



# The Log



*of the*

Squalicum Yacht Club

Bellingham, WA

## Coming Events

NYE Chili Feed	December 31
General Meeting	January 28

## Commodore's Log

by Joyce Glenn

Our Change of Watch event last month was a huge success! We had a great turnout to say thanks to our outgoing bridge and welcome our incoming bridge. The food was excellent, our MC, Randy Bilof was funny and our Awards chairperson, Lorretta was "a hoot". Kristi Champagne was funny and diligent in her responsibility to dismiss the old and welcome in the new bridge. Thanks to all of you! We have a full bridge of experienced members as well as an excellent addition in our new Rear Commodore. Check out the Log to see who is who. It is shaping up to be a very good year for SYC!

A little about myself. I am a "Bellinghamster"- born and raised, attended Sunnyland, Whatcom and Bellingham High. I've been boating since the late 1980's starting with our Island Packet 31 "Epiphany", then our 1990 Island Packet 32 "Puffin" and now "Helen Marie" our 34'1976 DeFever. I've been a bridge officer since 2006..... Lorretta, there might be an award there!!!

I am excited to be Commodore for SYC this coming year. I look forward to working with the bridge officers and our membership to make 2026 an exceptional year! Feel free to talk with me about any new ideas you might have.



The bridge officers will be reaching out for volunteers from the membership. If you leave for the winter and are back for the summer, we have need for cruise and co-cruise captains as well as BBQ hosts for set up at the clubhouse in summer. If you stay close, the club has lots of volunteer areas for you to consider. I will be working with our Vice Commodore to address those needs in January. Raise your hand and get involved! Thank you.

## Christmas Holiday Event

by Joyce Glenn

The clubhouse was warm and festive for the holidays as approximately thirty club members met to share good food and comradery. The Bellingham Showstoppers were welcomed as they arrived to entertain us with their holiday performance and sing along. As we were waiting for all of the performers to arrive, I noted some of the taller students were eyeing our low ceilings. There was no cause for alarm, all went well! It was fun to watch them visiting and partaking of our leftover desserts after they were done. It was nice to see the leftover desserts disappearing!



## Christmas Holiday Event (continued)

New club members, Chuck and Terry Shull were sworn in. They have a 25' Catalina sailboat docked in Gate 8. Be sure and introduce yourselves to them at the next club meeting. Thanks to Lorretta, Linda, Jill, Jodi and myself for the initial decorating December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Our renters have been enjoying the club decorations. Additional thanks to Phil, Jodi, Steve and myself for the final decorating the morning of our event which included holiday tablecloths and our sleigh decorations. A special thanks as well to our new bridge for providing the meats, potato dishes and vegie dishes.



Our next meeting will be January 28, 2026. This is when we discuss our 2025 end-of-year financials and 2026 budget. It isn't all business though because Randy has plans for our "Gadgets, Gizmos & Good Stories" program as well. You will be reading more about that with the notice reminder that Lorretta sends out.



**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS TO ALL!**





## 2026 Cruise Schedule

*By Brent Carey, Rear Commodore*

Most folks have seen it by now, but let's make it official. The cruise committee met and came up with a full cruise schedule for 2026. To recap, we have:

**Shakedown Cruise – Chuckanut Bay:** May 9. Weather backup date is May 16. Captains needed.

**Solstice Party – Heintz Residence.** Jun 13. Hosted by Mike and Kris.

**Deer Harbor Cruise:** Jun 18-20. Captains are Phil Terzian and Jodi Steel-Jones.

**July 4 BBQ and Fireworks – SYC Clubhouse.** Hosts needed.

**Stuart Island Cruise – Prevost Harbor:** Jul 12-14. Captain is Wade Hansen.

**Ganges Cruise:** Jul 14-16. Captain is Rob Nelson.

**Anacortes Cruise – Cap Sante:** Aug 3-5. Captains needed.

**La Conner Cruise:** Aug 5-7. Captains needed.

**Fisherman Bay Cruise:** Aug 19-21. Captains needed.

**Sucia Work Party:** Sep 10-12. Captains Tess Carey and Paul Graf.

**San Juan Fall Cruise – Friday or Roche Harbor:** Sep 25-27. Captains needed.

Since not much has changed since we sent this out in email, and since this will go out in the roster, I'm going to make this a pitch for captains.

## Tradition *and* a Few Experiments

We've got a nice blend this year: familiar favorites plus a few chances to try something new around the edges. I'm new to both the club and bridge, so this is a great time to try things out, especially if you've never captained a cruise. If an idea doesn't land, you can always blame it on the rookie Rear Commodore.

### What's a "Stretch Cruise"?

"Stretch" cruises are a new idea as a way of offering a longer overall route without asking everyone to commit to the whole thing. Each leg is still its own cruise, with its own captain and flavor. There's no requirement for captains to coordinate just because their cruise is part of a stretch, but they absolutely can if they want to. Getting involved in one of these cruises is a great way to help shape how these cruises might work in the future. Experiment with a new

Our first stretch is Prevost © Ganges. Both legs already have captains, and I expect they'll be looking for co-captains before long. Prevost is proving to be a club favorite, but Ganges will be entirely new for most members, making this an exciting cruise.

Our second stretch is Anacortes © La Conner. Those cruises need captains. These are close to home, land-accessible, and short hops, which opens some fun options. Because the distances are modest, I suspect many boats that come to one will come to both — nice opportunity for captains to coordinate themes or activities if they wish.

(continued on next page)

## 2026 Cruise Schedule (continued)

### Specific Cruises Looking for Captains

**Fisherman Bay Cruise (Aug 19–21)** Rob and Sharon are ready to pass the torch. This cruise has earned great feedback, especially with the well-planned treasure hunt, so the bar is high. You can carry the treasure-hunt tradition forward or put your own spin on this cruise.

**San Juan Fall Cruise (Sept 25–27)** This is an off-season cruise to either Friday Harbor or Roche Harbor—both madhouses in peak season, but much more relaxed in the shoulder season. The cruise committee couldn't decide which was clearly better, so we're leaving the choice to the captain who steps up. If you'd like a little planning freedom, this one is for you.

**Shakedown (May 9, alternate May 16)** This is a good fit for someone captaining for the first time since there is no overnight component. You just need to be willing to make good weather calls for safety and comfort and be able to coordinate a raft up (with plenty of help).

**Anacortes (Aug 3-5) and La Conner (Aug 5-7)** These back-to-back cruises both need captains. These are short, easy runs that proved popular in the recent survey and should draw good participation, which makes them friendly for first-time captains or anyone wanting to try a new idea. They stand well on their own, and if two captains happen to have complementary plans, that's a bonus.

### Other Ways to Get Involved

If being a cruise captain seems like too much

commitment (or not quite enough), we also need hosts for regular meetings and potlucks. Please reach out to Randy Bilof if you're willing to help.

Another high-impact, low-commitment event is the July 4 BBQ at the clubhouse. It's historically well-attended, and—weather permitting—the host could also organize a short trip out into the bay to watch fireworks.

Any way you choose to plug in—as captain, co-captain, host, or enthusiastic participant—I'm looking forward to cruising with you in 2026

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## Set Sail for Discovery!

*Submitted by Lorretta Palagi*

*The information below was provided by Sharon Albert, who is involved with the Working Waterfront Coalition. Note that they are looking for donations of maritime books. In the past, we've had members looking to pass on chart books they no longer use or boating-based novels they've read, etc., so this might be a place for those books.*

### The Bellingham Maritime Library Opens January 8th

We're thrilled to announce the upcoming opening of the Bellingham Maritime Library, located at the Working Waterfront Coalition offices, #708 Coho Way in Squalicum Harbor—just steps from the harbormaster's office.

Beginning January 8th this new community library will welcome everyone with a passion for the sea and the maritime industry: sailors, boat builders, fishermen, readers, and dreamers alike. (continued on next page)

## Set Sail for Discovery! (cont'd.)      Rear Window

Come explore a rich and growing collection of maritime books, both **fiction and nonfiction**, covering such topics as:



**Wildlife • Adventure at Sea • Exploration Navigation**



**Sailing • Powerboats • Human-Powered Vessels • Fishing**



**Boat Design • Construction & Maintenance** — and much more!

The library will be open during regular Coalition office hours. You're invited to browse, read, or borrow books to enjoy at home or aboard your vessel.

### Join Us for Our Open House on January 8

We invite you to celebrate the opening of the library with us at an OPEN HOUSE:

January 8th, 5–7 p.m.

Working Waterfront Coalition Offices

Squalicum Harbor, 708 Coho Way

(near the harbor offices)

### Share Your Love of the Sea — Donate Your Books!

Help us build this community treasure by donating your **used maritime books**. It's the perfect way to make room on your shelves and share the spirit of the sea with others.

Please bring boxed donations to the Coalition offices. Include a note with your name so we can honor your gift with a donor label inside each book.

*By Kris Heintz*

Another favorite spot of ours is at Friends Landing near Montesano, WA. It is run by the Port Of Grays Harbor and is a little gem. It is located between Lake Quigg and the Chehalis River. The place is popular with locals because it has a boat launch for fishing, a playground for the kids, and a trail around the lake besides RV and Tent camping sites. We book a site that allows us to see Lake Quigg from our rear window, which is only steps away. While there are no sewer hookups, there is a dump station onsite with a \$10 fee. With a little conservation, we have managed to stay four nights.



There is an old-style diner called the Beehive in town that serves razor clams for breakfast or dinner (breakfast is served all day). I usually get my clam fix whenever we're there. Besides the beautiful dining room at Lake Quinault, we loved having lunch at the Ocean Crest Resort before they switched to dinner-only service. (continued on next page)



## Rear Window (continued)

There's a popular restaurant, Ranch House BBQ, that's closer to Olympia. The park is only ten miles to Aberdeen so getting essentials is easy to do during our stay or to pick up something from the store to barbeque. There is a Thriftway grocery store in Montesano, but their selection is very limited.

Friends Landing is a good base from which to explore. We've done day trips to Lake Sylvia State Park, Lake Aberdeen and the fish hatchery there, the WWPS site at Satsop, Ocean Shores, Seabeck, Moclips, Olympia, and Lake Quinault. Last year we didn't have to go anywhere to see something that's been on our

Bucket List for years. We finally got to see the Northern Lights when they were so prevalent in May of 2024. The show lasted for over an hour, so we stayed up late and I took way too many pictures!





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: Joyce Glenn  
 Vice Commodore: Randy Bilof  
 Rear Commodore: Brent Carey  
 Treasurer: Linda Tibbot  
 Secretary: Lorretta Palagi



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 Discount varies from item to item.

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