



# Mainsheet

Volume 21, Issue 03

The Corinthian Yacht Club of Tacoma Newsletter

March 2021

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## Commodore



Well February certainly threw some curveballs in our direction! Two races in a row were cancelled - the Harbor Series #2 and Toliva Shoals. Bummer! But to be honest, I think both were the right call. No one wants to take the boat all the way to Olympia only to have the race cancelled the day of. There is, however, something slightly annoying about pressing the pay button and by the time your payment confirmation shows up, you see a post that the race was cancelled. Talk about bad timing!

I want to make membership aware of an upcoming bylaw amendment. Our Long-Range Planning Committee was tasked with reviewing our membership levels and associated benefits, and to compare them to other clubs throughout the region. Our goal is also to have a thriving Lido fleet, which is coming along nicely. To account for that membership level, and to make some slight adjustments, the board voted to approve the bylaw amendment as proposed by the Long-Range Planning Committee. With that, the next step (per the bylaws) is to notify membership at the next general meeting, and then to vote by the following general meeting. We will be making our March General Meeting a "Special" Meeting in accordance with our bylaw requirements. All active members should have received a notice via email regarding this upcoming "Special" meeting and proposed bylaw amendment. Since we aren't meeting in person, we will have to have some flexibility in this matter on how we conduct the voting process. More details will be announced at or before the March general meeting. We truly believe that the benefits afforded to our adjusted membership levels and associated costs align with neighboring clubs and our goals. I strongly urge all members to approve the amendment. Here is what is proposed for the change:

### Existing membership levels in the bylaws:

#### Article IV: Membership

d) Associate: An Active Member in good standing, who no longer owns a yacht, may continue their membership as an Associate Member. An Associate Member shall be accorded all rights and privileges of membership as an Active Member. Associate Member dues shall be 50% of Active Member dues.

k) Active Non-Boat Owner: An Active Non Boat Owner Member shall pay an initiation fee and annual dues. An Active Non-Boat Owner shall be represented by one vote only. In the case of a married couple, each member may hold office in the club. The Board of Trustees shall have the option of reducing the initiation fee for a membership drive.

#### Proposed:

d) Associate (Lido owners/Do not own "Yacht" as outlined in Article X): An Associate Member shall pay an initiation fee and annual dues. An Associate Member shall be accorded all rights and privileges of membership as an Active Member, with the exception of race fee discounts and reciprocal rights. An Associate Member may have the rights to the use of the dinghy dock, per a moorage agreement and associated costs. An Associate Member shall be represented by one vote only per membership. In the case of a married couple, each member may hold office in the club. The Board of Trustees shall have the option of reducing the initiation fee for a membership drive. Associate Member dues shall be 50% of Active Member dues.

k) delete this section

Lastly, I want to thank Dan Walker, Christine Nelson, and Eric Johnson for stepping up to fill our Floating Assets, Trophies, and Crew Coordinator positions!

Jeremy Bush  
Commodore  
R/V Goes to Eleven



## Vice Commodore



Welcome to March everyone!!

Really, no really spring is on the way. At least that's what my calendar says. The snow has finally melted. The flowers and the bulbs in the garden are already sprouting up, that's a good sign. Ready for a colors to start blooming.

With our club CYCT, we sponsor many races here in the Puget Sound, (Salish Sea) and functions for everyone to have fun. With some great racing completed so far, and more to come, there are more reasons this year to be on the water. Let's get out there with your friends and family and have fun! We can also fire up the fire pit at the clubhouse, and talk about more sailing, and have your favorite beverage. All the while maintaining the social distances as requirements.

You can check the Mainsheet calendar for the next coming up event or plan ahead for spring or summer. Whether it would be a race, a cruise-in, or a gathering of Mariners, let's get out there.

As it was pointed out to me, the best way to get involved with the club is to volunteer. This way you can share your thoughts your great ideas for the club to grow and prosper. Built on a foundation of great volunteers, let's keep making the club better and better. You can also e mail me directly at [vicecommodorecyct.com](mailto:vicecommodorecyct.com) Just another way to have your voice heard.

Have a great month of March

Michael Stanford  
S/V Lycian  
Vice Commodore



## Rear Commodore



Hi there CYCT!

We're off to a great new year. I've been working on the website (let me know what you think), and we're well underway with our Phase 2 members section. If you have suggestions for things you'd like to see on the site, just let me know.

Also, we've got our Reciprocal Moorage setup and renewed with Yacht Destinations. Just let me know if you need anything there.

Going to take a look around the clubhouse this month and see what she needs for getting ready to open for the season. If there are things you know we need, just let me know!

Racing season is just around the corner, and I for one, can't wait. I'm doing a little work on the wild child in the off season. She's getting new halyards, new backstay, and new lifelines this year. I'm probably going to wait for next season to tackle the instruments. I'm getting ready for Wednesday nights!! You'll still see me out on Gardyloo for the "big races", but my little Santana is a great boat for most of our races!

Hope to see/hear you all at next month's General Meeting. We can't run this club without the membership! Talk soon!

In service,  
John Coyne  
Rear Commodore  
R/V Wild Thing

### 2021 CYCT Officers & Board Members

#### FLAG OFFICERS

Commodore: Jeremy Bush  
Vice Commodore: Michael Stanford  
Rear Commodore: John Coyne

#### BOARD POSITIONS

Secretary: Cyndi Larrison  
Treasurer: Ken Whitney  
Membership Chair: Joy Ballentine  
Fleet Captain-Cruising: Greg Greene  
Fleet Captain-Racing:  
Brock VanRavenswaay  
Past Commodore: Angie Morales

#### STANDING COMMITTEES

Crew Coordinator: Eric Johnson  
Floating Asset Chair: Dan Walker  
Club Merchandise: Jen Tenney  
Mainsheet Editor: Brenda Bethards  
Sunshine: Deb McAdams  
Web Site: John Coyne  
Publicity: Vacant  
Trophies: Christine Nelson  
Education: Ed Pinkham  
Social: Evie Engnoth  
Historian: Don McAdams  
Long Range Planning: Greg Greene

#### REPRESENTATIVES

PHRF Handicapper:  
Eric Nelson  
PHRF Director: Eric Nelson  
PIYA Rep: Eric Nelson

#### MAINSHEET

A publication of The  
Corinthian Yacht Club of  
Tacoma  
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[mainsheet@cyct.com](mailto:mainsheet@cyct.com)



# Cruising



With Whisper’s forestay replaced I was finally able to shake out the genoa participate in the last Harbor Series #3 race, it was so, so good to be out on the water and taking in the fresh breezes. I am so looking forward to some fun cruises this year. Because of current COVID-19 restrictions we are not planning any formal (funded) weekend cruises until the Memorial Day Weekend / Penrose Point Cruise. In the mean time we do have two Day-Sail events on the spring calendar.

I would like to extend a special thanks to Christine Nelson & Paul Grove, and Ed and Sue Pinkham for stepping up to sponsor weekend cruises; below are the currently schedules Cruises and Day-Sail Rallies.

Dates	Theme	Location	Hosts
April 18	CYCT Parade Watch & Day-Sail	Meet at Rock The Dock pier and watch the Daffodil Boat Parade and then go group sailing (weather permitting)	Greg Greene.
May 22	CYCT & TYC Day-Sail Rally	Wollochet Bay	Co-hosted with Tacoma Yacht Club. Greg Greene (CYCT) & Rob Nettleton (TYC)
May 28 – 31	Memorial Day Weekend	Penrose Point	Clay & Shari Anderson
June 5-6	<b>GH Maritime Festival</b>	Gig Harbor	Christine Nelson &
June 6	Blessing of the Fleet		Paul Grove
June 26	<b>CYCT Day Sail Rally</b>	The Foss Waterway Seaport Dock	Greg Greene & Rally Committee
July 3-5	DIY – 4th of July	Quartermaster	Unofficial Cruise (no host)
August 20 - 22	<b>Hillbilly Hootenanny</b>	Quartermaster	Ed & Sue Pinkham
Sep-26	<b>CYCT Day Sail</b>	The Foss Waterway Seaport Dock	Greg Greene & Rally Committee
November 19 – 21	<b>Le Mans Race / Clam Chowder Cook-Off</b>	Arabella’s Landing – Gig Harbor	Gary & Joy Ballentine

**A quick reminder that SYC’s Opening Day 2021 has been cancelled**

From Seattle Yacht Club’s website, “To all in Seattle and to the Boating Community of the Salish Sea, Seattle Yacht Club and University of Washington are moving ahead with the planning of 2021 Opening Day and the Windermere Cup. We are excited about bringing the boating and rowing community together for Opening Day, but don’t know yet what the event will entail due to the possibility of continued social distancing and limitations on large gatherings. With this in mind, we will continue to monitor the situation and communicate updates through this website and the Club.”



## Cruising (Continued)

### Attention on Deck, Fall Cruise Hosts Needed

We have funds in the 2021 CYCT Budget host at least two more weekend cruises in the fall and we need hosts to step up and plan the events. If you are interested in planning and hosting a cruise please contact me via email. Here are the open dates to plan from:

Dates	Theme	Location	Hosts
Sep 3 -6	Labor Day Weekend	Open	Open to Host
Oct 1 – 3	Open	Open	Open to Host
Oct 15 – 17	Open	Open	Open to Host

### Summer Side Show - Caravan to the San Juan's

Did you also hear that Rich Morales is retiring this summer, and Rich and Angie are planning a 3 week cruise to the San Juan Islands?! And, an informal sailing caravan is being formed. The shove off date is schedule for Sunday, July 18<sup>th</sup> and returning on Sunday, August 8<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Angie Morales for suggestions of places to visit as the itinerary details are still in development. Join the Caravan at shove-off, or meet up on your own schedule.

Greg Greene  
[cruising@cyct.com](mailto:cruising@cyct.com)  
 S/V Whisper



## News From The Lido Deck



It's official! We are Lido Fleet #82! We have 5 charter members with the national organizations. Very exciting.

There is not much happening with the current weather; snow, boat maintenance, planning for warmer winds. I removed the wood off Pickle about the centerboard trunk. Goober helped reluctantly. It wasn't fun, however all the fasteners came out and revealed a pretty decent centerboard and trunk chamber. We sanded the teak and are planning on 6 coats of McLendon's finest Spar Varnish. Next will be the refinishing the convenience shelf underneath the bow and installing a couple pair of beverage holders.

On the planning front, we have run into bump with our Memorial Weekend sail at Penrose Point State Park. All shore side camping has been cancelled by the Parks Department due to big sewer project that is schedule to be happening. As I understand it, the Keelboats are still heading to Penrose for that weekend with a few of the Lidos in tow. What we may do is still being discussed, however there will be no camping at Penrose that weekend. Maybe we do a one day official Lido sail for the trailering boats and some less organized fun on other days for the cruising crowd.

Mark your calendar, our first official sail at Tyee will be March 21st, more details will be posted on the webpage and Facebook.

Chuck Queen  
Pickle - Lido #4226  
Acting Lido Fleet 82 Captain



## Racing

We had an unsuccessful Harbor Series #2 (Yes, it happens too much wind). However, we had a successful Harbor Series #3. I would like to thank the following volunteers for supporting race committee Clay Anderson from SV Yankee and Past Commodore Dan Walker and the use of M/V Tehillah. We had 10 boats participate. Winds were approximately 0-4 knts. Line Honors goes to S/V Kahuna PHRF Fleet, S/V Whisper in Challenger Fleet.

Brock VanRavenswaay  
S/V Tatoosh  
Race Chair



# Membership



Happy March Greetings to the Membership! Spring is almost here, it will be warm any day now I'm sure, Right? Please? Longer daylight hours, I can't wait.

I just wanted to remind everybody that membership dues are due April 1st. Please go to the website under membership and fill out the form. The PayPal portion of the website seems to be working very well (Thank you John Coyne) as well as the rest of the website. I will get membership cards out as soon as possible after payment. I will be mailing them since we don't seem to be able to have a meeting yet.

We do have the Membership Drive coming up April 1st-June 30th. We drop the \$100.00 initiation fee at this time. So please let anyone you know that wants to join, that now is a great time to go on the website and fill out the application. Have them choose to start in April-June, even though they will be filling out the application in March. That way the Board will be able to review and approve them at the March Board Meeting, so that they can be inducted at the April Membership meeting and start their first year of Membership!

I want to wish a Happy Birthday to our Members with a March Birthday:

Steve Wagner	7th
Soo Carter	10th
Teresa Sedmak	14th
Mike Matzen	19th
Gary Blackmore	20th
Pat LeBlanc	21st
Tom Tenney	22nd
Clay Anderson	24th
Susan Pinkham	27th

Hope your day is very special.

I can't wait to get back to actual meetings so we can have Birthday Cake at Break!!

Hope to See you on The Water Soon.

Joy Ballentine  
 Membership Chair  
 S/V Raven

**Gardyloo Consulting LLC**

Eric Nelson - Manager

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

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# Education



Spring is coming. Most of us want to cruise to interesting places. Unless we limit our visits to towns with marinas, we will have to anchor. You can read almost any sailing magazine, or book and learn about anchoring disasters. Anchoring is an essential skill for any cruising sailor. Most important is the proper equipment sized correctly for your boat.

1.) The anchor should be of the proper weight and type for your boat and the cruising you intend to do. In my case, my boat is 35' long and weighs about 12,000 pounds. My primary anchor is a 30 pound CQR type. I choose this anchor because of its holding power, and ease of resetting. A danforth anchor is another popular anchor type that is lighter therefore easier to handle, but its harder to reset. It would be a good second anchor.

2.) The rode and ground tackle should also be sized to your boat and the type of cruising you are going to do. A chain rode is the gold standard for serious cruising. Chain is heavy and hard to handle and needs a windless. It is expensive and adds weight to the bow of your boat. Most of us will opt for a rope (nylon) with a short length of chain attached to the anchor. Take the time to mark the rode every 10 feet or so. This will be helpful for determining scope when you are anchoring. Check your ground tackle regularly for wear, and make sure all the shackles are wired so their pins will not come loose. Many cruisers have a reel of polypropylene line to facilitate the use of a stern anchor or stern ties to land.

3.) The killett. This is a weight with a line attached that can be looped over the anchor rode to increase the holding power of the anchor. Lower the weight down the anchor line and tie the killett line to a bow cleat. This will also keep the rode down, lessening the chances of fouling the keel or prop.

4.) The boat. We all try to maintain our boats, and keep all our electronics in A-1 condition. Make sure that your depth sounder is accurate. It's a good idea to set the offset to your boat's draft. GPS on a boat is almost mandatory. GPS can be used to navigate narrow channels, and will let you know if your anchor is dragging. Current charts (electronic or paper) of the area you are sailing need to be onboard. Harbor charts and cruising guides are also helpful in finding secure anchorages. Be aware of tidal changes, and make sure your boat will be floating at low tide. Currents or wind may cause your boat to swing. Make sure there is enough sea room so you are clear of other boats. Remember you have to leave room between boats already anchored. Don't put out 200 feet of rode to anchor in 20 feet of water.

More on anchoring next month.

Ed Pinkham

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# Calendar

Please check

Upcoming Events on CYCT Website

<https://cyct.com/>

OR

CYCT Facebook page

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

for calendar and event updates.

**CYCT General Membership Meeting  
11 Jan 2021**

**Meeting called to order by:** Jeremy Bush  
**Time:** 7:06pm

**Guests:**  
 Jodi Conlon; Catalina 42 part owner; Currently in Foss Harbor Marina, moving to Browns Point

**Birthdays:**

Robert Crews, Ron Holbrook, Tav Pierce, Kurt Kulesza,  
 Stephanie Arnold, Kristi Coyne, John Stafford, Greg Sandwick

**Entertain a motion to approve the previous Board Meeting Minutes**  
 Moved by: Mike Sandford  
 Seconded by: John Coyne

**Review of events since the past General Meeting**

**1. Shining Light Award:** no nominees

**3. December activities** Jeremy Bush  
 3A. Holiday celebration was an online party  
 3B. Perpetual Trophies were announced and are available for pick-up  
 3C. Let Jeremy know if you are not getting club emails

**Upcoming Events**

**1A. Racing:** Next race 23 January Brock Vanravenswaay  
 1B. RC schedule for volunteers to be posted on line  
 1C. Discussion: Race Results for last year not posted, Awards didn't happen; RC was voted boat of the year; the results process will be fixed for this year, and all available results are posted Action: Chuck Queen will tackle results for last summer

**2A. Cruising:** nothing official scheduled in the next 2 months Greg Greene  
 due to COVID

2B. Club members can do informal gatherings, but these will not be Club events  
 2C. Next planned event is Memorial Day weekend at Penrose State Park - planning has started for Lido racing during the cruise  
 2D. Volunteers are still needed to host summer cruising events

**3A. Daffodil Parade:** Parade only, other events cancelled due to COVID Jeremy Bush  
 3B. Members in attendance approved participating (Zoom poll)  
 3C. Bridge Officer boat, theme, and other details pending from Tacoma Yacht Club

**7. Guest Speaker: Paul Grove, CSR Marine**

**Continued: CYCT General Membership Meeting**

Provided advice and discussion regarding boat and engine maintenance including engines/drives, anodes/zincs, bottom paint, and Fiberglass/gel coat

**Reports**

**Vice Commodore** - Actively working on future guest speakers

**Rear Commodore - No Report**

**Past Commodore - No Report**

**Treasurer**

Ken Whitney

- A. Financials: \$25,000 in checking; \$4,200 in savings
- B. Signature cards and Quickbooks changes have been made
- C. Chuck Queen requests assistance with Lido fleet budget

**Secretary - No Report**

**Membership Chair**

Joy Ballentine

- A. One new member pending
- B. Membership roster being finalized
- C. Need birgees, pins, etc for new members

**Fleet Captain Cruising (as above)**

Greg Greene

**Long Range Planning:**

Greg Greene

New membership levels are ready for Board Review

Action: Board to review at January Board meeting

**Fleet Captain Racing (as above)**

**Education**

Ed Pinkham

Mainsheet articles will restart in Jan 2021

**Social:** No Report

**Club Merchandise**

Jenn Tenney

- A. 2020 key focus was tee shirts for RC
- B. Will focus on return to Club merchandise in 2021 through individual print-on-demand online ordering

Action: will set up temporary store in both sites with sample for review at January Board meeting

C. Will also offer embroidery for Club member items; cost is \$7.00 per item

**Mainsheet - No Report**

**Sunshine**

Deb McAdams

Cards out to Chuck Queen and Greg Greene

**Webmaster**

John Coyne

A. Not-live version to be reviewed by Board

Action: link for Board review of new design

B. Target date for completion is Feb 2021

C. Race results are included in design

**Historian - No Report**

**Floating Assets**

Jeremy Bush

A. Position is now open, Kelly relocating to Arizona

**Publicity - No Report (open)**

**Women's Sailing - No Report (open)**

**Continued: CYCT General Membership Meeting**

**Trophies - No Report (open)**

**Crew Coordinator- No Report (open)**

**Racing Protests - No Report**

**PHRF Director - No Report**

**PHRF Handicapper - No Report**

**Commodore's Report - No Report**

Jeremy Bush

A. Working to make changes so that club activities are more efficient in order to make meetings meaningful to all

B. Still working to identify a meeting space

**Old Business**

Jeremy Bush

A. Dinghy dock has moved

B. RC needs to move to a new slip

**New Business (none)**

**Motion to adjourn made by:** Deb McAdams

**Seconded by:** Greg Sandwick

**Meeting Concluded at:** 9:13pm

Respectfully submitted by Cyndi Larrison, Secretary

**CYCT General Membership Meeting  
08 Feb 2021**

**Meeting called to order by:** Jeremy Bush  
**Time:** 7:07pm

**Guests: None**

**Birthdays:**

John Leitzinger, Eve Engnoth, AJ Brumfield, Dan Walker, and Bev Thomas

**Entertain a motion to approve the previous Board Meeting Minutes**

Tabled to Board meeting Jeremy Bush  
 Seconded by: Cyndi Larrison

**Review of events since the past General Meeting**

**1. Rubber Chicken:** no nominees, stays with Brock Vanravenswaay

**2. Shining Light Award:** no nominees

**3. New Members**

Jeremy Bush

Zack Tuck and Courtney Kronenberger were sworn in; they have a Flying Tiger (Tango Zulu) and a powerboat

**Upcoming Events**

**Racing**

Brock Vanravenswaay

1. Next Race Jan 27
2. Toliva Shoals Race is scheduled for 13 Feb

**Guest Speaker: John Coyne: Communicate for Safety**

Provided advice and discussion regarding 5 key tenets for communication and safety on the water: Know the rules, know where to get information, know when to communicate, know how to communicate, and when in doubt - stay clear

**Reports**

**Vice Commodore** - see Webmaster Report

**Rear Commodore - No Report**

**Past Commodore - No Report**

**Treasurer**

Ken Whitney

Dues are due in April, can renew any time - no need to wait

**Secretary - No Report**

**Membership - No Report**

Joy Ballentine

**Fleet Captain Cruising (as above)**

Greg Greene

1. Daffodil Parade 18 April, working with TYC to have a day sail same day Action: details pending
2. SYC Opening Day cancelled, Apr30 - May 2 now open for cruise if anyone would like to volunteer as host
3. Day sail rally to Wollochet Bay May 22 Action: details pending
4. Memorial Day cruise hosted by Clay and Sherry Anderson; Penrose State Park - raft up or anchor (some camp sites may be available); plan on Lido racing in the bay
5. Gig Harbor Maritime Festival, cruise hosted by Christine Nelson and Paul Grove

**Continued: CYCT General Membership Meeting**

**Long Range Planning - No Report**

**Fleet Captain Racing**

Brock Vanravenswaay

1. Thank to Clay Anderson for volunteering last race even - unfortunately cancelled due to weather
2. Members can volunteer for RC by emailing Racing@cyct.com

**Education - No Report**

**Social:** No Report

Condolences to Chuck Queen on the loss of his father, card sent

**Club Merchandise - No Report**

**Mainsheet - No Report**

**Sunshine**

Deb McAdams

Condolences to Chuck Queen on the loss of his father

**Webmaster - No Report**

**Historian - No Report**

**Floating Assets - No Report**

**Publicity - No Report (open)**

**Women's Sailing - No Report (open)**

**Trophies - No Report (open)**

**Crew Coordinator- Update**

Jeremy Bush

Eric Johnson has agreed to step into the role

**Racing Protests - No Report**

**PHRF Director - No Report**

Jeremy Bush

**PHRF Handicapper - No Report**

**Commodore's Report**

Jeremy Bush

1. By-laws change pending: will be presented at March membership meeting, and voted on at the April meeting; Board members are reminded to provide feedback before next Board meeting

2. By-laws scrub underway; anticipate moving Officers' duties out of the by-laws and into a new Operations Manual

3. RC maintenance:

3A: RC scheduled for engine mount, bottom paint, steering/throttle cables, and fuel switch

3B. C-Dory is providing a quote for window repair

3C. New transducer for depth sounder in the club house; this is the one that came with the new electronics was not mounted at the time

**Old Business (none)**

**New Business (none)**

**Motion to adjourn made by:** Mike Sanford

**Seconded by:** Greg Greene

**Meeting Concluded at:** 8:18pm

Respectfully submitted by Cyndi Larrison, Secretary



JUNIOR SAILING  
Tacoma Yacht Club



COVID-19  
PRECAUTIONS  
WILL  
REMAIN IN  
PLACE FOR  
2021



YOUTH  
CAMP  
AGES 8-12  
9:30AM-4PM

TEEN CAMP  
AGES 12-18  
9:30AM-4PM

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# Sunshine

This month I sent cards to  
Chuck Queen for the passing of his father  
Tom O'Hara for the passing of his mother  
Deb and Don Kimball in ongoing support  
for his cancer battle  
and  
Congratulations to Angie and Rich Morales  
on the birth of their brand new grandson!

If you know of anyone who can use a little  
sunshine in their life for any reason, let me  
know.

Deb McAdams  
Sunshine Chair  
S/V Red Splash

On The Cover:

By

Greg Green



## Saw it on Facebook



Chuck Queen is at Penrose Point State Park.

Visual Storyteller · January 31 at 9:23 PM · Lakebay, WA · 🌐

Save the date. The Keelboats will be going on a cruise to Penrose Point State Park over the Memorial Weekend (May 29-31). We are going to take the Lidos also. Some of the Lidos maybe towed down with the Keelboats while most will be towed behind vehicles. There is a launch ramp very near by at Lakebay Marina. All are welcome. There are still campsites available and it is only a 35 minutes drive by car once you're over the Narrows Bridge.



👍👍👍 Jeremy Bush, Deb McAdams and 11 others

4 Comments · Seen by 85





### 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).

## SHOVING OFF Stormies



It's Sunday evening and I'm doing the dinner dishes, Rylie is in the tub with grandma standing by, the diesel fire is burning a nice warm glow, the wind is howling, the boat is rocking, and all seems right with the world. There is something special about a storm when you aren't out in the middle of it.

Here in the marina, we can just look around and see the impacts. We can see the white caps just outside the entrance. Inside the marina we can look around and see whose tarp is going to survive. The lines on Sol-Mar across the way are blown out in a big arch. I'm thinking, "boy, those are loose" and, "I hope for his sake that they don't come undone or he has a real mess on his hands." Here on La Sirena, We have the halyards pretty well sorted out. I know that loose, clanging halyards will mean a middle of the night trip to the deck to quiet them down.

The lovely and gracious Mrs. St. John will stop and watch storms any time of the day and night. I like to listen too storms, she likes to watch. The recent snowstorm held a special challenge for her as we had to go out on deck and brush the snow off the windows in order to see out.

If the storm is especially bad, we might go out and walk the dock to check the lines on other boats. La Sirena is secured with four, heavy dock lines, properly arranged and cleated. Our biggest issue is if the wind switches direction, blowing the boat away from the dock instead of into the dock as is usual. If that is the case, you have to be prepared to step across a one-foot gap instead of straight onto the dock step. It's a small consideration and any break in the wind I will take up the slack and reduce the gap.

A storm at the dock is a marvel of nature to enjoy. A storm in open water, not so much!

Some of our most formative experiences as sailors have been sailing in storms. I remember our first one in Selma, our little Cal-21. We really didn't have a clue how to sail. I just remember running down-wind and running out of sea room, trying to work the courage up to turn back into the wind while the lovely and gracious Mrs. S had her head in her hands cursing repeatedly. We survived of course, hugged each other at the dock, and went straight to the store for a bottle of wine. Not long afterward I got my first sailing lessons. That wouldn't be our last storm! I suppose it never will be until we hang up our foulies. Another memorable storm was the sail from Shilshole to Des Moines in our Cal 2-27 one September. Tacoma was our destination, but because of the 45 knot winds we settled for Des Moines. We'd done the best we could with a scrap of sail, an outboard and diesel engine both going, but after five hours, we were wet and beat and looking for shelter.

Encountering a storm while underway is something to endure and survive and talk about later. I'm not sure it is something to enjoy.

Somewhere between a storm at the dock and a storm underway on the excitement scale is a storm at anchor. We've been through a few and learned some lessons along the way. The first big blow we anchored in was at Port Townsend on Naughty by Nature. The winds were only in the low teens, but something about the lines on that boat or the keel stepped mast really amplified the noise in the boat making it seem much worse. Add to that that we were headed straight to Victoria in the morning – our longest open water passage ever – had us a little unnerved. Once again, we survived and got a little smarter in the process. Someday we'll match the storm at dock experience while at anchor, enjoying it fully without fear. We came close last year on Stewart Island. We knew that the storm was coming. We knew we needed to hole up. We weighed our options and headed to Reid Harbor, a favorite of mine. Motoring northwest into the harbor I double checked with the L and G Mrs. S. "Where is the storm coming from?"

"The southeast she said."

I guess we're still learning.

Ken St. John  
S/V La Sirena