

# The Log



*of the*

## Coming Events

General Meeting	February 28
Bridge Meeting	March 13
General Meeting	March 27

Squalicum Yacht Club  
Bellingham, WA

## Commodore's Report

by Phil Terzian



### Rx for Wx

Well here we are, Valentine's season and it's still not particularly tempting to get back out on the water except for the truly hearty, seasoned veterans in the club. I've been pondering the best prescription for, shall we say, marginal PNW weather.

One obvious choice is to clear out of town for a while. Preferably in a southerly direction. Hard to do if you have a day job, although not a bad use of a vacation week. On the other hand, vacation weeks become downright precious when cruising season arrives. For the retired folks schedules tend to be simpler and a few weeks in southern climes are more constrained by \$\$\$ and health issues. It's not a perfect world.

Boat preparation and cruise planning are taking up some of the slack time for me. I just finished studying the ABYC Marine Electrical Certification study guide and took all the quizzes. Learned a lot for that effort. Maybe it will come in handy someday.

While I'm otherwise busy lounging around eating Oreos, we have at least one club member who plays pickle ball almost every day. A true inspiration. We should all probably be moving around more in the winter. It's been a terrible ski season so far, so that's out. Let's see.....how about we all get out for a night of bowling? Most of us haven't done that in years. Might be a real hoot. I'll

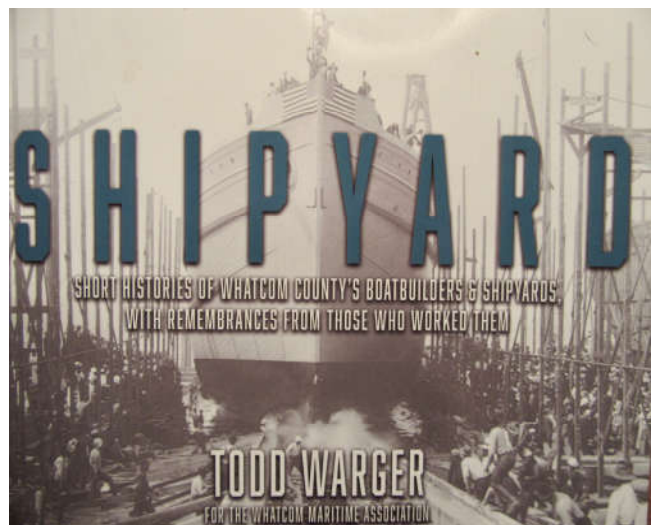
try to set something up in March. I'll bring the Oreos.

In the meantime, keep smiling and get ready for another beautiful summer in Bellingham and a full slate of events at the Club.

## Vice Commodore's Report

By Joyce Glenn

Our program/speaker for February is Todd Warger. He is an Emmy Award nominee for the documentary film *"The Mountain Runners"* and recipient of the Washington State Historical Society's 2008 David Douglas award for the documentary film *"Shipyard."* He is the co-author of *"The Invisible Empire: Madge Oberholtzer and the Unmasking of the Ku Klux Klan,"* the *"Murder in the Fourth Corner"* series, and *"Images of America: Mount Baker."* Born in Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts, he now resides in Bellingham Washington.



(continued on next page)

*(February Meeting, cont'd.)*

Todd will be discussing the research and writing of *Shipyard*, which covers historical shipyards and boat builders in Whatcom County. He will focus on the yachting section as well. Yes, he will have books for sale at \$40 cash or check, no additional tax.

Thanks to Lorretta Palagi for suggesting Todd! I did listen to one of his podcasts and found him to be a very interesting speaker. Please plan to attend our February meeting and bring a guest.

---

## December's King Tides

*By Lorretta Palagi*

You might have heard on the news or, if you were anywhere near Squalicum Harbor in December, you might have noticed that we were having our king tides. Here's a shot taken on December 18, around 1000 when the tide was predicted at 9.41 feet. Don't see that very often!



*High tide in Squalicum Harbor, December 2023*

## Deer Harbor Cruise Update

*By Phil Terzian*

The Deer Harbor cruise this year is scheduled to run from Thursday, June 20, until Saturday June 22. Last year a few folks stayed until June 23. I have selected these dates because that is most likely to be the spot prawn fishing opener and the fishing is particularly good around Deer Harbor.

Last year we had a small group but had a lot of fun. Some came on the ferry and stayed in local lodging, some by boat. The fishing was great, Rob Wells joined us on Joyful. Of course, this led to some excellent fresh seafood at the potluck.



*Spot prawns!*

*(continued on next page)*

*(Deer Harbor Cruise cont'd)*

Deer Harbor is one of my favorite marinas in the islands. It's big enough to have full services and two very good restaurants, but small enough to avoid a lot of frenzied craziness.

You can make a reservation through the Dockwa app. Be sure to include a note on there saying that you are part of the SYC group. We will all receive moorage discount if we have more than six boats. If you have any questions you can contact the harbormaster, Marc Broman, at 360-376-3037

Cruise hosts this year are Phil, Jodi, Nico and Megan.



## WELCOMING WALT & PEGGY SOUZA

*By Joyce Glenn*

Walt and Peggy officially joined Squaticum Yacht Club in June 2023, after being guests of David & Celie's at one of our spring meetings. They have a 40' Bayliner named Carmen E. and are dockmates of David & Celie at Gate 6. They currently boat, fish and crab primarily in the San Juan Islands but look forward to going further north in the future.

I was recently chatting with Walt and found out we were at Bellingham High School at the same time, I was in class of '72 and Walt in the class of '73. He also worked for Alvord Richardson in the mid-70s and worked with my brother. Small world! Born in Oregon, Walt moved to Bellingham when he was 1 year old, so probably qualifies as a "Bellinghamster." Peggy was born in Seattle and they met in Bellingham through a mutual friend. He worked at Uniflite which Chris Craft bought out after Uniflite burned. They're looking forward to retirement in the near future.



*(continued on next page)*

*(Souzas cont'd)*

They have a 23-year-old daughter who is pursuing a career in opera. She was a Bellingham Showstopper and had most likely performed at SYC during her high school days. She has been invited to sing the National Anthem at the BYC Opening Day festivities this year. Let's all hope for a sunny day so we can hear her from our Benefit Breakfast. We also chatted about the three most prevalent yacht clubs in Bellingham, and both agreed SYC was the best fit! Let's give them a warm welcome and just remember that when you sit down and really chat with someone you are likely to find your paths have crossed somewhere along the line. Welcome Walt & Peggy!



## 2024 SYC CRUISE SCHEDULE

Sunday, May 19, Shakedown Cruise at  
Chuckanut Bay

Captains: Steve & Joyce  
Co-Captains: Phil & Jodi

May 31–June 2, Port Browning, British  
Columbia Cruise

Captains: Marvin & Jill

June 15, Early Solstice Party @ Heintz  
home

Hosts: Mike & Kris

Cohosts: John & Linda

June 20–21 Deer Harbor Cruise

Captains: Phil & Jodi

Co-Captains: Nico & Megan

July 4, Fourth of July Celebration at the  
Clubhouse

Captains: Randy & Lorretta

Co-Captains: David & Maria

July 18–19, Garrison Bay Cruise

Captains: Larry & Linda

August 23–24, Fisherman Bay Cruise

Captains: Rob & Sharon

September 13–14, Work Party (Fossil  
Bay, Sucia Island)

Captains: Paul & Margo

Co-Captains: Rocky & Kristi

*There are a few co-captain slots open. If you're interested, please contact the Cruise Captains for a particular cruise.*



## Solo (continued)

I recovered the anchor, got back to the cockpit, turned off the deck light, grabbed a flashlight and started for the bay entrance. This was long before powerful LED flashlights; I have simple two-cell lights, but I had recently replaced them with halogen units. The rain on my glasses made everything foggy and distorted but the light was just powerful enough to make out the day markers for the channel entrance.

Now what? Going to port would put me on the west side of the island and again on a lee shore, plus I had no chart to look at, but memory said there were a lot of things to go bump in the night against. To starboard would allow me to retrace my steps from yesterday and the chart I had stared at so much was still fresh in my mind. I turned to starboard hopefully making enough offing from Sucia and not too close to the reef. The buoy at the north end of Clements reef is unlit and my flashlight never picked it up in the swells. The boat now has a more violent motion as the swells pass under me but at least the anchor locker is no longer scooping water down below (I had forgotten to close the hatch).

At this point I realized that I had not turned on the knot meter, or fathometer. This was also long before I had radar or a chart plotter at the helm. And it was pitch black. No stars or moon visible. The sky was just slightly less black than the island to my starboard, giving me a vague sense of how far away I was. Briefly shining the light at

the island helped me from getting too close—I hoped.

After a while, I became aware of liquid in my boots. Did I have a personal problem? Nope, the rain had saturated my float coat and was working its way down.

Then I thought I had lost sight of Sucia. I had forgotten that the south end is much lower elevation. When I came to the break between Sucia and Ewing Island I felt better and on target. I tried to find the buoy at the south end of the reef on my port with no luck. I finally decided I was far enough south to turn; phooey on finding the reef buoy. But now I was going into the wind and, being soaked, it was very cold. I could see some anchor lights in Echo and amazingly my flashlight picked up the day marker on the reef at the south end (now a light). When I went to deploy the anchor, I wanted my trusty flashlight, but it had disappeared, lost overboard. I could see an anchor light in Shallow Bay gyrating like crazy.

After anchoring, I went below where it is warmer but wet; the only dry spot is the head. I stripped, dried off, put on some dry long johns kept in plastic bags and climbed into a slightly damp sleeping bag. The next thing I knew was its afternoon, the sun was out, and the wind had abated. It was a pleasant motor



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.*

*Log Editor: Rob Wells*

*Officers*



Commodore: Phil Terzian  
Vice Commodore: Joyce Glenn  
Rear Commodore: Jill Mount  
Treasurer: Linda Tibbot  
Secretary: Lorretta Palagi



851 Coho Way, Bellingham, WA 98225  
(360) 734-3336

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

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