



# The Jib Sheet

Celebrating yachting since 1925

Volume 88 #2

## COMMODORE'S COLUMN:

I would really like to thank everyone that showed up for the demolition work parties. We have had 3 work parties in January and with the turnout we have had, the club is GUTTED! I mean there is NOTHING left—ceiling tiles are gone, drywall vanished, walls disappeared, bar took a road trip, carpet and sub-floor were ripped up and will never be walked on again. We hauled 6 big dump trailers out of here. It was amazing how hard everyone worked. There was a lot of sweat, a fair amount of blisters, and fortunately very little or no blood. We were able to get this work done for the paltry sum of pizza and beer. What a bargain! This has saved the club thousands of dollars. With everyone's efforts, this project so far, is on time and on budget. Keep up the good work and thanks again to everyone who has helped.

Let's not forget the club is still having Friday's @ Five. We're having a Super Bowl party and Chili Cook-off on February 7<sup>th</sup> and a Sunday Brunch on Feb 21<sup>st</sup>. Things are still going on so come on down (the stairs—to the Ward Room, we mean) and have some fun with your fellow club members.

Pete Foti,  
Commodore

## MEMBER RECOGNITION:

I would like to recognize Terry Tavelli for his efforts. Terry has put a huge amount of time and effort into the renovation project. Not only behind the scenes with a lot of organizing and keeping track of stuff, but also a lot of physical labor. He's been at demolition parties, and also has been at the club during the day removing the ceiling and insulation over the bar and entrance—a very dirty and nasty job. Terry is also on the technology and communication committee plus all the other things he does for the club. The board voted that Terry needs to remain unemployed for the next couple of months, or at least until the remodel is done! Next time you see Terry, tell him how much you appreciate his hard work.

Pete Foti,  
Commodore

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

Gosh I cannot believe it is February already! This year is speeding by and our remodel will be complete before we know it. I was glad to see everyone at the last Friday @ Five. Who says downstairs is not a good meeting place in a pinch. It makes me remember when we used to meet downstairs, and the first series of Friday's Five. Those were the days, and that history is still memorable to me! I am sure some of you remember my first Friday @ Five my memorable trip to La Paz.....and the Mexican Fiesta....Corona's an all. Whew that was expensive!

### **Opening Day of Boating:**

**Mark your Calendars!**

**Opening Day of Boating**

**Saturday, May 1, 2010.**

The theme of this years Opening Day of Boating is "**Moonshiners, Rumrunners, and Teetotalers**" Prohibition here we come! I would like to thank Andy and Kathy Brown as well as Jamie and Commodore Foti for attending the Opening Day of Boating committee meeting. We are working on the details and hope to have a wonderful event planned for May 1, 2010. We hope to have a schedule of events for you very soon! This event will be here before we know it! If you would like to help, please contact me by cell 360-223-2119 or email [jody.erickson77@yahoo.com](mailto:jody.erickson77@yahoo.com) everyone is welcome to help, and we can always use the help!

Fair Winds ~ Calm Seas in 2010

Jody Erickson,  
Fleet Captain

## **SAVE THE DATE!**

Saturday, Apr. 17, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Boating for Women by Women** presented by Bellingham Sail & Power Squadron at Squalicum Yacht Club. See [www.bellingham-usps.org](http://www.bellingham-usps.org) for details.

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**THE 2010 AMERICA'S CUP SIMULATION RACE:**

The Bellingham Yacht Club has challenged the Corinthian Yacht Club to an America's Cup Simulation Race. The race will be between a 50 inch radio controlled Catamaran sailing against a 50 inch radio controlled Trimaran.

The Bellingham Yacht Club has extended to the CYC the courtesy of choosing which boat they want to skipper as the yacht defending the honor of the CYC. The two boats have never been sailed together before, so, just as in the full size cup races; no one knows which will be the faster boat. Each boat is 50 inches long and 48 inches wide with 6-1/2 foot masts and identical sail areas. Is a cat faster or a tri???

The Match Races will be held at the guest dock right in front of the Bellingham Yacht Club, Sunday, February 7, starting at 1 pm. This date is one day before the America's Cup challenge races in Valencia, Spain. All who are interested in model boat sailing are invited to join in the excitement of this Challenge Series. It may be an indication of the outcome of the America's Cup Challenge that will follow in Spain.

Come watch this Prediction Challenge Match, and then try out the controls on a variety of radio controlled sailboats that will be available for everyone to sail. Youth sailors welcome. Members who have RC model sailboats are invited to bring their boats.

Depending on the weather, we might have some informal competition. Maybe this will be the start of a regular radio controlled model sailing program at BYC and other clubs. We could

use some volunteer help with race planning and logistics, mark setting, chase boat, race starting countdown, etc. Please contact Will Lesh (966-7245 or email [fun@modelsailboat.com](mailto:fun@modelsailboat.com)). Hope you can make it for this fun event.

## ORGANIZATION AND RULES

The challenge races will be raced between the Seattle Yacht Club and BYC as well as the Corinthian Yacht Club and the BYC with a 50 inch Catamaran and a 50 inch Trimaran.

Racing Rules for sailing model radio control sailboats are essentially the same as for racing large sailboats. The major rule difference is when approaching a mark. An inside overlap is established when the boat closer to the mark is four boat lengths from the mark as opposed to two boat lengths for full sized boats. All of the other right of way rules are technically the same. However, there are some differences that can be introduced in the interest of keeping competitive events relaxed and fun for everyone, at the same time as maintaining a serious competition.

For instance, in rounding marks, it is very difficult at a distance of several hundred feet to tell if a boat has touched a mark or rounded clear of the mark. In this race we will not penalize a boat for touching a mark in rounding. Inevitably, a boat is slowed down if it touches a mark and this is enough of a penalty. As long as all of the hulls of a boat round on the correct side, it is free to continue the race.

### **Protests:**

Protests will be limited to any egregious rule violations that seem to be intentional on the part of a skipper trying to take an unfair advantage by ignoring the rules. If two boats happen to touch despite the best efforts of each skipper, especially of the burdened skipper, the race will be sailed on as though no incident has occurred. The real point is to find out which boat is faster when sailed on an even basis by two excellent sailors racing for the glory of their clubs.

The course will be determined at the time of the race depending on wind conditions. The challenge regatta will be a series of races, best 3 out of 5, if weather conditions are comfortable. If ice is forming on the rigging and the wind is howling, the match may be shortened to one race. Winds over 18 mph may require the match to be postponed or rescheduled.

In addition to the Match Race scheduled at the BYC for Feb. 7th at 1:00 pm, the BYC would like to ask each family participating to bring a pot luck item to share after the race at the BYC. It will be a great time to get together for some fun and excitement. This will also help our Youth Sailors understand the importance of the America's Cup Races and introduce them to the boats that will take part in the upcoming America's Cup Challenge.

## **America's Cup Viewing?**

We are looking to schedule a viewing for the upcoming Americas Cup Challenge. Please watch your email, as we will put out the word through Steve Moore. This of course, will depend on the time the event is to be run. It is our hope, to have it live or possibly watch a replay of this event on the TV in our downstairs area. Details will be forth coming soon!

## **THE 2010 AMERICA'S CUP PREDICTION RACE:**

The America's Cup Challenge is almost here, and will start February 8, 2010. This year, America's Cup challenge races will be held in Valencia, Spain, where the 90 foot Trimaran, BMW/Oracle, built in Washington State, will race against the 90 foot Swiss Catamaran, Alinghi, for the America's Cup Trophy.

Prior to this challenge, Will Lesh an active BYC member has organized an America's Cup Prediction Race, a Model Yacht Challenge Match Race between the SYC (Seattle Yacht Club) and the BYC, as well as a match between our local CYC (Corinthian Yacht Club) and the BYC. He has graciously offered the use of his radio controlled boats for both matches, and has provided the effort to organize this event. This should be a fun event for all of our members and youth sailors. Please see below, the details for these fun events!

Announcing the 2010 America's Cup Prediction Race, a Model Yacht Challenge Match Race between the Bellingham Yacht Club and the Seattle Yacht Club, racing a 50 inch radio controlled Trimaran against a 50 inch radio controlled Catamaran. To be held at the Seattle Yacht Club main pier at 10:30 am on Saturday, February 6, two days before the America's Cup challenge races in Valencia, Spain, where the 90 foot Trimaran, BMW/Oracle, built in Washington State, will race against the 90 foot Swiss Catamaran, Alinghi, for the America's Cup Trophy. Come watch the Prediction Challenge Match, and then try out the controls on a variety of radio controlled sailboats that will be available for everyone to sail. The Seattle Yacht Club would welcome any Bellingham Yacht Club members who want to come down for the event. It might tie in nicely with visiting the boat show (the last day of the boat show is February 6).

Contact either Allan Van Ness (Seattle Yacht Club Lifetime Member) or Will Lesh (Bellingham Yacht Club Member and ex-commodore of the Princeton University Yacht Club). We need some volunteers to help with race committee, starting countdown, chase boat, mark setting, gate opening and planning. Contact Will Lesh (360-966-7245, [fun@modelsailboat.com](mailto:fun@modelsailboat.com)), or Allan Van Ness (425-485-3587, [van.ness@verizon.net](mailto:van.ness@verizon.net))

Hope you can make it for this fun event. Let's get sailing!

## **SPECIAL THANKS:**

I would like to thank all those that contributed to this months Jib Sheet and committee meetings. Your efforts are wonderful and the membership thanks you! Keep up the good work,

we certainly appreciate it! You are what make the Bellingham Yacht Club one of the strongest yacht clubs in the Pacific Northwest.

Here is to a very prosperous 2010, and all of the boating activities we can handle! Get out there on the water and enjoy what our club has to offer.

Don Mierzeski, this year's **Sail Fleet Captain**, recently held a successful meeting regarding the 2010 race season. He is bringing together the sail fleet in hopes of building a strong, well organized program. We hope this year's race season will be one of the best! Don has created a summary article for this month's Jib Sheet that outlines his vision for the up coming season. Please join in on the fun and let's build our race program to be one of the strongest in the Pacific Northwest.

Jody K. Erickson,  
Bellingham Yacht Club  
Fleet Captain

### **SAIL FLEET CAPTAIN UPDATE:**

February was a pretty active month for the BYC Sailing Fleet considering that racing is still a couple of months away. On January 12<sup>th</sup>, a group of over 25 sailors met outside of the BYC at a local watering hole to discuss concerns both from last season and ones already facing this season. Specifically, the issue of the best way to communicate the going's on to boat crew skippers, crew and people potentially interested in racing this year was discussed. Also discussed was this season's potential lack of permanent PRO, race fee's and the potentially sticky issue of crew cards. It was a good solid meeting with suggestion and feedback causing me to recognize just what a challenge organizing a racing program that everyone will enjoy yet meet the standards for competitive high quality racing that distinguishes the BYC.

I encouraged all sailors to add themselves to the Yahoo Discussion Group established I believe by Ray Poorman some time ago but has been under utilized in the past at:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bycsailfleet/join>

This forum I see as value to give those who are participating in BYC events who might not receive the official club e-mails a heads up as to what is going on. And, it gives BYC sailors an opportunity to discuss what is happening both before and after races which I think will greatly improve how sailors communicate with one another on the race course - at least that is my hope. At the time of the meeting, I was still searching for an individual to provide the valuable service of PRO to the Wednesday night races. I am happy to announce that Dan Stuart, who loyally ran the mark boat last year, has stepped up. Because Dan is new, I informed the sailors of a change to the race committee commitment that all sailors must fulfill. That is each boat, will have a obligation week where instead of sailing on Wednesday night, the skipper and at least 2



crew from the boat will assist the race committee. I think this will go a long way to improve the communication between the R/C and sailors as well as give both groups appreciation and understanding for the others. That is my hope at least, we'll see how it works out. At the BYC Board Meeting the board approved funding to get our new Wednesday night PRO the training he will need. Thanks again Dan!

We're going to be building a new "Course Board" that hopefully everyone can read from a distance to alleviate the need for sailors to get in the way of others starting to read it and just because we need it. The board approved the funding of the new board in spite of the tight finances with the remodel. Several people approached me after the meeting to help in its construction and I did not get all of your names. If you want to help building this new course board please call me at (360) 739 1441 or e-mail me at: [bycsailfleet-owner@yahoogroups.com](mailto:bycsailfleet-owner@yahoogroups.com)

At the BYC Board meeting on 1/21, I informed the board of my proposal to simply add \$1 / crew member to the race packet fees rather than \$10/crew member. The Board decided that as crew cards are needed, we will be including as many as skippers need with the race packet at NO additional fee. Even better than what I proposed - Go Board!

The season is not far away so I encourage everyone to start gearing up. Shirker is planning on being out after I work the first few series with the race committee assuming it does not sell before then and a nice J35 come my way. I will be e-mailing skippers a sign-up list so if you pick the early races you can get the obligation for R/C duty both out of the way early and help influence this season.

Comments? Feedback, let's hear it!

Don Mierzeski,  
BYC Sailfleet Captain

## **YOUTH FLEET REPORT: MOVIE NIGHT!**

BYC will also be scheduling a Movie night in February. Please watch for details regarding this youth event. We hope to have this either the 12th or the 26<sup>th</sup> of February. We will be putting out the word through Steve Moore very soon. Of course, if you have further questions or ideas on our Youth programs, please contact Gerri Rae Kersey our Youth Fleet / Programs Chairman at [Steve & Geri Kersey ; gerrirea@yahoo.com](mailto:gerrirea@yahoo.com)

Thank you! See you at the Club!

## FEBRUARY 2010 RBAW NEWS



### Some Hints for Clearing U.S.A. Customs During the Coming Cruising Season

Customs & Border Protection (CBP) has reported some boaters are using improper procedures in reporting to or clearing customs when returning from Canada.

Boaters who have the proper documents to clear by cell phone (i.e., I-68, NEXUS, or BR number) have been attempting to clear customs prior to entering US waters. The proper procedure is to ensure that you are in US waters, have a good cell signal, slow down, or better stop, and then call for clearance. Before calling, make certain everyone on board has the proper (required) documents (NEXUS or I-68, etc.) and have them *physically in hand*. Clearance should then take no more than 4-5 minutes.

There are only five **Designated Ports of Entry** for arrivals allowing in-person reporting: Friday Harbor, Roche Harbor, Point Roberts, Anacortes, and Port Angeles.

Some boaters have gone to ports other than a **Designated Port of Entry** and then requested customs clearance. This is an illegal procedure and could lead to penalties.

If you have questions contact CBP at 360/734-5463.

### **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)

February Events:			
2/5	Friday	F@5	BYC -- downstairs
2/6	Saturday	Model Yacht race BYC vs. SYC	Seattle Yacht Club main pier
2/7	Sunday	Superbowl Party	BYC -- downstairs
2/18	Thursday	Board Meeting	BYC
2/19	Friday	F@5	BYC -- downstairs



2/20	Saturday	Winter Shaw Island race	On the water
<b>March Events:</b>			
3/5	Friday	F@5	BYC -- downstairs
3/18	Thursday	Board Meeting	
3/19	Friday	F@5	BYC -- downstairs

2009-2010 BYC Officers and Board

Commodore *Pete Foti*; Vice Commodore *Michelle Hurst*; Rear Commodore *Troy Curran*; Fleet Captain; *Jody Erickson*;

Immediate Past Commodore *Terry Robertson*; Secretary *Jody 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.

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