FOGHORN
ROSE CITY YACHT CLUB NEWSLETTER

Commodore: Bruce Newton
Vice Commodore: Barnaby Tuttle
Secretary: Ian Cannon
Rear Commodore: Cathy Skach
Directors: John Osborne, Brandon Soule,
Amy Larimore, Jim Calnon, Lisa Mork

September 2026

From the Bridge

Bruce Newton, Commodore



Morning at RCYC
Photo by Richard Samuels

It has been a phenomenal summer for sailing. The winds have been stronger and more consistent than in previous years. It's been great to see so many cars in the parking lot and so many empty slips. We had a great turnout for the 4th of July Land Cruise with over 100 members, live music, a dozen boats open for tours, and great food. The Pirates' Cruise in early August was huge fun, and the Lazy Days Cruise was well attended.

There is still plenty of great late-summer and fall sailing with the Labor Day Cruise to Beacon Rock, starting on September 4, the Autumnal Equinox Cruise, starting on September 18, and Sail on Sunday starting up again in late September. And there is still time to register for the RCYC Long Distance Race to Saint Helens (Sand Island) on September 12 and 13.

Don't forget that the Clubhouse is there for your enjoyment. Come whenever you want to hang out on the Patio or in the Clubhouse. Informal get-togethers that are open to all do not require a reservation or rental agreement. Just check the online calendar for conflicts. And if you want to put an informal get-together on the calendar, please contact Vice Commodore Barnaby Tuttle.

Turning to more mundane Club business, in October we will be holding a vote on whether to modify the Bylaws to modernize how we conduct member votes. Right now, we vote online, but then someone from the membership must be present at a meeting for the vote to count. The proposal would change that to secure online voting (with provisions for members who have difficulty using the Club website). Look for more detailed information later this month for the vote that will be held in October.

See you on the water.

Vice Commodore's Report

Barnaby Tuttle, Vice Commodore

We nearly have another great summer of sailing under our belts. As Vice Commodore, I have a new perspective on the Club, and it pleases me greatly to see all that we've accomplished and all that has taken place over these last few months. The cruises, races, and Club activities this summer have left an echo that we'll be hearing well into winter. And it's all in the parking lot. I've never been so happy to get the worst spot in the lot.

Now, to the nuts and bolts. Managing work hours is my responsibility at the Club, so let's get them in before it's too late. We have some great opportunities coming up: Work Party #6 is on October 3, and Work Party #7 is on October 24. And if you read my other article in this month's Foghorn, you'll see, with a slight existential twist, just how rewarding these parties can be. You can be Sartre or Camus, but at least get your minimum hours before the cutoff date. December 10th comes quickly, silently, and with dread.

But what a summer we had!

I write this with joy and a bit sorrow, I missed a lot of activities, including the Lazy Days Cruise and the Pirates Cruise. I had hoped to circumnavigate Vancouver Island, with a side trip to Haida Gwaii. And perhaps, even if I could have bitten that off, I would have regretted not getting to Alaska.

Something a great sailor once told me comes to mind. After we finished the Offshore, we had that wonderful sense of accomplishment, followed almost immediately by the inevitable now what? moment. This great sailor called it the devil's voice in our heads: It's always easier not to.

My vow for next summer is not to listen to that voice – to find a way to do the sailing I dream about without neglecting my business or my responsibilities to the Club.

Secretary's Salutations

Ian Cannon, Secretary

In membership news, Frank and Janet Patrick changed status from Active to Active Life members, and Dennis and Jan Stewart are resigning from the Club at the end of September. The Board approved the memberships of Kathryn Elsesser and Steven McGeady at the August Board meeting. Kathryn and Steve have an Ericson 23 that they plan to use on the river and also a Caliber 38 that they keep in Tacoma for cruising northward. They will be sworn in at the September General Meeting. We also met prospective members Christa and Eric Slaughter at the August Board Meeting. Christa and Eric plan to be taking an interest in *Kaiju*.



Our resident heron showing off.
Photo by Richard Samuels

Work Hour Reporting QR Code
(or click this link)

Cruiser's Corner

Bill and Nina Kramer



Boats in Cathlamet—Photo by P. Sesar

Ahoy RCYC,
Summer cruising has been a blast. Many Club boats went up and down river. The Lazy Days potluck in Cathlamet was well attended and the fellowship and food were wonderful. While Portland was hot, the weather down river was very comfortable.

My highlight of Lazy Days was going through Prairie Channel and anchoring in Warren Slough. Tom Becker on Crystal Swan was the group leader showing us the channel. Gypsy also was able to anchor behind the upstream end of Sandy Island, across from Kalama, WA, and we anchored near Tongue Point, behind Lois Island. Both anchorages were quiet and calm.

There are three more cruises on the calendar: Beacon Rock over Labor Day Weekend, September 4 to 7. Bartlett's Landing on Government Island, September 18 to 20. Schwitter's Landing on Government Island, October 9 to 11.

Lastly, a cruising tip: The CRYA 2026 Cruise Guide not only lets you know which clubs are where each weekend. It has a River Mile Table on page 39. This makes it very easy to find out how far away your destination is. If you don't have a copy get one from the stack by the Clubhouse east window.

Fair winds and keep cruising!



Pirates Cruise Tug of War—Photo by Roxana Alviar Volesky

Pirates Cruise 2026

Photos by Roxana Alviar Volesky













Join us for our last RCYC racing event of 2026, a two-part race between Day Mark 39 and Sand Island.

Saturday: First Warning 1200 hrs at Day Mark 39 (near confluence of Columbia and Willamette rivers).

Sunday: Start from Sand Island docks and race back up river.

Level, ORC, PHRF, and One Design fleets.

BBQ provided on Sand Island Docks Saturday night, stay the night on your boat or camping available on Sand Island.

Registration just $20 for all boats!
https://www.regattanetwork.com/event/30799

Rose City Yacht Club
Portland, Oregon

A Work Party Adventure

Barnaby Tuttle

Last Saturday's work party was a great success, and it appears we all had a fine time. When I was a new member of the Club, these parties were my gateway into the fabric of the Club. It really is a win, win, and win for all. It is fun in the moment, but you also learn about the Club and establish a sense of pride and ownership.



The Jungle Removal Crew: Walter Keutel, Tony Phipps, Barnaby Tuttle

Not only have I picked up skills and made many friends over these last few years, but these friends – made in part through work parties – have helped me learn to sail and refit my boat. When I reflect on the joys of my success in the Offshore Race, I realize the roots of it all go back to me as a shy newbie meeting sailors with multigenerational skills at these work parties.

This last work party, I jumped at the opportunity to get on one of our legendary work boats with Walter Keutel and Tony Phipps. We had a morning that could loosely be called gardening at sea.

Our dredge pipes are stored on the headwalk of Donaldson Marina just downstream of Rose City Yacht Club. Our task was to remove the weeds and small forest growing on our dredge pipes. As a vineyard manager, I thought I would have the best of these infesting plants. We armed ourselves with shears, loppers, and an electric hedge trimmer. The hedge trimmer was useless against these small trees. We found that a combination of loppers, shears, and hands armed with brute force prevailed – and it related not at all to my experience in the vineyard.

Over the course of the morning, the curious minds met. We discussed sailing, the Club, linguistics, and existential philosophers, like the two great French authors Sartre and Camus. What would they have made of this attempt at clearing out a river jungle?

Looking back, I'm not sure which would have been more appropriate. Sartre might have focused on the absurdity of three men battling vegetation on a floating work boat while contemplating the meaning of existence. Camus, perhaps, would have understood the Sisyphean nature of removing weeds from dredge pipes, knowing that, eventually, the weeds will return.

Either way, it was a good morning on the river, good work for the Club, and another reminder that sometimes the roots of sailing adventures begin in rather unlikely places.

Shop for RCYC products online and at the Ship's Store at the Club, or order by emailing Terry Foren or Tom Boyd.

Go Sailing, for FUN!

Loren Beach

This season, a handful of RCYC members and I have spent a number of weekday evenings sailing together on our various boats. Recently, I enjoyed two evenings in a row, on two different boats. We left the dock at 6 p.m. and returned to put the boat away at 9. Coordinating these events involved texting six to eight members on Sunday or Monday to pick the evenings and determine which boats we would take. After a brief flurry of back-and-forth messages, it's easy to settle on one (or two+). The only requirement is to bring a PFD and a smile.

The inspiration for these casual evening summer sailings goes back to about 2009 when a group of members used to do this often – sometimes with a larger group sailing on several boats. The idea behind these sails was to simply take our boats out and enjoy companionship and sailing. After all, we are all in the same moorage and many of us joined RCYC hoping to meet and make friends with other sailors/boaters.

Whether by sail or power, it's a good experience. There have been evenings when the wind did not blow and we just slowly motored for an hour or so, enjoying the view and the conversation.

Back in 2009, we arranged these events by selecting an evening a week ahead and sending out an invite (typically an email to the all-member RCYC list) to meet on the deck at 6 PM. At the designated time we'd decide which boats to take and off we'd go. Today, you might want to pick a few members that you'd like to get to know better and send them a text to gauge interest and establish a date, a boat, and a time to sail.



Steve Beaty and Bill Ormond—Photo by Loren Beach



Evening sail— Photo by Gary Whitney

Try not to let a little shyness keep you from a sailing opportunity. Modern communication choices, like texting, do get criticized for reducing human connection, but equally they can help restore it. You may also find that partnering with other boat owners makes leaving the slip easier. Unlike taking a non-boating relative or friend out, fellow Club members can trade off trimming and driving, freeing you up from being a 'tour guide.'

Boats deteriorate if left at the dock too long; so do their owners. Let's find more ways to spend more time on the water enjoying each other's company!

End of Life Decisions – For Our Boats

Christian Steinbrecher



Photo from the Oregon State Marine Board:
https://www.oregon.gov/osmb/boater-info/pages/abandoned-derelict-boats.aspx

Department of State Lands Abandoned and Derelict Vessel Program
https://www.oregon.gov/dsl/waterways/pages/adv.aspx

Finding a way to dispose of a boat has become a challenge. Fiberglass, of which most of our boats are made, is an almost forever material. In the days of wooden boats, the wood would decay away and leave not a whole lot behind. Fiberglass boats, however, do not dissolve in the same way. The number of derelict boats only keeps increasing. So, disposing of a boat can become a bit of a challenge.

As a renovator of smaller boats, I am always looking for trailers. Low or no-cost boats on trailers often show up on Craigslist or Facebook Market place. To get to the trailer, however, the boat that sits on it has to be disposed of. After doing a bit of research I found the following disposal options. These options appear to be ecologically sound and acceptable to the regulatory authorities.

The costs for a 25' boat weighing about 4,500 lbs are as follows:

Clark County (Columbia Resource Company) – $357: $117/tn + 3.6% tax + $84.30 flat fee for handling. It is not known whether they will take boats that are not registered in Washington State (they don't answer their phones). Boats must have an asbestos survey and all liquids and batteries must be removed, they must have a title, plus a few other things. Boats over 30' are not accepted. The full list of requirements can be found on their website.

Dike Marine Service and Storage, 50751 Dike Rd., Scappoose, OR, 503-987-1623, Debbie – $1,750: $70/ft up to 45'. It was not clear exactly how the boats are ultimately disposed of.

Gonzo Boat Recycling, Arlington, WA, 360-435-2020 – $2,500: pricing varies; the cost for this price comparison was based on a drop off rate of $100/lf. According to their website the dropoff pricing can vary from $70 to $150/lf.

Hillsboro Landfill, 503-640-9427 – $4,929: $204 for the first 2,000 lbs plus $1.89/lb for the weight over 2,000 lbs. An asbestos survey is needed.

McCuddy's Marina – $9,000: $9,000 min + $300/lf over 30'.

This is obviously just a start and covers only the cost of the actual boat disposal. The cost of getting boats from the water to the disposal sites will probably increase the cost of disposal (except for McCuddy's which is already on the water).

A View from the Rear

Cathy Skach, Rear Commodore

Summer is flying by faster than anyone ever likes (except when it's too hot or too smokey). But Rose City still has plenty of events coming your way!

The Pirate's Cruise was a lot of fun despite the threat of smoke in the air that could have forced us to cancel our plans! But the air was clear and we had 13 boats show up for the weekend, and from those boats a total of five enthusiastic kids participated in the fun and games, not to mention the adult 'kids'. We started with face painting and tattoos, played Cannonball Toss, had a Tug o' War, a knot tying contest and a costume contest. If there were a prize for the number of people from each boat

Continued on page 9

A View from the Rear continued from page 8

participating, the Voleskys would have won it handily! With the enthusiasm of Matt Richard, we brought back the Sunday morning tradition of the pancake breakfast and afterward held a treasure hunt for the kids. Overall, the 2026 Pirate's Cruise was a great success. I hope y'all plan on joining Bruce in 2027!

The Past Commodores breakfast will be next weekend, August 22, so by the time this goes to print we hope you will have attended and are still feeling well-fed.

The Commodore appointed the Nomination Committee, including myself (as the default leader, being the Rear Commodore), Gary Brown (as a most recent and willing Past Commodore), as well as Mark Salholm and Judith Lebzelter (representing membership at large). Our job is to recommend Officers and Directors to serve on the Board in 2027. We have been busy this month making calls and extending invitations to serve on the Board. We don't have all our recommendations in place yet, but plan to be ready by the September Board Meeting. If we have not contacted you, and you are willing to serve the Club as a Board member, please do reach out to one of us. It's a great way to make new friends and help guide the direction of our Club in 2027.

Save February 27, 2027 as the date for the RCYC Commodore's Ball, once again to be held at Portland Yacht Club. Musical entertainment will be provided by the highly versatile variety and dance music group "Pressure Point".

Summer might be winding down, but the river is still calling. Grab a weekend on the water, watch out for those shallow spots as levels drop, and enjoy every last bit of the season. See you at the Club!

RCYC Happenings

September 2026

4–7	Labor Day Cruise
7	Knauti Krafters, 10:00 a.m.
12–13	RCYC Long Distance Race
12	Summer's Not Over Party (Clubhouse), 4:00 to 10:00 p.m.
14	Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
16	General Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
18–20	Autumnal Equinox Cruise
19	Private Event (Clubhouse), 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.
20	Foghorn Deadline
21	Knauti Krafters, 10:00 a.m.
26	Walk 1 BBQ, 5:00 p.m.

October 2026

3	Work Party #6, 9:00 a.m.
3	Celebration of Life for Herman Fischer "Smoke", 3:00 p.m.
5	Knauti Krafters, 10:00 a.m.
9–11	Fall Foliage Cruise
10	New Member Orientation, 9:00 a.m.
10	Private Event (Clubhouse), 3:00 to 10:00 p.m.
12	Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
17	Walk 2 BBQ, 5:00 p.m.
19	Knauti Krafters, 10:00 a.m.
20	Foghorn Deadline
21	General Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
24	Work Party #7, 9:00 a.m.

Click the link & log in to participate in the Forums or view the posts: *Forums Archive - Rose City Yacht Club*

Check *www.rosecityyachtclub.org* for updates & more! Contact your Vice Commodore for additions or changes to the calendar.

Send articles, announcements, and photos to the Foghorn, *RCYCFoghorn@gmail.com* by the 20th of the month.

YOUR FOGHORN TEAM:

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