for Adoption

The required Bylaw revision will be referred to the membership for approval by a hybrid voting process prior to and during the General Meeting on October 21, 2026. The Board directs the Voting Committee to try to minimize the time to confirm the attendance of memberships who had cast a ballot by possibly using a sign-in onsite and something similar for online attendees.