



KNOT NEWS

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Anacortes Yacht Club's 115th Year

September 2006

From the Commodore

This was passed on by Dave for consideration. The morning coffee boys are rapidly running out of enthusiasm for participation in Club events, and last Friday's salmon bbq is typical of why this is so. We all knew months in advance that the annual salmon feed would be in September, yet if it wasn't for TK Wegg stepping forward at the last moment, it is unlikely the event would have happened. As it was, there was no planning and apparently little or no help with the set-up and the clean-up, as per usual.

Our annual crab feed is scheduled for the General Meeting on Oct 13, and I would bet that nothing has been done to make it happen. We know already that the Annual Membership Meeting will be in November, the Commodore's Ball in January, the Foul Weather Race in February, and so forth, and I would bet that nothing has been done on any of them. We consistently ignore the tasks required to pull off these events until the last second.

Similarly, Chuck T. has to struggle every week to find bartenders, even though many members have gone through the training. It would be easy to say that the system is not working, but, the truth is , we don't have a system.

I suggest that ample time should be scheduled at the September Board Meeting to discuss the volunteer situation in detail. I also suggest that part of the solution should be a standing "event committee" that would assign the volunteers for each scheduled event and make sure that all the tasks (set-up, food, bartending, clean-up, and so forth, are covered). I further suggest that any event that does not have the full complement of volunteers in advance be cancelled, in order to be fair to the few people doing all the work.

Dave Thomson



SOUTH SOUND CRUISE

The 2006 South Sound Cruise showed, once again, that the South Sound is the best kept secret in Northwest Cruising. Why skippers continue to favor the decrepit, overcrowded and overpriced Gulf Island Marinas is puzzling. The Sound has great weather, no crowds, wonderful marinas that run the gamut of the funky (Langley, Longbranch) to world-class (Bell Harbor, Dock Street) with low moorage fees, and lower cost fuel. The new Dock Street Marina at the Glass Museum in Tacoma is about as good as it gets. And, there is an Anthony's Restaurant at nearly every stop to give the first mates a break. And did I mention no crowds!!!

Three intrepid crews participated this year: Joe and Anita Pirog on "Syrenka", Dave and Karen Thomson on "Tortuga", and Marv Klinger plus assorted crew on "Harriet J".

This is the eighth consecutive year Karen and I have cruised the South Sound in August, and we have enjoyed in immensely!

Dave Thomson
Cruise Chair

Board Notes

It must have been a good one. Anybody know what conspired? Ed.

An Idea for Consideration "Work or Pay"

Since AYC operates primarily with volunteer labor I feel some mechanism should be employed to spread the work load. I'm told that both the Poulsbo YC and Port Orchard YC have such programs. I'm sure they will share their rules and experiences with us if we ask.

WORK ASSESSMENT of \$80 per year. The following is from their Bylaws:

"Each.....regular.....membership shall be assessed in advance an amount in lieu of work per calendar year, as specified in Section 1 of this article. Said assessment shall be assigned to the working fund account of the Club to be apportioned to the yearly budget approved by the Board of Directors. This assessment may, at the election of the Board of Directors, be abated as a result of work performed and will be credited for up to eight hours at the hourly rate indicated in the following table against the assessment for the following year.
.....Regular member \$10 per hour."

If AYC applied this to our membership we would pick up \$11,600 (145 members times \$80) at the front end of each year. If AYC relied upon the usual suspects to do the grunt work (about 25 people times \$80) the following year the club would still pull in \$9600 after abatements. That is money that could be used to HIRE help.

The concept is pretty simple, work or pay. Of course the board would have to decide what constitutes "work". Would being a board member count, a committee member or what? Is 8 hours too much or too little? Is \$10 per hour too much or too little?

With the view of keeping the club open more often something should be done to insure that someone is around to open the doors. The work or pay concept might be a way.

Spencer Swain, January 1998

Notice

The Anacortes Yacht Club will be conducting a confidential member census with the membership renewal form for 2007.