

SWYC PILOTHOUSE

Issue 2 February, 2012

ATTENTION ALL HANDS

From the Commodore

There are two events coming up on Whidbey Island that may be of interest to many of us. The **Earth Day Festival** is going to be held at Bayview Corner on Sunday April 22nd, from 12 noon to 4 pm. Information about the schedule of activities can be found at www.goosefoot.org after April 9th, or you can get information by calling 360-321-4145. SWYC would like to have a display to let people know about us. We are looking for volunteers to set up and man the display. The second event is the **Penn Cove Water Festival**. This event will be held in downtown Coupeville on Saturday May 19th, from 11 am to 5 pm. Information about the festival can be found at www.PennCoveWaterFestival.com. SWYC would like to have a display at the Water Festival, as well, and we are looking for volunteers. Please contact Russ Ernest if you are interested in volunteering for one or both of these events.

We will have a sign-up calendar for those who would like to help out with programs for the General Membership Meetings. Please come forward and help out. I'm sure that many of you have some ideas or know people who would make interesting speakers. In fact, I am sure that many of you could give an interesting talk on some subject or experience.

Over the last few years, several of us have gone on a fishing trip. This year, we are looking at going to Port Renfrew on the southwest coast of Vancouver Island. We are looking at mid-June for our trip. We have been there before. The fishing is great and access is fairly easy. The target fish are king salmon and halibut; there are also opportunities to catch ling cod and rockfish. Information on cost and exact dates will be posted in the very near future. If you are at all interested, please contact Russ Ernest or Bob Boehm or Tom Stinson ASAP, as we need to reserve boats and accommodations based on the number of fisherman/women. Yes, ladies have been on these trips – the accommodations are a little bit rustic sometimes, but no more than boating is.

We will now be holding the **SWYC Board of Directors** meetings at Maple Ridge assisted living complex in their private dining room. Maple Ridge is located on 1767 Alliance Ave in Freeland. When you enter the front doors, the private dining room is just ahead on the left.

Russ Ernest

SOUND WATERS 2012

Sound Waters is an educational program sponsored by Island County Beach Watchers. This year's program was held on February 4th. This year's SWYC exhibit emphasized our community outreach in education and participation in many Island related projects plus our varied social programs for all ages. We had a number of interested visitors, which will hopefully translate into increased membership and awareness of the club. Thanks to Derek Pritchard and Merv Floyd for representing the Club at this worthwhile event.

COMING EVENTS

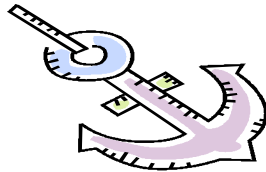
SWYC IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE FEBRUARY 15th PROGRAM. THE SPEAKER WILL BE RICHARD PINDELL OF H2O OUT SYSTEMS. HIS PRESENTATION WILL FOCUS ON THE SERIOUS PROBLEMS OF ETHANOL AND BIO-DIESELS IN ATTRACTING AMBIENT MOISTURE AND ITS CONTAMINATING AND DAMAGING EFFECTS ON MARINE ENGINES OF ALL TYPES. HE WILL DISCUSS THE STEPS WE CAN TAKE TO REDUCE THESE EFFECTS ON OUR BOATS.

PLEASE CALL TOM STINSON AT 360-331-1084 FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING THE CLUB AND ITS PROGRAMS. THE COMMUNITY IS INVITED TO JOIN US.

DATE: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15th

PLACE: M-BAR-C RANCH, 5264 SHORE MEADOW ROAD, FREELAND

6:30 SIPS & DIPS 7PM PRESENTATION.



Attention all Cruisers:

The Fidalgo Yacht Club has opened their cruises this year to our members.

Great folks and very welcoming.

March 3-4 Officer and Gentlemen Cruise to Port Townsend

April 20-22 Fisherman's Bay

May 4-6 Roche Harbor

June 1-3 Capidalgo Sidney B.C.

June 3-5 Canadian Capers Montanque Harbor B.C.

Aug 10-12 Poet's Cove B.C.

Sept 7-9 Bellingham

Oct 5-7 Friday Harbor

For information call Tom Stinson, 360-331-1084

REAL MOVIE BOATS:
The African Queen, Part II

-Jill Brown (reprinted from *Nor'westing magazine*)

(My trusty Videohound guide lists four columns of movies about boats - war movies, disaster movies and movies featuring giant sharks. It's about real movie boats – who built them, where they came from and what happened to them after the movies were finished.)

AFTER THE FILM

“Ain't nobody in Africa 'cept yours truly can get up a good head of steam on the old African Queen.”
- Charlie Allnut

After the completion of the film, the African Queen went back to hauling cargo. In 1968, a local plantation owner paid \$400 for her at a charity auction sponsored by the Kampala Lions Club. A California restaurateur and Bogart fan named Fred Reeve tracked down the buyer and offered him \$730 plus a new boat in payment for the Queen. By this time, her steam engine and boiler gone and her awning in tatters, the old girl was little more than a wreck,

The Queen was shipped by rail to Mombasa, where she was strapped to the deck of a freighter; eight weeks later, she arrived in San Francisco, where she was refitted and restored by a group of volunteers. She made her debut at Fisherman's Wharf, where it was reported that “San Francisco fell in love with the Queen.” The Bay City's love affair with the Queen was short-lived, however, and in 1970, she was sitting on a trailer in a California shipyard with a For Sale sign on her hull.

Her next owner was a man named Hal Bailey, who ran a tourist business on the Sun River in Oregon. After paying the asking price plus her past due yard bill, Bailey moved her to her new home. The Queen was in sad shape - filthy and rusting away, her glory days seemingly behind her. Bailey cleaned her up and replaced the fake steam engine with a single-cylinder steam engine from an old cider mill, adapted to turn the prop shaft with a series of fan belts. Soon, she was transporting tourists on the Deschutes River.

Bailey wanted a location where his seasonal business could become a year-round tourist attraction, so he loaded the Queen on an old race car trailer and moved her to Florida, but once there, the U.S. Coast Guard prevented him from launching the Queen in any waters under USCG jurisdiction. The African Queen is a foreign-built vessel so she was subject to the Jones Act, which prohibited her from coastal trade. Ever the entrepreneur, Hal Bailey contacted a wire service, which dispatched a reporter and photographer. The article, which appeared in the October 25, 1981 *Miami Herald*, quoted Bailey as “looking for a good home for the historic vessel”.

It seemed as though the African Queen's days of stardom were finally over, but her career wasn't finished yet. Jim Hendricks, a retired lawyer and connoisseur of steam engines, read the *Miami Herald* article that described the Queen's predicament. Mr. Hendricks purchased the African Queen on January 12, 1982, whereupon he moved her to the Key Largo Holiday Inn. It was time to prepare for another comeback.

Her new owner was determined to get her under steam again. She started right up the first time Hendricks fired her boiler, at least on the trailer; operation in the water was another story. After the boiler was cleaned and brought up to date, the Coast Guard granted permission to operate the Queen, citing a regulation exempting private steam-powered vessels under 100 tons from inspection until further notice.

The refurbished African Queen was launched successfully on March 15, 1982, Her retirement was over and her next comeback tour was about to commence. In the following five years, she visited boat shows all over the U.S. and Europe, and in 1988, she appeared in her second movie, a documentary about the life of

John Huston. A trip to Seattle proved a minor disaster when her crew forgot that the Pacific Northwest could get very cold in January. Her boiler was not properly winterized, and as she approached the reviewing stand on Lake Washington, it gave way and all the water drained out. She had to be towed the rest of the way back to the dock.

In 1989, the USCG expressed concern that the Queen was being used as a commercial vessel; her owner was instructed to either get her certified to carry passengers or pull her out of the water indefinitely. Because she was a foreign-built vessel, an Act of Congress would be required to exempt her from the Jones Act. On August 16, 1989, President George W. Bush signed P.L.101-92 into law. The African Queen was now an American Citizen.

Once again, she was inspected by the Coast Guard, who found that her boiler was not ASME certified. A Sisson Steam Engine was built for her in England and the Dixon Boiler Company provided a new Kingdon-type fire tube boiler. After intensive testing by the USCG, the Queen was certified to carry 15 passengers and two crewmembers.

Today, the African Queen lives on the dock at the Key Largo Holiday Inn. After 100 years of life, countless miles of travel, two movies and many refittings, she's finally retired to Florida, where a new generation of fans can visit her and share her amazing story.

* Author's note: Many thanks to Jimmy Hendricks, owner of the African Queen and President of the African Queen Trust, for his invaluable historical information and personal stories about the Queen.

NEXT MONTH (or maybe not)

FITZCARRALDO

Directed by Werner Herzog



SWYC 2012 Calendar

(As of January, 2012)

- 15 - General Membership Meeting
(Will be held at the M-BAR-C Ranch)
- 18 – Pelican Fleet 3 Cruise @ Jetty Island

March

- 3 – Pelican Fleet 3 racing @ Holmes Harbor
(party host needed)
- 8 - BoD Meeting (will be held at Maple Ridge)
- 17 - Pelican Fleet 3 racing @ Holmes Harbor
(Russ and Debra Ernest hosting)
- 21 - General Membership Meeting
(Will be held at the M-BAR-C Ranch)
- 31 – Pelican Fleet 3 racing @ Holmes Harbor
(party host needed)

April

- 12 - BoD Meeting
- 14 – Pelican Fleet 3 Championships @ Oak Harbor
- 18 - General Membership Meeting

May

- 6 - Opening Day Party (Bill and Jill Brown hosting)
- 10 - BoD Meeting
- 16 - General Membership Meeting
- 30 – SWYC Pelican racing @ Lone Lake (party host needed)

June

- 13 – SWYC Pelican racing @ Lone Lake (party host needed)
- 14 - BoD Meeting
- ? - Mystery Bay Cruise (Social Director needed)
- 18, 20, 22 - Adult Sailing Class
- 20 - General Membership Meeting
- 27 – SWYC Pelican racing @ Lone Lake (party host needed)
- 25-29 - Youth Sailing Camp 1 (Intermediate)

July

- 8 - Crabfest (Bruce and Barbra Morris, Sue and Bob Eichenberger hosting)
- 12 - BoD Meeting
- 9-13 - Youth Sailing Camp 2 (Beginner)
- 11 – SWYC Pelican racing @ Lone Lake (party host needed)
- 12 - BoD Meeting
- 16-20 - Youth Sailing Camp 3

- 25 - SWYC Pelican racing @ Lone Lake (party host needed)
- 23-27 –Youth Sailing Camp 4
- 28 - Family Fun Day @ Bowman Bay (Tom & Kathy Peterson hosting)

August

- ? - Cruise (Social Director needed)
- 8 – SWYC Pelican racing @ Lone Lake (party host needed)
- 9 - BoD Meeting
- 11 - Pelican Fleet 3 Smith Boat Shop 50th Anniversary @, Samish Island
- 15 - General Membership Meeting
- 22 – SWYC Pelican racing @ Holmes Harbor
(party host needed)

September

- 1, 2 & 3 - Sail CamIsle Event
- 12 - SWYC Pelican racing @ Holmes harbor
(party host needed)
- 13 - BoD Meeting
- 19 - General Membership Meeting
- 26 – SWYC Pelican racing @ Holmes Harbor
(make-up day if needed)

October

- 11 - BoD Meeting
- 17 - General Membership Meeting
- ? – Land Yacht Cruise

November

- 8 - BoD Meeting
- 10 - Commodore's Ball

December

- 13 - BoD Meeting
- 19 - General Membership Meeting