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Do you have questions about the HomePort Newsletter or want to volunteer? Contact Kathy Sheehan at editor@cycbellingham.org

Commodore's Corner

The racing season is nearly here, folks. Time to be sure the bottom is clean and smooth. How smooth is smooth? If it is fairly smooth to the touch, it is probably smooth enough.

As I understand it, the hull doesn't have to be super smooth. A very slight roughness causes a micro-turbulence, which detaches the boundary layer from the hull. This should reduce drag.

Otherwise we are dragging that layer along with us.

At the hull side of the layer, the water is traveling with the boat, while on the water side, the water is stationary. Within the layer, the molecules are slipping past each other to account for the transition absorbing energy.

Few of us use the high-tech finishes (Teflon, maybe) needed to reduce drag further. Some years ago C. J. Marchaj wrote a book or two on the aerohydrodynamics of sailing. Good winter reading if you can find a copy. There may be more up-to-date books around now.

Too much turbulence along the hull, of course, can increase toward the stern to where it increases drag. A layer of barnacles is too much.

In light weather, push the bow down a little to provide a clean exit at the stern. Especially important in light boats.

Another reminder: If you haven't raced before, come out on a Thursday evening about 5:30 pm for a 6 o'clock start. For a first time, if you are not sure what you are doing, cross the start line between the committee boat and the floating yellow buoy at the other end, after all the flags and horns are finished and just behind the other boats. Then follow the others around the course for the fun of it.

Pick out somebody with a similar boat and ask for more information. Of course, if you can find out a little about the process beforehand, you will be better off. Contact Bill Apt for a race packet.

The Thursday night races are a great excuse to use the boat more than you otherwise might. Having a regularly scheduled event provided the external discipline I needed to get me off my duff once a week.

And remember: any evening on the water is better than sitting at home. It's always great if there is both sun and wind, and if is cloudy and stormy, it is a bit of an adventure. If it is a drifter, well, ... at least you are on the water.

If you are hesitant to take your own boat out for a first time, hitch a ride on



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someone else's boat for a few times. You can either just walk the docks about 5 o'clock looking for a ride or contact Bill Apt or one of the other racers for help.

Our boat is a heavy ocean cruiser, too slow to race now, so I crew on a boat belonging to someone who started as crew for us when we did race.

The main requirement for a crew member is to be there at the boat each week at a few minutes past 5. That and learning that the lines are always wound bottom to top clockwise around a winch.

See you out there.
Mel Davidson

Women's Boating Seminar a Success

Thanks to the many CYC women participating in the 2nd annual Boating for Women by Women seminar on April 2.

CYC women arrived with their energy and enthusiasm and helped make the event a success. Special thanks to Sylvia Holmstrom because, as you might have heard, "Sylvia was awesome."

The seminar was presented by the Bellingham Sail & Power Squadron.

-- Deborah O'Connor, Boating for Women by Women Chair

Upcoming Events

(For more info, see [Events & Cruises](#))

April 7: **Pre-season race fleet meeting at Jose Bartlett's (see below).** (And Mel Davidson's birthday)

April 9: **BYC Spring Fever Dinner Dance (sold out), BYC Open House and CharterFest.**

April 12: **Monthly meeting and potluck at the Squalicum Yacht Club.** Hilary Neevel of Skookum Sail Repair in Bellingham will be our guest speaker.

April 14: **Thursday night CYC racing begins.**

May 7: **CYC Gear Swap at Squalicum Marina (see below). Opening Day.**

May 21-22: **Matia Island Cleanup Cruise.** Hosted by Dan and Donna Leheldt.

June 21: **Summer Solstice, 10:16 am.**

June 21: **Sunset Women-Only Cruise at 6 pm.** Hosted by Kathy Sheehan

June 24-27: **Cruise to Stuart Island and Cleanup at Turn Point Lighthouse.** Hosted by Donna-Marie and Dave Cahill.

Aug. 20: **BYC Pirate Cruise to Inati Bay on Lummi Island.** All CYC members invited. The CYC Walrus will be aboard SV HoriZEN and will set up on the beach for a Saturday evening concert.

Sept. 24: **"Oktoberfest" cruise, hosted by Bruce Heninger.**

Nov. 11-13: **'Round the County race.**

CYC Racing

The first CYC race of the season will be Thursday, April 14, a week after the pre-season fleet meeting on April 7.

Four series of five Thursday night races are planned through Aug. 25.

In addition, there will be a long-distance race around Vendovi Island on Saturday, July 16, a "Slow Pitch" race on Thursday, Sept. 1, and an "ABC Challenge" race on the weekend of Sept. 24-25, where racers from the Anacortes, Bellingham and Corinthian Yacht Clubs will vie for bragging rights.

Jose Bartlett will host the pre-season fleet meeting at his home (3656 Toad Lake Road) and his boat, Jamoca, will serve as the committee boat for the season.

Things will be pretty much run the same as in previous years, with friendly competition (no protests), unfathomable handicapping systems and finish-time calculations (from Todd Koetje, Dan Stuart and Bill Apt) and staggered start times beginning at 6 pm.

Nonetheless, it is recommended that racers brush up on the rules of the road, racing rules and signals. As a reminder, each starting group gets a 5-minute, 4-minute and 1-minute sound and flag warning. Each starting group has its own 5-minute warning flag, but all groups get a solid blue preparatory flag at the 4-



minute warning. That solid blue flag will come down 1 minute before each start.

Race packets will be available on the CYC website and at the pre-season fleet meeting.

Race results will be announced at a post-race meeting spot (TBD) after each Thursday race and posted online at www.cycbellingham.org.

A full race packet with more details will be available April 7.

Racing fees can be paid by cash or check payable to CYC. The cost to CYC members for racing will be \$45 for all four series or \$15 for a single series.

If you want to race or volunteer on the committee boat but can't make the April 7 meeting, contact Bill Apt at billapt@yahoo.com.

Membership

CYC Roster

If you have not yet received an email from Sherry Jenkins about your contact information for the 2011 CYC roster, please contact her at 738-8440.

Sixth Annual Gear Swap

Hosted by CYC May 7

The previous five marine swap meets have been great successes. Lockers were cleaned out and bargains were found. CYC invites you to gather any unwanted gear from your garage, boat locker or anywhere else you may have put it for the sixth annual gear swap!

This year's event will begin at 7 a.m. on Opening Day, Saturday May 7, outside the Squalicum Yacht Club near the gate at the Seaview North Boatyard. There will be a suggested \$5 donation for each booth, to support the Bellingham Bay Community Boating Center.

The gear swap will end at 11 a.m. in time for the Bellingham Yacht Club's Opening Day ceremonies. Any questions please call Bruce at 360-733-4097.

May 14-15 Weekend First-Aid Class

A 16-hour First-Aid class for sailors will teach (or refresh) you about common medical emergencies in and around the water.

More than Red Cross CPR and Band-Aids, this 2-day, beyond-basics class is geared for the special challenges of an aquatic environment. You will be using resources normally found onboard to diagnose and stabilize a crew member's injuries until first responders arrive.

Remember, trained medical help may be a half hour away if you are out cruising -- even if you're at nearby Sucia!

SOLO, a national organization, is providing the experienced and trained instructors from the San Juan School of Wilderness EMS (on San Juan Island) for this class. The instructors have requested that participants bring to the class some items typically found onboard to enrich the learning and to learn how to use what you have with you. That can and should include your First Aid kits.

The class will be held at the Southwinds Condominium clubhouse, 3380 Northwest Ave.

About 16-18 people are needed to make this class work for the \$85 fee.

Please sign up by April 15 and make checks payable to CYC, PO Box 101, Bellingham, WA, 98227.

To indicate interest in this class, or for more information, contact Mike or Karen Reed, 733-4252 or losreeds@comcast.net.

After April 15, unfilled slots will be made available to members of other boating organizations. So if you want to ensure your place in this special class, register soon.

The Southwinds Condos are near the DeWilde Nursery, and its community building is an octagonal building in the center of the complex.

- [More information including outline of class.](#)

CYC Cruising

Cruise chairman Chris Wilson is still looking for hosts and locations for some good times during the cruising season.

Contact Chris (cruise@cycbellingham.org) about any cruises you'd like to host or attend.



Cruising Schedule

Cruises being planned so far:

May 21-22: **Matia Island Cleanup Cruise.** Hosted by Dan and Donna Lehfeldt.

June 21: **Sunset Women-Only Cruise at 6 pm.** Hosted by Kathy Sheehan.

June 24-27: **Cruise to Stuart Island and Cleanup at Turn Point Lighthouse.** Hosted by Donna-Marie and Dave Cahill.

July ??? **Echo Bay at Sucia Island.** Host needed.

August ??? **Eagle Harbor at Cypress Island.** Host needed.

Sept ??? **Gulf Islands week-long cruise.** Host and dates to be determined.

Sept. 24: **"Oktoberfest" cruise, hosted by Bruce Henninger.**

October ??: **Turkey Fry cruise to Blakely Island.** Host needed.

Newsletter Archives

Archives of The *HomePort* newsletter of the Corinthian Yacht Club of Bellingham (WA) are available in Adobe PDF. To use the PDF format you will need to download the free [Adobe Reader](#).

Newsletter articles and photos may be submitted to: editor@cycbellingham.org

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CYC Board Minutes

Board minutes are in Adobe PDF format.

[Nov 2010](#) [Aug 2010](#) [Feb 2010](#) [Oct 2009](#)

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