

# The Log



*of the*

## Squalicum Yacht Club

Bellingham, WA

### Coming Events

Ladies' Auxiliary	April 18
Game Night	April 19
General Meeting	April 24
Opening Day Breakfast	May 4

## Commodore's Report

by Phil Terzian



### Splashing Joyful

Joyful, our Ranger Tug R27, spent a cozy winter in our storage condo up in Ferndale, but by the end of March it was time to put her back in the water. Several other SYC members had already made short cruises and we were starting to feel like we were missing out.

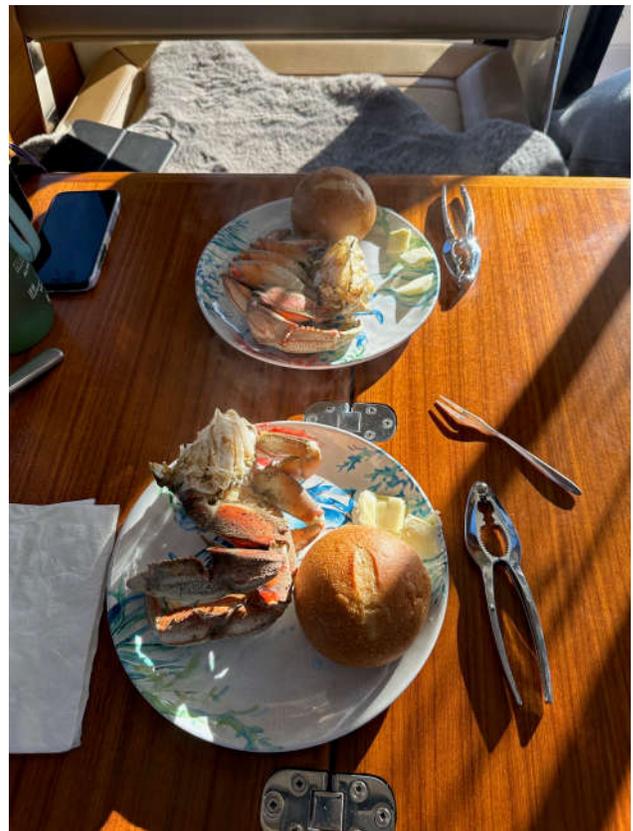
So, on March 24 we hooked up the trailer and hauled her down to the marina for a launch. I like to trailer that 10,000-pound load and launch on Sunday mornings, when there is little traffic, and impaired fellow motorists are still sleeping it off.

Last year after launch, as I was taking the boat from the launch point to my slip, the motor decided to just up and quit at a very inopportune moment, with narrow water, rocks and wind all mocking me. Luckily, I was able to crank up the trolling motor and move away from the shore to figure out what had happened to cause this self-inflicted anxiety episode. (Air in the fuel line) This winter I was doubly careful with my fuel filter replacement and bleeding, so all went smoothly.

The following weekend we hopped aboard and headed down to Anacortes for fuel (there is no marine ethanol fuel available in Bellingham). It only takes us a few minutes to get there because Joyful has a great big 300 hp motor and can cruise at 30 knots. I love fast boats. We pull up to the fuel dock,

take on 110 gallons of gas and throw down the overheated credit card for a \$550 beating for having a fast boat with a big motor. I hate fast boats.

It was a beautiful day, so we headed over to Mud Bay for the night. We were the only boat there except for some resident boats on mooring balls and three commercial crabbers who came and went. We had the place all to ourselves. Sweet.



Around dinner time a crabber pulled a pot right near us, I waved an Andrew Jackson from the rear deck and the next thing you know we were having fresh Dungeness for dinner. Isn't the PNW sublime.

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### *Splashing Joyful (cont'd.)*

Slept well but woke up a bit early, only to see the moon about to set, a beautiful reflection on the Mud Bay water, soon to be outdone by a colorful sunrise silhouetting Mt. Baker. What a great anchorage.



The tulips are already blooming at Butchart Gardens. Probably our next mini cruise. Can't wait. Hope everyone is getting as excited as we are for the coming season. See you on the water.

## **Port Browning Cruise Update**

*By Jill Mount, Rear Commodore*

We are getting excited about our upcoming cruise from May 31-June 1st, leaving June 2nd to Port Browning! So far, we have three boats signed up. David Imburgi and Celie Thomas have graciously offered to be our co-hosts.

To make your cruise to Canada to join us as enjoyable as possible there are a few things that will be helpful to know:

Before you go

-Apply for a CBP Decal (or Processing Fee)

Pleasure boats 30 feet in length or longer must pay an annual processing fee for the CBP Decal to enter or re-enter the United States. Even if you have a Nexus card, I-68, or Global Entry you still need to obtain this decal. You can order your decal online at <https://dtops.cbp.dhs.gov>, by phone 317-298-1245 or by email: [decals@cbp.dhs.gov](mailto:decals@cbp.dhs.gov)

-Sign up for the CBP ROAM APP. This stands for Reporting Offsite Arrival Mobile. Using this app you report your arrival online. You may be able to clear US customs without having to do it in person. You do not need to be part of a trusted traveler program, such as Nexus to do this.

-To make your reservation at Port Browning, please fill out the reservation form on their website, be sure to note that you are part of the SYC group. Wait till you get your confirmation e-mail. Call them to provide your credit card information to confirm your reservation.

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## Port Browning Cruise Update

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Please note that there is linear moorage, not individual slips. The docks have recently been lengthened; an accurate diagram can be found in the 2024 edition of Waggoner Cruising Guide.

On your way to Port Browning:

-Be sure to bring your passport. If you do not have a passport, you can use your driver's license if it is an enhanced driver's license. A standard driver's license will not be accepted.

Port Browning is a Nexus entry point, so if you have a Nexus pass you can pass through Canadian Customs there. If not, you can clear customs at Bedwell Harbour or at another customs entry point.

I realize this is a lot of information, but it's good to know before you go. There are so many beautiful cruising destinations in Canada that its worth the effort! If you need more information, you can check the 2024 Waggoner Cruising Guide or visit the US and Canadian Customs websites. It would be good to check the Canadian Customs website to learn which foods you can bring into Canada, the amount of liquor you can bring, etc.

We are looking forward to going to Port Browning and we hope you can join us! We have plenty of dock space available so hope to see you there!

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## Winter Aboard Sapphire

*By Tom and Julie Van Hall*

Our Southern Winter season began with the

launch of Sapphire in mid-November. After a two-day trip across the Okeechobee Waterway, we arrived at our "home" at Longboat Key Club Moorings. This has been our home for 7 Winter seasons, and we have many friends and activities to enjoy there.



We were blessed to have our youngest son, daughter-in-law and granddaughter visit for a whole week in December. Even included a day at the Magic Kingdom!

After Christmas we had other friends visit for a few days. Then, the "it's a boat" issue raised its ugly head. Long story short, a leak in the mounting of our dinghy lift leaked salt water into stern thruster cables, they shorted, and our battery charger was dumping 29 volts DC current into the water for an unknown period of time. We were able to travel back to our boat storage location and the technicians there lifted the boat out of the water, reinstalled the dinghy lift with reinforced mounts, repaired the underwater metal damage from the DC current and got us relaunched in about 2-1/2 weeks allowing our planned travel to the Bahamas for March and April.

We arrived at Great Sale Cay in the Abacos in late February. Unfortunately, the "it's a boat" syndrome was back. We struck something in 10 feet of water and thus have a Port side vibration.

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*Winter Aboard Sapphire*

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After a diver inspection, no visible prop damage, so we must have slightly bent one of the prop blades. We further tested and can travel 9 mph and 25-28 mph with minimal vibration and fortunately these are our "go to" speeds we travel. Again, blessed that the issue can wait till storage season, and we can enjoy God's beauty in the Bahamas.

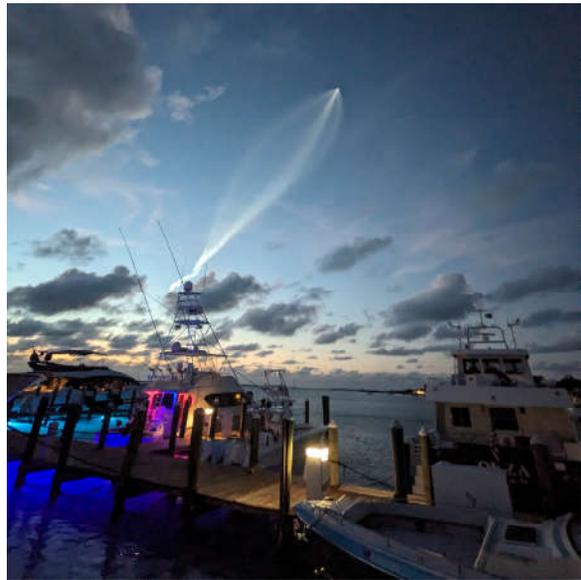


*Anchored in Norman's Cay, Exumas*

Our eldest son and daughter-in-law visited us for a week of cruising the Abacos in March, and our oldest daughter, son-in-law and granddaughter from Bellingham will cruise with us in the Exumas in April during Spring break.

We've included a few photos that hopefully inspire you for the upcoming PNW boating season. Looking forward to seeing you at SYC gatherings this Summer in Bellingham! We have plenty of other stories about storms, breakdowns, treacherous piloting,

and of course beautiful spots we visited we are willing to share in person.



*Harbor Island SpaceX Launch*



*Hopetown, Elbow Cay Abacos*

## Don't Miss This Month's General Meeting! April 24

After dinner, a presentation by some of our own veteran cruisers about their adventures in one of the Pacific Northwest's spectacular cruising grounds.

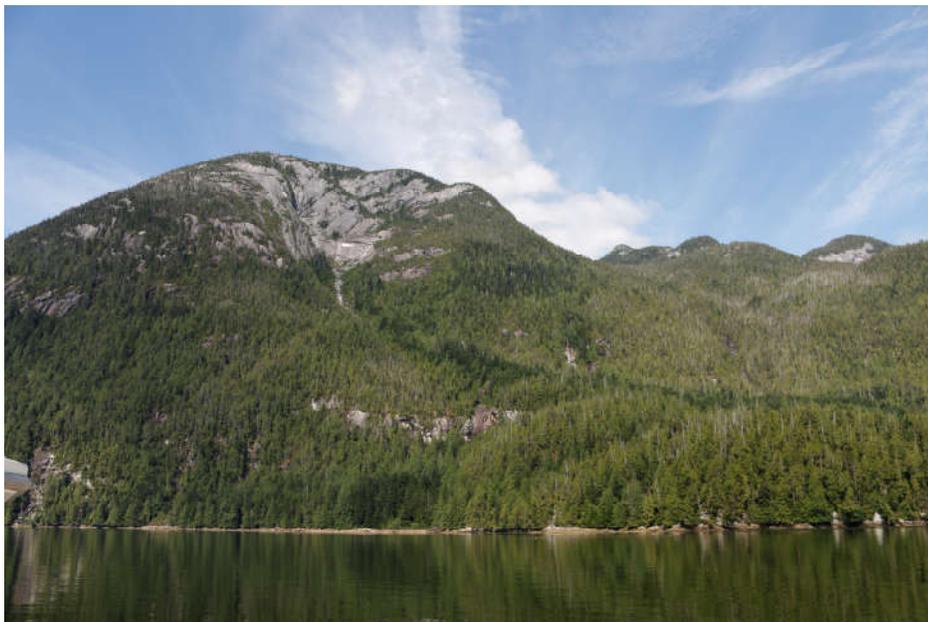


Sharon & Rob on "Sirena"



Susan & Rod on "Kestrel"

### Cruising The Broughtons





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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*Cash, check, or credit card—must  
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