

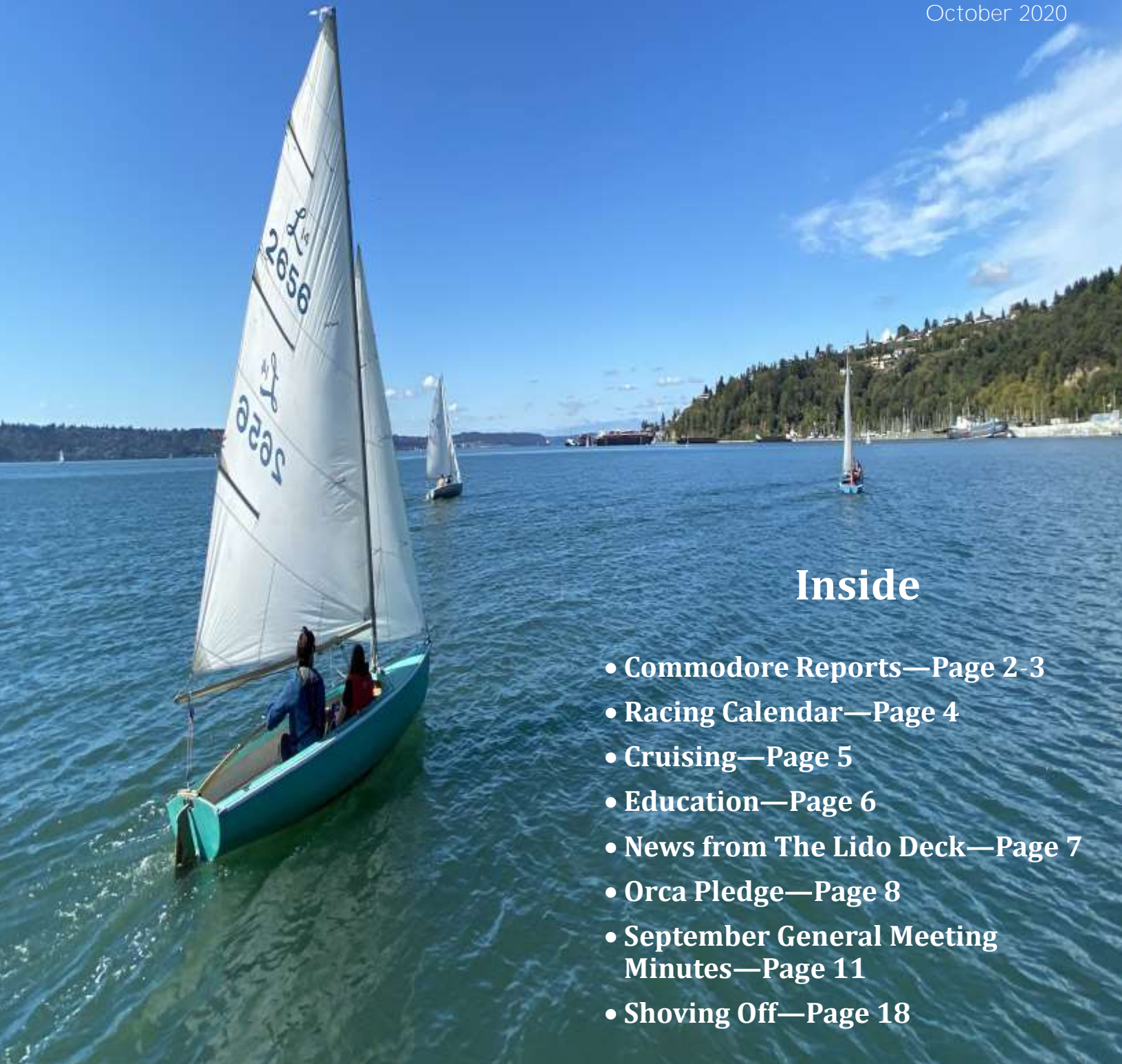


# Mainsheet

Volume 20, Issue 10

The Corinthian Yacht Club

October 2020



## Inside

- **Commodore Reports—Page 2-3**
- **Racing Calendar—Page 4**
- **Cruising—Page 5**
- **Education—Page 6**
- **News from The Lido Deck—Page 7**
- **Orca Pledge—Page 8**
- **September General Meeting Minutes—Page 11**
- **Shoving Off—Page 18**



## Commodore

When I first became Commodore I saw two items that needed attention. One was the Budget and the other the Bylaws.

Back in March just before the eventual COVID-19 forced a shut down, a Budget Committee met to see how bad the bleeding was and what was needed to be trimmed or cut. As bad as the shut down was to businesses, it proved to be a savior to us as far as expenditures and keeping our cash flow from red to black. The Dinghy Dock was given a reprieve from being parted out and is now home of the Lido 14's. What was once a financial liability has shown great promise with added income to the Club. I thank the Long Range Planning Committee and Chuck Queen for making a vision a reality. I understand there is a wait list and consideration for extra space is being sought.



The second item is the Bylaws. At the August Board Meeting John Coyne suggested forming a Bylaws Committee. They would be responsible for creating and maintaining the bylaws as voted on by the Board of Trustees.

There are nine (9) committee members comprised of Past Commodores, current Board members, and General Membership members. A first meeting has yet to be set.

I want to remind everyone that November 9 General Meeting via Zoom is an important one. 2021 Board Elections. All Charter, Life, Active, and Active Non-Boat Owners will be eligible to vote and must be in good standing. Please know that the Nominating Committee— Jeremy Bush, Vice Commodore, Evie Engnoth, Chuck Queen, Angie Morales, Commodore, and Ed Pinkham has had its first meeting. Ed Pinkham was selected to be the Committee Chair. The committee will be following Article VIII Nominations and Elections.

Hope to see you at the October 12 General Meeting on Zoom

Angie Morales  
Commodore  
S/V LA GITANA



## Vice Commodore

Happy October! Not to throw a wrench in an already stellar year, but keep your eyes out for a blue moon on October 31st! That's right, not only one full moon, but two in the month of October. And what could go wrong with the planets aligning on All Hallows Eve this year? I bet nothing, but who knows with everything that's been going on this year!



October also means it's time to nominate your friends and clubmates for positions in the club! If you are interested in filling a position, please reach out to any member or the leadership, or let your friends know you want to be nominated so they can present your name at the October general meeting.

The nominating committee is hard at work trying to find some great candidates for club positions as well. You can reach out to the committee either by contacting them directly, or emailing [board@cyct.com](mailto:board@cyct.com). The committee consists of Ed Pinkham (committee chair), Chuck Queen, Evie Engnoth, Jeremy Bush, and Angie Morales. Positions to be voted on this year are as follows:

- Commodore
- Vice Commodore
- Rear Commodore
- Membership Chair
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Fleet Captain - Racing
- Co Captain - Racing

We also have several appointed positions opening up. These simply need volunteers. These are the open appointed positions:

- Crew Coordinator
- Club Merchandise
- Trophies
- Historian
- PHRF Handicapper
- Publicity/Social Media

At our October meeting, we will also have the Recreational Boaters of Washington (RBAW) presenting! We will start the meeting with the presenter, and then go into the business portion with nominations. So please plan on attending.

Also, while on the topic of elections - We are likely going to be mailing out ballots this year, so keep your eye on the mail. If you have changed addresses, please let us know ASAP so you don't miss your ballot. After nominations are collected at the October meeting, we will send out the ballot as soon as

*Continued on page 3)*



## Rear Commodore

If April showers bring May flowers, then September droughts bring October rains!

It has been an exciting summer for sure, more exciting for some. We all hope that everyone is safe and we are able to return to normalcy.

Sailing is still going on, let's keep getting out there with our sails stretched out to catch the "puffs".

Then when we return to the dock or clubhouse, we can compare "stories" with your favorite barely pop, or just water if you like.

There are now recycle receptacles at the clubhouse. Thank you Eve! They are for your plastics, aluminum cans and even glass bottles, those all can be recycled. It would be greatly appreciated if we could all use those and keep them out of the burn barrel. The greenery has been trimmed around the clubhouse, and the grass (weeds) are taking hold once again. Let's keep our clubhouse clean and green.

Would you like to put any of your sailing, or boating pictures up in the bulletin board that is on the side of the clubhouse. If so, send a message to me. I will see that your fun times can be shared by all of us sailors, and boaters too.

Michael Stanford  
S/V Lycian



## Vice Commodore (continued)

possible. We ask that the ballot be in the mail no later than the November general meeting.

The board will be looking into methods for collecting electronic votes for perpetual trophies and voting at the November meeting since we will likely not be meeting in person still.

Jeremy Bush  
Vice Commodore  
R/V Goes to Eleven

### FLAG OFFICERS

Commodore: Angie Morales

Vice Commodore: Jeremy Bush

Rear Commodore: Michael Stanford

### BOARD POSITIONS

Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer: Bill Jenks

Membership Chair: Adrian DeLuna

Fleet Captain-Cruising: Greg Greene

Fleet Captain-Racing: Melissa Davies

Past Commodore: Janice VanRavenswaay

Crew Coordinator: Eve Engnoth

Floating Asset Chair: Kelly Bethards

### 2020 CYCT Officers & Board Members

#### STANDING COMMITTEES

Club Merchandise: Brock Van-Ravenswaay & Debbie Kimball

Mainsheet Editor: Brenda Bethards

Sunshine: Deb McAdams

Web Site: John Coyne

Publicity: Vacant

Trophies: Steve Wagner

Education: Ed Pinkham

Social: Jennifer Ihlen & Debbie Kimball

Historian: Matt Thomas

Long Range Planning: Greg Greene

#### REPRESENTATIVES

PHRF Handicapper:  
Vacant

PHRF Director: Vacant

PIYA Rep: Eric Nelson

#### MAINSHEET

A publication of The  
Corinthian Yacht Club of  
Tacoma

5624 Marine View Drive  
Tacoma, WA 98422

Email the editor:  
mainsheet@cyct.com





# Corinthian Yacht Club of Tacoma 2020 Race Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Race</u>
1/25/2020	Harbor Series #1
2/8/2020	Harbor Series #2
2/22/2020	Harbor Series #3
4/4/2020	Spring Single / Double Handed Race
4/4/2020	CYCT Race Seminar — Early Evening
4/15/2020	Spring Series #1
4/22/2020	Spring Series #2
4/29/2020	Spring Series #3
5/6/2020	Spring Series #4
5/13/2020	Spring Series #5
5/20/2020	Late Spring Series #1
5/27/2020	Late Spring Series #2
6/3/2020	Late Spring Series #3
6/10/2020	Late Spring Series #4
6/13/2020	Three Hour Tour #1
6/17/2020	Late Spring Series #5
6/24/2020	Summer Series #1
7/1/2020	Summer Series #2
7/8/2020	Summer Series #3
7/15/2020	Summer Series #4
7/21/2020	Summer Series #5
7/25/2020	Three Hour Tour #2
7/29/2020	Late Summer Series #1
7/31/2020	Late Summer Series #2
8/12/2020	Late Summer Series #3
8/15/2020	Three Hour Tour #3
8/19/2020	Late Summer Series #4
8/22/2020	Vashon Challenge
8/26/2020	Late Summer Series #5
8/29/2020	CYCT Awards Race
9/12/2020	Point Series #1
9/19/2020	Pink Boat Regatta — Tacoma
9/26/2020	Point Series #2
10/10/2020	Memorial Single Hand
10/24/2020	Point Series #3
11/7/2020	Point Series #4



# Cruising



On September 19th we held our 3rd Cruising Day-Sail Rally for 2020, This time around the Rally was also co-hosted with the Tacoma Yacht Club sailors), and the weather and wind DID NOT disappoint! No smoke or rain!

We had seven boats from CYCT:

JEOPARDY, Lycian, Namaste, Raven, Red Splash, Short Circuit, and Whisper.



Three boats from TYC also joined in the fun: Nemesis, Take Five, and Xocomil.

All in all we had a total of 28 sailors participate. What a great way to say good-bye to summer and hello to fall.

How does a "Rally" differ from a "Race"? In a Race you race for time, in a Rally the winner is determined by points. Coming in "first" has no effect on your point total at all. To ensure all boats sailed the course correctly, each boat had to take a picture of a crew member and the mark, which sounds easier than it is.

Congratulations to TYC's Xocomil who won the Rally (55 points) and the Lady Luck Poker Run (Full House). CYCT's Raven came in a very close 2nd Place (51 points). JEOPARDY and Take Five tied for 3rd Place (50 points).



The next scheduled CYCT Cruise in the near horizon is the Le Mans Race / Clam Chowder Cook-Off Hosted by Gary & Joy Ballentine. It is uncertain at this time whether or not Arabella's Landing will be open for transient moorage, as they have been closed for that service all summer long. Stay tuned to Facebook and the CYCT.com web page for more updates, hopefully by the end of October.

Greg Greene  
cruising@cyct.com  
S/V Whisper



# Education!

I want to shift topics and talk about COVID 19 this month. As you all know, for the past 9 months this pandemic has caused tremendous damage on our health and the economy. Millions of people have been unemployed, and our health system has been in crisis. Our way of life has changed, and we have learned this may go on for some time. A vaccine is on the way, but much is still in doubt. Maybe in early 2021. The pandemic has limited our sailing, and canceled many of our cruises and social activities. During this time, the Club has survived, and has actually started new programs (the Lido sailing and cruise Rallies). We need to remain cautious and continue our precautions against COVID 19. Sailing is an open air sport, and should be fairly safe, but we need to be aware that social activities after sailing are of higher risk. This is especially true as the fall weather cools, and socialization goes into the cabin. As we spend more time in our cabins social distancing is more difficult and the space is more confining. The risk of passing on this disease is higher. Wearing a mask has become the first line of defense in stopping the progression of this disease. We know COVID 19 is transmitted through the air, as well physical touching.

When we are socializing, we should maintain social distancing as much as possible. Wear a mask when indoors, or whenever we cannot maintain social distancing. If food is being served we should use disposable dishes and utensils. We should avoid potluck dishes. Serve food in individual containers whenever possible. We should have soap and water, sanitizer (70% alcohol), and paper towels available.

COVID 19 is not a superbug. It is still a virus. Although COVID 19 can exist in the open for a limited amount of time, it is easily inactivated by normal sanitation methods. Alcohol hand sanitizer, bleach, and ammonium compounds work well. Young healthy people almost always will recover from COVID 19. It is much more serious as we age, or if we have underlying medical conditions. It is very important we all follow recommendations of local, state, and federal health experts. We all should wear masks when indoors or any time we cannot social distance. Washing hands frequently, or using hand sanitizer is a must.

Safety Note - Now that fall is here, we need to make sure we are ready for the cooler weather. This is a good time to check our boat batteries. Not just the house batteries, but also the ones that power your flashlights and safety equipment. It is going to get wet and cold, so we should check our foul weather gear, so we will be warm. Check your furnace, and restock hand warmers too.

Ed Pinkham, Education

**HOME BOAT REPAIR RULE #1:**  
**MURPHY'S LAW *always* wins**

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## News from The Lido Deck

We had our first regatta this weekend! Under sunny skies with puffy, gusty and shifty winds, 6 boats sailed 6 races. We had 5 different crews win races with 18 sailors rotating in and out of boats. Race winners were Greg (Whisper) & Rebekah (Slick/Whisper), Penny & Pat (Intrepid), Tyler (Slick) & Allison (Goes to 11), Kyle (Stryder) & Adelaide (Leaky Cauldron), and Jacklyn & Chuck. For most sailors this was their first dinghy regatta. I really enjoyed seeing the improvement as the day progressed. In the last start, there was quite a battle for the favored end of the line. It was fantastic. Thank you to Vice Commodore Jeremy Bush and Allison Bondy for RC duties. No capsizes, no protests and no collisions...just smiles all around. The races were sailed just outside the Tyee Marina breakwater.

What a great month it's been for Lidos! We have a FULL Lido Dock, 6 boats sailing and a waiting list. This month we have welcomed two new members to our fleet. Erik Mikkelsen and family purchased a 6000 Series Lido. Erik sails the family Columbia 34 Leaky Cauldron and spends time sailing with Jay Pyles on Short Circuit. Also new to our little fleet is Brad Olney. Brad sails on Whisper with Greg Greene. Brad completed his paperwork and is joining CYCT as a new member. Welcome! This makes 8 Lidos in our CYCT Fleet. As for the full Lido Dock, we are working at securing more space and hope to have this worked out soon.

We will be continuing Fun Fridays for now as weather and participation continue to be good. If you'd like to sail a Lido, please let me know. Our next event is the Frostbite Regatta on Sunday, October 25th, at Noon.

Chuck Queen  
Acting Fleet Chair  
CYCT Lido Fleet

**Gardyloo Consulting LLC**

Eric Nelson - Manager  
253-380-3947 [gardyconsult@gmail.com](mailto:gardyconsult@gmail.com)

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September 2, 2020

### Invitation to Pledge to Protect Southern Resident Orcas

Dear Commodore/Club Leader,

We seek your help in recovering the critically endangered southern resident orcas. Since 1998, the population has declined precipitously, to a current day near-historical low of just 72 individuals. The recent news that at least three females are pregnant is a ray of hope for this struggling population.

It is critical to give the pregnant orcas in all three pods the best possible chance of having healthy calves, by giving them more space and quieter waters to find food, rest, socialize, and birth and raise their young. **We are requesting your help in getting the word out to boaters on the seriousness of the situation and the opportunity to take a pledge to protect the orcas during this time.**

The threats faced by the orcas are all human-caused: lack of salmon, toxic accumulations, and noise and disturbance from boats. Studies show that noise and salmon availability are inextricably linked. Boaters therefore have an important and immediate role to play in the recovery of J, K and L pods.

We are asking all sail and power boaters, kayakers, and jet skiers to avoid the southern resident orcas while out on the water, and to take the following pledge by clicking [here](#). We ask that you share this information and encourage your members to take the pledge.

*As a boater in the Salish Sea, I pledge to protect the southern resident orcas, and give the pregnant orcas in all three pods the best possible chance of having healthy calves, by giving them more space and quieter waters to find food and communicate with each other. Over the next year:*

*I commit to staying 1/2 nautical mile (1,000 yards or 1 kilometer) away from the endangered southern resident orcas, to give them the space and quiet that they need.*

*If I encounter orcas, I will not approach or follow them, but instead will slow down (as Washington State law requires) to reduce noise, and quietly depart, to a distance of at least*

*½ nautical mile where possible.*

*If unable to differentiate between the endangered southern resident orcas and transient orcas, I will*

We envision a brighter future when the orcas are recovered, thriving in healthy and abundant seas. But that day will never come unless we act boldly and courageously to protect them now, and give them the space and the salmon they need. Please commit to stop watching the Southern Residents, and join with us to make the Salish Sea a place that can sustain them again.

Pledge organizers are Friends of the San Juans, Natural Resources Defense Council, Seattle Aquarium, The Whale Trail, Washington Environmental Council. We are joined by the undersigned in our request.



Thank you for considering, and we look forward to hearing from you. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to any of the organizers.

Sincerely,

Mindy Roberts, Puget Sound Program Director, Washington Environmental Council Former Member,  
Governor Inslee's Task Force on Southern Resident Orca Recovery (mindy@wecprotects.org)

Nora Nickum, Ocean Policy Manager, Seattle Aquarium (n.nickum@seattleaquarium.org)

Michael Jasny, Director of Marine Mammal Protection, Natural Resources Defense Council  
(mjasny@nrdc.org)

Lovel Pratt, Marine Protection and Policy Director, Friends of the San Juans (lovel@sanjuans.org) Donna Sand-  
strom, Director, The Whale Trail (donna@thewhaletrail.org)

Former Member, Governor Inslee's Task Force on Southern Resident Orca Recovery

Joe Scordino, Former Deputy Regional Administrator, NOAA Fisheries (Retired)

Timothy J. Ragen, Ph.D., Former Executive Director, U.S. Marine Mammal Commission (Retired)

Christopher W. Clark, Ph.D., Imogene Johnson Senior Scientist, Bioacoustics Research Program, Cornell University

Will Hall, Mayor, City of Shoreline

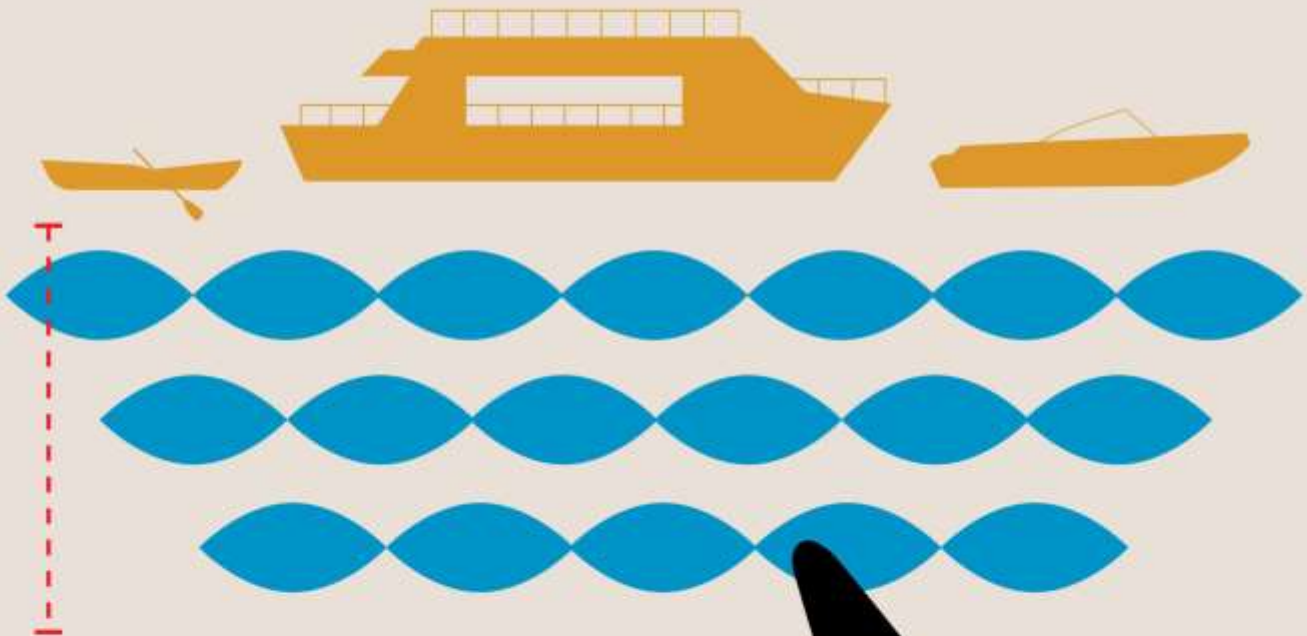
Former Member, Governor Inslee's Task Force on Southern Resident Orca Recovery

Butch Smith, Former Member, Governor Inslee's Task Force on Southern Resident Orca Recovery Brendan Flynn,  
Puget Sound Commercial Fisherman

Former Member, Governor Inslee's Task Force on Southern Resident Orca Recovery

Christianne Wilhelmson, Executive Director, Georgia Strait Alliance

Misty MacDuffy, Wild Salmon Program Director, Raincoast Conservation Foundation Sophia Ressler, Washing-  
ton Wildlife Advocate, Staff Attorney, Center for Biological Diversity Chris Connolly, Pacific Northwest Field  
Representative, Endangered Species Coalition Hussein Alidina, Lead Specialist, Ocean Conservation, World  
Wildlife Fund



1,000 Yards/1 KM

# Give Them Space!

Take the pledge.





## CORINTHIAN YACHT CLUB of TACOMA

### General Membership Meeting

14 SEP 2020 via ZOOM

**Call to order** 7:10 pm

**Approve Past minutes:** July meeting (Zoom) minutes motioned and seconded

**Shining Light Nominations:** Don Kimball/Mark Stern for rescue of capsized Lido, assisted by PSSI boat and unnamed powerboat. Occurred on a "Lido Friday" with Eric Mikkelborg capsizing and going overboard; support given to Kiera waiting at the dock as well.

#### **Guest Speaker: Chuck Queen, Lido Fleet and dinghy dock**

- a) Key objective is to increase small boat sailing as an avenue for new membership; Acknowledgment of all volunteers making this program a successful start with participation, sharing boat for sale info, and manual repairs to the dock
- b) Dinghy dock repairs are made, dock now holds 6 Lidos, 1 Laser and 1 Windsurfer
  - There is currently a waiting list for space on the Dinghy dock
  - The Kayak rack was moved to the marina dock space designated for dinghies
  - Fleet members are looking for a new/free dock for expansion
- c) Safety: multiple capsize events highlight the need for increased training aimed specifically at Lido/small boat handling. Examples: if the skipper releases the helm, the chance of capsizing is higher; righting a capsized boat, etc.
  - Racing: being supported with the use of Romeo Charlie. Don McAdams is now "checked out" on RC
  - Schedule: Lido fleet regatta scheduled for 27 Sept; members of the Willamette sailing Center may join the event
  - Will continue "Lido Friday" and one regatta per month as long as weather permits
  - Next Board meeting: will discuss moving the Laser rack into the grassy space near the club house.

#### **Guest Speaker: Greg Greene, Cruising Day Sail Rally**

Summary: It is NOT a race; scored on points earned (120 points possible) from Safety check, flying Ensign and club bir-gee, following on course instructions – extra points for suggested photos, using engine less than 20 minutes, Nautical Jeopardy, Lady Luck Poker

Next Day Sail Rally 19 Sep 2020 with 4 CYTC boats and 5 TYC boats and a potential 3 more "Maybe's"; Course will be set with clues to use on course, and a reverse direction somewhere along the planned route; Meet at Rock the Dock at 1130 for a 12Noon start, RSVP to Gregg

#### **Cruise Updates**

Arabella's/LeMans Race Cruise, Gig Harbor: Arabella's remains closed due to COVID-19 restrictions; Using the party cabin will make it difficult to maintain social distancing – changed to dock party-on-your-boat;

December planning: exploring Holiday Boat Parade and dock party in lieu of Christmas Party.

#### **Rear Commodore Report:**

Lighthouse uniform store contacted CYCT to relay they are available to assist as needed

Clubhouse update: The recycle can has been labeled – PLEASE USE IT FOR RECYCLING (not garbage); the trees have been trimmed and the new gate is up.



**Treasurer Report: by forwarded report**

Expenses YTD: \$13,029.67 Income YTD: \$18,397.96 Net Assets: \$5,368.29

Funds: Checking: \$27,753.45 Savings: \$4,251.67 Total: \$31,905.12

**Membership No Report****Past Commodore No Report****Education Report:**

Past 3 months have focused on Racing rules; exploring anchoring techniques for future features

Discussion: linking videos to the Mainsheet – confirmed technically possibly; opens potential for additional education

**MAINSHEET Report:** Acknowledged good job by all participants getting articles in on time.

**Sunshine Report:**

Card to Angie and Rich Morales regarding their daughter's wedding

Condolences to Melissa Davies and crew Amelia on the loss of Amelia's partner

**Webmaster Report:**

Key activities: coordinating with the Board regarding upgrades and redesign for easier use and navigation; Next new feature being planned is Lido Corner

Developing a succession plan to include orientation to easy-to-use maintenance for future volunteers

All ideas and suggestions welcome – send to John Coyne

**Racing Protest No Report****Racing Chair Report:**

Looking to reschedule 29 Sep race canceled due to air quality – date pending

Next races include 26 Sep Point Series #2, 10 Oct Memorial Single Hand, 24 Oct Point Series #3, and 7 Nov Point Series #4

Winter Series not yet permitted, 65 day notice needed but SARC info not available to meet that deadline; Due to the history with these races, it is anticipated there will not be an issue

**Vice Commodore Report:**

Elections: Nominating Committee being formed with e-meeting planned for next week; majority of volunteers should be non-board member

October meeting: communicating with Recreational Board of Washington for speaker on Lakebay marina

November meeting: Voting

*General Membership Meeting (continued)*

**Commodore Report:**

**Bylaws:** current version is out of date and sometimes conflicting between paragraphs. A committee is being established to complete a full review and update of the bylaws. Volunteers include John Coyne, Angie Morales – serving as Past Commodore, and David Gallimore. Suggestions for recruits include Ed Pinkham, Dan Walker, Don McAdams, and Steve Ryan. The Bylaws Committee will begin their work in Jan 2020.

**New Business**

Meeting Location (Jeremy Bush): Johnny's at Fife is not reopening. Looking for new space. Ideas, suggestions, etc should be sent to Jeremy

David Gallimore presentation will be re-scheduled for another meeting; also volunteering to help the Club with education

Lido Dock (Mike): Thanks and congratulations to the dinghy dock work crew and all the work they completed

Open positions for upcoming elections include: Rear Commodore, Membership, Treasurer, Secretary, Cruising, Handicapper, Historian, Social, and Publicity

**Meeting Adjourned: 10:16pm**

Respectfully Submitted

Cyndi Larrison, Secretary Pro Tem

23 Sep 2020



# Members Abroad

Keep track of our non-resident members as they live the life we only dream of!

**Dennis and Becky Flannigan**

S/V Kokomo



After 10 years of dreaming we are off. Follow along as we move about the globe fixing our boat in different cultures and exotic places.

[http://  
www.kokomosailing.com/](http://www.kokomosailing.com/)

**Chris and Janet Wenderoth**

S/V Respite



[http://www.sailblogs.com/  
member/respite/](http://www.sailblogs.com/member/respite/)





# Calendar

Due to COVID-19 Safe Start Measures, the calendar is in flux.

Please check CYCT Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/257572770984529/>

OR

Events Calendar on CYCT Website

<https://cyct.com/>

for calendar/event updates.

## Happy Birthday to our CYCT

### Members

Skip Broadhead	October 2
John Coyne	October 4
Tom Saul	October 4
Debbie Simmons	October 13
Barbara Saul	October 14
Kelly Bethards	October 17
Terry Paine	October 18
Joey Soller	October 20
David Iverson	October 21
Billy Carter	October 25
Dick Seward	October 26
Gary Ballentine	October 28
Elizabeth Dwyer	October 29
Greg Fuller	October 30

## Sunshine



No cards were sent out this month, but the Sunshine Chair and hubby just became great-grandparents for the first time to Mazie Rene Mundy, 6 lbs 1 oz on Sept 17.



If you know of anyone who needs a little sunshine, please call, text or email to Deb McAdams - 253-640-7429 or ddmac34@icloud.com.

Deb McAdams  
Sunshine Chair  
S/V Red Splash


## Saw it on Facebook



**Jeremy Bush** shared a link. ...

Admin · September 3 at 8:12 AM · 🌐

Looks like a wild dolphin has been spotted in Commencement Bay. Has anyone seen it yet?



THENEWSTRIBUNE.COM

**Watch: Wild dolphin entertains boaters in Tacoma's Commencement Bay**

👍👎👍 16 7 Comments Seen by 76

👍 Like 💬 Comment

### On The Cover

### Lido Regatta

### By Chuck Queen





### Basic Rules

- You must be a CYCT member or sponsored by a CYCT member to post an item.
- Each month the CYCT posting member must submit their items for sale before the 25th of the month (send your post to [jmainsheet@cyct.com](mailto:jmainsheet@cyct.com) ).
- **Items must be submitted each month or they will not be reposted.**
- You are responsible to sell your item so you must include your contact information (items without contact information will not be posted).

contact mainsheet@cyct.com



## SHOVING OFF

### Social Distancing

For the two reader of the total of four to this column, Shoving Off has been the tale of how we bought a 52-foot motor sailor, sold our house, and moved aboard with our, now almost six years old, granddaughter. The eventual intent is spending about half of the year cruising as far north as Alaska, and spending parts of winter, with or without the boat, in Mexico. The lovely and gracious Mrs. St. John was able to retire at the start of this year. My attempt at retirement was met with Covid 19 and the stock market plunge. Needless to say, I'm still working.

The pandemic does have its upside. With churches shut down, I have no Sunday obligations such as ushering and reading, and we've been free to travel since, wherever we are, we are in our home. We've been out more weekends than we have been at home this past summer. Being live aboards makes this super simple. No packing. Make sure that we have water in the tank and go. Having abundant, unused vacation time, we have stretched these weekends into three and four days.

In late July we started out on a two day weekend that was so good, we stretched it into three. We've wanted to go to Cutt's Island in Henderson Bay for many years, ever since an aborted CYCT cruise that featured a night in Gig Harbor and a race to the island. By time we had arrived (last I think) at Cutt's in our Cal 2-27, Sirena Gorda, the wind was blowing something fierce and the decision had been made to relocate to Penrose State Park and better protection. At Penrose, we broke into small rafts, us rafting up to Billy Carter on Discovery. We bought a much more substantial anchor after that weekend!

But that is another story!

We arrived at Cutt's Island after a quick trip through the Narrows and anchored between the island and Kopachuck State Park. The anchoring was easy in 30 feet of water with lots of room. The view of the island was beautiful.

The next morning we went ashore at low tide, picked oysters off of the beach, and dug for clams. After that we decided to walk around the island. Cutt's is small. We found a rope swing where Rylie could swing and grandpa could worry. Rylie and I climbed to the interior (again, very small island) where I was able to spot an eagle's nest with a juvenile eagle in it. How amazing!

After a bit, we headed back to La Sirena to have lunch and for Rylie to relax in the foredeck pool. What could spoil this? Nothing, except about a gazillion ski boats and party barges. No worries. We decided to fire up the engine and ride the incoming tide through Pitt Passage to the serenity of Filucy Bay where we dropped the hook with a stunning view of Mount Ranier.

Once settled in Filucy, we lowered the kayaks for a good paddle around and into the little inlets. We'd done the same earlier this spring when the tide was low. This time the tide was high. It's a whole different paddle. If I recall correctly, dinner that night was steak and oysters. The clams, eh! In the morning, it was on to something new.

We'd already decided that the weather was too nice to head back Sunday afternoon. I had vacation to burn and places to see. I texted a message that I was taking Monday off and we headed south? McMicken? Been there. Jerrols Cove, nope. We headed to Hope Island. A state park with some strong currents surrounding her. Again, no worries. We've learned about anchors and we have a wonderful Spade anchor and all chain rode.

Following our guide books, we anchored on the western side of the island to the Squaxin Island side of the state park mooring field. La Sirena is actually too big for state park buoys, so anchoring is the norm. Once set we dinghied between Hope and Squaxin, which is all tribal land, to the east side of the island. There we landed the dinghy, came ashore, and explored the old homestead that is there. After that we took a hike around the island, marveling at the old growth timber with the sunlight streaming through.

After our hike, we returned to La Sirena, continuing our circumnavigation of Hope. We were aboard long enough to pick up some food and head to the beach immediately ashore of our anchorage so that Rylie could play in the water. Hope Island did have her share of power boaters, but nothing on the scale of Cutt's Island. Being Sunday evening, I figured that traffic would die down, which it did at about 5:00 PM.



Cutt's Island

Returning home on Monday was a pleasant trip. The beauty of La Sirena is that she makes long trips more comfortable. This trip though was not only comfortable, but special. In Drayton Passage between Key Peninsula and

Anderson Island, we were joined by a white sided dolphin. Porpoise are plentiful in the south sound, but they are always at a distance. These dolphins are much more rare, but they seem to put on a show.

With a big, clear passage and an excellent auto pilot, we enjoyed this show for almost a half of an hour. The dolphin would swim under and before the bow and then separate for some spectacular leaps. There were a few finales and more than one encore. This dolphin put the exclamation mark on what was a great weekend.

We transited this same path two weeks ago. No dolphin and me sick with vertigo. Not nearly the same, but that's another story.

If this weekend was social distancing, I'm OK with it.

Ken St. John  
S/V La Sirena

