



# KNOT NEWS

Volume 113, No. 4

Anacortes Yacht Club's 113th Year

April 2004

## Notes from the Temporary Helm

I spoke with Bill again today. He is gaining strength but has a problem... actually in a sense... a bit humorous... As I mentioned before, his blood pressure drops when he sits up in his wheel chair causing problems so he must lay down again. Get this... they finally realized he is suffering from seasickness ☺. Well... OK... the docs call it motion sickness. His chair does not fit properly so while trying to stay upright, he moves around a lot causing the motion sickness. Today they hope to get a chair that fits better and allows him to be stable. This will help a great deal. I am sending a laptop down for him today so hopefully he will be able to stay in touch with us all, via the web in a few days. The computer they currently have available in his room requires he be sitting upright. So watch for his own updates about his health and club news.



Bill, Pat and the boys all send their thanks and thoughts to all of you who have been calling, visiting and sending cards. He is on the mend! That is so good to hear! He can be called at Harborview @ 206-731-3000. Cards and letters can be sent to him at the following address: Bill (Constant) Booth, Harborview Medical Center, 325 - 9th Avenue (MS359738), Seattle, WA 98104. -- Pat Barrett, Vice Commodore

## Bruce Backlund

Past Commodore Bruce Edward Backlund, 61, died Thursday, March 18, in a tragic accident, doing what he loved best--boating--near Cap Sante. He was born November 4, 1942, in Renton, and was proud to be a native of Washington. Bruce chose to join the Navy

right after graduating from Franklin H.S. in June of 1961 due to his love of the sea. He began his career as a Submariner and then was selected to attend the University of Washington, graduating in 1970 with a de-



gree in Mechanical Engineering. He completed his career as a Lt. Commander charged with engineering the construction of the first of the FFG-7 frigate class, the *USS Wadsworth*, in San Pedro, California.

During his last year in the Navy, he met his wife-to-be, Cynthia. They were married in March, 1981. He retired in June, 1981, and he, his wife, and 6 year-old stepson left California for Washington. They moved onto Guemes Island in September, 1981 and then to Anacortes in 1986. He survived 2 heart attacks and by-pass surgery in 1994 and went on to participate in many activities dear to his heart including boating, fly fishing, brewing and wine making, flying small planes, scuba diving, cooking, golf, and designing and building homes.

Bruce first became involved with AYC while participating in the racing program on board *Sir Pending* and later on *Eventide*. He loved the competitive spirit of racing, but his wife was less enamored and they settled on owning a cruising boat, the *Sea Star*. He enjoyed many cruises with AYC, his favorite remaining the annual Pub Cruise. *continued on page 2*

## Bruce Backlund

*continued from page 1*

Bruce was also an active participant as officer in club, becoming Commodore in the year 2000. During this time, he assisted the club in designing and acquiring the new bar, as well as the construction of the BBQ building. He always looked forward to Friday nights at the club and continued to tend bar regularly. Bruce really appreciated the circle of friends he had developed through activities at AYC and was looking forward to this year's cruising. He will be greatly missed. There will be a memorial for Bruce at the AYC on April 10 at 3pm. Everyone is invited. Contact Dave Malsed for details. -- Cynthia Backlund

## More from the Center of Dah' Boat

As I write this, the PHRF fleet is probably rounding the #8 Buoy Mark off of Vendovi Island. Each boat and crew will be tossing flowers on the water in honor of my friend and fellow sailor Bruce Backlund. It was 10 years ago that I began to race on *Sir Pending* with skipper Larry Tomovick and his crew... including Bruce, Keith Rubin and Dale Geffe. Since those early days I have had the opportunity to sail with many fine people and Bruce was always one of the kindest. I'll miss you, Bruce, and all that you have done for the Club. My hat goes off to you.



All that has gone on these past few months with folk's health issues and our losses makes me reflect on why I am a member of AYC and now an officer. I am a member because I have a passion... the passion is the water... racing is just a way for me to be there. We are a Yacht Club, so I would guess that most of you, as members, also have a passion for the water, so I believe we should be encouraging others to participate in water-based activities. We have the resources and the passion to do it and I for one am doing what I can. Not as an officer of AYC... but as a member of the boating community. As members, we have so many ways we can help in this endeavor. Just a few ways:

- Anacortes Waterfront Festival, May 22 and 23.

Volunteer to provide rides on the bay for Festival attendees. Show them your passion for the water and its riches. The Club will be providing the boats and skippers. Contact Barbara Ritts @ 293-3369 to lend your support.

Kids Boat Building is an activity that fellow Club member, Vic Childs, started many years ago. He can use your help to cut out boats, masts, sails, etc., before the event. That weekend, volunteers will be there to work with a great group of kids constructing their very first "yacht." Call Vic @ 202-7037 for a good time.

Wouldn't it be cool if those same small children could build a yacht and then go out on the water in a real one! Even though we are surrounded by water it might be the only time many of those children will have an opportunity to actually be on it. Think of YOUR first boat ride....

- Anacortes Youth Sailing is a youth racing program started and coached by members, Steve and Ginger Orsini, Fred Abelman and Gray and Carolyn Hawken and supported wholeheartedly by many in our Club. You can help personally in various ways. Just contact Steve @293-1141.
- Anacortes Arts Festival Regatta will be held for the first time on July 31. This is a combined effort with the annual Arts Festival and AYC to promote the participation of boaters with the Festival. Contact myself, or Rita James @ 293-6211 if you are interested in helping with this event.

Bottom line... folks... if boating is your passion... then I personally think we need to show it and help others to develop the same. Boating and our passion for the water is the heart of our organization and it is what will keep us thriving in the years ahead.

"The term *passion*, and its adverb passionately, often express a very strong predilection for any pursuit, or object of taste — *a kind of enthusiastic fondness for anything.*" -- Cogan

The "Chili Cook Off and Feed" is still in the works and will be held... when... I am not sure. I considered doing it in April but find that the Sucia cruise is

*continued on page 3*

set for the same weekend as the General meeting and I don't want to limit our contestants and judges... so must see. All of you who have thrown your spoons into the ring... you will be called upon to show your stuff.

Thanks to Brian and Laura Hennessy for providing March's \$2 Night food and organization. It was lasagna and I understand was quite good! Thank you Brian and Laura for your efforts. We need a volunteer or volunteers for the April \$2 night. Please let me know if you'd like to help here.

Thanks to all for your support and help and smiles. It's been an interesting month. As always, if you have ideas to make the Club better, please let me know. Remember... Life is Short... Sail Fast... and maybe try Paragliding... it is a gas! --Pat Barrett, Vice Commodore

### From Dave...

Wow!! I can't believe another month has come and gone. The activities at the club are beginning to increase; guess it was a good thing that I had this supposed break-in period in the duties. I must say that it is a lot of fun and hard work as well.



Last month in the *Knot News* I said I would find out when the next alcohol servers training would be taking place. I have listed those times for the class in Mount Vernon for you. I have contacted everyone whose permit is expiring this year so here are some opportunities for you to renew. The trainer is willing to do a class in Anacortes provided I can get enough people to come. I was thinking of sometime in mid-May. Please let me know if you would be willing to participate. Don't be bashful about stepping forward and being one of our bartenders. As you have probably seen, they have a lot of fun doing the bartending. It is a wonderful way to get to meet and know the members of our club. Of course, coming down on Fridays is a great time whether or not you are behind the bar. As for the classes, they are: April 19, May 17 and June 21. They are all at the Cranberry Tree at 2030 Freeway Drive, Mt. Vernon. No pre-registration is required. The cost

is \$30.00 per person and the club will reimburse you for this. It takes about 3 hours for the class. If you want more information please contact me.

I don't know about you, but I have been doing the spring cleaning of the boat and am ready for daylight savings time and the spring days coming for being out on the water. Someone told me that this is spring fever. Now all that has to be done is to go and figure out how to get more time out on the boat. Hope all of you are being afflicted with the same problem as Pat and I. -- Dave Malsed, Rear Commodore

## Great Weather for Tacoma Cruise

Saturday, March 13, turned out to be a red letter day for the Tacoma Land Cruise. The day was bright and sunny and the weather warm. Tacoma never looked so inviting! Twenty-one AYC members gathered at the Museum of Glass for an architectural tour of the building and exhibits. Ask Dick Smock about the popcorn sculpture inside! Of course, the gift store was full of temptations.

Then we piled into our cars and made our way to the Tacoma Yacht Club for lunch. They had a table for 21 set up for us. We pretty much had the club dining room to ourselves. TYC is located in a unique location with a 270-degree view of Vashon Island, Commencement Bay, and Pt. Defiance Ferry Terminal. We presented them with an AYC burgee and were promised they would send us one in return.

Around 2 pm most people returned to the Downtown Tacoma Improvement Area (Foss Waterway) to visit the Washington Historical Museum and do some ogling at several glass galleries in the area. By 4:30pm the group had broken up and headed back home or to hotels where many spent the night.

AYC members attending the cruise were Bruce and Cynthia Backland, Bill and Barbara Larson, Wayne and Andrea Schaub, Maurice and Helene Fink, Bill and Marcia Short, Suzanne Emery, Dick and Laura Smock, Bob and Jane Carlson, Dick and Cheryl Karney, Steve Dubnoff and Marian Lowe, Phil and Madelyn Case. I believe everyone had a great time and enjoyed spending some special time in a city we did not know very well. -- Cruise captains, Phil and Madelyn Case

## Sucia Island Cruise, April 24 and 25

The cruise captains and other eager boaters will be there on Friday, the April 23, to get dock space and do some early socializing.

We are looking forward to a big turnout (25 or more boats have shown up the last few years). It is a great cruise for new cruisers, with plenty of help for docking, rafting, grabbing a buoy or anchoring.

We will all be in Fossil Bay, primarily at the innermost, westernmost dock. There are campsites nearby. This is a family friendly cruise, and Sucia is a family friendly island. Kids and grandkids are welcome.

Look forward to lots of hiking, beach sitting, and napping. Spontaneous activities encouraged... one year we christened two boats.

The annual Hawaiian ugly shirt contest will happen Saturday evening. Bring your best, brightest, or worst attire. Prizes will be awarded.

Saturday evening bonfire and BBQ cookout will follow the cocktail hour. Bring your own meat, a passing dish and, maybe, an hors d'oeuvre. Also your beverage of choice. Plus, a couple of pieces of firewood, if there is room on your boat.

Questions? Contact Cruise Captains Dick Smock, 360-293-7464, or John Moody, 360-299-8303.

## Time to Start Planning for San Juan and Gulf Island Pub Cruise

Please make your reservations immediately for the AYC San Juan and Gulf Island (Pub) Cruise. All cruise participants are responsible for their own reservations. Marinas in British Columbia generally monitor VHF Channel 68.

June 25 (Friday) Prevost Harbor, Stuart Island. Hike to the school or light house. Anchor out, mooring buoys or dock, if available.

June 26 (Saturday) Otter Bay Marina, North Pender Island, B.C. Clear customs at Bedwell Harbour (remember your passport). Heated swimming pool, gift shop. Call 250-629-3579 or FAX 250-629-3589 for reservations.

June 27 (Sunday) Telegraph Harbor Marina, Thetis Island, B.C. Store and soda fountain, a short walk to ferry to Chemainus. View at [www.telegraphharbour.com](http://www.telegraphharbour.com). Call 250-246-9511 or FAX 250-246-2668 for reservations.

June 28 (Monday) Maple Bay Marina, Duncan, B.C. Good food, good pub. Call 250-746-8482, FAX 250-746-8490, or email [info@maplebaymarina.com](mailto:info@maplebaymarina.com) for reservations.

June 29 (Tuesday) Genoa Bay Marina, Duncan, B.C. The Grapevine Café has excellent food and there is a very nice art gallery. Call 250-746-7621 or 800-572-6481 for reservations.

June 30 - July 1 (Wednesday - Thursday) Port of Sidney Marina, B.C. Good food at the Rumrunner Pub and shopping in town. July 1 is Canada Day, with a pancake feed in town, a large parade and activities in the park. There is a great street sale on the morning of July 2. Lots of fun. Call 250-655-3711 or FAX 250-655-3771 for reservations.

July 2 (Friday) Ganges Marina on Saltspring Island, B.C. Several good restaurants and bakeries. Saturday Market in the park a must. Call 250-537-5246 or FAX 250-538-1719 for reservations.

July 3 - 4 (Saturday - Sunday) Lopez Islander Resort & Marina, Lopez Island, USA. (Remember to clear US Customs). Enjoy an old fashioned 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration - the island's big event of the year. Anchor out, raft up.

July 5 (Sunday) Return to Anacortes.

Please contact Bill Short to notify him if you are coming, and for any questions.

## Plans for Waterfront Festival

As Membership Chairperson, I believe that we should be showcasing the Anacortes Yacht Club. The perfect venue for this is the Waterfront Festival coming in May. As members we have a lot to be proud of as we have a diversified boating program with a full range of activities including an extensive cruising program, competitive sailboat racing, and our sponsorship of youth sailing. In addition, by organizing regattas and having

*continued on page 5*

great club gatherings, we expose both Anacortes residents and visitors to the joys of the AYC membership. Attracting new members is essential to the vitality of our club.

At the Waterfront Festival we propose to offer boat rides. There will be dock space available for pick up and drop off. We also hope to showcase a couple of members' boats displaying the Anacortes Yacht Club banner and other written handouts on Club activities. There will be two berths at the bottom of the main ramp. The Chamber of Commerce Waterfront Committee is delighted that we will be part of the Festival... "This is what folks want to experience at the festival."

We are looking for volunteers and boats. The dates are Saturday, May 22 and Sunday, May 23. Please contact me if you can take part. Fun should be had by all! -- Barbara Ritts, Membership Chair, 293-3369

## Schoenrock Enters Vic Maui

Anacortes Yacht Club member Gary Schoenrock has registered *Cassiopeia*, his Davidson 72, for the fast-approaching IBM Vic Maui 2004 ocean race, considered one of the greatest ocean adventures in the world. The largest yacht registered so far, *Cassiopeia* has been a regular on the ocean-racing scene, sailing in four previous Vic Maui races, in the 1993 Sydney Hobart and in the 1996 Kenwood Cup.



Photo from  
Vic Childs

Others that *Cassiopeia* will be competing against in the 2300 miles of open ocean down to balmy Lahaina include veteran racer Ron Grierson and his X-yacht 402, *Double Deuce*, of Burrard Yacht Club, Brian Duchin's *Voodoo Child* out of Tacoma, Steven Tuck's *Darby* from Vashon Island, and Steve Clark's *Winds of Time*. Entries from Royal Vancouver Yacht Club, race co-sponsor with the Lahaina Yacht Club, are David Sutcliffe, skippering *Kinetic*, his Beneteau First 47.7 DK and Dwight Jefferson with a consortium racing *Flash*, a Transpac 52 chartered out of San Francisco. Next month, we will provide a full and final list of all entrants.

The IBM Vic Maui 2004 race, the 19th since the race's 1968 inception, is shaping up to be the best ever. When the race starts - on June 21 for the single-handed boats and June 23 for the others - dozens of yachts will be racing to beat the race record of 9 days, 2 hours and 8 minutes, set in 2000. Sailors vary from first-timers to perennial Vic Maui champions - anyone who loves the open ocean and who has a passion for sailing at its highest level.

It is our great honor to have IBM as title sponsor this year and we thank IBM for its support and interest in creating the most successful Vic Maui race ever. For more information, contact our website: [www.vicmaui.org](http://www.vicmaui.org) -- Pamela Bendall-Haley, Royal Vancouver Yacht Club

## Race Program Report

On March 6 we ran the Champagne I race that went from the old Texaco dock up to the R-4 buoy near Jack Island back to G-5 back to R-4 then back to the old Texaco dock. This looked better on paper than it turned out on the water. The winds went light and variable in the afternoon so that the boats that were ahead early in the race got to be further ahead as the day went on. A number of boats went home under "iron spinnaker" as the wind got lighter. Fortunately, the wind did fill in at about 3:30 pm or so and so it was possible to finish for most of the fleet. The good news is that the sun shone like it was June or July. We took off our shirts and got some sun on our backs! It was a beautiful day to be on the water. Results can be found on the AYC website.

This past Saturday, March 27, we ran the Champagne II – Vendovi Island race. It was a downwind start and a great spinnaker run all the way to the R-8 buoy between Vendovi and Sinclair Islands. The wind was fairly steady at 10-15 knots with lots of gusts and shifts to make it interesting. We all threw flowers into the water as a tribute to our departed friend Bruce Backlund at the mark rounding. *Captain Jack* came out to start the race and take photographs at the mark rounding. Vic Childs has a number of great photographs of the race and flower tribute to share. It was nice weather all day and we did not get rained upon. Next Saturday we will run the Champagne III race around Guemes either way. Hope to see you all out

*continued on page 6*

## Race Program Report

*Continued from page 5*

there. Race results will also be posted on the new message board at the club web site. Races in April include the following:

April 3, 2004, Champagne III, which will be around Guemes Island, either way. The race starts at the old Texaco dock at 0900. It is a category III race and should be fun!

April 17, 2004, Tulip Regatta Invitational in Fidalgo Bay which will be a series of buoy races. Skippers will mee Friday evening at the club. Awards banquet after the race on Saturday evening.

April 24, 2004, Champagne IV - Post Point. This race starts at the old Texaco dock and then leaves the R-2 buoy near Post Point to port with the finish at the G-5 buoy on a line bearing 90 degrees within 50 yards. Last year this was a real barn burner with 20-25 knot winds with higher gusts, surfing waves, sunshine and great competition! --Walt Meagher

## Rosters Out Soon

Hello Everyone, this is your update on the 2004 Rosters - First of all, they are usually given out at the February General Meeting - well there have been a few

circumstances that prevented that from happening. The target date as of now is the end of April. They will be at the General Meeting on the 23rd of April. For anyone who does not pick them up that night, you will receive them in the mail within the next week after the meeting. If you have any questions or want to give me an alternate address to that listed in the Roster, please e-mail me at [pam@cnw.com](mailto:pam@cnw.com). Thank you for your understanding and patience. See ya all soon. -- Pam Edwards-Harju ☺

## April Events

April 3, Champagne III race

April 9, Two Buck Night, bar opens 5:30pm

April 10, Bruce Backlund Memorial, 3pm

April 17, Tulip Regatta

April 23, General Meeting, bar opens 5:30pm

April 23-25, Sucia Cruise

April 24, Champagne IV race

## Contributions to the *Knot News*

Please send articles, photos and other items of interest to AYC members to George Hatfield, Editor, email [gphatfield2@comcast.net](mailto:gphatfield2@comcast.net). The deadline for the May 2004 issue is Saturday, April 25.



## *Farewell Bruce*

*Photo from Vic Childs from the Champagne II Race Memorial*