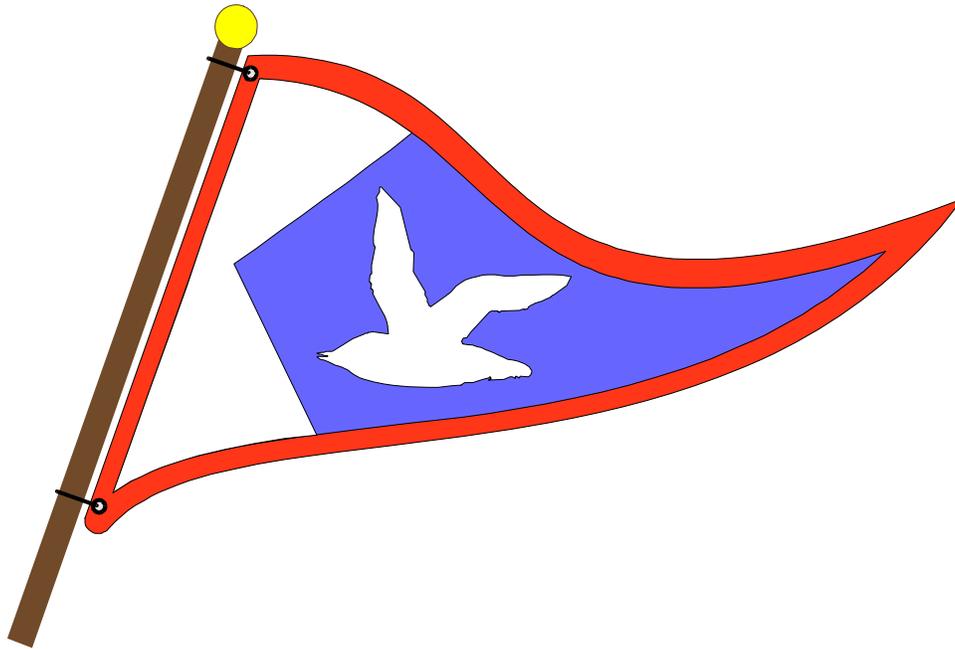


# The Log

Newsletter of the Squalicum Yacht Club, Bellingham, Washington



## Coming Events

Saturday, Dec 14  
Wednesday, Jan 15  
Wednesday, Jan 22

Christmas party, 1800  
Bridge Meeting, 1600  
Meeting, 1800



## Commodore's Corner

*by Randy Bilof*

As we move on to 2020 I would like to take the opportunity to thank Larry Grunden for serving as commodore this past year. Larry brought a new perspective to the club and was an active participant at most if not all 2019 club activities. He made it a point to heartily welcome visitor and new members and make them feel at home. Thank you Larry!

That old saying "the whole is greater than the sum of its parts" is very true when I look at our 2020 bridge. With their many years of experience and deep interest in SYC we can all look forward to a fun, eventful, and rewarding year. I have the easy job, made easier thanks to Steve, Kristi, Joyce, Lorretta, Pat, and Paul.

With the new year around the corner now is the time to consider serving on a club committee. Please take a look at the committees listed on page 3 of the 2019 roster and let me know if you are interested in participating. Being part of a committee is a great opportunity to meet other members and help further the successes of SYC. Did I mention it is also a lot of fun?

See you all at the Christmas Party.



## Vice Commodore's Report

*by Steve Glenn*

I would like to start with introducing myself to those of you who may be new to the club. My wife, Joyce, and myself have been Squaticum Yacht Club members since 2002. We were introduced to the club by members Les and Lynn Blackwell. We were on our way home from Desolation Sound on our sailboat "Puffin" when we pulled into Bedwell Harbor to spend the night. We tied up next to Les and Lynn on their sailboat and immediately struck up a conversation as we both had cats on board. Les and Lynn invited us to the upcoming cruise at Garrison Bay and we have been cruising with SYC ever since. We owned our beloved "Puffin" for 19 years and had another sailboat for 5 years before that. We recently sold "Puffin" and transitioned into a 34 ft. DeFever trawler to the great appreciation of our German Shepherd mix, Gracie. Joyce is the SYC treasurer and I previously worked my way thru the bridge to become Commodore in 2006. It is my

pleasure and honor to be on the SYC Bridge as Vice Commodore once again.

Our annual gala Christmas dinner is scheduled for Saturday Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>. The Bridge will provide the meats and members are encouraged to contribute side dishes, salads and desserts. Social hour is at 6PM, dinner at 6:30 and at 8:00 PM we can look forward to performances by the Bellingham High School Show Stoppers, conducted by Lynda Short.

At the January meeting I will be looking for volunteers to serve as host committees for the 2020 calendar year. Think about your own calendar and what month you could help set up.

As Vice Commodore, probably my biggest duty is to schedule speakers for our monthly membership meetings. Last year's Vice Commodore, Randy Bilof, did a great job finding fun and interesting speakers. I have my work cut out for me. Anyone who has an idea for a subject or a speaker your input would be greatly appreciated.

Wishing you fair winds and calm seas.

# A New Crew at SYC Helm

by Paul Graf



. . . Well maybe a different crew but very experienced crew . . . and maybe not all that different either. The new crew does represent the heart and soul of the Squalicum Yacht Club with 54 combined years of service on the Bridge. Randy Bilof was installed as Commodore, Steve Glenn as Vice Commodore, Kristi Champagne was returned as Rear Commodore, Lorretta Palagi as Secretary and Joyce Glenn as Treasurer. Paul Graf returns for another term as Trustee with Pat Sterrett continuing for the second year of her term.

Several speakers spoke to the help and support from many of the Club's "old" hands. Some fun was had with that terminology for example when it was pointed out that Randy and Paul had served previously as commodores in the last century. While our demographics may be increasing a bit in age, this crew does not bring any less energy to the Club's leadership.

Of a lighter note, since there won't be a formal meeting at next month's Christmas Party, Paul noted that December 14, next month, will be the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first meeting of the Squalicum Yacht Club in our present building. It had just been moved to the Harbor from the Bellingham Air Field (now Bellingham airport) where it had served as an enlisted men's barracks during WWII. A displayed photo of that first meeting provides a lot of food for thought about the evolution of our clubhouse over the years from an extremely basic structure to what it is today.

The evening began with a semi-potluck dinner organized by Kris Heintz. Then for some serious and lighter fun, ceremonies began with the introduction of Awards Committee chairs, Rod and Susan Dean by Commodore Grunden. Commodore Larry Grunden received the first award for having attended every Club cruise this past summer. It seems that Lorretta Palagi become so engrossed in a book, while ashore on a remote island, that her dinghy drifted away on the rising tide. For that she earned the "Temporary Loss of Boat" award. Then there was a matter of crew. Nowadays there are often significant "crew" with more than two legs. One boat left the dock only to discover that half the legs among the crew were still on the dock. Complications caused retrieval of their furry crew to take over an hour and that earned the Glenns the "Abandonment of Crew Member" award.



At the Sucia work party one boat chose to anchor in Echo Bay from where the crew trekked to Fossil Bay for the Club get-together the first evening. But the second evening they dinghied the almost 2.5 miles each

way. By the time they left the second night, the skies were turning dark, (and not just from the setting sun) rain was starting and the wind was up with white caps starting to show. The ride, was shall we say, wet! And for that the Griggs received the "Drenched but Determined" award.

Several Club members were recognized for their support with Club activities. As newer members Dale and Jana Oliver have often readily pitched in to help and for that received the "Jumping in with Both Feet" award. Cruise of the Year went to Glenn and Chris Anderson and Steve and Joyce Glenn for a great cruise to Reid Harbor Cruise over the Memorial Day weekend. Paul Graf, Steve Glenn, Randy Bilof and Rocky Champagne received the Engineering Award for

having repaired the porch handrail after an accident last summer. Paul Graf received the Squalicum Award for support over the years for being there when things need to be done. Finally, and certainly not least, the Family of the Year went to Randy Bilof and Lorretta Palagi for their ever-present work and support of our Club. They have a combined 21 years of service on the SYC Bridge in addition to participation in countless other Club activities.

Commodore Bilof ended the evening thanking now Past Commodore Grunden, for his service and with some remarks looking forward to another good year for the Squalicum Yacht Club. It was a great night for all.

## The rest of the story

by Joyce Glenn

For those who attended Change of Watch, you might remember that the Glenn's were awarded the "Abandonment of a Crew Member" award. And here is the rest of the story .....

We tied up at the outer dock at Nanaimo marina, where they put boats they have no room for. The current that morning was pushing Papanam and Helen Marie into the dock. Without bow thrusters or twin screws, the captain and first mate of the Helen Marie were distracted with thoughts of how to get away from the dock. Papanam was ahead of us and left first headed for slack at Dodd Narrows. Helen Marie was powered up and ready to go. We had our game plan, engine was revved, fenders were in place, the exhaust was churning, we untied and were off. The current continued to push us into the dock, we scraped along on our wood rail which luckily needed to be sanded and with a huge effort we were away! We both blew a huge sigh of relief, looked back at the offending dock only to see Gracie, our dog, frantically running back and forth probably thinking "what about the dog"! No one thought about the dog. After multiple attempts we got the stern close enough to the dock without actually docking, I was able to grab her collar and pull the 85 pound dog onto the swim step and we were off..... again. It was full steam ahead to reach Dodd Narrows in time.

You can probably guess what the last question we ask each other now before leaving the dock....."where is the dog" :) Steve & Joyce Glenn, and Gracie of course.





The Log has been published continuously since 1981 by the Squalicum Yacht Club, P. O. Box 735, Bellingham, WA 98227. The club meets at 1800 on the fourth Wednesday of each month, September-May, at our building adjacent to the Seaview North boatyard. Potluck format—bring a dish to pass, your own table service, and a beverage.

Members are encouraged to submit boating-related stories to the *Log*. Please submit to [editor@squalicumyc.org](mailto:editor@squalicumyc.org) by the second Tuesday of each month.

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