



BELLINGHAM YACHT CLUB

The Jib Sheet

March 2009

Volume 87 #03

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COMMODORE'S COLUMN...

BYC is a club of many years and rich heritage. It is also a diverse club. Several groups of membership share the club, but in different ways. We have social members who do not actively own boats (or should I say, "between boats"), those who like the comfort of a power yacht, active racing sailors who thrive on the Wednesday Night and weekend races. We also have a very active training program for juniors and adults. And we have those members who have multiple reasons for membership. My hope is that we realize our differences but support each other in our love of the club.

I had one member make the comment to me, "I don't get it, I have not seen (that) member since racing started (referring to a racing skipper), seems all these racers do is show up for race season then they disappear when the seasons stops." I think I understand this situation. If you own a racing sailboat your focus of the club is the racing season. Everything else is nice, but not the reason for being a member. They want to race and that's it, and that's ok.

I've also heard, "All we do is eat and drink around here" Well, if you do not actively own a

boat, I can understand the attraction of being at the club around members who enjoy boating activity even though they may not be on the water at the time.

Myself, at this stage in my life and with my job responsibilities and schedule, I am leaning toward a Trawler. The last thing I want to do after a high pressure week is go sit on the front of a sailboat with green water running over the deck. No, I'd rather fire up the barbee in Inati Bay and relax.

There is strength in diversity. BYC is strong because we are diverse in our uses of the club. Whatever your affinity for BYC, please be tolerant of your yacht club brethren, even though they may look at the club through a different lens. We all share a common understanding of the boating life.

Terry Robertson,
Commodore
2008-2009

RACING/RACE COMMITTEE:

The BYC racing season is just around the corner, with a few weekend races in March and weekday races getting going in April. The Race Committee is looking for those that would like to help on the water - committee boat, mark boat and safety boat. I would like to personally invite all those interested to get involved. We have a great time and would love to have you. Training will be provided. If you have any interest at all, or have any questions, please contact me at Michele@nwecological.com or call me on my cell at 360.720.4155. You may also reach me at home in the evenings at 715.1020. I look forward to hearing from you.

Michele Bodtke,
BYC Principal Race Officer.

BYC YOUTH FLEET NEWS:

Last year's Bellingham Yacht Club youth sailing program was a tremendous success, and the 2009 summer season promises to be even better. Katie Stackpole (formerly Katie Bury until her marriage last summer) and Calla Ward, our two instructors from last year, will be teaching the BYC's 2009 summer sailing classes.

Katie will continue working as the program's senior instructor. Calla will teach classes and assume additional responsibilities as the BYC's intern program manager. The intern manager position allows Calla to fulfill requirements for her recreation management degree at WWU. In this role, she is responsible for helping with marketing, student enrollments, budgeting, and equipment maintenance.

Katie and Calla are US Sailing certified instructors, and Calla also has lifeguard certification. They compete on Western Washington University's women's sailing team, and have each served as the team's commodore. During their tenures as team commodore, the WWU

women's sailing team has risen to a national ranking, and is currently rated the best in the northwest!

Also returning to help teach BYC youth sailing is Jake Tiedemann. Jake was a very popular instructor during the 2007 season, and we are extremely happy to have him back. As a US Sailing certified instructor, he will teach spring season classes, and serve as a Tuesday night dinghy racing coach.

Several major youth sailing developments are pending during 2009 including relocation and upgrade of our docks, acquisition of more sailboats, the establishment of an "instructor in training" program so that we can grow future instructors from within our program, and the creation of a youth sailing team called Team BYC.

Importantly, based on input we received from parents, students, and our instructors last year, the BYC's 2009 summer class schedule will feature two new advanced sailing classes. The advanced class allows participants to learn the finer points of sail trim, seamanship, and racing. The addition of two advanced classes will reduce the number of basic and intermediate classes offered during the 2009 season.

This development is significant because if you want your child or grandchild to take basic or intermediate classes this summer, then you should enroll them as early as possible to make sure space is reserved for them. The BYC's 2009 youth sailing schedule will be publically released in mid March. If you want to enroll your child or grandchild in BYC youth sailing classes before the spring enrollment rush, then contact Steven Kersey, BYC Youth Fleet Captain, by e-mail to kevets1@earthlink.net, or call him at 360-969-0092. Online enrollment through the BYC website should be available starting early March.

The following information about the BYC youth sailing program will appear in soon-to-be released advertisements, brochures, and the BYC website: [BYC Website Homepage](#)

Bellingham was recently voted one of the five best places in the U.S. to sail by Sailing World magazine. Does your child or grandchild know how to sail?

The Bellingham Yacht Club (BYC) youth sailing program is a non-profit and self-supported community boating organization providing kid's ages 8 - 18 the opportunity to learn sailing from U.S. Sailing certified instructors.

Each BYC youth sailing class is Monday through Friday from 9:00 - 4:00, and features low student to instructor ratios. Sessions can be combined to create multi-week learning experiences. The cost for a single-session enrollment is \$169. Discounts for enrolling a student in two or more sessions are available. The enrollment fee covers instruction, boat usage and materials. Students enrolled in BYC youth sailing classes must demonstrate basic swimming ability to class instructors. The BYC's 2009 summer youth sailing program features the following sessions (additional weekend classes maybe offered):

Basic Sailing (2009 Summer Enrollment Limited to 60 Students):

No sailing or boating experience required. Learn to sail a basic boat in fair weather conditions through a combination of on-shore instruction, on the water practice, and plenty of fun and

games. Session 1: June 22 - 26, Session 2: June 29 - July 3, Session 3: July 13 - 17, Session 4: August 3 - 7, Session 5: August 17 - 21.

Intermediate Sailing (2009 Summer Enrollment Limited to 60 Students):

Prerequisite: BYC basic sailing or equivalent. We'll help you take sailing to the next level. Students hone their sailing skills and develop an ability to sail in more varied conditions. This class features more time on the water, fun and games, and an introduction to sailboat racing. Session 1: July 6 - 10, Session 2: July 20 - 24, Session 3: August 10 - 14, Session 4: August 24 - 28.

Advanced Sailing (2009 Summer Enrollment Limited to 30 Students):

Prerequisite: BYC intermediate sailing or equivalent. This hands-on class further increases sailing abilities and prepares students for high school and collegiate team level sailboat racing. Session 1: July 27 - 31, Session 2: August 31 - September 4.

To register a child in a BYC youth sailing class, or for additional information on the 2009 program, visit BYC.org/youth, or contact Steven Kersey, BYC Youth Fleet Captain, by e-mail to kevetts1@earthlink.net or call him at 360-969-0092.

Note: The BYC's youth sailing program gladly accepts donations of youth-sized US Coast Guard approved life jackets and sailing wet/dry suits. The program also seeks additional Laser class sailboats and equipment. If you would like to donate good used items to the BYC's youth sailing program, please call Steven Kersey at 360-969-0092.

In closing, I'd like to thank everyone who helped make the 2008 season a great success for the BYC youth fleet. The BYC youth sailing program is very fortunate to have three highly capable sailing instructors for the 2009 season. However, we also need volunteers to support their efforts, and to ensure the program's continued success.

Currently, the BYC youth sailing program needs volunteers to help with boat and dock maintenance, boat purchasing, marketing and fund raising, and safety/support boat operation. Much of this needed work requires only a few hours time commitment, and it helps a great cause - KIDS! If you want to volunteer for the BYC's youth fleet, then please contact me.

Steven Kersey,
BYC Youth Fleet Captain

FLEET CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Happy year ahead. Sailing/Cruising information coming soon.

Troy Curran,
Fleet Captain fleetcaptain@byc.org

BYLAW CHANGES & REVISIONS REGARDING ELECTIONS

A bylaws committee was put together to go through the elections and nominations process, in order to help clarify and "clean up" the procedural timeline and wording as it currently appears in the Roster, and to help alleviate confusion in future nominations and elections. This committee consisted of; Pete Foti, John Gargett, Steve Hayward, Troy Curran, Randy Nulle, and Terry Tavelli. These gentlemen put forth a good effort and many emails were batted back and forth to get the job accomplished. It is NOT all completely new -- most of the wording is still there, but some words or sentences were changed, with several additions, and some paragraphs relocated, to make more sense. If you go through the current bylaws and compare them with the "new" version, you will see that MOST of the document is unchanged. [A special membership meeting will be held at F@5 on March 20th at 6pm to vote on the changes that were made.](#) We look forward to seeing you all there.

GENERAL BYLAW CHANGES & REVISIONS

The bylaws committee also made some revisions to a few other areas of the general bylaws. These are in different sections, and have an explanation underneath the sentence or paragraph they pertain to. These will be voted on as well, at the membership meeting on [March 20th at the F @ 5](#); see above.

Respectfully submitted according to our Bellingham Yacht Club By-laws,

Jody K Erickson, MA Ed
BYC Secretary

BYC BYLAWS CHANGES

ARTICLE IX. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

Section 1. Election

The election shall be held on the third Wednesday in September of each year.

Section 2. Nomination Procedure

(A) The Commodore will announce the annual election and call for nominations on the 1st work day in August by publishing in the August Jib Sheet, on the Club Website, and via Club email. This general announcement will detail the procedures, dates and process for the election. It will include a call for members in good standing to consider running by contacting the Commodore.

(B) A Nominating Committee of seven (7) voting members shall be appointed by the Commodore at least six (6) weeks prior to the date of the election meeting. In order to represent the diverse interest groups within the club, this Committee shall include two Past Commodores, two members in good standing from the cruise fleet, two members in good standing from the racing fleet, and one member in good standing who is a social member. The primary purpose of the Nominating

Committee is to present candidates to the membership who meet the requirements for the office they seek. It is not, as a Committee, to provide recommendations on any one candidate over another.

(C) The Nominating Committee will meet within one week of appointment, but no later than five (5) weeks prior to the date of the election and elect a Committee Chair. The Nominating Committee will also be given at this meeting the list of members in good standing who had contacted the Commodore with a desire to run for office. The Nominating Committee will, in this meeting, determine three questions to present to each candidate.

(1) Active and life members in good standing are eligible for nomination for election except:

(a) No member may be elected to the office of Commodore for more than two successive terms;

(b) No member is eligible for the office of Commodore, Vice Commodore, or Rear Commodore until he has served one full term as Trustee (24 months) or Fleet Captain (12 months).

(c) No member may be installed into the Office of Fleet Captain until serving at least 12 full months as Trustee or as approved by the incumbent board.

(2) Nominations shall be made in such a way as to assure that at least four (4) members who are boat owners shall serve as Trustees and that at least three (3) out of four (4) of the elected Flag Officers are boat owners.

(D) The Nominating Committee will contact each of the members in good standing who have submitted their name as a potential candidate for office and additionally seek out members in good standing in order to solicit additional nominees as needed in order to be able to present an adequate and well balanced slate of candidates.

(E) The Nominating Committee will follow-up with each prospective candidate in writing with a Nomination Confirmation Letter. The Candidate must then confirm their acceptance to run in writing either in a letter or in an Email to the Nominating Committee. As soon as practical after confirming acceptance to run for office, the candidate should provide a short biography, photograph and answers to the questions established for the election by the Committee for publication on the BYC Website. This information will only be posted after receipt of the confirmation to run and the materials requested are provided.

(F) The Nominating Committee will present to the voting members one week prior to the Nomination Meeting, via the BYC Website and Club Email, at least one nomination for each elected Officer position to be filled, and at least two nominations for each Trustee position to be filled on the Board.

(G) A membership meeting shall be scheduled for the first Wednesday in September where the Chair of the Nominating Committee will report who is running for office to the membership. After the report of the Nominating Committee the Nominating Committee Chair shall call for nominations from the floor. For any nomination accepted from the floor, the candidate will then be provided all the materials given to the other Candidates. The final list of Nominees will also be posted on the BYC Website.

(H) A Meet the Candidates Night will be scheduled the second Wednesday in September where each of the candidates will answer questions put to them at the club in a "town hall" format.

Section 3. Election Procedure

(A) The names of Nominees from the meeting described in this Article, Section 2, paragraphs F & G shall be entered on an official ballot prepared by the Secretary, copies of which shall be mailed to each voting member of the Club at least seven (7) days before the date of the election. This ballot shall also give the polling times and places as set by the Board of Trustees and this mailing shall include, in addition, a biography of each candidate, past offices and/or committee assignments, and a statement of interest in the position submitted by the candidate, unless no such statement is

submitted by the candidate.

(B) Any person defined in Article III, Section 7 is eligible to vote.

(C) Any voting member who wishes to vote by absentee ballot may do so by returning the Official ballot by the close of the election period in a sealed envelope to the Club Secretary. The envelope shall bear the name, address, and signature of the voting member. The Secretary will open such envelope(s) at the Election Meeting, certify the ballots as valid, and provide them to the Tellers Committee for tabulation.

(D) A Tellers Committee of five (5) eligible voters, including the Secretary and one Past Commodore, shall be named by the Commodore one week prior to the election and posted on the BYC Website.

(E) The ballot box will be prepared by the Incumbent Commodore, or any past Commodore, and the Club Secretary who are responsible for the security of the ballot box and who will post a club member in good standing at the ballot box for the duration of the polling process.

(F) All ballots cast shall be counted by the Tellers Committee and the official results reported to the membership within one hour of the close of polling, verbally at the Club, and also will be posted on the BYC Website and emailed to the membership within 24 hours. The ballots will, after counting, be placed into a sealed large envelope that will be certified by the Club Secretary and the members of the Tellers Committee as the original ballots, and placed into the permanent records of the Club. While the Club does not release the actual counts, the original ballots are available by submission of a written request to the Club Secretary by any club member in good standing. The review of the original ballots must be done in the presence of the Club Secretary and one member of the Executive Board.

Section 4. Term of Office

The Officers and Trustees who have been elected shall take office at the first meeting in October or the first regular meeting following the election, whichever is earliest, and shall hold office until the first meeting in October of the following year, or until their successors shall be elected and qualified. No member of the Club may hold two elective offices at the same time.

Section 5. Vacancies

If a vacancy occurs on the Board of Trustees or in the office of the Fleet Captain, such vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the Commodore, subject to the requirements of boat ownership and subject to confirmation by a majority vote of the Board of Trustees. The member so appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve the unexpired term of his predecessor. If the member appointed to Fleet Captain has not served for at least 12 months they will not be eligible to run for Rear Commodore unless so approved by a 2/3 majority of the Board of Trustees. If any other elected officer's post becomes vacant, then it shall be filled by promotion of all subordinate officers.

BYC Bylaws Election Changes:

Article III, Section 2, Para A states:

"Non-Resident applicants will submit for board consideration a short paragraph on why they are requesting membership in lieu of the (2) voting member signatures."

This was apparently intended to allow non-resident applicants to apply without having to get the usual two signatures on their applications, since this might be difficult if they were not physically here. It is suggested to change the "will submit" to "may submit" so as to allow non-residents the latitude of either getting signatures or, as an option, including the paragraph of explanation if getting signatures is not feasible. One or the other must be done.

Suggested change:

"Non-Resident applicants may submit for board consideration a short paragraph on why they are requesting membership in lieu of the (2) voting member signatures."

Article XII, Section 2 states:

"In the event any member of the Board of Trustees shall be absent for three meetings in a fiscal year, the Board shall declare the office vacant."

This has not been the accepted practice and should be revised to reflect current practice and also allow some latitude for absences for good (excused by the Commodore) cause.

Suggested change:

"In the event any member of the Board of Trustees shall be absent for three meetings in a fiscal year, the Board may declare the office vacant."

Article XIII, Section 1 states:

"There shall be seven (8) standing Committees ..."

The "seven" should be changed to "eight" so they match.

Suggested change:

"There shall be eight (8) standing committees..."

Article XIV, Section 1 states:

"Such organizations could include, but not be limited to, the First Mates Auxiliary, and the Sailing, Power and Youth Fleets."

This needs updating. The reference to First Mates is outdated, and should probably be dropped. We have since changed references to two of the others to Racing and Cruising, respectively.

Suggested change:

"Such organizations could include, but not be limited to, the Racing, Cruising and Youth Fleets."

Pete Foti,
Vice Commodore

REMEMBER TO CHECK THE BYC WEBSITE FOR NEWS AND UPDATES
[BYC Website Homepage](#)

THIS MONTH'S CALENDARS

(Non-BYC races not shown)

March Business, Social & Cruising			
3/14	Saturday	Frostbite Series #1 & #2	Bellingham Bay
3/28	Saturday	Frostbite Series #3 & #4	Bellingham Bay
3/19	Thursday	Board Meeting	BYC
April Sailing Races & Events			
4/1	Wednesday	Numb Bum Series #1	Bellingham Bay
4/8	Wednesday	Numb Bum Series #2	Bellingham Bay
4/11	Saturday	Vendovi Island	

4/15	Wednesday	Numb Bum Series #3	Bellingham Bay
4/22	Wednesday	Numb Bum Series #4	Bellingham Bay
4/28	Tuesday	Pitch Pole Series #1	Bellingham Bay
4/29	Wednesday	Numb Bum Series #5	Bellingham Bay

2008-2009 BYC Officers and Board

Commodore *Terry Robertson*; Vice Commodore *Pete Foti*; Rear Commodore *Michele Hurst*; Fleet Captain; *Troy Curran*; Immediate Past Commodore *Terry Tavelli*; Secretary *Jodi Erickson*. Trustees, 1st Year: *Missy Stefan, Steve Hayward, Jane Sylvester* and *Mike Alsop*. Trustees, 2nd Year: *Mick Corcoran, Wayne Kelsoe, Randy Nulle* and *Jerry Writer*.

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: *Terry Robertson, Terry Tavelli, Dick Johnson, Steve Moore, Michele Bodtke, Dick Grimshaw, Michele Hurst, Wayne Kelsoe, Bud Peterson, Frank Richardson, Steve Ross, BJ Ursin, Jeff Vernon, Troy Curran, Steven Kersey*

THIS MONTH'S FEATURED ADVERTISERS

SAN JUAN SAILING AND YACHTING are the names for the businesses run from the offices near Gate 3 by members **Roger Van Dyken and Rick Sale**. With a long, solid reputation for sailboat charters, training, and sales, this growing business added a serious commitment to powerboats several years ago, and now sells and charters them as well! When you call San Juan Sailing/Yachting at **671-4300** or **671-8089**, you'll be getting the counsel of pros, a team that's won numerous awards for their service excellence, explaining why their growth has been steady, yet never gotten in the way of great service. Whether buying, selling, or chartering, call or stop in: You'll be glad you did!

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