

Commodore's Letter, May 2009

The calendar says that it is finally opening day of boating season. Hopefully the weatherman reads his calendar. Each week that I am in the harbors I see more and more activity: boat cleaning, installation of new gear, prospective new owners and dreamers walking about, and general readying of boats. I can't think of anything more relaxing, more rejuvenating, or more enticing than spending time on the water. I note that I am not alone... there's a lot of boats out there.

As 2009 Commodore of the Anacortes Yacht Club I have been invited to participate in several Yacht Club opening days. I will attend the Seattle Yacht Club opening day festivities, interested in the pageantry, formality, and revelry of that event. I've even purchased white pants, shoes, and hat for the event. Your club members have seen fit to keep our club dedicated to fun on the water, less focused on some traditional Yacht Club formalities. I don't see this blue-blazer/white pants tradition catching on at our club this year, could I be wrong?

At our April 28 board meeting we decided to repaint and redecorate the interior of our clubhouse. According to our documented history, AYC celebrated its 100th anniversary by moving into our new facilities in July 1991. It had not been repainted since and is in need. We have passed a budget that your Rear Commodore Phil Case will use to contract a professional painter. Joe Gleason has agreed to take down the burgees, Andy Schwenk will be hanging another roof-line cable for the burgees, Bill Short will document their locations, Pam Edwards and Karen Thomson will redecorate after the paint is dry. We are excited to view the final results. We will make a strong effort to complete the tasks in May. For info and to volunteer: Phil Case mpcase@earthlink.com or 206-550-1220

The Anacortes Waterfront Festival will be held May 16 & 17 at Cap Sante marina. AYC will again be hosting free boat rides for festival visitors. Vic Childs has taken the reins for AYC for this event. He has found former Mayor and local historian Bud Strom interested in putting together some information for AYC boat volunteers' use to explain about the shoreline and the many edifices and ruins along the islands' waterfront. Vic has secured over a dozen boats, so far, and the

Port of Anacortes will be placing our fleet on the C-dock North. Terry & Leslie Dorn will be barbecuing free burgers for club volunteers on Sunday 5:30pm. There are many volunteer opportunities for this event, from tent construction and take-down, boat-trip coordinators, boat hands, clean-up, and everyone will want to answer club membership questions. Come, be part of the fun! Contact Vic Childs: radioflyer77@comcast.net or 360-202-7037

The racers have already been racing for over two months but we begin our Wednesday night racing on April 28. During May, several club boats will be racing at other clubs' events: May 2-3 STYC's Race to the Straits, the WINSA Round Whidbey on May 9, and RVYC's Swiftsure May 23-25 out of Victoria. We are always looking for new crewmembers and boats. Do not feel intimidated to take your boat out on the course; we're all about having fun and everyone will go out of their way to help you. Call Andy Schwenk 360-708-8337 or write to him at andy@northwestrigginginc.com

The Cruising group has scheduled several events for this summer. Their May 23-25 cruise to Garrison Bay has always been a favorite. They are so active that it will actually be their fifth scheduled cruise this year! Jerry and Jan Hemme will be cruise captain for the Garrison Bay Cruise: 360-293-8778 or jhemme65@aol.com Contact cruise chair Warren Walz for the remainder of the year's cruises: www@wncpa.com or 360-293-0601

At our April 27 board meeting, someone suggested we try an incentive to club members to bring in new members. We each were new members at one time, now we all look forward to making friends with newer members. We see boat owners on their boats in the slip next to our boats, why not ask them if they have interest in joining? Racers, wouldn't some of your regular crew like to join? I know that the cruisers are forever connecting with other boat owners; invite them to our club. The Waterfront festival will be a wonderful opportunity to connect with those wishing to learn about our club and possibly join. Do you have an idea for an incentive? Do you have an idea which can be used to bring in new members? Please contact me directly jerryvanderveen@verizon.net or 360-708-8337