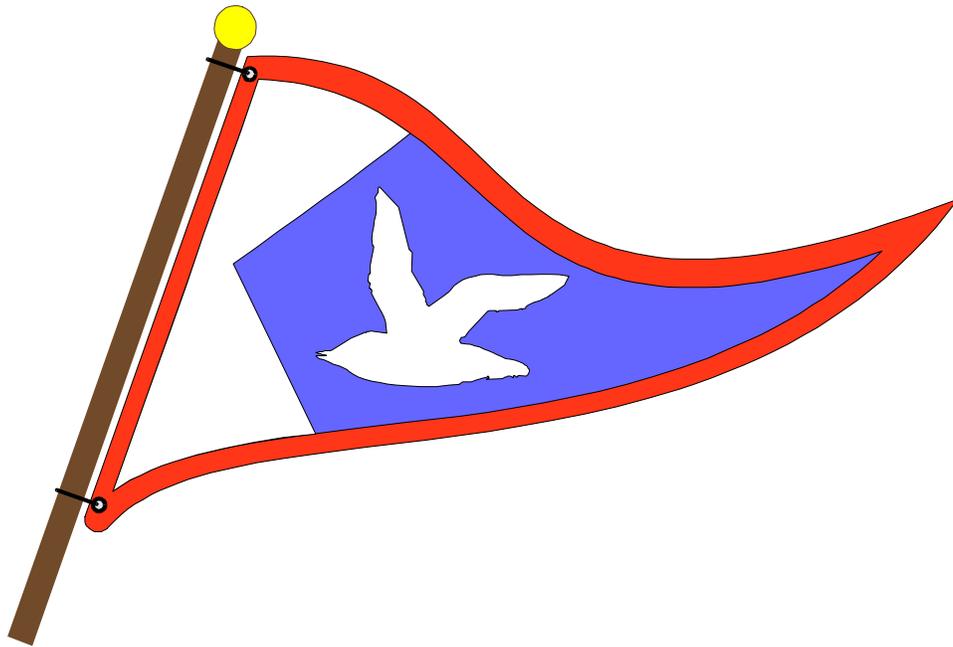


The Log

Newsletter of the Squalicum Yacht Club, Bellingham, Washington



Coming Events

Wednesday February 22

General Meeting 1800 hours





Commodore's Corner

by Rocky Champagne, Commodore

I am writing this on February 6th having arrived back from our trip to Hawaii last night after midnight. Kristi and I are both in the bag as they say. Paid the bills, got groceries, unpacked, did laundry and took long naps. Away trips are fun and refreshing but the travel days sure take a toll on you. I am sure it is harder as we age.

We spent 12 days on the Big Island in Kona at the same place we always rent for the past 32 years. It's the Kona Reef, right on the water with a wonderful pool and a perfect view of whales, waves, surfers and marine traffic of all kinds.

One of our favorite places we go is to the marina area. The national park adjacent to the harbor is famous for viewing sea turtles foraging in the ponds left behind when the tide goes out. Many of them are out of the water sleeping and warming on the lava shore. You never tire of watching these magnificent animals.

Since we are a boating club I guess I should talk about boats too. I was once again struck by how

limited are the marina type areas in Hawaii. There is the port in Hilo, one marina in Kona, a very small bay south of Kona and the one at the northern end of the island at the container shipping harbor, but that is about all on the whole island and they all appear to be full. I can only imagine how long the waiting lists are. There appeared to be a hundred smaller boats parked in a dry land lot at the marina. There are almost no "pleasure" boats as we know them used for just cruising around like we do. Not counting the commercial tour boats, almost everything else is directly related to fishing. There are all the fancy, deep sea charter boats that cater to tourists with their bright white hulls and tall, stainless, fish spotting towers. These boats are kept to the highest standards, waxed up and gleaming and all the bright work perfect or being refinished constantly. They are impressive to look at. It's a big business and they have to look impressive and professional to attract their customers.

Having seen all this boat activity it stirs me to get back to my own boating projects and start cleaning up from the winter crud that covers everything. It is amazing how dirty the air must be from being down in the commercial area of the bay. I also see a lot of bright work that needs to be worked on. My cap rails may be reaching the time when they need to be painted red and not kept bright anymore. The previous owner had used a two part epoxy which is very nice and long lived but as it fails, it is very hard to remove so a solid color paint probably is in the future like on our previous boats.

Hope you are well and healthy. Having just come back from a refreshing and much needed "vacation" I encourage you all to take time for yourself and refresh. Get away from Bellingham for a few days and leave things behind. See something new or old but get out there and enjoy your surroundings!

See Rocky's Hawaii photos next page



Large turtle art.



Charter boat in Hawaii



Typical charter

Pancake Breakfast

by Joyce Glenn, Event Coordinator

The SYC Bridge has voted to recommend we again host our Opening Day Benefit Breakfast on Saturday, May 6th. We started this event in 2006 and have hosted it every year except for 2020. It does require a significant number of SYC member volunteers which is why it will be presented to the membership for your vote at the upcoming meeting.

We purchase, cook and serve food for 200 breakfasts. This includes scrambled eggs, pancakes, sausages, coffee and juice. We also sell raffle tickets for locally donated gift cards/certificates. In the past these have

come from Colony Wharf, Seaview Boatyard, LFS, Web Locker, Anthony's & the Hearthfire. Our breakfast runs from 7:30-10:30am or until the food runs out :)

We will bring our recommendation to you at the February meeting for your vote. Our suggested cost for the breakfast and raffle tickets will be discussed. We will also discuss which charities to donate our proceeds to. In the past we have donated to the Bellingham Food Bank and Maple Alley Inn, both charities provide food for the less fortunate. This is a fun event, builds camaraderie among our members, opens our clubhouse to the public and benefits our community. It's a win-win!

Sucia Work Party Announcement

To Members of SYC from Paul and Margo Graf

Sucia Work Party, Sept. 9, 2023

Please let us know if you intend to come, might come, or can't come.

This information will help us with planning, but all are welcome to attend whether we know or not.

A big thank you to those who have responded to our request for Sucia Work Party crew next September 9. Intending to join the fun so far are **David Ferguson**, **Andale** (new boat may have different name), **Helen Marie**, **Carol Lee**, **Wigeon** plus one "maybe". This is looking OK so far, but one or two more would make it a lot more comfortable to be able to commit to having a work crew for Ranger Steve Sabine for next Sept 9. SYC has good rapport and a long tradition of supporting San Juan area parks. We would like to see that continue. For those who have not had the opportunity to participate in one of our work parties, here are a few photos which are a sampling of what we have done the last few years. We never know exactly

what there will be to do until we get there, but there is something for every level of ambition from litter pickup or light trail pruning to painting or concrete work to building new trail through rough terrain or cutting heavy brush and lots in between. There is a basic satisfaction in doing something that contributes not only to our enjoyment of Sucia, but also to everyone who enjoys Sucia Island like we do. Remember guests can count as able crew.

It would be really good to hear from a few more members, even if you are a "maybe" or "unlikely" etc., letting us know is helpful. We would also really enjoy the company of co-captains (i.e. co-hosts) to bounce some ideas back and forth. We would welcome anyone who would volunteer. It would also be a great opportunity for newer members to get to know some of the Club's old salts ?

Please contact Paul & Margo Graf, e-mail: grafs@centurylink.net

See next page for photo memories of the 2022 Sucia work party. Photos and composite by Paul Graf.



STEP REPLACEMENTS



FUN TIME



PAINTING



FUN TIME



BRUSH TRIMMING



TABLE REPAIR



TRAIL BUILDING-ROCK WORK



TRAIL TRIMMING

SYC Family

Megan and Nico Lacchini – S/V *Epiphany*

Megan and I met in Washington, D.C., in 2009. We went on dates as most people do and got to know one another a little more over each dinner. We both grew up overseas – Megan mainly in Indonesia, Austria (my motherland), and Egypt, and I in the UK, Greece, and India. Between our love for travel, family, friends, and pretty sunsets it quickly became apparent that we were quite...suitable...for one another. At least I thought so, until Megan gave this English-as-a-Second-Language guy a lesson in semantics. She was apparently not, I was told, merely a suitable mate. Rather, we were well-suited to each other.



*Nicco and Megan
Lacchini Family photo*

Whatever the Unabridged Oxford Dictionary may have to say on the matter, it turned out later that year that we were, in fact, perfect for each other. This discovery came during a dinner conversation about visiting Megan's family in Bellingham. "When we're in Bellingham we could take the boat out!" Megan offered.

Boat? What boat?

Megan proceeded to tell me all about *Epiphany*, her family's 1986 Island Packet 31, how she had a favorite spot on it, and how great sailing the San Juans was. I was thrilled. My boating experience was limited to a year of owning an 18-foot Bayliner Cuddy Cabin on

the Potomac and about two years of co-ownership of a 1967 Columbia 24. Imagine every possible bell and whistle a boat could have, none of that was on my boat. It was a proud day when I added a compass. Nevertheless, it felt incredible whenever I would sail her down the West and Severn Rivers toward Annapolis and on into Chesapeake Bay. There are few things as liberating as being on wide-open water with a good breeze on a beam reach. And to now have met a woman who loved sailing as much as I did? What were the odds?

From that moment on we would spend time on *Epiphany* every time we came to visit Megan's family. We didn't even have to take her out – just sitting in the cockpit with a drink looking out for harbor seals was the sort of peace we loved. One year we came to Bellingham during the summer with our then-nine-year-old daughter and took *Epiphany* to Friday Harbor for a long weekend.



*Katerina in skychair
Lacchini Family photo*

It was a memorable experience for her. With sailing, there are three well-known kinds of wind – not enough, too much, and right on the nose. As we left Squilicum, we experienced the first of these and decided to motor across Bellingham Bay. A minor wake from a distant boat shook *Epiphany* slightly as we came up on Eliza Island, prompting our little bilge rat to come running top side exclaiming "We're all going to die!"

Our close brush with death notwithstanding, we ultimately made it to Friday Harbor and back safely and decided right then and there to get our own boat back East. By the end of the summer we proudly eased *Bedouin*, our 2003 Hunter 306, into our slip at Herrington Harbour Marina in Deale, Maryland, and spent essentially every weekend on her from then on. She became our weekend refugee.

We eventually sold *Bedouin* and moved to Bellingham in the summer of 2022 after both of our employers offered us the opportunity to work remotely. While we dearly loved our own boat, the thought that we would spend our next chapter on *Epiphany* in a place as beautiful as the Salish Sea made us mostly

forget our sorrows. And since it is always nice to share fun experiences with friends we decided to inquire about membership with SYC, and I sent an email to the general mailbox. Imagine my surprise when I got a response back from Joyce Glenn – former owner of *Epiphany*!

At the time of writing there were 38 days until spring. As the days are once again getting longer (and my patience shorter), we are already finger-traveling through the San Juans, dreaming of secluded coves, island sunsets, and pirate parties on *Epiphany*.



Epiphany
Lacchini Family photo



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 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.