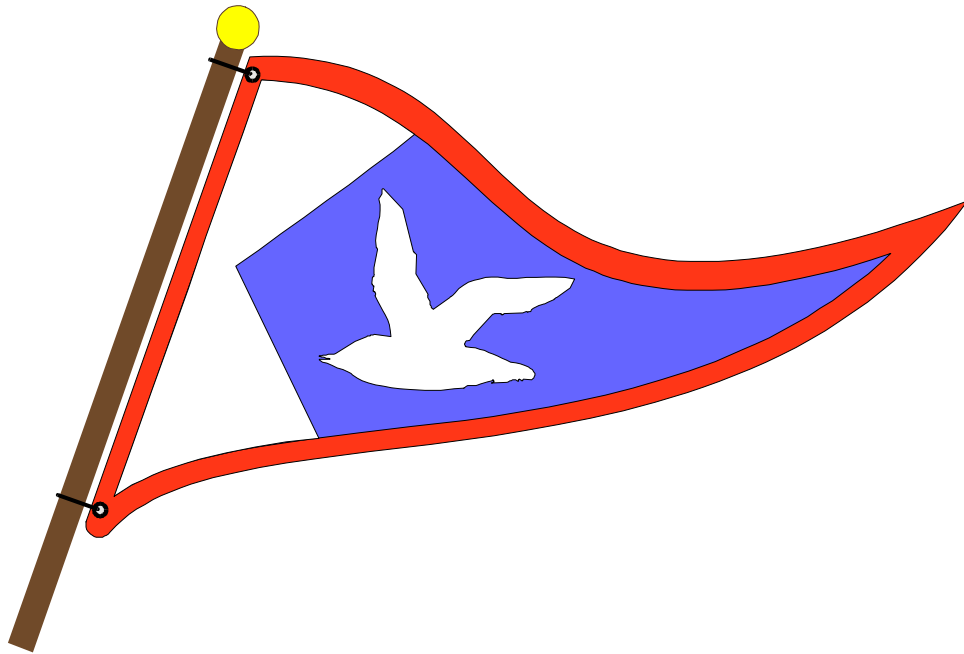


# *The Log*

Newsletter of the Squalicum Yacht Club, Bellingham, Washington



## Coming Events

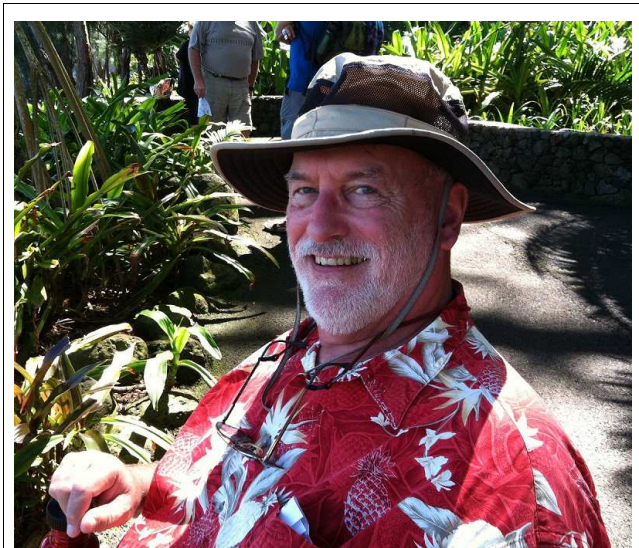
Wednesday May 25

General Meeting 1800 hours



May 2023

Family Cruising Since 1937



## Commodore's Corner It Takes a Team!

*by Rocky Champagne, Commodore*

It's only been a week since Opening Day at the club and it was a very successful Opening Day Breakfast! I want to specially thank Joyce and Steve for the countless hours of planning, purchasing, gathering workers and setting up. It "takes a village" as they say but most importantly it takes good leadership to plan

the event, then be able to step back and let the members do their jobs well. All their work is truly a gift to the club and we are so lucky to be in such good hands.

I also want to acknowledge all the club members who worked tirelessly out front or behind the scenes. It was a joy to stand back and see you all busily going about your jobs getting the work done but also having fun and representing Squalicum Yacht Club well. It's very fortunate that we work well together and get along and have fun no matter what the task is.

Watching the 100 or so breakfast guests gather and linger I was struck by how calm and happy they seemed to be. I know the covid times are mostly behind us but it still felt reassuring to see people get back to normalcy. It was encouraging!

I would like to encourage you to attend the "shake down" cruise to Chuckanut Bay on the 20th. Kristi and I won't be there due to a singing concert conflict. Sometimes life gets in the way. We plan on taking our van out over Memorial Day weekend for two nights then we are off to Glacier National Park for a week at the beginning of June. After that we are going to be out on the boat as much as possible. No long trips are planned so far but you never know. Any time on the boat is good time!

## Ceiling Insulation Project

*by Steve Glenn*

The ceiling insulation crew met today, May 15<sup>th</sup>. We installed about 70% of the insulation. That is all of the area above the ceiling tiles. The areas at the two ends of the clubhouse that must be accessed from within the attic space will be done when the weather is a little cooler. I would like to thank the insulation crew: Rocky Champagne, Paul Graf, and Phil Terzian.



*Insulation crew – Rocky, Phil, Paul, Steve.  
Photo by Steve*





## Opening Day Breakfast

*by Steve and Joyce*

*photos by Paul Graf*

In spite of the weather, our Opening Day Benefit Breakfast came off without a hitch! We had lots of food, great camaraderie, a warm clubhouse and a lot of happy customers. Our cooks did an excellent job, the breakfast was really good and it looked like our volunteers had a great time. Thanks to all who volunteered....we could not have done it without you!



*Galley Crew – Jana, Lynda, Joyce, Linda & guest*

Our Raffle gifts were well received and the ticket seller(s) had way too much fun at the raffle desk : ) Mike Heintz won complementary apps or dessert at Anthony's as did his sister Deb, Rocky won a gift card to LFS and Marvin won a gift card to Web Locker. The remainder were won by non-club members but who knows.... Last year 2 non-club member families who won raffle gifts ended up joining.

Thanks again to everyone who contributed their time, expertise and good humor for a successful event.



*Jodi, Margo, Lynda & Rob serving up breakfast*



*Cooks and cashiers busy*



*Many a good conversation over breakfast*

## Deer Harbor Cruise

*by Phil Terzian*

The Deer Harbor cruise is coming up on June 22-24. So far there are four boats signed up (*Joyful*, *Sirena*, *Epiphany*, and *Salty Bliss*, a guest of mine.). If you're

planning to attend, please call Deer Harbor and book your reservation soon (360-376-3037). Be sure to let them know you are with SYC so we can be grouped together. And also let me know so I can plan activities.

## May General Meeting Program

*by Phil Terzian*

Many of our members are very experienced fishers, as well as seasoned boaters and cruisers. But for those of us who aren't, and want to get out there and try our hand at fishing in the San Juan Islands, now is your

chance to pick up some valuable techniques. Our speaker is Rick Todd, who has lived and fished locally for 50 years. He will be talking about fishing (salmon, lingcod, bottom fish) and also crab and shrimp trapping. I'm sure its going to be an interesting program with plenty of entertaining images and a spirited Q&A session. Hope we can pack the house.



## First “Summer” cruise....in May

*Story and photos by Phil Terzian*

After looking at the forecast for 80 degree temperatures and no wind to speak of, Jodi and I decided to pack up *Joyful* and hit the road, er, the water.

We selected MacKaye Harbor at the south end of Lopez Island as our destination because we had never been there before, and because it took us past some rocky coastline that I thought might be a good place to fish for lingcod. (season is May 1 – June 15). We did catch one, but it was too small to keep (must be 26-36”). MacKaye Harbor was not bad, easy anchoring. We took the dinghy in and walked to the only store/restaurant around, The Southend Café, and

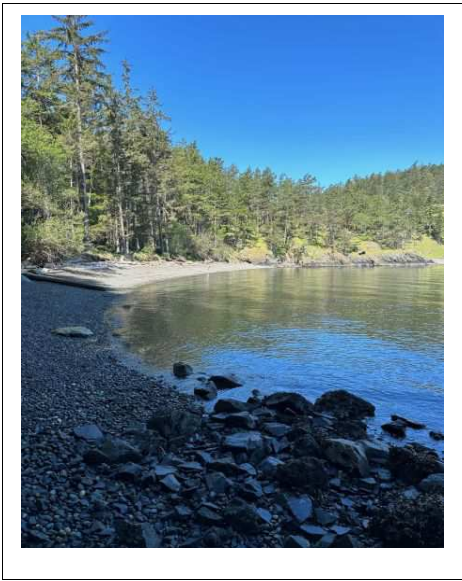
enjoyed their specialty Smashburger and a strawberry shake. Saturday morning, we headed out for some more fishing around Iceberg Island where we picked up a keeper lingcod, and then headed to Mud Bay. There we rafted with our friends Mike and Sarah on Salty Bliss and enjoyed a fresh lingcod dinner with all the trimmings, prepared by master chef Jodi.

Sunday morning I got up early and had a fabulous sunrise view of Mt Baker. The water was dead calm and it was perfectly quiet except for the seabirds. Just beautiful.

We then cruised over to James Island where we snagged a dock space, hiked around for awhile and then headed back to Bellingham via the Anacortes fuel dock, where we topped off and grabbed a couple of ice cream sandwiches, our real reason for stopping.



## More “Summer Cruise” Photos



## SYC Family

by Joyce Glenn

May has been such a busy month for me that I don't have a new member article per se. I am really excited to announce that Lori Province has just rejoined SYC. She and Raleigh had been club members for many years along with their sailboat *Salish Mists*.

We have several former members who attended our breakfast and indicated they planned to rejoin. I am

waiting to hear from them. As well, there have been several requests via email regarding joining SYC. Our membership chair, David Imburgia, has been busy contacting them with information and invites to join us for any of our upcoming events. As always, we will keep you informed of any new members and will showcase them in the fall Log.

**Have a great summer and hope to see you on the water or camping!**

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## Bellingham Scottish Gathering

by Joyce Glenn

Heather is still looking for volunteers to help set up Friday night June 2<sup>nd</sup> and/or help her with various tasks on Saturday June 3<sup>rd</sup>. She is specifically looking for a guy or guys who can set up the generator, run ground lines to 3 different staged areas for the PA system.

He/they would hopefully be able to provide general expertise in areas that she lacks. She is also looking for someone with an RV that would be willing to dry camp Friday night and provide hot/cold water (propane fired) for her 2<sup>nd</sup> hand washing station used only by the food workers (Health Department required). If you are interested, please contact her directly at [heather@scottishdancesociety.org](mailto:heather@scottishdancesociety.org). It's a fun day!

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## Where in the World Are Rod and Susan?



*Susan Dean enjoying a kayak ride on  
**Kestrel's** trip to Princess Louisa*



***Kestrel** underway in Canada May 2023*

# AIS Stories

*by Jack Bazhaw*

\* \* \* \*

You may have taken advantage of the capabilities of AIS or Automatic Identification Systems. The system takes some of the stress from situations like coming out of Prevost Harbor on Stuart Island bound for Canada and worrying about commercial traffic coming around the blind corner at Turn Point or playing chicken with the ferries going to and fro from Nanaimo, B.C.

There are web sites that display AIS signals. Not all vessels, including some commercial ones, will be broadcasting a signal, so the Mark-One Eyeball is still essential for collision avoidance.

Besides the help navigating, the system makes some lighter moments possible.

First up, while crossing the Strait of Georgia, returning from Desolation Sound in B.C., we heard Winchelsea Range Control (on Winchelsea Island, B.C.) calling a vessel that we recognized as one we had talked to at Taku Resort Marine dock, Heriot Bay, Quadra Island, a few days before. They were calling to let him know he was entering the area known as “Whiskey Golf”, a military torpedo exercise range.

Shown on charts as “WG”, it is a large trapezoid area in the Strait of Georgia between Nanaimo on Vancouver Island and the mainland. All boats crossing the Strait must avoid this when it is active. Amazingly we heard the skipper say his chart showed he was not entering WG. Arguing with the navy as to whether one needs to change course is one thing. Arguing with a 3,000-pound inert torpedo running at 55 knots is bound to have a disappointing result for any skipper and would result in a mark that would not easily buff out.

Shortly after this exchange my AIS display picked up a vessel on our starboard making 12 knots steaming east on a course parallel to the north edge of WG. It was our recent acquaintance. We were steaming south from Welcome Passage (between Merry I. and Sechelt Peninsula) at 7 knots bound for the NE corner of WG, then to Commodore Passage in the Flat Top Islands, completely bypassing the forbidden area. When he was directly ahead of us, he made a hard turn to starboard and proceeded on our course. I really wanted to contact him to gently chide him about his chart plotting but figured his sense of humor might be at a low ebb.

Next, good friends of ours were planning to take a trip to Alaska. In preparation he installed a Class B AIS transceiver onboard. In the weeks prior to their departure for Alaska they experienced several boat problems. Knowing of their problems, the day they were to leave for Alaska I went on a web site and found their marker in the middle of Bellingham Bay, so we knew they had departed.

The next day we received a message from one of the boats they were to meet advising us they had not heard from our friends on VHF and could not get them by cell phone. I returned to the web site and found their marker was still in the middle of Bellingham Bay, but the time stamp was the day before. Not a good sign. After a bit even that marker went away, and I could not find another marker anywhere around where I knew they would be going.

With all the problems they had been having we became concerned. Since it is a requirement they would have to check into Canadian Customs I called the Canadian Coast Guard to inquire if they could ascertain if they had cleared yet. All he could do was put out a radio broadcast as there was no indicated emergency. He took my number and we waited and thought about what else we could do. Within an hour he called back and informed us the vessel and crew were safe and sound.

Later we got the full story. On their way out of Squalicum harbor they had a fuel leak. Not wanting to return to their slip again, they continued while stopping the leak and removing the mess. In the process of cleaning up the leak he inadvertently disconnected a wire that ran his AIS transceiver.

They cleared Customs at Bedwell then proceeded to a dock at Ganges, B.C. That evening he retired early, and his wife was enjoying a glass of wine in the cockpit when she saw five young buff guys walking down the dock toward her. Her heart was fluttering; they asked her name. They were from the Canadian Coast Guard. The office that took my call had looked out their window and realized they were looking at the boat I had called about and went to check that all was okay. Everybody had a good laugh.



*Sandpiper at Taku dock – photo by Jack Bazhaw*

## Eagle

*by Jack Bazhaw*

We have all seen eagles soaring through the sky, or majestically sitting on a limb, and in rare cases diving and grabbing food from the sea. But swimming? Nah.

Coming up Pylades Channel, north of Porlier Pass, we noticed a disturbance in the water ahead of us. As we got closer, we realized it was a bird. A bald eagle. And he (or she) was swimming. Beating those big wings about every three seconds. Making for the near shore. Her wings did not appear to be damaged. I suspected she had latched on to a big fish and her weight and balance calculations were inaccurate and was unable to take off. Years later I saw a video of this scenario happening.

Cassandra wanted to jump in the inflatable dinghy

and rescue her. I suggested that maybe caution was the better part of valor. A female bald eagle could weigh fourteen pounds, not an easy item to hoist over the inflatable's gunwale. She is probably already not in the best of moods. Any attempt to pick her up will be met with resistance. Her beak and flailing wings could inflict considerable damage to Cassandra or the dinghy and if she got her talons free, Katy bar the door! If this bird, protected in some provinces, was injured during the rescue attempt the Mounties could be very upset and might issue fines.

So, we watched her progress for a bit, then realized we had an appointment with slack water at Gabriola Passage and reluctantly left the area.

Hopefully she made it to shore, dried off and enjoyed her meal.



*Photo by Jack Bazhaw*





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.

*Officers*

Commodore - Rocky Champagne

Vice Commodore - Phil Terzian

Rear Commodore - Steve Glenn

Treasurer - Joyce Glenn

Secretary - Lorretta Palagi



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Ask for their yacht club discount.

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