



Mainsheet

The Corinthian Yacht Club of Tacoma Newsletter

Volume 19, Issue 6

June 2019

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Commodore



Well, the unofficial start to summer has begun! Nine boats sailed on down to Penrose Point State Park to mark occasion. Thank you to the St. John's and the McAdams for hosting a wonderful weekend.

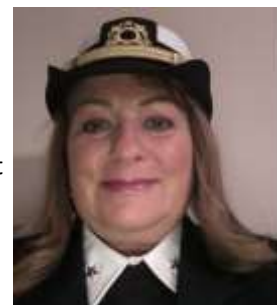
This past month we welcomed some new members into our club. Bill and Stephanie Pessemier joined us from Gig Harbor with their J-35 named Black Dog. They are hoping to find some crew and participate in our races! Angie Littleton has also joined us. She has been doing Windseekers for years on Wind-song and ready to be a part of the group. We welcome both of you to the club and look forward to seeing you on the race course and at a cruise. We also have a few crew members that I hope will be sworn in at June's meeting.

Race Committee is looking for a few good sailors to help out on RC for the month of June. The job will include helping with the starts, recording times for the finish, and set marks for the course. If you could spare yourself or a crew member, your help would be invaluable. Having done this myself, it gives you a new perspective on how sailboat races run and it's just fun to

(Continued on page 3)



Vice Commodore



Cory Sertl, a woman who is making a difference in the sailing world is the president of US Sailing and a member of the World Sailing Council. As of late she says she sees participation stagnant in many regions of the world as well as here in the United States. In the past two years, the US has only won one medal in the Summer Olympic Games.

Cory's years of experience as an Olympian Champion sailor has become a leader in the highest levels of the sport. I was impressed at her many accomplishments such as twice being selected Rolex Yachts Woman of the Year (1995 and 2001). She is also a winning skipper and crew and is committed to advancing the sport which has defined her life.

In 1990 she and Jody Swanson won a gold medal here in Seattle in the International 470 class at the Goodwill Games. Cory recounts, "Sixty year's ago we didn't have many women sailing at as high a level as men. There has been a women's class in the Olympics since 1988 and now we have more opportunities."

(Continued on page 3)

2019 CYCT Offic-

FLAG OFFICERS

Commodore: Janice VanRavenswaay
 Vice Commodore: Angie Morales
 Rear Commodore: Jeremy Bush

BOARD POSITIONS

Recording Secretary: Jen Tenney
 Treasurer: Bill Jenks
 Membership Chair: Adrian DeLuna
 Fleet Captains-Cruising:
 Ken & Julie St.John
 Fleet Captain-Racing: Eric Nelson
 Past Commodore: Don Kimball
 Crew Coordinator: Eve Engnoth

STANDING COMMITTEES

Club Merchandise: Brock VanRavenswaay & Debbie Simmons
 Mainsheet Editor: John Coyne
 Sunshine: Deb McAdams
 Web Site: Jen Tenney
 Publicity: Cindy Craig
 Trophies: Steve Wagner
 Education: Penny Shen
 Social: Jennifer Ihlen
 Historian: Matt Thomas
 Long Range Planning: Michael Stanford

Seeking Volunteers

REPRESENTATIVES

PHRF Handicapper:
 Tom Tenney
 PHRF Director: Eric Nelson
 PIYA Representative: Eric Nelson

MAINSHEET

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Rear Commodore

Isn't it funny how life throws you curveballs?! We had a pretty easy go with Asylum in terms of only minor issues and things breaking, but put it on the market and there goes the transmission! Just another bump in the road, but it sure is annoying how that works! We are going to try and limp out for the last two races in the Spring series, but it's still a bummer.

On a good note though, last spring we had a local photographer and journalist out on the boat who was going to do an article on Windseekers. Through many curve balls thrown their own way with launching a hard copy of their magazine, it took them about a year to get it up, but it is finally done and live! Check it out at www.gritcitymag.com. It isn't entirely right about the club history and a few details, but it gets the point across and is a cool write up about racing from a newbie's perspective. But, it basically aims any interested readers to join the meetup group to get out on boats. Which means (I can see the club members collectively shaking their heads saying "here we go again with crew stuff...") we need places to put crew! One of the goals of the club is to get new sailors out on the water. Not just to race or cruise, but to be Corinthian sailors and support those learning.

So if you need crew, contact myself or your crew coordinator - Eve Engnoth. We still have a pretty good sized list of people trying to get out on Wednesday evenings. If each boat set aside at least one spot for a new crew member, we could get everyone we have out easily. Please consider making that spot available, and let us get it filled.

Jeremy Bush
Rear Commodore
R/V Asylum



Commodore (continued)

(Continued from page 2)

see what everyone else is doing since you are focused on your own boat during a start.

Now that summer is (almost) here, we will be hosting our general meetings at Tyee Marina. Bring something for the grill and a side to share starting around 6, and the meeting will start at 7. At these meetings, they tend to be more social and do not include a guest speaker at the end. If you are not a Tyee renter, no worries! Someone can always get you into the gate, or just wait and follow someone who has a key.

Janice VanRavenswaay
Commodore
S/V Tatoosh
jvanraven@yahoo.com



Vice Commodore (continued)

(Continued from page 2)

I'm glad to see that Cory and women like her are following their passions and being proactive to achieve gender equality in sailing organizations like World Sailing who are working together with her to achieve that goal and getting and keeping all who wish to be a part of sailing.

Although the US Sailing's Presidential term is 3 years, her priorities include getting more people involved in sailing especially young people and those who have been out of sailing for perhaps years, by offering varied sailing activities. Being partnered in those organizations which I have mentioned, support that development which is the key to a firm base and as Cory puts it, "Inspiring life long sailors."

June 10 is the General Meeting at the Clubhouse. Tyee Marina 6PM Social. Grill will be up, bring something to cook, side to share and BYOB. 7:00 Meeting begins. We can always use help setting up and take down of the tables and chairs.

Angie Morales
Vice Commodore
S/V La Gitana

Gardyloo Consulting LLC

Eric Nelson - Manager
253-380-3947 gardyconsult@gmail.com

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Racing



Good day racers and welcome to June.... That's right, summer is now upon us..... and we all know what that means.....

First, more and more people have vacation, time away, work requirements, and the like, as we all try to stuff more and more into the little time we have. With that being said, this also brings up conflict with our RC volunteers. We have such a happening over the next few weeks with Cyndi out of town for work. We are looking for a few volunteers to help over the next few weeks. Please, if you have plenty of crew and can spare one for a race, please let me know and we would love to have them on board. It is a great experience for new racers to see how things work from the other side of the horn.... et me know if you can help out.....thanks!

Then there are more races. The first in our Three Hour Tour happens June 22nd. Fun race that ends at Foss Waterway, where we all know we have a tendency to have a good time. Get it on your calendar right away..... We still have every Wednesday night this month filled, keeping you from your yard and housework (you're welcome from the Race Committee....). And lets start putting things together for the Vashon Challenge in August. The entry list continues to dwindle over the years and I do not want to see this race go away, but that may be an unfortunate result.

With that being said and with us approaching mid way through our race schedule, this is a good time to look back on how things are going.

First thing, entrants for our Harbor Series was just slightly better than usual, which is always a good sign. This is a tough time of the year to get boats out, but the crowd this year was slightly up (We usually see around 13 boats, but I believe we crept up above that this year) The Single/Double Handed race in April was not well attended, and it also had to be abandoned after the start. This is a bit of a specialty race which will either attract people or it wont, so we approach it as such. Windseekers is right at where it typically is for the early part of the season. We'd love to see more, so bring em if you got em. Overall, we are always looking at how to improve the races, so please send any suggestions. Right now, we are debating some new races for 2020 which may include a substantial distance race in June. We have toyed with regatta weekends, but in order to do this, the race infrastructure needs to be much more than we have at this time (Multiple committee boats, more volunteers, staging venue and moorage) we have made some initial contact to see what we could do, so it is not out of the question, but may be a little while off still.

We are through our first series and set up classes for Windseekers. For those in the Windseekers class, if you believe you have been placed in the wrong class, you may petition to move to another class. A few things we look at if you are looking to move down a class include mid to lower end finishes for the majority of races in the series, finishing substantially behind the first in class, and then we look to see if the boats around you are similar in performance. For those looking to move up, we look at wining your class and winning by a substantial time margin. As of this series, we have had one boat move down one class. After the next series, we may look at moving boats in either up or down. If you have comments on where you are, send me an e-mail or catch me at the skippers meeting to discuss.

Sorry for the on again / off again timeliness of the results.... life is a bit busy and I hate to say it, but there are a few things that take me away from this time to time. It should be better as we get into the summer now that the classes are somewhat set, making the scoring go a bit quicker. I am hoping to have boat of the year point updated by the end of the next series.

As you may have seen, we have lost all of the entrants in the Challenger Class. Personally, I find this quite disappointing that more boats did not take advantage of this class. We have had Bluejay move up to PHRF after spending time here, Second Wind moving to Bellingham, and Dash moving back to PHRF after the change in ownership, which we would expect. But this class was developed to allow those in Windseekers to utilize their spinnakers as well as being a step towards participating in the PHRF Division. So, at this point we will keep this as an option through the end of the year and determine what will happen from there.

If boats do come to this class, we will look at making this an individual start once we reach the 5 boat range....

(Continued on page 5)



Racing (Continued)

(Continued from page 4)

A couple of quick reminders for those racing on Wednesdays

1. In order to help the RC, please do not check in until after the RC is set and notifies the fleet that it is ready to accept radio calls
2. Once you have finished, please exit the finish area WITHOUT re-crossing the finish line.
3. The RC will repeat the race course 3 times before the preparatory signal, typically starting after 6:30. Do not call the RC asking for the course.

On that note, with the exception of checking in, an on-the-water emergency, or notifying the RC of a protest after you finish, there should be no reason to make contact with the committee. They are working hard to get things set and ready on time, so their time is limited. Please respect this.

With all of that being said, lets all hope for a bit more wind over thenext few weeks and keep enjoying the nights away from teh house. I appreciate that there have been no protest (pretty sure I jut jinxed that.....) and things have been pretty good on the water.

Keep an eye on your calendars..... don't miss any races

Eric Nelson
Race Committee Chair
R/V Gardyloo

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Corinthian Yacht Club of Tacoma Tentative 2019 Race Calendar

Saturday	1/19/19	Quartermaster Harbor - Harbor Series #1
Saturday	2/2/19	Pt Ruston - Harbor Series #2
Saturday	2/23/19	Zenith Harbor - Harbor Series #3
Saturday	4/6/19	Spring Single / Double Handed Race
Sunday	4/7/18	CYCT Race Seminar
Wednesday	4/10/19	Spring Series #1
Wednesday	4/17/19	Spring Series ##2
Wednesday	4/24/19	Spring Series #3
Wednesday	5/1/19	Spring Series #4
Wednesday	5/8/19	Spring Series #5
Wednesday	5/15/19	Late Spring Series #1
Sat/Sun	5/18/19 - 5/19/2019	CYCT RACE WEEKEND (2 DAYS) CANCELLED
Wednesday	5/22/19	Late Spring Series #2
Wednesday	5/29/19	Late Spring Series #3
Wednesday	6/5/19	Late Spring Series #4
Wednesday	6/12/19	Late Spring Series #5
Wednesday	6/19/19	Summer Series #1
Saturday	6/22/19	Manzanita Margarita - Three Hr Tour #1
Wednesday	6/26/19	Summer Series #2
Wednesday	7/10/19	Summer Series #3
Saturday	7/13/19	Ruston Classic - Three Hr Tour #2
Wednesday	7/17/19	Summer Series #4
Wednesday	7/24/19	Summer Series #5
Wednesday	7/31/19	Late Summer Series #1
Saturday	8/3/19	RC Delight - Three Hr Tour #3
Wednesday	8/7/19	Late Summer Series #2
Wednesday	8/14/19	Late Summer Series #3
Saturday	8/17/19	Vashon Challenge
Wednesday	8/21/19	Late Summer Series #4
Wednesday	8/28/19	Late Summer Series #5
Saturday	8/31/19	CYCT Awards Race - Stand Alone
Saturday	9/21/19	Point Robinson - Point Series #1
Saturday	10/5/19	Point Defiance - Point Series #2
Saturday	10/12/19	Memorial Single Hand
Saturday	10/19/19	Pt. Piner - Point Series #3
Saturday	11/2/19	Browns Point - Point Series #4



CYCT 4TH JULY CRUISE

JOIN CYCT FOR A DAY OF CELEBRATION:

10:00 AM – Pancake brunch at CYCT Deck, Tye Marina – Bring a dish to pass.

1:30 TO 3:30 PM – Enjoy the Freedom Fair air show either from the CYCT deck or on the water. See exciting and daring aerobatic displays, vintage planes as the F-4 Corsair, the P-40 Kittyhawk, and the P-51 Mustang, and the return of current military aircraft as the F-16 Falcon, the Harrier Jump Jet, and the EA-16 Growler.

3:30 PM OR EARLIER TO WHENEVER – Join the famous “Dan Walker Circle Raft Up” in Quartermaster Harbor (Inner Harbor). All American hot dogs with fixings and sides provided by your club.

10:00 PM OR SO – Look directly up at the best fireworks show in the area capped off with a dramatic 24-inch shell finale.

REMEMBER – For those unlucky ones who have to work the next day – it is very easy in the circle raft up for you to slip out in the wee hours of Friday morning.

BEST OF ALL: Celebrate the 4th with CYCT comradeship and fun.

PLEASE RSVP to Ron Holbrook (253-826-5109) or Don Kimball (296-793-7414) so we know how much food to get. If you forget, no problem - just show up. Additional people always welcome.



Cruising

A Whole Lot of Cruising Going On

Well it's happened. Cruising season is really here, and despite a rainy start, nine boats made it down to Penrose Point State Park in Mayo Cove for a wonderful, relaxing weekend. Yes, Saturday was a bit soggy, but we had a variety of big boats to hide out on. The highlight was happy hour on the Walker's GB, Tahilah. Sunday the sun came out and so did the toys. There were dinghies and kayaks in abundance and a big pot luck on La Sirena. We had a laid-back breakfast for all on Monday morning and then the raft broke up at about noon for a sunny trip back to Tacoma. Penrose proved again why it is a popular destination. Thanks to the McAdams for hosting this one.



Rafting seems to be the theme this summer, so keep those anchors handy! Next up is a Father's Day cruise to Gig Harbor. This one is hosted by the Tenney's. Keep your eye on Facebook and CYCT.com for more info. There might space on the public dock but, many of us will be rafted up. For you that are a bit leery of anchoring, Gig Harbor and a raft are two good ways to start. Of course, Gig is a nice location for land yachts as well and there is always certain to be someone with a dinghy to bring you to where the action is.

After Penrose we have our Independence Day cruise. A number of members have a hand in hosting this one. With the Commencement Bay air show and the Quartermaster Harbor fireworks, it's hard to go wrong on this one. Check out elsewhere in the Mainsheet for all the info.

We have a bit of a break after the 4th. Be sure to join us for the CYCT summer picnic. Cruising resumes in fall. See the dates below.

As always, check Facebook for details.

Happy Cruising

Ken and Julie St. John
Cruising Fleet Captains
kennethstjohn@gmail.com ; juliesgarden@gmail.com
S/V La Sirena

CYCT 2019 Cruising Schedule

Date	Cruise/Theme	Host	Location
March 9-10	Cars, Boats & Trains	St. Johns	Dock St. Marina
April 13-14	Daffodil Marine Parade	TYC	Tacoma Yacht Club
May 3-5	Opening Day	SYC	Seattle Yacht Club
May 25-27	Memorial Day	McAdams / St. John	Penrose Raft-up
June 15-16	Father's Day	Tenneys	TBA
July 4th (Thurs)	Independence Day	Kimballs	Quartermaster?
September 28-29	End of Summer	Jeanks/Craig	TBA
October 25-27	Wineseekers	Nelsons	Wenatchee
November 16-17	Fall Cruise? LeMans?	Ballentines	Gig Harbor, Arabellas

Pink Boat Regatta 2019



Bellingham

08.24.2019

Seattle

09.07.2019

Tacoma

09.14.2019

Pink Boat Regatta® is a registered 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to supporting breast cancer research and prevention through sailing. 100% of all net proceeds from our regatta and events go directly to The Breast Cancer Research Foundation (BCRF).

Pink Boat Regatta has donated over \$554,000 in just 7 years!

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BCRF 

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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/)

**Moving out of the area, and want us to
keep in touch?
Email us! membership@cyct.com**

June 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5 Late Spring Series #4	6	7	8
9	10 General Meeting (Tyee)	11	12 Late Spring Series #5	13	14	15 Father's Day Cruise
16 Father's Day Cruise	17	18	19 Summer Series #1	20	21	22 Manzinta Margarita 3 hour tour #1
23	24 Board Meeting	25	26 Summer Series #2	27	28	29
30						

July 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4 Independence Day Cruise	5	6
7	8 General Meeting (Tyee)	9	10 Summer Series #3	11	12	13 Ruston Classic 3 Hour Tour #2
14	15	16	17 Summer Series #4	18	19	20
21	22 Board Meeting	23	24 Late Summer Series #1	25	26	27
28	29	30				

CYCT General Meeting Minutes 2019

Month: May

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Our Commodore, Janice Vanravenswaay.

Guests- Potential new members, Bill and JJ, currently with SYC, friends of Steve and Mickie Huckie, and a guest from Sail Ahead.

Shining Light Award: Nominees- none

Reports

___ Vice Commodore: Angie Morales- Fire Marshall came by, inspected the clubhouse- we need a fire extinguisher for outside clubhouse. Fire pit- make sure to have hose ready and on when burning, keep fires low to avoid setting hill on fire.

___ Rear Commodore: Jeremy Bush- no report

___ Past Commodore: Don Kimball- no report

___ Treasurer: Bill Jenks- We have +\$250 to the good for annual income plus savings in the bank.

___ Secretary: Jen Tenney – not present, Deb McAdams subbing, no report

___ Membership Chair: Adrian De Luna— New members Stephanie and Bill Pessemier who have a J-35, Blackdog, moored in Gig Harbor and are looking for crew to race, and Angie Littleton who has Windsong and has been around CYCT and Windseekers for many years.

___ Fleet Captain Cruising: Ken and Julie St John: Memorial Day Cruise to Penrose State Park– please check your charts, bring dinghies, we will be anchored out. Anchoring out again for 4th of July in Star formation with Dan and Karen Walker's new boat in Quartermaster Harbor. More details to follow on FB and the Mainsheet. Father's Day Cruise will probably be in Gig Harbor, Tenneys to host, more details to come.

___ Fleet Captain Racing: Eric Nelson- First Windseekers series is in the books. Class breaks coming, no Challenger racers. Regatta cancelled.

___ Education: Penny Shen – not present, no report

___ Social: Jennifer Ihlen- Summer Picnic, Party Saturday, August 10, 1 pm until ??? Burgers and dogs and Margaritas provided at the CYCT Clubhouse. Margaritaville theme, Dress like Jimmy Buffet and bring sides to go with all of the above.

___ Club Merchandise: Debbie Kimball and Brock Vanravenswaay- polo shirts on sale see them to purchase.

___ Mainsheet: John Coyne- not present,

___ Sunshine: Deb McAdams- Cards were sent to Angie Morales for tendonitis, Don Kimball for his recent kidney cancer diagnosis and to Dan and Karen Walker on their new boat!

___ Webmaster: Jen Tenney- Working on fixing the racing registration, it should be good to go this week.

___ Historian- Matt Thomas- Gene Brown is next on the Commodore Project and he will catch up with Billy Carter now that he is back and update Billy's interview.

___ Long Range Planning: Michael Stanford- sprucing up the clubhouse for the outdoor meetings. Don't put plastic in the fire pit. Getting a bin for recycling.

___ Floating Assets:

___ Publicity: Cindy Craig- no report

___ Women's Sailing:

___ Trophies: Steve Wagner- no report

___ Racing Protests: Eric Nelson- no report

___ PHRF Director: Eric Nelson— no report

___ PHRF Handicapper: Tom Tenney- no report

___ NW Boating Council: no report

___ Commodore's Report: Janice Vanravenswaay- 3 major events happened in the last month, Daffodil, Opening Day and the Commodore's Ball, thanks to all who participated. They all went well and kept us very busy.

___ Old Business— Handing out ballots to vote on an amendment to allow membership by non-boat owners.

___ New Business—none

Break

___ Speaker: Adrian De Luna about Sail Ahead and Ranger Regatta. Always looking for more boats to participate and take a veteran and family out. It's a great program to get veterans and their loved ones out sailing and have a fun day on the water, usually prior to deployment. It has sparked many veterans to keep getting out sailing and

Motion to adjourn was made by Ken St John and seconded by Don McAdams.

. The meeting was adjourned at 2006.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie McAdams for Jen Tenney

Recording Secretary

Sunshine



I sent a card to Christine Nelson with congratulations on the purchase of her new boat!

I also sent a card to the Sandwick family on the passing of our dear member Elise.

If you know of anyone who needs a little sunshine from the club, please let me know. A text, FB message or a phone call work best, 253-640-7429

Debbie McAdams
Sunshine Chair
S/V Red Splash

Happy Birthday to our CYCT Members

Dana Bachellerie	June 30
Tim Garchow	June 1
Kirk Parker	June 16
Ed Pinkham	June 13
Chuck Queen	June 4
Penny Shen	June 21
Mark Stopka	June 16
Matt Thomas	June 25



**On The Cover
Opening Day!**
By
Seattle Yacht Club

Saw it on Facebook





Jennifer Madsen Tenney
Yesterday at 7:37 PM

▼

Great finish for CYCT racers in the SYC Tri-island series with today's Blake Island race. Long races but Team Dash and Team Constellation did amazingly well with Dash pulling a 3rd for the series in class 5 and Constellation pulling a 1st for the series in class 2. Job well done to all crew and skippers Stephanie Heitz Arnold and Ron Hollbrook!






AJ Brumfield, Terri Benward Benz and 18 others

2 Comments

Seen by 60


Like


Comment



AJ Brumfield Great job Stephanie, Ron and crew!
Like · Reply · 1d · Edited 👍 2



Susan Gove Pinkham nice going Ron!
Like · Reply · 6h 👍 1










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).
- **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).

1980 Choate FEO CF 37 Sailboat - recent price reduction- \$29,995 OBO - \$29995



This 1980 Choate FEO CF37 is a very solidly built cruiser-racer perfect for the Pacific Northwest. Asylum has been sailing these waters since 1987 under two owners. It has visited the San Juans and Alaska many times, and with the many extra features on board,

<https://seattle.craigslist.org/tac/boa/d/tacoma-1980-choate-feo-cf-37-sailboat/6903362518.html>

Or Contact Jeremy Bush—(253) 273-9097

SHOVING OFF

Home Improvements



Something ST. Johns do when they buy is house is fix it up. I don't recall any of my five siblings ever buying a new house, it's always been, buy an older house, fix it up. It's just how we do it. Years ago, the whole family would get together for a painting party. Or my dad and I and some others would re-roof the house. Sometimes it's economizing. Sometimes it is personalizing. Over the years I've remodeled three kitchens, four bathrooms, two decks, added windows, changed windows to sliding doors, removed doorways where they didn't belong and put in doorways where they did belong.

Seldom were these changes because of mistakes or poor workmanship by the previous owner. Usually it was because of age, or changing styles, or making things fit your personal situation better. This is different than "fixing things". Fixing things on houses and boats is never ending. This is restoring, or for the sake of this article, improving things.

Before owning boats, I had Triumph Spitfires and I belonged to the Tye Triumph club and followed the Triumph Spitfire Bulletin Board. A recurring theme on the bulletin board was the DPO – Dreaded Previous Owner. We are fortunate. We don't have a DPO. Our PO took great care of La Sirena. Since he lived in Hong Kong, much of her work was done at the factory. In spite of this, there are a few changes and improvements that we've made.

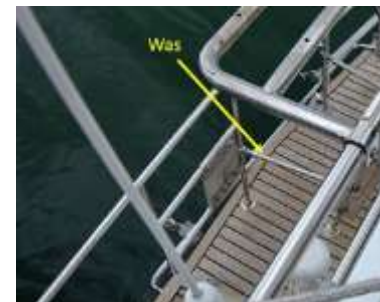
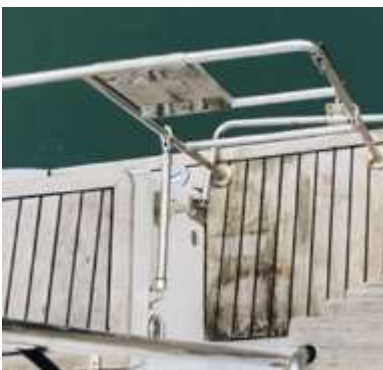
I've talked about some of the changes we've made in the past. Switching the electric stove to propane. Swapping out an 11 gallon water heater for the six gallon. Replacing the large majority of interior lights with LEDs. These are lifestyle changes meant to suit our family and our location. There are a few changes we've made that I classify as "home improvements", as in, it just makes life easier.



One of the simplest changes I've made it my dipstick doorway! I know that a lot of you religiously check your oil as often as every trip. (I've never fully understood this, imagine doing it on your car.) Checking the oil on La Sirena involves going into the work shop far enough so you can open the access door to the engine, open the access door, reach way back in to grab the four-foot long dipstick and pull it out at a funny angle, dripping over everything. It wasn't easy, but it wasn't impossible.

A few weeks ago, while changing the oil, I had an epiphany. The dipstick is just behind a thin plywood wall. I had a 4-3/4" hole saw. Five minutes later, I had easy access to the dipstick. A little after hours project at work the next day and \$5 in hinges, I had a door to the dipstick. My excuse for not checking the oil is gone.

One of the things that attracted us to La Sirena was her swim step. This makes boarding the dinghy and kayaks so much easier. What didn't make it easy was the supports that had been added to reinforce the rail. The center of the rail was unsupported and a bit wobbly. The outboard is stored on this rail. The PO had added supports from the rail to the ladder to stiffen things up. While this did the trick for a while, it ended up causing the ladder rail to break and it divided the swim step into three areas where you had to step over the support to get from one to another.



After having the ladder rail welded, I bought a couple of standoffs and moved the supports outboard about 2-1/2 feet where they are through bolted into the fiberglass. The rail is just as stiff, the ladder is no longer a part of the equation and you can walk the entire swim step easily. Total cost (not counting welding repair), about \$13.

The third home improvement is still in the planning stage and has to do with moisture control. Talk to anyone living on a boat and moisture is an issue, especially in the winter. Worst off are the multiple compartments near the floor in our stateroom. More than once we've pulled out shoes or backpacks needing the mold scrubbed off. We have two large dehumidifiers which we use often, moving around in front of different compartments. We empty the compartments. Dry them. Scrub them. We needed another solution.



SHOVING OFF

Home Improvements

Remember that 4-3/4" hole saw? That is the diameter of the fan in your tower PC. The fans are low amperage and cheap. \$18 for ten of them. Add a digital timer for less than \$10 and I have a way to circulate air through all of the compartments in mid-day when we aren't there or listening. The hole saw was the most expensive part of the operation as I have plenty of wire. I need to figure out the exact connect on the fans and start drilling holes and running wires and my solution will be in place.



Fixing things, it's something I do and something that makes your home or your boat yours!

What have you done to your boat?

Ken St. John
S/V La Sirena

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