

SWYC PILOTHOUSE

Issue 11, December 2011

ATTENTION ALL HANDS

From the Commodore

This is my first month as Commodore, and trying to fill Bill Brown's shoes is a very daunting task. I would like to thank Bill one more time for a great job.

My first Board of Directors meeting was held on 12/8. We discussed locating a larger site for the general membership meeting, as we are outgrowing the Honeymoon Bay Clubhouse. If you have any suggestions, please forward them to me or any other board member. Another topic was a search for a more permanent home for the club. This is a long range goal, subject to much discussion, but once again, your input is welcome. We are always in need of volunteers. A job that comes to mind is the Chair(s) for next year's Commodore's Ball. Cruise Captains are needed for the Mystery Bay Cruise and the August Cruise. Cruise Director Dennis Pittis is trying to reserve a pavilion at Sucia Island for the first weekend in August. There is always the possibility of a fall cruise. We are also looking for one or more people to take over as Program Chair for the general membership meetings, so that Tom Stinson can slowly back away to tend to his other duties as Vice Commodore. I know that there are members out there just flush with program ideas and contacts!

Tom Stinson and I attended the Fidalgo Yacht Club Commodore's Ball. Our wives were previously engaged, so we went as the Odd Couple. It was a grand party -we had a wonderful time and made some new friends in the bargain. Fidalgo YC does a lot more cruises than we do and would love to have us join them on one or more of their adventures. Tom promised to follow up with them for some dates and locations.

Commodorable Debra and I attended the Oak Harbor Yacht Club Commodore's Ball and as you would expect, it was a first rate event. We danced to live music from a two-person quartet (!) and again, some new friends were made. SWYC should be back on the job next year flipping burgers for Race Week, once I know the date(s). I will call for volunteers. For those of you who have never worked the Burger Hut during Race Week, it is always great fun.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at the Christmas Party.

Russ Ernest

COMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 21: CHRISTMAS PARTY – 6:30 SIPS & DIPS 7:15 PARTY

An invitation from Tom Stinson, our intrepid Program Director: Don't miss our annual Christmas Party featuring the ever-popular Re-gifting of Christmas. This is your chance to re-gift that wonderful and useless nautical treasure such as a mermaid fender or such wonderful books as my very own "Cruising Guide to the Los Angeles River". If nothing nautical comes to mind, you might bring that special something to torment or brighten the life of some club member. The rules of claiming will be explained at the party and all gifts should be wrapped or disguised. Early arrivals can enjoy Vice Commodore Tom's vintage record "Surfing Santa".

REMINDER: The Christmas Party will be held at the M-Bar-C Ranch.



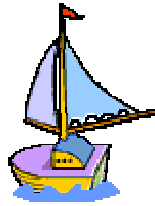
Better Boating Series Free Seminars: Skagit Valley College, Marine Technology Center 1606 R Avenue, Anacortes is offering a free boating seminar series on Saturday, January 14, 2012. To register for these free seminars or to request additional information, please call (360) 766-6282. SVC advises prospective participants to register soon to ensure your seat!

- 11:30a – 12:30p
H2Out™ Water Absorption Technology with Rich Pindell.
Save money in maintenance costs and help prevent corrosion damage.
- 1:30p to 2:30p
Marine Weather with Lee Chesneau.
What you don't know, what you think you know, what you need to know about marine weather.

JANUARY 18: MONTHLY MEETING - 6:30 SIPS & DIPS 7:00 PARTY

Historian Bill Haroldson will bring his audio-visual presentation about the old South Whidbey fishing resorts. He'll display vintage signs and brochures, and tell us about a long-forgotten world.

****The Preliminary 2012 Calendar of Club Events will appear in the January issue of the newsletter****



[Learn to Sail Program News - 2012](#)

We will be adding a week of camp in our Youth Sailing Program. The new week will be an Intermediate Class, which will take some of our returning students who have completed 2 sessions of our beginning classes. The new class will emphasize boat handling, sail shape and trim and sailing for speed. We'll continue to have a high priority for fun. This class will give sailing students a challenge and contain a basic introduction to the fun of competitive sailing. This added week might change the dedicated week for Grandkids camp, more to follow.

Approved this winter was funding for two instructors for our Beginning Sailing Program. This could seriously affect the load on our current "older volunteer" instructors. Our current pricing schedule should keep our sailing program self-sufficient. It may not provide the funds we'll need in the future to expand the program, but we have to be careful not to burn out our volunteer staff.

The board has approved the purchase of a Pelican sailboat named *Soledad*. This used boat was partially donated to the club. The club paid \$500 for a boat valued between \$1000 and \$1500, on the condition we use it as a public boat for our classes and other community and club activities. This will help reduce some of the stress on the members who have been donating their Pelicans to the Adult Sailing Program. The adult class has had tremendous success last two years and we expect it to continue. Our new Intermediate Youth Program will also use *Soledad* has an introduction to a two person, two sail, sailboat. This boat will be kept busy during the summer. If there is any volunteer with a little storage space for a Pelican through the winter, please let me know.

Bob Rodgers

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