

## Commodore's Column, February 2009

The Commodore's Ball, held January 17, 2009 was deemed to have been a success. The Hope Island Inn was a wonderful location, and the sunset preceding the 1730 start time was nothing short of spectacular. Nearly 80 members and guests attended, including the Commodores of the Oak Harbor and Fidalgo Yacht Clubs. Your officers were installed, the rubber ducky award given, and we danced well past the time to relieve the babysitters.

Happy Valentine's Day! This year's celebration of cupid falls upon a Saturday. Lest you be caught unawares, be sure to secure your reservations and expressions of love early.

I have taken a position on a sailing vessel as crew for the remainder of this month, perhaps for March, perhaps for part of April. We are a yacht club, after all, and I'm taking this seriously! So, after receiving an invitation to take a boat from the Galapagos Islands to Tahiti, I am out-a here. I'll be stepping onto the Galapagos Islands on the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth: Feb 12, meeting 'Deva', a Freya 39 as she arrives from Panama. Byron Skubi, the Commodore of the Oak Harbor YC will step off the boat from that delivery leg, and I will step aboard. The plan is to spend a few days enjoying the Galapagos, departing around the 18<sup>th</sup>. Beginning at the Equator, we must journey 3,200 nm to our next destination: the French Marquesas. Debbie, the wife of Michael Spence, the boat owners, will fly out to meet the boat. I'll have opportunity to tour the Marquesas prior to sailing for the atolls of the Tuamotos, an area of many low-lying atolls covering an area exceeding the entire continent of Europe. The boat voyage will terminate (for me) in Papeete, Tahiti. Yes, I'll take a camera. I'll attempt to send periodic reports to your website manager.

Your Rear Commodore is working with his facilities committee to re-paint our clubhouse. It has reportedly been never re-painted since it's early '90's original construction. I look forward to viewing the results of his principle painters: Pam Edwards and Karen Thomson, with assistance for repairs by Bill Bowman.