

Home Port

Corinthian Yacht Club of Bellingham



122° 30' 06" W 48°44' 55"N

December 2011

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Commodore's Corner

Well folks: it has been a fun two years as commodore. We've had a good board working for us the whole time. The racing has gone very well, and most of the cruises were well attended. The summer informal potlucks were successful. Considering the wretched weather for much of the sailing season this year, those are real accomplishments.

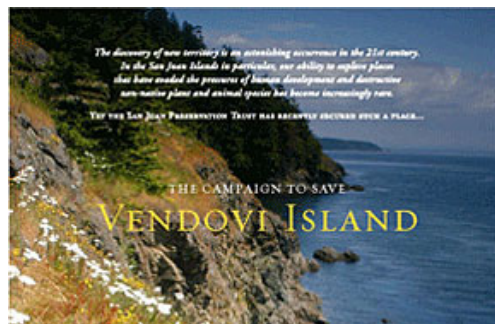
We were lucky with the wind gods on Thursday nights though, come to think about it, with no races called for lack of wind. Twice we were blown off the water, but I wasn't too unhappy to trade good winds for a lack of sun and a little rain from time to time. Only on Thursdays, though.

We have a good board for the coming year too. I hope you will support the club this coming year as well as you have on my watch.

The season ended on a sad note, with the death of Don Mierzeski at Blakely Island the night before the Round the (San Juan) County Race. He and I had our differences of opinion once or twice when we sailed together on Dreamtime, but we had our laughs too. I liked him, and I learned quite a bit from him. I will miss him. We all learned how fragile life is.

Vendovi Island

Barbara and I sat at a table with the Blakely Island caretaker Bill Schlink at the Deb and Dave Jones' 10th and last Turkey Fry, and learned more about the Vendovi Island sale to the [San Juan Preservation Trust](#). Bill was the caretaker of



2011 CYC Officers and Board Members

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Vendovi for 10 years before the recent sale.

The trust is buying Vendovi for a total of \$6.4 million if it can raise the money. The trust has a gift of \$3 million and a bridge loan for the remaining \$3.4 million from some very generous people.

Toward paying off the bridge loan, they have a matching gift for up to \$1million if the rest of us can provide the match according to a fixed schedule.

They have met the amount for the first year of the schedule and now need \$350,000 by Oct. 15 of this coming (second) year. If they are not successful in raising the balance of the bridge loan, they may have to re-sell the island.

There is more information at [San Juan Preservation Trust](#) and at [Whatcom Watch](#).

Vendovi was a CYC weekend cruise destination a little over 10 years ago when Herb Burpee was the caretaker and got permission for us from the owners, the John Fluke family of Fluke Instruments fame.

Acquiring this island is a fantastic opportunity if we can pull it off. This is a silver lining to the economic cloud hanging over us at the moment. We will learn more from our speaker at our January meeting.

I urge you to plan a substantial contribution to the Trust each year until the purchase is assured. Barbara and I are postponing some of our normal charitable donations for a year or two in order to put most of our eggs in this basket. The other groups will likely be here in a couple of years, but Vendovi might not be.

Plan to be at the Xmas party and the winter dance coming up also.

See you on the water,
Mel Davidson

Upcoming Events

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

Dec. 13: Club annual holiday party (potluck) and gift exchange

Jan. 10, 2012: Club meeting and potluck. Vendovi Island program.

Jan. 27-Feb. 5, 2012: Seattle Boat Show

Jan. 30, 2012: Women's Day at the Seattle Boat Show. Free-admission coupon available just before this date on [seattleboatshow.com](#).

Feb. 11: CYC Winter Dance

Feb. 14: Monthly potluck and meeting.

In Memory: Don Mierzeski



Members of the Corinthian Yacht Club mourn the loss of Don Mierzeski, 42, who drowned on Blakely Island Nov. 12, on the eve of the Round the County Race.

Mierzeski, who raced aboard his J35 Shirker and joined CYC in May, had planned to participate in the annual two-day race.



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News reports and other sailors who were present at Blakely the night before the race indicated that Mierzeski was involved in an altercation at the Blakely dock and that alcohol was believed to be a factor in his death.

A fund has been set up at WECU to help with his son Reed's future education expenses. To donate, ask any teller to deposit your contribution to the Reed Mierzeski education fund. Mierzeski is also survived by his wife, Tina.

CYC Membership Grows

The membership of CYC grew by more than a dozen new families/boats during 2011, bringing the total membership to nearly 80.

Among the new members are Bonnie and Kevin Peterson, who departed Bellingham in September aboard their Fraser 41, Kist, for a year-long cruise to Mexico. Read about their journeys, including their frequent use of reciprocal moorage at: <http://www.sailblogs.com/member/kist>

If you haven't renewed yet for 2012, please print the [PDF renewal form](#) and send your \$50 in club dues to CYC Membership, PO Box 101, Bellingham, WA 98227. Or contact Sherry Jenkins membership@cycbellingham.org.

| New Members 2011 | Boat Name | Boat Type |
|---------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Tom Anderson & Julie Cruz | Slainte | Kettenburg 32 |
| Ron & Linda Battle | Igmu | Gemini 3000 Catamaran 30 |
| Neal Bittner & Kim Hobday | Bluefin | Tartan 30 |
| Sean and Donna Boisen | -- | -- |
| Fred & Heather Brown | Nausicaa | Catalina 22 |
| David & Julie Cowan | Annabella | Newport 41 |
| Eric Dokken | Goldfinch | Homebuilt 20 |
| Jack Gerity & Lisa Megard | Extreme | Carrol Marine 35 |
| Paul Goodman | Annabella | Newport 41 |
| Peter and Carolyn Hallett | HoriZEN | Catalina 36 |
| Brian Lawrence & Keturah Witter | Hoerndag | San Juan 28 |
| Matt Luxon | Lunasea | Ericson 27 |
| Don Mierzeski (*deceased) | Shirker | J 35 |
| Dan Ohms & Janine Shaw | Kestrel | Aphrodite 101 32'6" |
| Kevin & Bonnie Peterson | Kist | Fraser 41 |
| Jack Whittemore & Tokiko Yasuge | Kailua | Catalina 30 |

No One Fried on the Turkey Cruise

Sunny skies greeted all who traveled out to Blakely Island for the 2011 Turkey Fry cruise. A total of 14 boats and 33 club members and guests moored their boats in the marina and joined together on Saturday afternoon to enjoy three - yes 3! - deep-fried turkeys complete with more than enough side dishes and desserts.

A Friday work party of early arrivals got busy cleaning up and erecting the windscreens in the cabana. With the addition of several propane space heaters, we were able to keep the chill out and enjoy music and cards of all sorts well into the evening.

After coffee and conversation on the dock Sunday morning, the boaters set off home with clear skies albeit light wind.

Back in their home slips, we noticed many boats removing sails and winterizing their vessels. I know we were thankful for such a nice end to our boating season ... another successful cruise with good



food and the excellent company of our fellow club members!

Happy holidays, everyone,

Deb & Dave Jones

Photos from the cruise plus photos from the CYC race awards night can be found at: [Capt. Kathy's Web Gallery](#).



Tips & Tools Contest

Do you have a handy boating tool or a better way to do something on your boat?

Submit your idea at www.boatingisfun.org, and you could win a prize at an awards dinner in May 2012. Any boater is welcome to submit an idea.

The best tips gathered will also be presented to the 2012 Boating for Woman Seminar in April 2012, sponsored by the Boating for Women by Women Committee of the Bellingham Sail & Power Squadron.



Marine Equipment Recalls

- Mustang inflatable PFDs with model numbers MD2010 and MD2012 are being recalled for inspection and repair. PFDs with white labels are NOT part of the recall. More information: [Mustang PFD PDF](#)
- Orion Safety Products has issued a recall for two models of its hand-launched aerial distress signals, citing problems with the devices failing to launch and/or ignite. The recall applies to older Orion XLT and 12-gauge signals made with orange ABS plastic. The expiration dates of the recalled items fall between November 2011 and March 2012. More information: [Orion Recall PDF](#)

Homeport News

Send us your comments about the online CYC newsletter. Are you receiving your copy by e-mail? Do you want to volunteer to write an article or do some editing? Do you have pictures for the Home Port News? E-mail Kathy Sheehan at editor@cycbellingham.org.

CYC Board Minutes

Board minutes are in Adobe PDF format.

[September 2011](#) [May 2011](#) [Feb 2011](#) [Oct 2010](#)
[July 2011](#) [Apr 2011](#) [Jan 2011](#) [Sep 2010](#)
[June 2011](#) [Mar 2011](#) [Nov 2010](#) [Aug 2010](#)

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Contributors: Mel Davidson, Donna-Marie Cahill, Sherry Jenkins, Deb & Dave Jones, Deborah O'Connor, Kaye Clevenger, Bill Apt, Chuck Dingée, Kathy Sheehan

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