



## BELLINGHAM YACHT CLUB

# The Jib Sheet

December 2009

Volume 87 #12

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### THE COMMODORE'S COLUMN

Although it seems like only a couple weeks, a whole month has gone by since my last article. I guess that is because there has been so much going on and everyone has been so busy. Speaking of which, how about that Champagne Brunch - was that great or what! Next time you see Missy Steffen or Jane Sylvester, be sure to let them know how good it was and that you would like to see more of these activities.

The Renovation Committees have been hard at work on plans and details. Some bids have started coming in, and a majority of them have actually been below estimates, thanks to the efforts of Mike Allsop.

The club office has seen a slight overhaul the last week. Wow, what a difference that makes. Thanks to Jody Erickson, who rolled up her sleeves, cleaned, moved furniture, rearranged, and painted the whole office. What a treat it is now to go work there, so much more pleasant! Thanks Jody.

The Lighted Boat Parade is fast approaching. Make sure you save both nights free and decorate your boat. The parade will be two nights this year, Dec 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, with a different

parade route that will take us past all the harbor restaurants giving the folks on the beach and in the restaurants a front row seat to all the lights and decorations we can fit on our boats! And, thanks to Bob Kehoe, who has been beating the streets, and beating up local businesses for prizes for the parade. Be sure to join us on Saturday night at the club after the parade where there will be a drawing for a lot of terrific prizes, including haul outs, dinners, gift certificates and more.

I would like to thank all the people who have helped to make all the events and activities a success. This is what makes this club so great. Thanks again.

Pete Foti,  
Commodore

**PS. Don't forget to pay your dues!**

### **MEMBER RECOGNITION:**

As you walk up to the club entrance you've no doubt noticed how nice the landscaping looks. You can thank Bob & Carol Snowball for that. I remember on the day of the Commodore's Ball while getting things set up Carol was outside on her hands and knees cleaning up the landscaping--now that's dedication! Not only do they take care of the club landscaping, but they are also the Committee Boat for the spring and summer sail races as well. Next time you see them be sure to thank them for all their hard work and how much we all appreciate what they do.

Pete Foti,  
Commodore

### **SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:**

We will be holding a special membership meeting on Wednesday, Dec 9<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm to vote on the club renovation. The first meeting was for informational purposes to show you a plan, give some basic numbers, and get your feedback. Now that we have had time to get your comments and get some hard numbers we would like to present them to you and get your vote. It is all looking good so far. I look forward to seeing you on Wed Dec 9<sup>th</sup>.

Pete Foti,  
Commodore

## **BYC FY209 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND FY10 BUDGET:**

This year, because the Club is about to renovate the lounge and bar involving a substantial increase in long term debt, we feel we would like to share with the membership the detailed financial statements in order to give members a better idea as to how we allocate and spend the Club's income. Attached is a supplement to this Jib Sheet that provides full details of the final FY09 financial statements and Board approved FY10 budget, along with a short commentary.

Very briefly the Club has weathered year of unexpected events - a down turn in the economy, a change in tenancy (involving a loss of revenue and kitchen repairs and upgrade) and a new mark boat. This was on top of an \$84,000 fire suppression system that we paid for in cash in FY08. As a result, FY09 resulted in a net loss to the Club of just over \$24,000. On the positive side our Clubhouse mortgage was reduced by a further \$22,000, the Learn to Sail program was significantly expanded (although we still made a loss), the Sailing Fleet covered its costs, and social programs expanded in both scale and quality. All this has been done on membership dues that are lower than most in the region for a Club of this type and size.

The FY10 budget is a conservative one; it takes into account improved income flows from the Learn to Sail Program; more efficient bar operations; and the financial implications (estimated \$17,330 interest charges) relating to the proposed loan for lounge/bar renovations. New social events will be encouraged, and once found to be successful will be expected to fully recoup their costs. Committee chairs will work within their budgets. The bar currently carries a lot of overhead for other programs. This year we will more accurately charge other events. This should result in substantial improvement in bar net profit, but conversely higher event costs. The bottom line of Net Income will not change much. For FY10 the latter is projected at \$5,993.

Dick Grimshaw,  
Assistant Treasurer"

## **FLEET CAPTAIN'S REPORT:**

I would like to personally thank the Halloween Committee, comprised of Geri Rae and Steve Kersey as well as Jane and Bob Simica, Marsha and Bob Riek, Susie and Gordon Hilaski as well as Matt Dennis and Judy Mickel Griffin for their efforts on a great Halloween Party. Many of these volunteers showed up after the Halloween party to help clean up. Not only did they offer a hand cleaning up the Halloween Party decorations they also lent a hand cleaning up all the flowers from the Commodores Ball. Whew, that sure saved me lots of trips down to the basement. You folks Rock! Thanks again for all of your efforts!

The Sailing Awards Banquet had 70 + attendees and the food was a big hit thanks to the special efforts of the Sailing Awards Committee, comprised of many of the above named committee members. These volunteers put together all of the food for this banquet, which turned out to be a very gourmet affair. Thanks to all of them for making this event a very

special one for our sailors and their crews. Everyone appreciated their efforts and had a wonderful time.

If you missed out on the Champagne Brunch, you missed a wonderful event. This event sold out quickly and was a big success. The BYC served champagne and "Hill Top/ Windows by the Bay" served up a wonderful brunch; everyone had a wonderful time. Special thanks go to Geri Rae Kersey, Terry Tavelli, Missy Steffen and Jane Sylvester for their efforts in making this event a special one.

The BYC Yacht Club office downstairs got a face lift last week, and is looking really nice! Commodore Foti and Jamie picked out the colors and Judy Mickel Griffin and I made the efforts to get the paint on the walls. The office is organized, clean and looking good! Now for the challenge of keeping it that way!

December 2009 will bring a busy month this year. The lighted Boat Parade will offer participants two nights to show off their decorated boats. The Parade will be both nights, Friday December 4<sup>th</sup> and Saturday December 5<sup>th</sup>. Friday December 4<sup>th</sup> is a Friday at 5 PM at the BYC and we have invited our local parade participants to bring their favorite dish and share the camaraderie of the holidays with us. Saturday night the BYC will provide their annual offering of Soups, Chili and an assortment of hot breads to all of our membership and participants of the Lighted Boat Parade. Come out and support this event and our Sink the Dinghy fund. This holiday event offers us a chance to experience some great holiday spirit as well as an opportunity to meet other boaters within our community. This event is open to all local boaters and should be a fun time for all. Be sure to come and join in on the fun!

Registration for the event is Friday and Saturday at the BYC from 3:30 to 5:00. Boats away on Friday will be at 1800 and on Saturday at 1730. You must participate both nights to win an award for your lighted boat. There are also a good number of great items that will be put in a drawing for all boating participants. Special thanks go to Bob Kehoe for rounding up these special items. Great job Bob! Vice Commodore Michele Hurst and her fiancé' Neil Bennett will lead the Parade both nights on their 32' Freedom, sailboat "Garufa", with our local Fire Belle Bringing up the rear. Our parade route this year will pass by Boulevard Park, the Bellingham Ferry Terminal and make a pass through the Eastern entrance of Squilicum Harbor; passing by all of our local harbor side restaurants. This will provide our local bistros with a beautiful venue and many places for our local community to view this event. So, get out there and decorate your boat and let the parade begin!

Our New Years Eve party is scheduled for Thursday December 31, 2009. Be sure to purchase your ticket early so you do not miss out on the fun! Tickets will be \$15.00 P/P, the same as last year. Bob Kehoe will be cooking up some tasty steaks and fixings. Come bring in the New Year with your fellow boaters and club members. Here is to a very prosperous and safe 2010 boating season!

For those of you who love, love, love the Bus to the Boat Show, it is scheduled for Saturday January 30, 2010 and the sign up sheet is at the bar! You can pay and sign up there,

or you can call me 223-2119 or email me at [jody.erickson77@yahoo.com](mailto:jody.erickson77@yahoo.com) and I will get you on the list. The cost this year is \$45.00 P/P, plus a generous tip for our bus driver! There are only 52 seats available, so don't delay if you want to get on the bus! (48 seats left so far.) Of course, we will be offering delicious libations and beverages down and back, plus your ticket to get into both "On the Water" and the "Inside Boat Show", so get your name in soon! Terry Tavelli has graciously offered once again to help me bartend this event, so away we go! Get on the Bus!!

There is a committee meeting scheduled for January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 6:00 PM for the Bus to the Boat Show Committee. If you are interested in helping, we certainly would be glad to have you; please come and join the fun! Everyone is welcome!

Here is to a very prosperous 2010, and all of the boating activities we can handle!  
Get out there on the water!

Fair Winds ~ Calm Seas in 2010

Jodi Erickson,  
Fleet Captain

**ALL ARE WELCOME...**

### **Etchells Fleet 16 Open House and Meeting, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

**Location:** Knowles Home, 2701 Cornwall Ave (NW Corner of Cornwall Ave & N Park Dr)

5:30 PM - 7:00 PM: Social hour, Free Pizza and BYOB Libations

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Trophy Presentations & Fleet Business

### **Bellingham Bay Etchells Fleet 2009 Wrap-up**

Even with the economic downturn that loomed over 2009, the Bellingham Etchells Fleet had strong numbers with 9 boats on starting line. Two sat the season out, Randy Nulle "Voodoo" (USA 145) and Hal Theisen "Beauzeau" (USA 190), however, John Pedlow's bright new shinny hull, "Hurrah" (USA 1149), brought the fleet up to 11 boats. Why mention 11 boats? Well numbers are very important, especially since the upcoming 2010 racing season is the qualifying year for the 2011 Etchells Worlds in San Diego. Each fleet is allowed to send 22% of their fleet to a Worlds Championship. With only 11 boats, we are allowed to send 2 teams from Bellingham. But... if we can find 3 new owners, then with 14 boats we can send 3 teams! Believe me; the fleet is strong and competitive, and everyone is hungry for a Worlds spot. So, if you find yourself being "stalked" by some Etchells sailors in some dimly lit parking lot, it's because they are looking to recruit new members.

The Etchells 2009 season wrapped up with the unfortunate outcome the (Non) PITCH Regatta. The Fleet was poised to race, but ultimately united in agreement with the Race Committee decision to abandon racing for safety concerns. Although no racing took place, the fleet suffered damages in the farouche winds and turbulent waters just getting to the race course on Day 1. Aside from the rattled nerves broken spirits, John Pedlow (USA 1149) and Stig Osterberg (USA 288) visiting from Port Townsend lost halyards through their masts, Jon Knowles "Shameless" (USA 899) found out quickly after 2 waves over the bow, that recent

repairs on his bilge pump were inadequate for the conditions and Dave Merrick "Foibles (USA 278) had an unfortunate encounter with Cold Storage Pier and snapped his rig at the deck. Now all was lost. The camaraderie and socializing amongst the fellow Etchells and PITCH racers made it a notable event.

Even without PITCH results, the Etchells fleet was able to complete 32 races in 2009 season. The favorable conditions at the Bellingham Bay Etchells Regatta in June attributed 10 races on the season. However, the success of pulling off these numbers goes to the outstanding and professional efforts of Michelle Bodtke and the BYC Race Committee. Michelle and her crew were able to accommodate the fleet's request to run 2 short course races over one long one on Wednesdays' Nights, when wind and daylight permitted. *(Typically, with the Etchells one-design in tight racing are so equal so equal that outcome of a race it almost determined by the first weather leg. Longer courses end up becoming parades!)*. We had 6 double headers nights! Thanks Michelle.

Along with "Double Headers", the Etchells fleet in 2009 made By-Law changes to the method of scoring. Previously, all Series counted equally towards the season. So for example, a 10 race Etchells Regatta carried the same weight as a light wind Spring Series with only 2 races. Now, the season is flattened out so every race counts individually towards the championship standings. We also added a 20% throw-out to accommodate more flexibility with personal schedules. So now, missing a race in more than one series will not knock you out of contention for Season Champion.

And, now the drum rolls please... The 2009 Bellingham Bay Etchells Fleet Champion and Perpetual Trophy goes to "Callipygian" (USA 556) with skipper Dave Steffan, middle man Rex Broward and newly acquired bow man Mike Poulos.

#### 2009 Bellingham Bay Etchells Fleet Results

Boat	Sail #	Skipper	Score
Callipygian	USA 556	Dave Steffan	43
Attitude	USA 570	Pete Ambrose	72
Toast	USA 385	Gary Baker	79
Hurrah	USA 1149	John Pedlow	104
The Blue Boat	USA 514	Scott Wilson	105
Shameless	USA 899	Jon Knowles	112
Five-Five-Two	USA 552	Tom Malone	156
Foibles	USA 307	Dave Merrick	203
Flash	USA 388	Scott Stroh	219

In spite of the letdown from PITCH, 2009 was a phenomenal year for the Etchells Fleet. The racing was great, the competition was strong and companionship was inspiring. The "old" guards are still dominating the top positions; however, the new comers are narrowing the gap.



The Bellingham Bay Etchells Fleet is always welcoming new members (owners, skippers and crew). We work on a premise of openness and sharing knowledge and skills in order to develop and grow a strong fleet. All levels of sailors are encouraged to join.

Jonathan "Jon" Knowles,  
Fleet 16 Captain  
[FleetCaptain@EtchellsFleet16.org](mailto:FleetCaptain@EtchellsFleet16.org)  
[www.EtchellsFleet16.org](http://www.EtchellsFleet16.org)

### **SINK THE DINGHY UPDATE:**

**Sink the Dinghy 2009 - Give a man a fish; you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish; you feed him for a lifetime....**

This quote is attributed to Lao Tzu, the founder of Taoism, and was made sometime between the 4th and 6th century BC. Yet here at the Bellingham Yacht Club these words describe our 2009 Sink the Dinghy Campaign.

Since Sink the Dinghy started in 2002 our generousities, and others' throughout Whatcom County, have made it possible to redeem lives from addiction, tragedy and economic turmoil. But once those chains are broken, what does the future hold for those who graduate from our regions help programs, especially in these tough economic times with unemployment still on the rise? We know that enrollment in technical and community colleges is going up which means that scholarships and grants are harder to come by. Our goal this year is, under the supervision of our Sink the Dinghy Committee and BTC, to create a scholarship fund to enable a graduate from one of the area's programs like the Lighthouse Mission to successfully enter and complete the Fisheries Technology program at Bellingham Technical College. Our goal is to provide such a graduate, who has overcome so much, hope and a new vocation for the future. This is a wonderful connection between the Bellingham Yacht Club and our Bellingham Community and we hope that you will give generously. So please consider supporting the Sink the Dinghy campaign this year by making a contribution either in cash at the club, or with:

**Check Donations** - You can mail a check to the Bellingham Yacht Club, 2625 Harbor Loop, Bellingham, WA, 98225. If you would like to receive a tax deduction please make your check out to "BTC" with "Sink the Dinghy Fund" on the comment line. (We will keep your check and present it along with all others and the Clubs check in January) If you are not worried about a tax deduction please make your check out to "BYC" and put on the comment line "Sink the Dinghy Fund". (We will then combine all such checks into a single check)

**On-Line Donations** - You can securely make donations to the Sink the Dinghy fund anywhere you have access to the Internet and paying securely with PayPal by clicking on this link: <http://www.sinkthedinghy.org/id55.html>.

So to all who have contributed thank you. To those who will contribute, thank you. To those who cannot contribute, thank you. And regardless if you have only contributed a dollar, a thousand dollars or no dollars, please watch for the announcement of the January 2010 presentation date where we will literally "Teach a Man To Fish".

Thank you from your 2009 BYC Sink the Dinghy Committee

John Gargett, Meredith Ross, Fr. Kevin Allen, Matt Dennis

**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)

<b>December Events</b>			
12/4	Friday	Lighted Boat Parade/F@5	BYC
12/5	Saturday	Lighted Boat Parade, part II	BYC
12/9	Wednesday	Clubhouse renovation meeting	BYC
12/17	Thursday	Board Meeting	BYC
12/18	Friday	F@5	BYC
12/31	Thursday	New Year's Eve party	BYC
<b>January Events</b>			
1/1	Friday	F@5	BYC
1/15	Friday	F@5	BYC
1/21	Thursday	Board Meeting	BYC
1/30	Saturday	Seattle Boat Show Bus Trip	BYC to SEATTLE and back

**2009-2010 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, 1<sup>st</sup> Year Trustees: John Van Haalen, Jonathan Knowles, Gerri Rae Kersey, Dick Grimshaw; 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

Gordon Lavigueure's BELLINGHAM MARINE REPAIR is well-known for virtually all marine work, major or minor! He and crew have undertaken projects from the smallest to the largest and they even build new boats, and completely rebuild boats that have been sunk or involved in fires into gorgeous, like-new yachts. Take this experience and skill and you have the reasons that owners select Bellingham Marine Repair for challenging jobs when "just like the factory" improvements or installations are desired! See for yourself: call this company at 734-6326 or stop in at the rear of 907 West Holly.

Top to Bottom Inc.: The most qualified in the harbor at what they do! The crew of hard-working divers, detailers, and other pros reporting to BYC Member Roger Schjelderup will buff, wax, dive, bottom paint, varnish, scrub, paint and make repairs to your cherished boat, and (Heaven forbid) even salvage it if it sinks, or tow it, if needed. Unlike "transients" claiming to do the same work, Top to Bottom gets it done right honestly and completely and they stand behind each and every job. Call Roger at Top to Bottom, 671-7022; they're in the Harbor Mall.