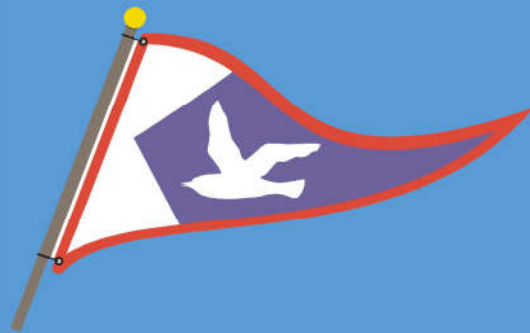




The Log



of the

Squalicum Yacht Club

Bellingham, WA

Coming Events

General Meeting	October 22
Change of Watch	November 15

Commodore's Report

by Phil Terzian

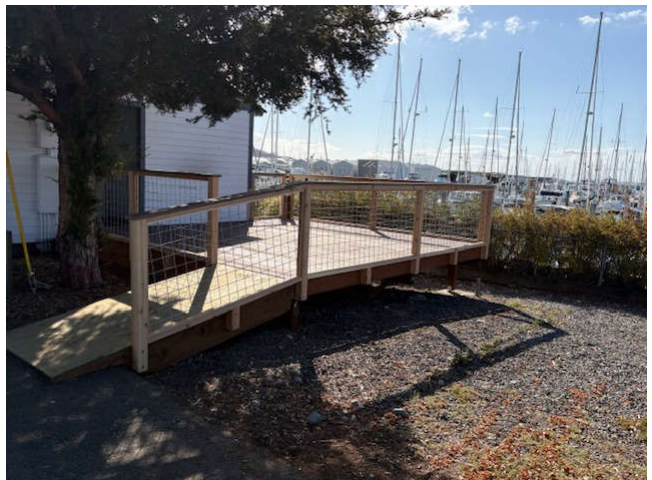


Beautiful New Deck

After several months of planning and the participation of many club members, our new deck is finally completed and ready for use. The structural problems with the old deck are no longer anything we need to worry about. The “floating deck” was built a bit higher to bring it up to clubhouse door level without a second ramp and our updated railing with maintenance free cap rail is looking very fetching. Thank you to all who participated in the removal of the

old deck and a special thanks to Randy and Lorretta who donated the composite decking. SYC saved thousands of dollars due to these contributions of labor and materials.

Heading into the winter season, when boating activities slow down considerably, we still have lots to look forward to. Change of watch in November, Christmas Party, New Year's Eve get-together and many fine speakers and potlucks. And, of course, bowling night. I hope everyone has a chance to participate in our festive club activities during our off season.



Vice Commodore's Report

By Joyce Glenn

This will most likely be my last log entry as Vice Commodore. It's been two great years but time to move onward. We are leaving October 20 for 3 weeks in Ecuador and returning November 11 – just 4 days before Change of Watch.

The October speaker is our own harbormaster Aaron Bisson. He promises to put together a program of interest to all of us. Please feel free to bring a boating friend or neighbor to our meeting.

Mark your calendars for the following events:

Change of Watch: Saturday, November 15 (the 3rd Saturday of November this year). Social time: 5:30pm. Potluck: 6pm. Program: 7:30-8:30pm. Kris Heintz has volunteered to organize food and set up again this year and will be reaching out for volunteers. Lorretta will be emailing out a reminder a week or so earlier.

Christmas/Holiday Event: Saturday, December 13 (the 2nd Saturday of December). Social time: 5:30pm. Potluck: 6pm. Bellingham Show Stoppers start arriving at 7:45pm and perform at 8pm. They perform for 20-30 minutes and as always there will be a donation basket on the bar. This event is organized by the new bridge.

New Year's Eve: We typically meet at the clubhouse at 5:30pm for food, games, and music. As we have "matured," we find it fun to watch the ball drop in New York City at 9pm and most of us call it a night. More

specific details will be sent out closer to the end of the year. As always we will be looking for volunteers to help with decorations and food.

Thanks so much! Let me know if you have any questions.

Treasurer's Note

By Linda Tibbotts

We begin collecting membership dues for 2026 starting in October. Please drop off your check (\$100 per family) at one of the upcoming monthly meetings/events or mail your check to 2633 S Harbor Loop Drive, Bham, 98225. Thanks, Linda T.

The Straight Poop About Scuttlebutt

By Brent Carey

I just skippered an all-lubber crew to the Sucia work party, with my friend from language school where we studied Arabic together. So, it didn't take long before the subject of nautical dialect came up.

On our boat, it would be very normal for me to say to Tess, "*On the next lift, let's come about. I'll hard sheet the mizzen so, when you uncleat the windward jib, I'll hold it fast while we round up. After I loose it, I'll tail for you then trim the jigger to our new tack.*" And, that would all be crystal clear.

(continued on next page)

Scuttlebutt (continued)

So, having a crew that didn't know stern from starboard brought the language barrier into clear contrast.

Over my years of sailing, I've collected nautical expressions with interesting origin stories. Here are a few from my collection that I hope you enjoy. You likely already know some of these, but hopefully one or two will surprise you.

By and Large

We don't use the terms much anymore, but "by" means sailing into the wind; "large" means sailing with it. A ship that handled well both by and large was a good one.

Starboard and Port

Some early sailing vessels had a rudder-like steering oar on the righthand side of the boat. The term "starboard" comes from the Old English *steorbord*, meaning "steering side". This meant that boats would necessarily dock on the other side, which was originally called the *bæcbord* (backboard) and later, the *ladebord* (loading side), which became *larboard*. It is believed that Royal Navy standardized the term "port" because "larboard" sounded too much like "starboard". Sounds reasonable.

Loose Cannon

In the age of sail, an unsecured deck gun could roll with the ship's motion, smashing everything in its path. I like this more than "a bull in a China shop" because you can sort of reason with a bull, but a loose cannon is like ... well, a loose cannon.

Know the Ropes

We have almost 20 lines on our sailboat that all do something different. On a tall ship, there were dozens more. A competent sailor knew which rope did what — the measure of seamanship and now, competence in general.

Three Sheets to the Wind

For you non-sailor types, the line that controls sail angle is called a "sheet". Most boats have, at minimum, three of them. If all three are loose, you are just blowing around, sloppy and out of control.

Bitter End

The bitts are posts where the anchor rode is fastened. The bitter end is the last few feet of rope still attached when all the rode has run out. So, holding on 'til the bitter end evokes a clear mental picture.

Under the Weather

The weather deck on a ship is the uppermost continuous deck that is exposed to the elements. Sick sailors were sent below — literally under the weather.

Head

Here's another obvious one when you know something about old ships. On large sailing ships, there was typically a *loo* on either side of the bowsprit at the front, or head, of the ship. The captain had a private facility in the rear of the boat under ... you guessed it ... the poop deck. But this gets its name from French *la poupe* (the stern) — just a funny coincidence.

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Scuttlebutt (continued)

Bow and Stern

Derived from *bog* in Low German, Dutch and Danish meaning “shoulder or arm.” It is the same origin as the word “bough”, meaning the limb of a tree. The use as the “shoulders” of a boat’s hull came to us via Middle English.

If you ever get confused about which is the bow and which is the stern, this makes it easy. “Stern” is from the Old Norse *stjorn*, meaning “steering”. So ... obviously ... unless you have a center cockpit.

Fathom

From Old English *fæthm* — “to outstretch the arms”. Became a measure of the distance between a sailor’s fingertips – about six feet. Knowing that, you can see how “to fathom” came to mean “to grasp or understand”.

Scuttlebutt

It is interesting how some things never change. A scuttlebutt is a “butt” (a cask of drinking water) with a “scuttle” (a hole). People would gather and gossip there ... and we still do today.

Knots and Logs

Many people know that we measure speed in knots because of the old practice of tying knots at intervals (often every 47 feet, 3 inches) in a “log line” (a string with a stick on the end). They would throw the

stick in the water and the number of knots that paid out in 28 seconds equaled the vessel’s speed in knots. These were recorded in the logbook. When you log onto a website, this actually harkens back to this practice, which is pretty cool.

English has been spliced and jury-rigged so many times that even old salts can’t tell a fresh splice from a flogged line. So, if the lingo leaves you three sheets to the wind, don’t strike your colors — just heave to, take a sounding, and enjoy the scuttlebutt.



Secure that metaphor!!!

(Sketch by Brent Carey)



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.*

Log Editor: Rob Wells

Officers



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



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