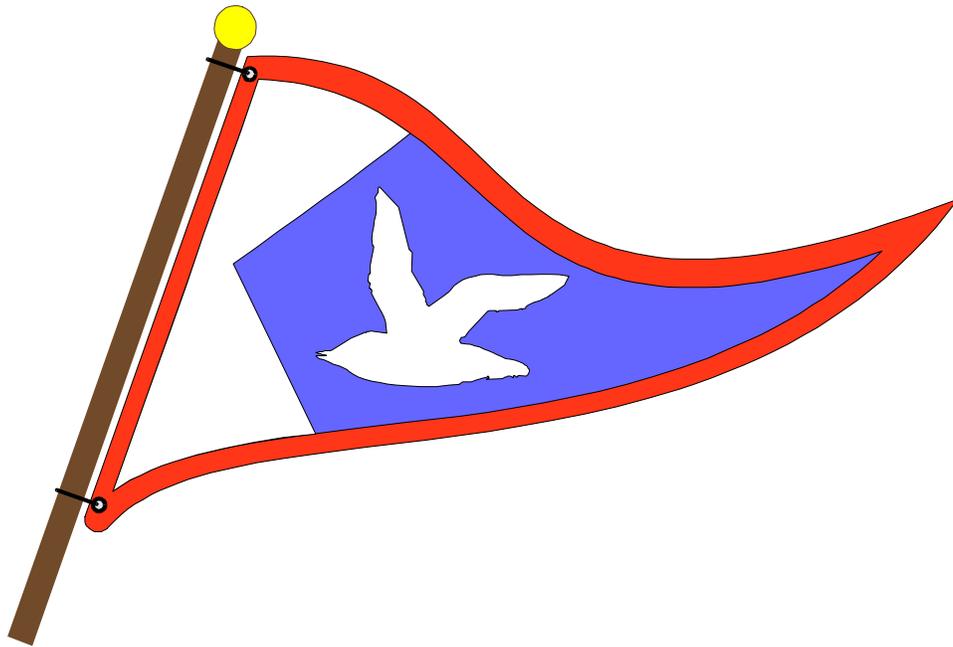


# The Log

Newsletter of the Squaticum Yacht Club, Bellingham, Washington



## Coming Events

Wednesday Jan 26

Outdoor Social and Food  
Bank Drive 1600-1800 hours



## Commodore's Corner

by David Imburgia, Commodore



Best wishes to everyone for the year ahead!  
We know that at least it will be an interesting year...

### On Weatherization:

Have you been down to check on your boat lately? There may be some changes, with all the wind, rain and snow. Gran Milonga has been fortunate so far. I've seen some lines loose on the cleats, and one boat swinging on a stern line only. A few folks had water freezing issues.

With Steve and others watching the clubhouse, we can feel we have a chance to head off any problems before they are too major. Thanks, Steve.

Maybe the weather is set to break. Who knows? An early spring would not be unwelcome!

### On Meetings:

We are all interested in keeping alive our boating connections, and to support the friends we have spent years with. We hope we are near the "new normal" with this virus. Keep watch of your email and the Log for news about SYC meetings. Our members will be discussing meeting plans at our Bridge meeting. We plan to keep everyone informed.

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## Vice Commodore's Request

by Pat Anderson

I (Vice Commodore Pat Anderson) am soliciting suggestions for speakers for SYC meetings. Pretty much wide open at the moment! I have a couple of ideas and will keep you posted, but I will be trying to line up speakers remotely from Arizona, so I will be at a bit of a disadvantage! If you have a specific speaker in mind, please provide name, phone number and email if possible.

Topics could be anything related in any way to boats or boating. This could include anyone in the boat

business, boat construction, maintenance or repair, or interesting past cruises or planned cruises, seamanship skills, navigation, boat electronics, fishing, shrimping or crabbing experience, when, where and how. It would be great if knowledgeable SYC members could share their knowledge and expertise. Among us, I know we can come up with a lot of interesting programs!

Thanks!

I would appreciate it if suggestions could include a name and contact information if available.

## Next Meeting

*Lorretta Palagi and David Imburgia*

In light of the current COVID situation, the Bridge has decided not to hold our January meeting indoors. Instead, we'll revert to the tried-and-true outdoor gathering that we've done with great success in the past couple of years that allows us to visit and support a local nonprofit at the same time.

Steve and Joyce have offered once again to bring their firepit down to the club next Wednesday in the graveled area next to the clubhouse from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. Club members are invited to bring munchies, sweets, and/or a beverage of your choice. The weather report thus far is for good weather. Keep your fingers crossed!

Most of you know that one of SYC's long-standing traditions has been to support the Bellingham Food Bank. In the past, the proceeds of our Opening Day Breakfast have gone to their support, and once a year we take up donations for them. So we'll take the opportunity at next week's meeting to do just that. We'll be collecting food items or checks made out to

the Bellingham Food Bank. For those who can't stop for a few minutes, we'll be providing "curbside service"; just drive up, pop your trunk, and we'll empty it for you (of food donations, not your spare tire or car jack!).

We look forward to seeing everyone!



*2020 Food Drive and Outdoor Social*

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## Fisherman Bay Slip Reservations

*by Ernie Salotti*

As the boating season begins our skippers need to plan ahead to hold a slip at some marinas. Fisherman Bay is one such marina. For those who plan to attend this August cruise, August 24 – 26, please do the following:

- (1.) Please contact Ernie Salotti so he can make arrangement's with the marina to keep SYC boats together.
- (2.) Please call 360-468-3377 Island Marine Center **early** to secure their slips.



*Fisherman Bay 2019*

## SYC Family

by Joyce Glenn

*This is the first in a series of articles introducing our club member families. Haven't you always wanted to know just a little more about someone in the club? During their initial introduction you might learn a bit if you are at the meeting. I would like to "showcase" one of our member families in each edition of The Log so we can know them a little better. It is strictly voluntary and you will be asked to approve my draft before it is submitted for The Log. I am starting with our newest members but plan to mix it up so our newer members can benefit from knowing a little more about our established members and vice versa. This will be fun!*

I would like to introduce good friends of ours who joined SYC in September of 2021. Dave and Jean Thompson live in Anacortes and own a 34' American Tug named "Salish Nomad". We met Dave & Jean briefly after purchasing "Helen Marie" from them in January of 2019.

In the summer of 2019, "Helen Marie" and "Papanam" were anchored in Pott's Lagoon (Broughton's) and who should cruise in but "Salish Nomad". We thought we recognized the boat name and they most certainly recognized "Helen Marie"! Enthusiastic greetings were exchanged and the 3 boats traveled together for the rest of the trip and still travel together.

Dave & Jean met as teens in a logging camp at Rodman Bay on Baranof Island in SE Alaska. They became "girlfriend/boyfriend" and both graduated Sitka High School, although at that point they weren't speaking to each other!

They met again in Seattle in 1967 and five days later decided to get married. 1970 found them living in Seattle, working and raising a family. They moved to Skyline in Anacortes in 2016. Happily retired now, Jean was employed mostly in the banking industry. Dave was mostly employed in the boating industry working on tug boats, in chandlery shops, running their own boat repair shop for a time and he retired from Fisheries Supply. They have always had boats, mostly in the 20 – 28' range until they bought "Helen Marie" in January of 2017. They traveled to Alaska for their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding celebration in 2018 and upon returning home decided to buy an American Tug. We thank

them for making that decision since it enabled us to buy "Helen Marie".

Dave & Jean are excellent references for boating to SE Alaska, boating in general, and are happy to share their unlimited knowledge. They are excellent additions to the Squalicum Yacht Club family. Welcome Dave and Jean!



*Dave and Jean Thompson on Sucia Island*



*Salish Nomad at Le Conte Glacier  
photo by Scott & Jennifer Wilson*

## A Master Mariner in our Midst.

*By Paul Graf*

*The following article was unintentionally cut short in the December Log. Here is the article in its entirety.*

Many SYC members have enjoyed the Blackwell Friday Harbor Outstation slip we have in Friday Harbor, but many members have not had the privilege of knowing the benefactors of that slip. There are reasons, far beyond the slip, why this person is very special to the Squalicum Yacht Club and I would like to share some of them. All members would know the Blackwells except health has interfered with their attendance in recent times.

It all started in the last century, the late 70s when there was a new young teacher at Silver Beach Elementary School. There was also a new young professor at Western who, as a supervisor for student teachers, was looking for teachers willing to accept students to mentor as future teachers. This is how one Dr. Leslie Blackwell came to meet one Margo Graf. With a new boat, the Grafs had just joined the Squalicum Yacht Club, having been recently introduced by the Valums. Margo shared her enthusiasm with Les who liked what he heard and with his wife, Lynn, joined the SYC in 1979.

Les immediately became a very active and supportive member. Early on he didn't think much of the postcards used to announce meetings and thought he could improve. Ever the technology enthusiast, he used his state of the art personal computer, created and began to publish the SYC Log newsletter covering all the expenses personally.

He enjoyed our Club rendezvous and he liked Garrison Bay. One time, co-hosting a Garrison Cruise, he made special arrangements with the ranger at English Camp to display period costumes in person. The ranger wore a dress herself but also provided a couple for Margo and Lynn and even Red-coats for a couple of our guys. Les began to entertain our costumed and gathered members with his stories and bagpipes when a large bicycle group showed up and joined the party. It was a grand and memorable event. On many cruises to Garrison Les would pipe down the colors at the garrison or just play the pipes at sundown to the pleasure of all the boats in the bay.

Les often mused over the notion of an outstation for the Club in Garrison Bay even though a bit of reach for SYC. Eventually interest in the San Juans extended to

a condo purchased in Friday Harbor, and also a slip at the moorage in front of the condo, a slip which now many SYC members have also enjoyed.

Les was already a sailor when he arrived in Bellingham. That may have been with a Ranger 29. For many years he raced as a member of that other club, but his real loyalty was cruising with his friends in Squalicum. Over the 40 years, he owned a number different boats ranging up to 40' and back down to his present "adagio". Except for "adagio," they were all named "Trumpeter". Les did play a trumpet, but the name was for the swan.

I particularly remember his Hunter 40 with which he asked me to assist with some outfitting in Anacortes. On the way down, Les would often be expressing concerns about this or that to which I would ask, "Les, what is the worst that could happen?" He typically had no good answer. He has recalled that comment back to me a number of times.

Along the way Les acquired his 100 Ton Captain's License. Many times he showed up at our Christmas Party dressed as Santa. He twice served as commodore. With matters of age and health, his boats may have gotten smaller, and he even moved from sail to power, but he never gave up on having his boat. "adagio" continues to be ready and waiting her captain in Squalicum Harbor.

Les and Lynn have just moved to an assisted living facility and couldn't be at the our Change of Watch. I wish all members could know and could have known them as we have. In light of all the foregoing and more, The Club presented Les Blackwell the Squalicum Yacht Club "Master Mariner" award for his years of loyal service, generosity and dedication to the Squalicum Yacht Club.



*Les and Lynn Blackwell at SYC breakfast May 4, 2019*

# Spreading the Spirit



*Salish Nomad makes the season bright at Cap Sante*



*Showstoppers delight SYC once again  
photo by Paul Graf*



*Christmas ornament by Jodi Steel-Jones  
photo by Lorretta Palagi*



*The Bellingham High Showstoppers Christmas Party 2021  
photo by Paul Graf*



*Rocky and Mike greet members New Year's Eve  
photo by Lorretta Palagi*



*Holiday Wreath by Jodi Steel-Jones  
welcomes members to SYC Christmas party  
photo by Lorretta Palagi*



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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Ask for their yacht club discount.  
 Discount varies from item to item.  
*Cash, check, or credit card—must show membership card.*

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