



KNOT NEWS

Volume 113, No. 9

Anacortes Yacht Club's 113th Year

September 2004

Notes from the Center of Dah' Boat

Bill is still in Sedro-Woolley at Life Care Center of Skagit Valley. He is still struggling with pain and some infection. The plan is to have additional surgery on September 23 at Harbor View. This should take care of the pain issue (ribs that just won't heal) and some infection issues. Pat said he is getting stronger and putting on weight. She and Dan took him for dinner the other day and he wolfed down a plate of ribs. He would appreciate visitors. Pertinent info: Bill (Constant) Booth, Life Care Center of Skagit Valley, 1462 SR20, Room 408, Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284, cell phone 360-220-5991.



Mea Culpa... Mea Culpa... Mea Culpa... to all you cruisers out there. Being an avid racer these past 11+ years and not having the time or opportunity to do much cruising... except a day or two here and there... I have given the cruisers a hard time now and again ☺. Finally I took some extended time to "just cruise"... with no agenda... just a date to return. I must say that after 9 days of just hanging out in the San Juans and the Gulf Islands in 80+ degree weather with my friend and fine travel companion, Carol Miner... I now understand... one could get VERY comfortable with such a life-style! Maybe we'll even find some time to go on the Reid Harbor cruise... time and schedules will tell. I'm sometimes a slow learner, but I AM beginning to understand.

I spoke with Wendy and Mac shortly after we returned. They too had a great South Sound cruise.

The monthly general membership meetings will start again this month. On Friday September 24 the annual

Salmon BBQ will be held. Rod Bell will be in charge the cooking and always puts out a fine fish. They are in the process of building a new BBQ rack to make the cooking even better. We will need help as always, so please let me know if you're game. Next month is the traditional Crab Feed. It'll be delicious and fun. Set your calendar for October 22.

As always, if you have ideas to make the Club better, please jump in and help or let me know your idea. Remember... Life is Short... Sail Fast. --Pat Barrett, Vice Commodore – Acting Commodore

From the Rear Commodore

Another month has gone by and I would swear I just put down a few notes for the *Knot News*. I must admit that I have waited till the deadline on purpose this time. I am working on trying to get alcohol server training for our members at the club. Well, it did not fall into place in time for me to put it into the September issue. I want to have training at the club sometime in late September or early October depending upon the availability of the instructor. Because I don't have it in place for this issue, I will be getting out emails to the membership once I have it place. If your permit is about to expire or you don't have one yet, please watch for my information and plan on attending so that you too can be a bartender at the club.



For being summer, when everyone is usually gone on their boats, vacations or whatever, we sure have been busy at the Club. Friday nights and the Two Dollar Night have been well attended. We have been having regular rentals of the Club, which helps cover the costs

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Rear Commodore, continued from page 1

of the building as well as out on the water activities. It is nice to see so much activity and involvement.

I am on my way out the door so I apologize for the short column this month. I hope everyone has a good time in the remaining weeks for the warm weather to be out there on the water. If anyone has any suggestions for what I can do to improve our yacht club, please contact me at home or by email. Happy sailing. --Dave Malsed, Rear Commodore

South Sound Cruise

Six boats have just returned from this year's South Sound Cruise, having enjoyed a mix of great small



*Bell Harbor Marina
Photo from
NWBoat.com*

marinas, state marine parks, warm and sunny weather, and boat-cleaning rain. Highlights included Kingston Marina, Gig Harbor, Penrose and Joemma State Parks, the Olympia Yacht Club, Port Orchard, Poulsbo and the wonderful Bell Harbor Marina in

downtown Seattle. A special thanks to the Halligans for hosting a group BBQ at their new cottage on Pitt Passage, Key Peninsula. Participants included: Dave & Karen Thomson, *Tortuga*; John Moody with daughter, Jill, *Capt. Jack*; Chuck & Nancy Lang, *Amiga*; Bob & Sheila Halligan, *Too Grand*; Marv & Ginny Klinger, *Harriet J*; Maury and Helene Fink, *Puffin*. -- Dave Thomson.

Reid Harbor Cruise September 25-26

Recently I requested input from the membership regarding the conflict between our Reid Harbor Wine/Cheese Cruise and the First Annual Anacortes Jazz Festival. I received over a dozen responses, and all but a couple of them suggested we move the cruise to the next weekend in September, rather than canceling it.

So the new dates for the Wine/Cheese Cruise to Stuart Island are September 25 and 26. The main event will be on the dock or one of the floats in Reid Harbor on Saturday afternoon. Please plan on bringing some quality wine and gourmet cheese to contribute to the

sampling. The cruisers' fund has about \$75 left, which I will spend for this purpose.

Note also that the AYC General Meeting and Annual Salmon Feed will be held on Friday evening, the 24th, so most of us will likely enjoy the feed, then cruise to Stuart on Saturday morning, returning Sunday or Monday. This will be the last cruise of the year, so let's make it a good one by having a large turnout. -- Dave Thomson

Breezy Becomes Windless

AYC members Vince and Gretchen Sellen left Cap Sante Saturday August 7th to join three other club boats at Clark Island at the beginning of a ten-day cruise. Just outside the breakwater there seems to have been a major breakdown in basic seamanship and no one was at the tiller. The yell "look out" brought Vince's attention forward just in time to see *Breezy* hit channel marker #3 and watch the mast tumble forward and into the bay. The combination of the mast falling forward and a strong dodger limited personal damage to slight bump on Gretchen's head and Vince's damaged ego. *Breezy* is a stout little 28 footer and suffered only damage to her extremities. The Catalina 30



*Aftermath of Collision
Photo from Vic Childs*

Grabette was just behind *Breezy* and stopped to put a crewmember aboard to help. Gerts Rekevics happened to be coming into harbor on *Handyman* (no, he told us, he wasn't out there trolling for business) and he soon was aboard with tools, knowledge and a positive attitude. The Coast Guard was soon there and asked if there were any injuries, finding none they stood off. The two halves of the mast were lashed along side and off we went to the T dock. With great help we had all the bits and pieces that make *Breezy* a sailboat off on
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the dock. Bystanders taxed our good nature with countless questions. The best question was just before we left: “Do you sailors take your masts off during the summer for cruising?” Our reply, “not on purpose.” Three hours after the accident we left to motor up to Clark Island where we were greeted with great surprise by Pat Barrett, and Vic Childs. Vic had been at the scene and having taken pictures knew how welcome a martini would be. The weekend with club members was a great help and now *Breezy* sits as various specialists bring her back to SV status.--Vince and Gretchen Sellen

Next Race September 11

AYC Racers, our next race will be on September 11 and is the double handed - Jack and Jill and/or 3 score plus 10 (which refers to the age of each participant). I will try to get some prizes for each category which are befitting the participants. We are planning on having a spaghetti feed back at the club after the race. It would be helpful if I knew about how many people are able to come for planning purposes. Also, it would be nice to know who wanted to volunteer to help put on the meal. If there is enough positive response to warrant, I would make spaghetti sauce with homemade meatballs, mushrooms, black olives plus a nice green salad and garlic bread. The general idea is for all involved to have fun and enjoy a great meal. Please email me back if you would attend the dinner and/or want to help with the food service. Walt Meagher, waltmeagher@windermere.com.

More News from Whidbey Race Week

Hey, the illustrious *White Lightnin'* was also at the Whidbey Race Week and enjoyed a great week of racing and partying. Racing in the "Furniture Fleet" with *Pangea*, we managed to improve our performance from dead last in '03 to 5th out of 10 in '04. Unlike some skippers, I will attribute our success to my crew. We had the same 10 people for all 5 days and a few extra riders on some days. No matter what I did



White Lightnin'
headed downwind
Photo from Chuck
Tidrington

or tried, my crew was all over every move. I kept track... we had 3 bad tacks and two bad jibes in nine races that covered just about 23 hours of racing. If I had been a little better on a couple of starts, we could have been dueling with Mac for the entire week (which is always fun). For those of you thinking about doing this regatta, do it! --Chuck Tidrington

Alaska Cruise... Update

Here is the latest from Linda and John from Alaska. It covers our visit from the end of July to August 15, so we are home now, and waiting for them to get the boat back. The last we heard, they were in Bishop Bay enjoying the hot springs. They will probably be home the second week of September. Now they are old Alaska hands, and I'm sure they will be encouraging all other cruisers to take the trip. What a way to spend the summer! -- Dick and Laura Smock

Dear Friends and Family,

It's been about two weeks since my last communication. My Mom and Dad joined us on July 29, just two days after Anita and Roger left, so we haven't been lonely until today. Before heading out with them, we spent two days in Juneau, eating at the finest places. OK, the Hot Spot at the top of the dock and the Red Dog Saloon in Juneau don't really count. We had an uneventful trip to Tenakee Springs, one of our favorite haunts this summer. We managed, once again, to be there when the "gift" store was closed. However, my Mom did an end run around John's scheme of not shopping (except for groceries) and we walked up there Tuesday morning, on our way out of town, and got the best cinnamon rolls in the world for breakfast. We visited Warm Springs Bay on Baranof Island and went swimming in the pools, as we had with Anita and Roger. From there we went to a place called Baby Bear Bay. With a name like that, I was sure we'd see a bear, but no luck. It was a very tricky place to get into (and out of), with lots of hidden rocks and we oached through, bumping in and out of neutral, past rocks called "the Needles," which we didn't see until the next morning, paying strict attention to the charts, as well as having me on the bow watching for rocks.

Going through Sergius Narrows, which one must do at slack tide or one either goes through way too fast or standing still, a whale blew right in front of us and

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slowly moved off. This was our first visit to Sitka, the old Russian capital of Alaska, this summer. We walked in the forest, looking at the old totem poles and seeing



Sergius Narrows Buoy in current
Photo from <http://www.nawwal.org/>

the place where the native Alaskans battled the Russians for land. Needless to mention who won that battle. We visited the old Russian church, which is a major landmark in Sitka, although it burned down and was rebuilt sometime in the 1900s. It's a fishing port, so there were lots of neat fishing boats coming in and out at all hours. Some are bright and well kept, and some are pretty derelict.

After Sitka we headed for Point Baker, via Appleton, Stedman and Baidarka Coves and Rocky Pass. I hope I got that right. Just before we entered Rocky Pass, which is well named, we watched the whales around Kake. They were feeding, but not really bubble feeding, sort of coming up sideways, expanding their big elastic gullets and then going down sideways, with only one tail fluke showing. We could hear them exhaling, grunting and growling, the latter of which I had never heard before. There was some breaching, by one whale, but mostly they were relaxed and feeding and diving, showing black flukes before disappearing under the water. We made our way into Stedman Cove, at the beginning of Rocky Pass, and waited for high tide. It is necessary to go through at high tide because at some times and tides there is only 5 feet of water in the shallow places. One wants to start in about an hour before high tide so that the boat goes over the rocks and the shallow places. We did have people tell us not to go through, but it was fine, and very well marked this year, as opposed to other years. However, it's not for the faint of heart, nautically speaking. We got about half

way through, ooching our way ahead slowly in neutral and watching out for the kelp beds which signal shallow spots and/or rocks, and decided to anchor in Baidarka Cove, a very pretty place with a little trail in the forest. We reconnoitered The Devil's Elbow by dinghy the night before and were glad *Voyageur* would be going on a rising tide. Devil's Elbow is one of the shallowest places in Rocky Pass, and we saw, at the lowest, 10 feet of water in the turn. Lots of kelp and rocks all around, but we were slow and careful, diligently watched the charts and sitting on the bow, and made it through. We saw an Eagle's nest, one eagle in the grass, and some seals on the rocks during our transit of the pass. Then on to Sumner Strait and Pt. Baker.

Pt. Baker is an interesting settlement. It would be a dive if it was a bar. The best part was the laundry which was about 15 feet from the bow of the boat! The other best part was that it wasn't Port Protection, an even worse dive. There was a bar and hamburger joint, with pretty good hamburgers, but the docks were lined with derelict boats and live-aboards fixing up old derelict boats, very slowly. A pretty nice four bedroom fishing resort sat at the top of the ramp, but the shore was very rocky and there was nowhere to walk or hike.

I have five minutes left on the computer card, so this will be quick. We stopped again in Meyer's Chuck and Petersburg. This time we were on the inside dock at Meyer's Chuck and I think we scared a live-aboard, Nicole, when we backed beside her boat with six inches to spare and just enough water to by pass the shore on the starboard side! We had about an hour of very thick fog on the way to Meyer's Chuck - I sat on the bow watching for logs! We had a good couple of days in Ketchikan, had Dad's Father's Day dinner, a bit late, and said goodbye to Mom and Dad at the top of the dock yesterday as they headed off in the airporter. The boat felt kind of empty after that. We cleaned this morning and will head off South tomorrow morning. More later. One minute and 30 seconds left...Miss you all, Love, Linda, John and Cody

Learn more about PFDs

The presentations given at the NTSB sponsored "Personal Flotation Devices in Recreational Boating Forum" have now been posted on the NTSB website: http://www.ntsb.gov/events/symp_pfd/symp_pfd.htm.-- Dave Malsed

Anacortes Yacht Club September Activities

AYC Bar opens Friday, September 10, at 5:30 pm

Two Buck Night, Friday, September 10, 6 pm

Double Handed + Jack and Jill Race, Saturday, September 11

AYC Bar opens Friday, September 17, at 5:30 pm

Anacortes Jazz Festival, September 17, 18 and 19

**AYC General Meeting and Salmon Feed,
September 24, Bar opens at 5:30 pm**

Reid Harbor Wine and Cheese Cruise, September 25 and 26

Cheney Cup, September 25

Board Meeting, Tuesday, September 28, 7:00 pm

Email and Other Changes

For all address changes (including telephone and email), contact Dave Thomson, 360-293-7900, eltortuga@comcast.net, or drop a note to the address shown in the Roster.

***Knot News* Contributions**

The deadline for the October issue is Saturday, September 25. Please send an article, photos and other items of interest to George Hatfield, Editor, at gphatfield2@comcast.net.