



BELLINGHAM YACHT CLUB

The Jib Sheet

October 2009

Volume 87 #10

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FROM THE MEMBERSHIP DESK

Please give a warm welcome to the following new members!!

From the September meeting of the Board:

Jason Watson and **Emily Garitt** are returning intermediate members from Bellingham. Welcome back Jason! Welcome Emily!

Robert and **Margot King** are non-resident members from Pt Roberts that own a J/29 named *Too Easy*. Welcome Robert and Margot!

I look forward to seeing you all at the club.

Michele Hurst,
Rear Commodore

COMMODORE'S BALL REMINDER...

The 2009 Commodore's Ball will be on Saturday, October 24th at 6:00pm. The theme: *Days of Wine & Roses, an elegant evening out in Hollywood of the 1960's.*

The attire will be semi to formal. This is a can not miss event! Save the date now and join us for a memorable night.

Commodore-Elect,
Pete Foti

PITCH 2009

The buzz at the Friday night Skipper's meeting could have been cut like ice with a spoon; fueled by Dead Pirates beer and burgers and the whoopdeedoo of those arriving in the 12-15 knot Southerly, there could not have been more twittering anticipation than by those who could be seen peering intently at the NOAA and other weather reports for the next day. However, when dawn broke Saturday morning, the wind and sea conditions on Bellingham Bay did not allow the race committee to safely set and maintain a safe race course which would provide a 'fair test of sailing skill' to the competitors. The Race Committee boat experienced sustained winds of 35 kts. On both days; each day with reported gusts in the 50+ range. Wave heights ranged from 6-8 feet at an estimated periodicity of 2-3 seconds. At one point, the RC boat actually skewered an abandoned crab pot in its vain effort to drop and set. Lacking a license, attempts to re-anchor were fruitless in the building seas. PRO's Michele Bodtke, Jamie Ashton and Jane Sylvester handled themselves like true professionals, and Island Fox and 2nd Odyssey and weather worn crew retreated to the relative safety of G West to wait and watch.

With no racing all day, the sailors were thirsty, hungry and ready to party. Kegs of beer and Double Barrel BBQ, followed by music and dancing with the Atlantics made sure that no one was disappointed by the non sailing aspect of PITCH.

On Sunday morning, mark boat driver Steve Hayward was sent out on the Bay to check out the conditions; his report of 'huge and square', and 'gnarly' waves and conditions was, while not very technical, enough to convince us that discretion was definitely the better part of valor. The regatta was abandoned at the dock at 9:25 AM.

This was the first time in the history of this regatta that these conditions were seen on both days. In recognition of this unusual event, the BYC offers an unprecedented 10% registration discount for PITCH 2010 to all fully registered 2009 boats.

The skippers of the race boats set a new standard in cooperative racing with their participation in our decision making process - their willingness to listen to us and to provide constructive input made our decision making process productive and worthwhile. After the raffle drawing on Sunday morning, several boats left for the delivery south. I received this email from John Atchison, of Moose Unknown, a C&C 35, and the next day:

"Neil et al, thanks for a great effort this weekend. I am sure you had a lot of feedback. Here is mine. You made the right decision on Sunday. We left for La Conner shortly after the abandonment. It was blowing >30 off the breakwater and >40 knots with rough, square, seas as soon as we got past the point ~Fairhaven. A longer race would have put the fleet in a tough spot, and would have endangered boats and crew. A shorter round the buoys would have had too many boats in too close proximity for the conditions.

Thanks again, and be glad you made the decision you did.

Cheers...."

After the lunch burgers and spicy Caesars, not to be held down, an alternative activity was created by the Moore 24 fleet, influenced by Moore Uff Da and Ray Poorman (Amore): a bowling tournament in a local Bellingham lane, which, I am sure, will never be the same. Rumors are that the ID-35 Extreme crew was also involved in this (mis)adventure.

I want to personally thank, every single one of the volunteers, BYC members and not - with special note to Lisa, Robin, Carol, Jodi and Karen in the registration/sales room, who donated their time in this effort. Everyone's good humor, support, flexibility and willingness to work through the event was incredible. I have organized several large regattas on behalf of the STYC (BRBR and Race to the Straits) in the past, each of which had their own unique organizational challenges and this was clearly the most challenging - I had to pull every trick out of the hat, and then make some up. It could not have been done without everyone's participation- from start to finish. In many ways, this teamwork is more rewarding than actually racing in the regatta.

I want to again thank our anchor sponsors, *Wilson Motors and Mercedes Benz, Port of Bellingham* for the excellent barbeque and the *America's Cup*. Also to *Coast Aluminum and Architectural, Northwest Rigging and Anacortes Brewery* for libation support each night. The donation sponsors, *West Marine, Seaview Boatyard, Samson Ropes, Silver Reef Casino, Hotel Bellwether, San Juan Electronics, Skookum Sail Repair, Boundary Bay Brewery, Lummi Fishery and Supply, and Landings at Colony Wharf, and finally, Troy Curran at TD Curran* also supported more than \$1,000.00 in proceeds to the BYC Junior Sailing program.

Neil Bennett,
2009 PITCH Regatta Chair

WINDOWS ON THE BAY

We are pleased to announce that **Windows on the Bay** will be our new tenant in the restaurant space. The BYC has been very fortunate to have had Emerald Bay as our tenant for 8 years and we are looking forward to a great relationship with **Windows on the Bay**. Having a thriving catering business provides an opportunity to have professional food service at our events and provides a source of revenue to offset some of BYC's building expenses.

Windows on the Bay is operated by the same team as the popular **Hilltop Restaurant** on the Guide between Bellingham and Lynden. Members are urged to enjoy a meal at the Hilltop, or consider **Windows on the Bay** for business functions, weddings or other special events.

Windows on the Bay will combine an attractive venue with a panoramic view with service and cuisine that will complement the view and facility. **Windows on the Bay** will specialize in complete event planning and full service with a professional staff.

Our club really deserves our gratitude for the many volunteers who helped with the repairs in the kitchen and cleanup efforts to make things ready for our new tenants.

We are also pleased to welcome **Tom Kilpatrick**, owner of the Hilltop and **Windows on the Bay**, as a new member of the club and look forward to his family joining us in our activities.

Hilltop RESTAURANT & CATERING Phone: (360) 920-1372 www.hilltopcooking.com

E-mail: catering@hilltopcooking.com

Cheers,

Wayne E. Kelsoe, PE

BYC YOUTH SAILING REPORT:

The last BYC sailing class concluded the Friday before Labor Day weekend. 2009 was a great year for the youth sailing program, and 2010 promises to be even better.

Student registrations for the BYC's 2009 summer sessions totaled more than 140 kids. The 2009 program drew students from Whatcom, Skagit and Island Counties along with kids from the Seattle area, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Florida, and California.

The BYC should be very proud of the fact that our club has helped more than one hundred kids learn sailing the last two years, and many of them have gone on to become great youth sailors.

Thanks to the BYC's sailing instructors Katie Stackpole and Calla Ward, and all the volunteers, especially Terry Tavelli, Dick Grimshaw, Tim Mumford, Bob Snowball, Missy Steffan, Gerri Rea Kersey, and Craig Henderson, who worked hard to make the 2009 season successful. Thanks also to Kim Alfreds, Margaret and Steve Travis, and Virginia Jepson for their generous support of the BYC's youth sailing program.

Highlights of the BYC's 2009 youth program include:

- All eleven BYC summers classes sold out, and many classes had waiting lists.
- Development of an instructor-in-training program designed to offer BYC students completing intermediate level sailing the opportunity to help the BYC's professional instructors teach sailing. The 2009 group of volunteer instructors-in-training demonstrated good sailing talent.
- Addition of two advanced sailing classes to the club's basic and intermediate level sessions. The BYC's core group of racing youth sailors all completed advanced sailing in 2009.
- Many kids from the BYC's sailing program participated in the club's Tuesday night dinghy races on Bellingham Bay. BYC member Tim Mumford generously allowed use of his Boston Whaler as a safety boat for Tuesday night racers, and BYC member Bob Snowball and company ran many great races for the kids.
- Twelve BYC students competed in the Seattle Yacht Club's McCurdy Cup. This project was a major undertaking by the BYC's sailing instructors and involved many weeknight, and weekend practice sessions prior to the competition.
- The BYC hosted the WWU sailing team's youth regatta for the first time in 2009. This event also was a major initiative by the club's sailing instructors.
- Work towards the establishment of a high school level sailing team has begun thanks to the efforts of Lily Grimshaw. The high school sailing team may begin racing this fall.
- Construction of new youth sailing docks will begin during late September. The docks were made possible by a generous donation from BYC member Kim Alfreds, and the dedicated leadership of BYC member Craig Henderson.
- A video party was held at the BYC for youth sailors who watched *Morning Light* - the true story of a crew of young sailors competing in the Trans Pac race (Southern California to Hawaii). This Disney production was a big hit with the many kids at the party.
- BYC youth sailors participated in a variety of PITCH regatta activities during the Labor Day weekend. BYC youth sailors and their families cruised aboard the Sea Scout Vessel *Discovery* under the command of BYC member (and Sea Scout Leader) Ralph Neher. Many BYC youth sailors toured a 48-foot racing sailboat named *Flash* owned by Steve Travis, son of BYC member Margaret Travis. The kids also helped set-up the club for a PITCH social events, and cleaned the BYC's facilities. PITCH concluded with a highly successful raffle that raised more than \$1,000 for BYC youth sailing.
- The BYC youth sailing program received scholarship donations from BYC members Margaret Travis and Virginia Jepson, in memory of their late husbands. Their generous donations provided several families experiencing financial hardship the opportunity for their kids to participate in the BYC's youth sailing program. These students were among the most active sailors during the BYC's 2009 sailing season.

- The capstone event of the 2009 season was a celebration in early September at Windows on the Bay. The event was attended by nearly one hundred people, and was a great conclusion to a very successful year. Many awards were presented to BYC youth sailors. Riley Allsop won top honors by receiving the 2009 BYC youth leadership award. Congratulations Riley! BYC member Missy Steffan designed and produced fabulous BYC youth sailing t-shirts for the kids attending the party.

Planning for fall through spring (off season) activities including a group trip to visit the new Maritime Center in Port Townsend, several youth sailing parties, and continued boating education is underway. Preparations for the 2010 instruction season, including a potential expansion of BYC sailing classes, will begin early in the New Year.

Volunteers are needed to help run the BYC's youth sailing program. If you are interested in helping kids become good boaters, then please contact me at 360-510-6452.

Steven Kersey,
BYC Youth Fleet Captain

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Congratulations to you and all the volunteers for a GREAT regatta - it is amazing what you people do when the God of the Winds cooperates! And kudos for promoting and including the Youth Sailing group in the Regatta! They were fantastic!

On behalf of me and Dale - wherever he wanders these days - thank you for your efforts and the honor you bestowed on Dale when you renamed the Regatta in his honor. It was undoubtedly the crowing glory of his sailing career!

Hugs to all of you and have a well deserved rest.

Ginny Jepsen

"C" Stories

Life Jacket Etiquette:

- 1) If you are asked to wear one, 'Just Do it'!
- 2) Your boat, your rules. If you want someone to wear one, remind them that it is your boat, your rules.
- 3) Always, and I mean ALWAYS, wear a lifejacket if you are by yourself. No exceptions for you 'Power Boaters'.
- 4) Check and double check your canister on your inflatable jacket.

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)

October Sailing Races & Events			
10/10	Saturday	Jack Island Race	Jack Island
10/24	Saturday	Commodore's Ball	6 pm BYC
November Events			
11/14	Saturday	Awards Banquet	BYC

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, John Gargett, Michele Hurst, Pete Foti, Troy Curran, Steven Kersey*

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