



Catalina Association of Puget Sound Newsletter

September 2010

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Commodore's Corner

By Rich Lerz

It's hard to believe Labor Day is right around the corner, but at least in the PWN we can count on beautiful weather through October. It's been a fantastic summer so far, with enjoyable club cruises, a nine day cruise vacation and plenty of weekend getaways on the trip logs.



This summer season has presented Deb and I with many sailing 'firsts', from new destinations, to sailing as a group, to experiencing mechanical failures, etc. But overall, the commonality across all our adventures has been the rewarding return of Club participation. I've written several times about the rewards and returns of belonging to a club such as CAPS, but this summer has really solidified the genuine benefits.

Starting off with the Manzanita cruise, and the quick thinking of fellow club members in helping a fellow member to safety. During that cruise, Rod (Wind Runner) initiated an ad hoc maintenance check and found several loose and missing bolts on my boat, potentially allowing me to avoid a catastrophic failure.

Our next experience was (for the first time) participating in a sailing trip with other sailboats. It was a new and relaxing experience of being able to observe other experienced sailors tack and trim, and navigate to new destinations we've have only heard about.

We've heard so many fantastic stories about destinations such as Montague Harbor and Otter Bay. Both destinations were even more beautiful then we imagined.



Hummingbird Pub



Montague Harbor

Adding to the enjoyment was listening to stories from Barb and Roger (Jolly Roger), and Mike and Marilyn about the many years returning to these fantastic destinations and what has and hasn't changed. We awoke in Poets Cove just one day into the trip to the smell of burning wire. Thanks again to Rod for his generous and diligent dedication to help troubleshoot the problem and finding that the inverter had burned out. Rod provided a temporary fix that enabled us to continue on and enjoy our vacation.



Otter Bay

We spent several days with John Segerstrom (Starbird), Rod Sparks (Wind Runner), Mike, Marilyn and Megan Parker (Beneteau 34), Jerry and Diane Purdy (Zivjeli), and Roger and Barb Jenkins (Jolly Roger), making passage from Poets Cove to Otter Bay, then on to Ganges followed by Montague Harbor.

Afterwards, everyone continued north to Nanimo, while Deb and I turned back to spend more time in Otter Bay playing golf, followed by several days in Roche Harbor, before returning home.

This Friday evening I will be entering in my first 24 hour race, the Northern-Century race starting at 1930. The Northern Century consists of a 100nm course, departing Anacortes up to Point Roberts, then crossing the south end of the Strait of Georgia, transiting Boundary Pass and Haro Strait, then around the Hein Bank bouy and back to Anacortes finishing off Shannon Point. I'm sure I'll have some interesting stories to share. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the September meeting and catching up on all your exciting trips!

September Meeting: Sept 10

By Jack Henderson

The September meeting will feature Phil Riise, President of Seaview Boatyards. Phil will talk about Seaview's support of the cutter Ocean Watch in its' Around the Americas expedition. Don't miss this one!

Labor Day Cruise to Poulsbo: Sept 3-6

By Dick Eagle

The cruise to Poulsbo is coming up soon! Joe Sporcic and Evelyn Heaton will be hosting the cruise, and have arranged for moorage. Seven boats have already signed up, but there are a couple of slips left. Contact Joe or Evelyn at 206-235-1254 to reserve your spot!

Everett Cruise Report

By Dick Eagle

The August cruise to Everett began with Joe Sporcic and Evelyn Heaton arrived at the Everett guest moorage on Thursday. On Friday, Dick and Peg Eagle arrived on Aerie. No other boats arrived on Friday or Saturday, but in the afternoon on Saturday, John and Sally Hamel, Mike and Linda McCann, Jack and Margaret Henderson, and Norm and Kathy Wells tied up in the parking lot.

We shared great appetizers, drinks, and conversation aboard Aerie (did I mention it was indeed raining), and then prepared for dinner aboard Echo. That's when the defining event of the cruise was discovered.

As we hopped off of Aerie, we discovered that Sally Hamel's wheelchair (which she only uses for loong walks) and which had been parked next to Aerie had gone missing. What had happened to it? Was it stolen? Had it rolled off of the dock? What should we do? We walked the dock searching for it. Didn't find it.

Then came the theories: how might we find it if it rolled off of the dock? What about getting a diver? Joe Sporcic asked, "does anyone had a grappling hook?" No one had one that was big enough, and the moorage office was closed. All of us thought that the odds of finding it (if it rolled off of the dock) either with a diver or a grappling hook were impossible given the current in the Snohomish river outflow, and the tidal currents at Everett. All of us, that is, except Joe.

On Sunday morning at 9:00, when the moorage office opened, Joe went to the office and borrowed a suitable grappling hook. Since we were headed for minus 2ft tide at 10:00, and the water was headed out at about 6 knots, he started throwing the hook off of the west side of the dock 100ft south of the where we were tied up. He repeatedly cast the hook, working his way back north to where we were tied up. He was about to call it quits, but decided, no, I'll pitch it into the space North of where it was parked, the least likely place. One pitch, and he had it!!! He pulled it up, we hauled it out, and we hosed it off with fresh water. Sally now has her wheelchair back!



Now, to explain Joe's grappling hook persistence, we need only reflect on the Captain Horatio Hornblower stories. In many of Captain Hornblower's successes, he fired a grappling hook onto the enemy ship, pulled it to his ship, and won the day. We can, indeed, now address Joe Sporcic as **Captain Horatio!**

Blythe Spirit Summer Cruise Part 1: Thief Boards Blythe Spirit

By Cynthia Jones

The summer sunshine arrived just in time as Gordon and I started our annual cruise to the Gulf Islands on July 23. Overall it was a good trip with great weather, fun times and no big mishaps. We spent the first night at Cap Sante cleaning the boat, provisioning for the trip, and enjoying a great free concert of country/bluegrass music performed right at the marina. The next day we set sail for Deer Harbor. After a long day on the water and ready for fish and chips at the dock, we had a rude disappointment. Not only was the snack bar closed, but we were assigned a slip next to some extra-obnoxious stink potters. We rustled up some on-board grub and managed to take a nice walk, avoiding the stinkers as much as possible. We left early the next day for Poet's Cove (aka Bedwell Harbor), where Gordon found a wallet at the Customs telephone. He made inquiries around the dock and when he found the owner and handed him the wallet saying, "I thought you might want this." The guy had not even realized he lost it. Fortunately, he had not motored off into the sunset. That night we anchored out near the provincial park, took a nice walk, and had dinner at the pub.

Our next stop was Ganges. As we came into the dock, we happened to see a Canadian Catalina 34 two boats away from our slip that belongs to some Canadian friends, John and Eleanor. Nine years ago we were stranded together in Herriot Bay for three days during a big storm and became friends. We had not seen them out sailing since. We really enjoyed seeing them again and had a nice breakfast together at Barb's Buns. In town Gordon also ran into Tom and Jenan Madden, who were buddy boating with friends. They came down to our dock where Tom was, of course, very interested in discussing Cat 34's with John. Ganges is always fun and we especially enjoyed seeing friends.

From Ganges we went to Conover Cove on Wallace Island. It was pretty crowded and the captain of a neighboring sailboat from Oregon was nervous about our stern tie situation. It almost went without incident, except that when Gordon climbed back on the big boat he forgot to reattach his dinghy to the boat and the dinghy started to float away. He quickly called on our nervous neighbor for help. The neighbor obliged by getting in his dinghy and capturing ours before it got away.

From Wallace Island we headed north toward Nanaimo stopping at Siebel Island, near Ladysmith. We spent a quiet night at anchor and Gordon went swimming in the warm water surrounding the boat. The next morning we went through Dodd Narrows and headed for our favorite spot, Newcastle Island, hoping for a place at the dock. To our surprise there were not a lot of boats there and we got a great spot. If you have not been to Newcastle Island, it is a great destination. The whole island is a beautiful provincial park with beaches, trails and campsites. You can even swim there if you have swim socks. The docks are near a big pavilion with a snack bar and a bath house with nice showers. In fact, they just completed a \$400,000 renovation to the bath house. There is no water or power at the dock, but moorage is inexpensive and gives you easy access to the island. You are also close to the Dinghy Dock Pub and can easily motor over in your dinghy. The big event at Newcastle was that we were boarded by a thief in the night. I had fallen asleep in the salon and Gordon was in the V-berth. In the middle of the night I heard some noise on the stove and the rattling of plastic bags. I was half asleep and thought Gordon was making tea in the middle of the night. I tried to ignore it and go back to sleep. Then Gordon said, "Cynthia, is that you?" I said, "No, I thought it was you." He jumped up and put on the light. No one was on the boat but we saw where the canvas cover in the door had been pulled open at one side. He ran out and saw a big raccoon getting off the boat. The next morning I found a bag of tortilla chips from our boat at the end of the dock. The bag had been scratched open and the chips eaten. Those chips had been about 12

inches above my head. I am very glad that I did not wake up right away. I think I would have been very scared to see a big raccoon right above my face and I might have scared him into biting me. The next night we put the wooden doors in and the raccoons went elsewhere.

(This article will be continued in the next edition of *CAPS EYES* when we describe the delights of Galiano Island.)

CAPS Calendar

JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
<p>Jul. 2-4 Gunkhole Anchor-out Marathon —Poulsbo Fireworks, Manzanita, Pt Madison</p> <p>No monthly meeting</p>	<p>Aug. 6-8 Everett Cruise Birthday and Crab Feast (If the season is still open) At the guest dock</p> <p>No monthly meeting</p>	<p>Sep 3-6 Poulsbo Cruise</p> <p>Sept. 10 <i>Monthly Meeting</i> 6:30 Laurel Park</p> <p>Sept. 17-19 CAPS & CATSS Catalina Rendezvous</p>
OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
<p>Oct. 2 Foul Weather Bluff Race</p> <p>Oct. 9 <i>Monthly Meeting</i> Saturday Couples' Cook-off Laurel Park</p> <p>Oct. 15-17 Brownsville Cruise</p>	<p>Nov. 12 <i>Monthly Meeting</i> 6:30 Laurel Park Elections</p>	<p>Dec. 4 Annual Christmas Party Potluck and Gift Exchange (Boat Gift and/or White Elephant) Laurel Park</p>

THE ALL CATALINA ASSOCIATION OF PUGET SOUND 2010 Officers			
Commodore	Rich Lerz	(206) 755-2281	rich@pixsy.com
Vice-Commodore	Jack Henderson	(425) 337-5035	Jrh.mbh@gmail.com
Treas./Sec.	Nancy McKenzie	(425) 823-2849	ngm@coredesigninc.com
Newsletter	Dick Eagle	(425) 885-2823	dpeagle@earthlink.net
Measurer	Ken McKenzie	(425) 823-2849	mckenzie.k@portseattle.org
Cruise	Jim Kitchen	(425) 877-6543	psrsailrepair@gmail.com
Webmaster	Dave Fend	(206) 232-2362	dfend@thefends.com
Hospitality	Dan Clawson	(425) 255-1673	clawson28@comcast.net
Safety Focal	Dick Eagle	(425) 885-2823	dpeagle@earthlink.net
Historian	Rod Sparks	(206) 290-6779	rod@nwsailor.com