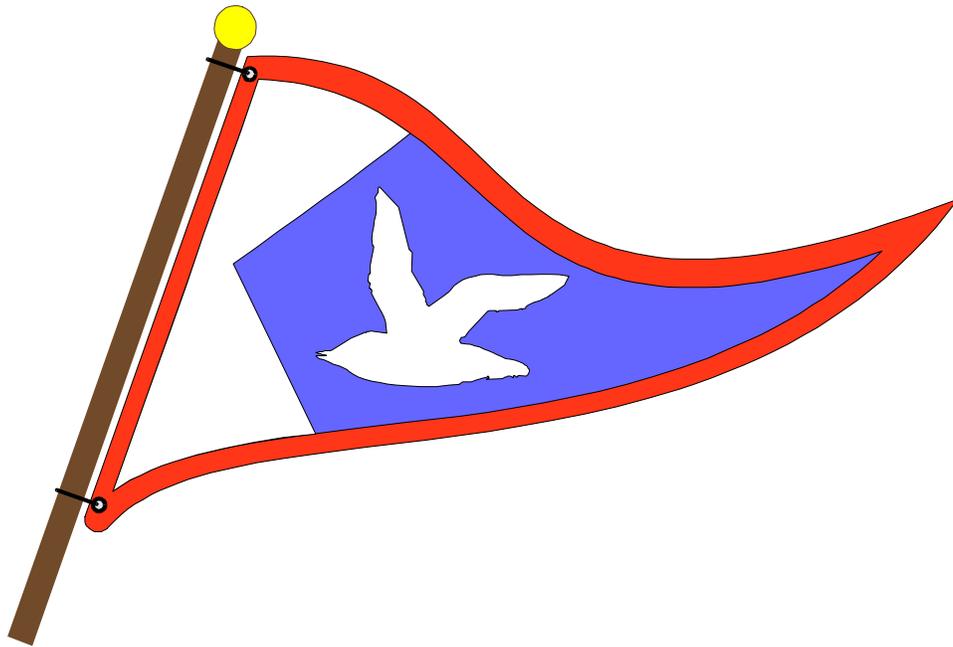


# The Log

Newsletter of the Squalicum Yacht Club, Bellingham, Washington



## Coming Events

Wednesday Feb 23

General Meeting 1800 hours

Wednesday Mar 16

Bridge Meeting 1530 hours

all members invited to attend

Wednesday Mar 23

General Meeting 1800 hours



## Commodore's Corner

by David Imburgia, Commodore



Greetings everyone.

Thanks everyone for the good turnout for our January Social Meeting. I think everyone had a good time. Thanks to Steve and Joyce for bringing down their fire pit. And all who helped out.

Conversations at our gathering were wide in scope. We even talked a bit about boats and upcoming Cruises. Having fun and enjoying our connections is our priority. Mission was accomplished.

The Bridge has identified this year as being very important for adding new members. We all benefit when new folks join our club, adding their ideas, energy and presence. So, identifying how to build attendance and make the club be as fun as possible are our goals.

Our Bridge meeting will be one week before our scheduled Membership Meeting, 3:30pm, at the clubhouse.

All interested club members are invited to attend.

We only ask that you hold any comments or questions until we work through our formal agenda.

Growing our membership is our main subject this month, with other business being minimized as much as possible. If you cannot attend the Bridge or Social Meetings this month, but have ideas on membership, please write to me or any Bridge member to have your comments taken into consideration.

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## Birding by Boat / Winter Boating in Gran Milonga

by Celie Thomas



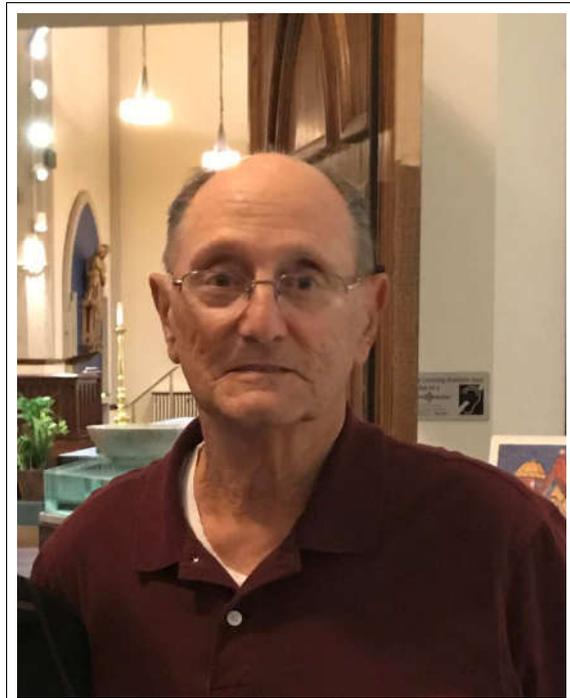
Surf Scoter photo by Abe Lloyd

Our February 6 trip to Portage and Luumi Bay to see birds didn't start out with a great deal of promise. Fog was clearing in the marina, but dense fog minutes out of the marina necessitated navigation by radar. After we broke through the fog, nearing Portage, the day was gorgeous. Celie's son, Abe, identified Buffleheads, Long-tailed Ducks, Surf Scoters, Common Mergansers, Common Loons, Western Grebes, Red-necked Grebes, Horned Grebes, Short-billed Gulls, Olympic Gulls, Pigeon Guillemots, Double-crested Cormorants, Pelagic Cormorants, Common Murres, Marbled Murrelets, Goldeneyes, Great Blue Heron, Brant, and a Bald Eagle. It was such a nice day we decided to check out Alden Banks. It's a long way out there in our slow boat, and we didn't see as many birds as we had seen on the south side of Portage and in Hale Passage, so we headed home and made it into our slip just as the last rays of daylight disappeared behind Lummi Island.

## SYC Family

by Joyce Glenn

This is the second in a series of articles introducing our club member families.



*Nick Flacco*

Nick Flacco spent most of his career in the sales & service of heavy equipment i.e. super large cranes, mining equipment and huge tunneling machinery to mention a few. He lived in South Philadelphia at that time. He was married to his wife Christine for 54 years and they shared a love of boating. She has since passed. Christine had a variety of interests but is best known as an artist. Nick loaned SYC an example of her work and it hangs on our water facing wall at the clubhouse. Be sure and take a look at it next time you are there.

In the late 1970's, they bought their first boat and owned several since. The first a 27' Catalina, then a 30' Catalina and then a 36' Catalina. Their last boat together was a 54' cutter sloop they lived aboard in Shilshole Marina for 5 years. Nick currently owns a 26' O'day named "Anyhow". His cruising grounds included Desolation, Princess Louise Inlet, Nanaimo, South Sound, Gulf Islands and of course Puget Sound. The number of boats he has owned matches the number of states he has lived in. Those being Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Washington, Tennessee,

Louisiana and some of those he lived in more than once.

His daughter was a police officer, then a detective and now teaches Equine Dressage in Ferndale. His son services heavy equipment in Chernobyl via remote robotics. Interesting careers to say the least.



*Anyhow*

Nick lives in Bellingham with his canine companion, Lu Lu or as Nick said, "Louie" in front of the guys" :) They joined Squalicum Yacht Club in 2019. He has many fascinating stories that he would love to share!



*Lu Lu (Louie)*  
*photo by Nick Flacco*

Thanks Nick!

# Remembering Les Blackwell

*by Paul Graf*

This bathymetric map of the San Juan Islands was donated by our late friend to many of us and long time member, Les Blackwell. It hung prominently on the dining room wall of the Blackwell home for many years. When he knew that he would no longer be able to return to his home, he asked if SYC would like to have it. The Bridge was unanimously pleased so the map was delivered to the Club at our food-drive get-together in January. It was hung in our clubhouse at the Bridge meeting Feb.16. Among the things dearest to Les' heart were the San Juan Islands, Friday Harbor and the Squalicum Yacht Club. As most of you know, he crossed the bar Feb. 14, 2022. Fair Winds to our sailor friend.



*Bathymetric Map of the San Juans donated to the club by Less Blackwell.*

*Photo by Paul Graf*

# Friday Harbor Outstation Report

*by Jill Mount*

On Friday, January 21st Marvin and I headed out to Friday Harbor on our 32 foot Nordic Tug Snug. We had heard great things about the slip there and were interested to check it out. Randy provided us with a picture showing the location of the slip and it came in handy as we arrived there.

I had never been to a condo slip before and I was impressed at how nice it was. It was very clean and had big cleats, which made it very easy to tie up the boat. The location was amazing, it was within easy walking distance of the center of Friday Harbor. It was so much closer to town than when we stay at the marina!

The condo residents were very friendly, they all said hello. The couple living in the condo directly above the slip had a very cute Westie puppy. We also have a Westie and our Westie dogs became friends!

Because it was January many of the stores and restaurants in Friday Harbor were closed for the season (including the ice cream shop and the town's craft store, which I had hoped to visit). However, the restaurants that were open all did take out. We had a tasty take out dinner from Downriggers Restaurant, which was very close to the slip.

Friday Harbor was also quite devoid of tourists and we were able to see parts of it that we missed during our usual visits there in July. We actually located D. Jone's Locker on the marina dock and a small free lending library in the park above the dock. It was fun to visit when there were not crowds of people.

On Saturday morning we called Salish Sea Taxi and their driver Becky picked us up at Memorial Park and drove Marvin, myself and our dog Dellie to Lime Kiln State Park. We asked to be picked up in a couple hours and walked the length of the park to the beautiful lighthouse, scanning the water for whales. At one point Marvin saw a spout of white water and there was a pod of Orca whales. They started off being far away but swam in our direction. When they got to be directly in front of us, one of them breached! It was amazing to see! We watched until we could no longer see them. It was one of the highlights of the trip. Even if you don't get to see the whales, Lime Kiln Park has beautiful views of the Haro Strait and Canada and its not very strenuous to hike there.

Overall, we had a wonderful visit to Friday Harbor. I cannot thank the Blackwells enough for the opportunity to stay at their slip and making it available to SYC members and I would highly recommend it to everyone.

## Here and There



*Sunset from our deck January 2022  
photo by Phil Terzian*



*January 2022 outdoor gathering  
photo by Paul Graf*

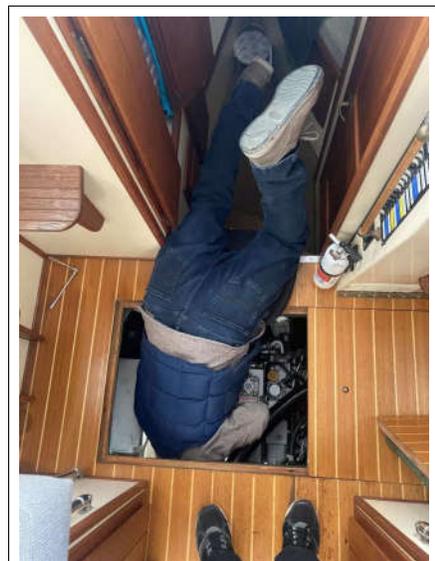


*January 2022 gathering around the fire pit  
photo by Phil Terzian*

## Awkward Position

*by Larry Grunden*

Dumpster diving? No, it's just Larry Grunden removing an engine starter that's in a challenging position. Photographer, Phil Terzian said, this looks like a young man's job. I simply grunted, yes.

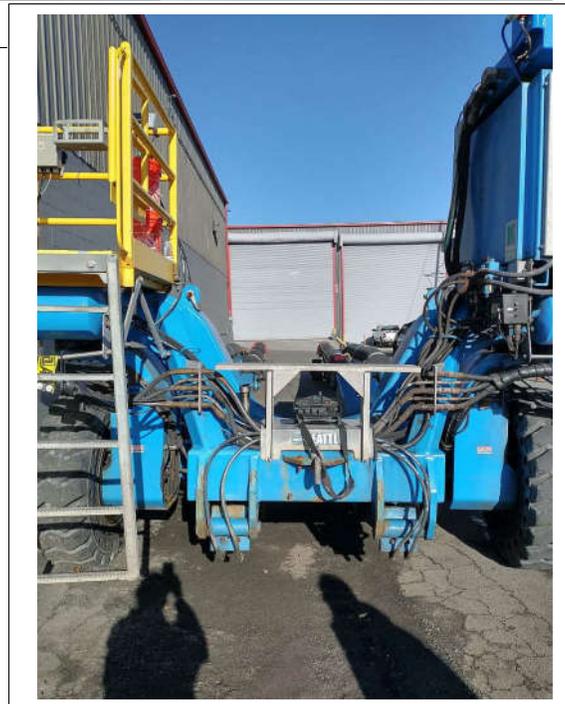
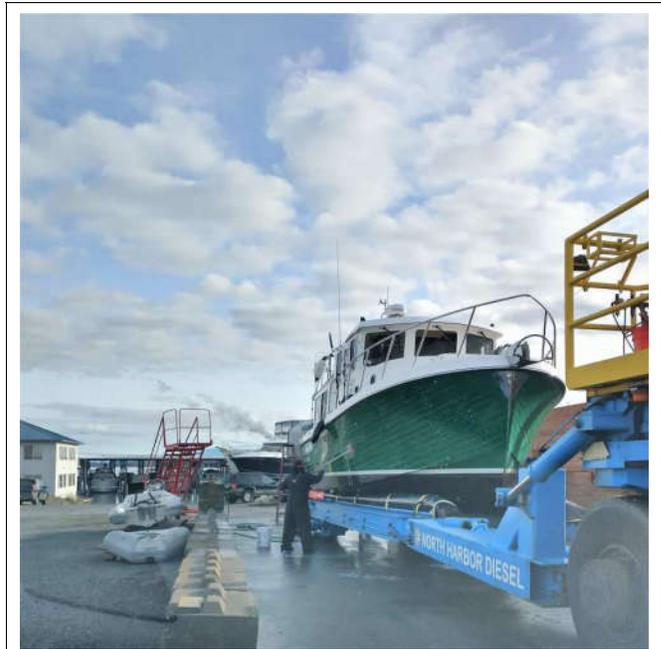
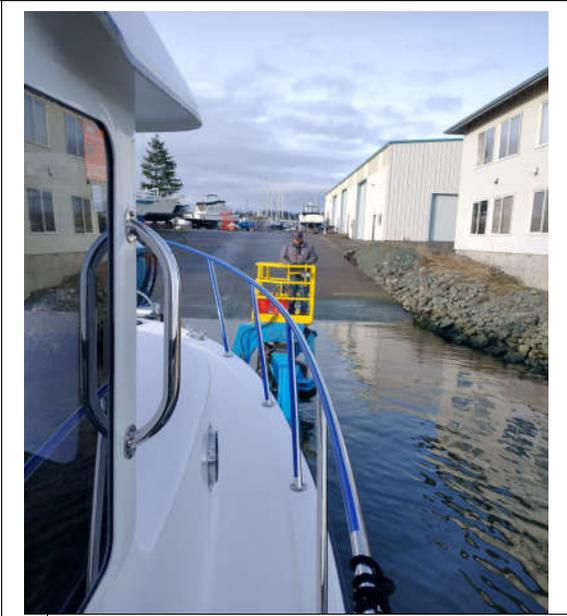


*Larry Grunden heels over head*

# New Haul Out Technology

*By Dave Thompson*

We recently had Salish Nomad hauled for some cosmetic work on our green topside gelcoat. The work is in progress at North Harbor Yacht service in Anacortes. I thought it might be of interest to the members to explain a bit about the machine that North Harbor uses to haul their customers' boats. No cumbersome, slow, traditional Travelift for these folks. New to me, but not to North Harbor, is the Sealift boat transport. All they need is a boat ramp and a reasonable tide level. In place of the usual "sling straps," or bunks, the boat is supported by low-pressure, sausage looking air bags. On our 34-foot tug we had nearly full length support between the keel, and the chine. Unlike a Travelift, the boat operator and any crew are allowed to stay aboard during the transport. The boat can be moved and placed directly into a building in one operation.





The Log has been published continuously since 1981 by the Squalicum Yacht Club, 2633 South Harbor Loop Drive, Bellingham, WA 98225. The club ordinarily 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 Thursday of each month.

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Secretary	Lorretta Palagi	(360)961-0767	Secretary@squalicumyc.org



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Ask for their yacht club discount.  
 Discount varies from item to item.

*Cash, check, or credit card—must show membership card.*