



BELLINGHAM YACHT CLUB

The Jib Sheet

November 2009

Volume 87 #11

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THE COMMODORE'S COLUMN

It's the 85th year for the club and it has started out busy. The board and volunteers have been working hard and it seems there's an activity just about every week. Wine tasting, Commodore's ball, Halloween party, sailing awards banquet, lighted boat parade... that's just to start with, plus there will be educational programs as well. The cruising committee has been working on the schedule for the upcoming season. They've added a couple of cruises to the regular lineup along with some predicted log races, and, after a brief hiatus, the crab fest is back this year also, which is a treat to look forward to.

There is a lot to keep track of, but don't worry. Thanks to **Jody Erickson, John Gargett, and Terry Tavelli**, there is a full year's calendar on the website with all the activities and events that are already listed, plus there will be more added along the way. It will be updated constantly so check it out to keep up with all that's going on. Terry Tavelli and John Gargett will be revamping the club's website very soon. You will see some positive changes, making it more user friendly.

I appreciate all the members that have signed up to help on committees. I know there are more people out there thinking about it—don't hesitate, sign up and join in on the fun and

camaraderie.

Pete Foti,
Commodore

PS. Don't forget to pay your dues!

CLUBHOUSE RENOVATION:

The officers and Board of BYC have been working on a plan to renovate the upstairs club area. They have briefed a group of Past Commodores, who supported the plan unanimously. Now it is time to present the plan to the membership. There will be a meeting at the club on Wednesday, Nov 11th at 6:00 pm to review the proposed plans. Please plan to attend to learn about the proposed changes and provide feedback to the Board of Trustees. This is your club; your opinion would be appreciated.

*Pete Foti,
Commodore*

Installation of Officers

The installation of officers was held Wednesday, Oct 7th. Your newly installed slate of officers are:

Commodore - Pete Foti
Vice Commodore - Michele Hurst
Rear Commodore - Troy Curran
Fleet Captain - Jody Erickson
Secretary - Meredith Ross
Immediate Past Commodore - Terry Robertson

1st Year Trustees:

John Van Haalen
Jonathan Knowles
Gerri Rae Kersey
Dick Grimshaw

2nd Year Trustees:

John Gargett
Jane Sylvester
Missy Steffen
Mike Allsop

Please welcome them aboard as your new officers for the upcoming year. If you have any ideas, comments, etc, these are your go-to people. They are a highly dedicated group of people with the best interest of the BYC at heart. They are already planning great things for the year...

Pete Foti, Commodore

FLEET CAPTAIN'S REPORT:

First of all, I would like to thank all of the members who supported me during my election for Fleet Captain. I am honored and will do my very best to enhance our club Programs and make our clubs Sailing, Cruising, and Racing some of the best in the North West.

To start off my year as Fleet Captain I have put together a Calendar for the 2009-2010 year. Although this Calendar will be a work in progress and probably changed several times, it will give our membership an idea of what is coming up in the New Year. I have taken into consideration other clubs and racing events as well as special programs, however those dates are guesstimates at best. All of our up coming events are listed on this calendar and can be viewed on our BYC website. Special thanks go to John Gargett and Terry Tavelli for assisting me in this task.

Don Mierzeski has been elected as the new Bellingham Yacht Club Sail Fleet Captain for 2009-2010. Please join me in congratulating Don on his new position. Don will be meeting with the Sail fleet very soon to organize his leadership and to set goals for the up coming year. Welcome aboard Don!

Steve Kersey is continuing on as Youth Fleet Captain this year. He will be heading up our Youth programs as well as working with the Bellingham Sailing Foundation in hopes of bringing many boating activities to our community and our BYC youth sailors. Thanks for your continued support Steve!

I would like to congratulate John Gargett on his new position as Cruise Fleet Captain for 2009-2010. John will be working hard to schedule a few more cruises this year, bringing back our annual Crab Fest and of course chairing the Cruise to Poets Cove. John is also working with Terry Tavelli and Ray Poorman in hopes of updating our website and making it more user friendly. Thanks for your hard work John, and Welcome aboard!

Some events coming up for this month include, the Sailing Awards Banquet scheduled for Saturday November 14, 2009, a Champagne Brunch scheduled for Sunday November 15, 2009 as well as the Tom and Jerry Party scheduled for Wednesday November 25, 2009 prior to Thanksgiving.

Lighted Boat Parade scheduled for two (2) Nights!

In early December the Lighted Boat Parade is scheduled for Friday December 4 and Saturday December 5, 2009 in conjunction with the Port of Bellingham's Holiday Fest. Special thanks go to Bob Kehoe for this grand idea! Everyone is welcome to decorate their boats and be included in this fun festive holiday event. We want to get lots of boats participating this year, so tell your neighbors and your boating friends! All clubs and boaters are welcome to participate! In order to join in the competition your boat you will need to be present in each of the scheduled parades. This year the parade route will proceed past Boulevard Park and the

Bellingham Cruise Terminal and will end with a route through the East entrance of Squilicum Harbor over to Gate 12 passing by all the harbor side restaurants. This will provide our community two nights and many options for viewing this event.

Registration for the parade will be on Friday and Saturday from 3:30 to 5:00 PM. In order to participate for an award one will need to register your boat on Friday and receive a number. There is no registration fee. Boats away will be at 1800 on Friday to accommodate the Alaska Ferry scheduled departure at 1800 from the Bellingham Cruise Terminal. On Saturday boats away will be at 1730 our regular scheduled time. Judging will be done on both Friday night and Saturday night accounting for all of those boats participating in the competition. There will be plaques given for Lighted Boat of the Year, Community Spirit Award, and Novas Grand Prize for those participating in the Lighted Boat Parade for the first time.

Our BYC's Friday at 5:00PM will offer great appetizers and libations for those who participate after the parade on Friday. Saturday night we will complete the parade, and awards will be issued during our annual offering of soup, chili and bread for all participants at the Bellingham Yacht Club. Get out that special receipt, who knows maybe there will be a few awards for that as well. Now get out there, tell your friends and decorate your boat! Let the Parade Begin!

Of course, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call on me. I am looking forward to serving you and our club in the coming year.

Fair Winds ~ Calm Seas!

Jody K Erickson.
Fleet Captain

NOVEMBER 2009 RBAW NEWS



Starting in September 2009 a five dollar (\$5) fee was automatically added to the cost of vehicle license tabs. This fee is to help support State Parks and does not go to the State General Fund but direct to State Parks. This fee is considered a donation and motorist have the option to "opt-out" and not pay the fee. Boaters are encouraged not to "opt-out". RBAW support this fee and recommends motorists not to "opt out".

Boaters Urged to Comment on Proposed NOAA Restrictions

If you've been watching the local news lately, you've heard that new restrictions are being considered to keep the Northwest's whale population from allegedly being harmed by boaters, fishermen, kayakers and whale-watching tourists. Representatives of these groups have turned out in force to oppose a federal NOAA plan to protect killer whales by closing off 6.2 square miles of water off San Juan Island each year.

RBAW agrees that saving the Orca whales is necessary and worth doing. We however are unanimously opposed to the regulations and restrictions being proposed by NOAA.

State Budget

(The final budgets were not kind to boaters. There are some silver linings, but the clouds are very dark. The Recreation Resource Account (Boater Gas Tax Refund Account) was used to fund State Parks, as was the NOVA (Off Road Vehicle Recreation) account. Combined, that was just under \$19.4 million □ of which just over \$9.8 million was boater funds. In return, boaters received nothing of immediate value. Clearly this was a raid on our Boater Gas Tax Refund Account.

(The barely silver linings: First, with the Recreation Resource Account funds (gas tax refund acct.) going to State Parks and not the general fund, and being credited for the maintenance and operation of the marine and waterfront parks, these funds will probably still count for federal purposes in determining our federal allocations for our State Boating Programs. The second barely silver lining: Legislators are bothered that boaters were not treated well, and want to try and fix things □ although that is only future good will, and not an immediate good deed.

PHRF UPDATE

We have exciting news at PHRF NW! Previously, the high cost of processing credit card payments prevented PHRF from offering this as a payment option. PHRF NW had elected to keep the membership fees low and accept only checks for payments. This has changed! In response to the membership's requests, we found a way to make this work; you can now join or renew your membership via our website. No more looking for the dusty checkbook, digging for a stamp and remembering to put it in the mail. We have made it much simpler for members. Please check us out our new website at www.phrf-nw.org. The 2010 annual dues notices will be mailed in mid November. We look forward to being able to continue serving you!

Thanks from everyone at PHRF NW for your continuing support!

Next month: updates, ratings and appeals-how it all works.

Neil Bennett,
PHRF-NW Handicapper: BYC/CYC-B

CAPTAINS LICENSING RETURNS TO BYC

Capt. Richard Rodriguez has announced that he will conduct courses for the seventh year in Bellingham. This year's course will begin January 4, 2010. The past six years Rodriguez has qualified hundreds of Coast Guard Masters (Captains) in the San Juans. Graduates are working in a variety of positions.

Hundreds of Zenith Maritime graduates operate vessels throughout the world and received their licenses through our approved training as an alternative to stressful Coast Guard Examinations.

Captain Richard Rodriguez has been the primary Vessel Assist Responder in the San Juans for a number of years and brings real world situations to the classroom. He works professionally over 150 days a year in local waters.

This year's course will be held on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings from 5:30 pm - 9:30 pm. Jan. 4 - Feb. 24, 2010 in the Ward Room.

A number of BYC members have earned their Captain's Licenses with Capt. Rodriguez. BYC Members qualify for a 20% discount off the \$1,300 tuition.

You can find out more about the becoming a Licensed Captain by contacting Capt. Rodriguez at CaptRodriguez@ZentihMaritime.com or 360-531-0698.

REMEMBER TO CHECK THE BYC WEBSITE FOR NEWS AND UPDATES:

[BYC Website Homepage](#)
[Local Notice to Mariners, District 13](#)
[Lat/Long distance calculator](#)

THIS MONTH'S CALENDARS

(Non-BYC races not shown)

November Events			
11/14	Saturday	Awards Banquet	BYC
11/15	Sunday	Champagne Brunch	BYC
11/19	Thursday	Board Meeting	BYC
11/25	Wednesday	Tom & Jerry Party	BYC
December Events			
12/4	Friday	Lighted Boat Parade	BYC
12/5	Saturday	Lighted Boat Parade, part II	BYC
12/17	Thursday	Board Meeting	BYC
12/31	Thursday	New Year's Eve party	BYC

2008-2009 BYC Officers and Board

Commodore *Pete Foti*; Vice Commodore *Michelle Hurst*; Rear Commodore *Troy Curran*; Fleet Captain; *Jodi Erickson*;
Immediate Past Commodore *Terry Robertson*; Secretary *Jodi Erickson*. Trustees, **1st Year Trustees:** John Van
Haalen, Jonathan Knowles, Gerri Rae Kersey, Dick Grimshaw; **2nd Year Trustees:** *John Gargett, Jane Sylvester,*
Missy Steffen, Mike Allsop

Past Commodores – IOBG

President *Steve Ross*, Vice President *Dick Johnson*, Secretary *Karen Callery*. Meet Quarterly.

The BYC Jib Sheet

Editors: *Joe Carpenter/Jim Langei*

Regular Contributors: *Pete Foti, John Gargett,*
Michele Hurst, Neil Bennett, Jodi Erickson, Steven Kersey

THIS MONTH'S FEATURED ADVERTISERS

WEST COAST MARINE SERVICES is the place to go for all your sales, parts, and award winning service for Honda Marine, Evinrude, Johnson, Volvo Penta, MerCruiser, and OMC Cobra. Their certified technicians will quickly get you back on the water. Also offering Wooldridge aluminum boats, built in the Northwest, to handle northwest waters from here to Alaska. Since the fire, they are temporarily serving you out of the Colony Wharf boatyard complex at 1000 "C" St, Building L. Phone (360) 676-8020.

SQUALICUM MARINE is a first class shop making top-notch canvas products of all kinds from flybridge covers to dodgers to Biminis, from camper backs to vent covers, with or without windows, including supporting structures if required. And they build seat cushions and fabricate and install headliners too! Tim Mumford and his team of skilled experts have the space, the tools, and the experience to do the job on time and at reasonable cost, the enthusiasm to do it right, and the ethics to stand behind their work with integrity. See Tim and his team at 712 Coho Way or call 733-4353.



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