

Home Port

Corinthian Yacht Club of Bellingham



122° 30' 06" W 48°44' 55"N

May, 2010

Volume 25 Number 2

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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



Now that you've finally cleared the antifreeze out of the freshwater system and have good oil in the engine, it's time to go racing. The CYC racing season is off to a great start. Great because we've had enough wind for a race each of the first two Thursdays and great because we've had a good turnout of boats. It's cheap fun and a great excuse to get the boat out on a regular basis. Every evening is a great evening on the bay, even if it rains.

The racing story

If you haven't raced before or haven't for a while, come on out anyway. Be out in the bay at the committee boat between 5:30 and 6 PM on any Thursday. If you

haven't signed up, call Bill Apt or send him an e-mail (billapt@yahoo.com) to figure out which start you should be in and then show up.

We have three starts each Thursday this season, at 6:05, 6:10 and at 6:15 PM (5 minute warning at 6 PM) for the different classes, depending on size and whether or not you fly a spinnaker. If you are a newbie, go with the non-flying-sails (no spinnaker) cruising class to begin with. There is a starting sequence of flags and signals, so ask somebody in the same start to lead you through the start procedure.

Call the race committee boat on VHF Channel 69 to be sure the committee knows who you are. We should be able to catch up with the paperwork later. If you need help with how to get around the course and for a rough idea of the rules, Bill Apt will get you help. (You can also download race information on the CYC website.) It is like any other activity: the more you know ahead of time, the more you will get out of it but don't be intimidated. We all started knowing

2010 CYC Officers and Board Members

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Secretary - **Bob Jenkins**
Treasurer - **Bob Cooper**
Administrative Officer - **Laurent Martel**
Membership Chair - **Ray Gobush**
Race Chair - **Bill Apt**
Cruise Chair - **Bob Plumb**
Reciprocity - **Steve Clevenger**

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you will get out of it, but don't be intimidated. We all started knowing nothing.

The hair-raising story

Enough of my soapbox talking. Here's an Alaska story. Once upon a time (10 years ago) in Prince William Sound, Barbara and I were traveling through a narrow channel near Whittier in the Bon Accord. If memory serves me right, it was Culross Passage. (Look for it here: <http://www.charts.noaa.gov/OnLineViewer/16700.shtml>) It seemed very narrow: I was sitting up on the starboard coaming, steering with the tiller extension and was totally focused on the rocks in the narrow waterway. Barbara was below fixing lunch, I think.

All of sudden there was a spout not three feet over my right shoulder! A young bull killer whale had surfaced right next to us! Barbara felt a bump just before hearing my gasp. She started up the companionway and found me standing straight up on the lazarette with my eyes opened wider than she had ever seen them before. My hair must have been standing straight up too.

The whale had bumped us gently and moved on past, as if shouldering us aside to make room for himself. A bit greedy for space if you ask me: no sense of fairness. He was the overtaking vessel, wasn't he?

—Mel Davidson

Upcoming Events

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

- **May 11: CYC Monthly Potluck**
- **May 14-15: Tentative date for Matia Island Clean-up**
- **May 22: Poker Run**
- **Tues, June 8: Raft-up at linear moorage in Fairhaven.**
Potluck or dinghy to dinner in Fairhaven
- **June 19-20: Sucia Cruise**, Fossil Bay
- **Sun, July 4: Raft-up in Chuckanut Bay**, then back to watch the fireworks.

On the water and on the docks

On the docks ...

May 11 meeting and potluck BBQ

The last regularly scheduled CYC meeting until September is Tuesday, May 11 at the Squalicum Yacht Club (although there is some talk about informal potlucks through the summer). Please join us for a potluck barbecue and hear John Milczewski, past USCG Auxiliary flotilla commander and staff officer for education, talk about boating safety. This meeting is our annual spring BBQ; the Club provides the grills and condiments; you bring a side dish and a something to grill.

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Jim Yalden of Sedro-Woolley talked about sailing and racing at our April meeting.

April CYC meeting

At our April meeting, Jim Yalden of Sedro-Woolley talked about sailing and racing, solo and long-distance, in the waters off Australia. Yalden had some exciting experiences in boats ranging from a 17-foot dinghy to a 29-foot ocean sailor.

Opening Day of Boating Season

Our club sponsored the Opening Day Swap Meet Saturday, May 3, and netted \$90 in "booth" donations for Home Port Learning Center. Thanks to Bruce Henninger, there was a great turnout of club members who offered line, winches, shackles, sails, dinghies, and assorted other items for sale or swap. The Bellingham Yacht Club did its thing later in the day, including organizing a boat parade in front of Boulevard Park, and some of our club members took advantage of the fair weather to get out on the bay.

Gate Codes Changed

Squalicum Harbor changed the gate codes on May 3 and the gates will remain unlocked during the day for the rest of the season. If you need the new code, call the Squalicum Harbor Office at 676-2542. You will need to identify yourself and give the staff your account or slip number. The Harbor office asks that you do not share your code with people who do not have boats in the harbor.



New Pumpouts

This spring on Gates 8 and 9, the Port of Bellingham installed new pumpouts for your heads. Instructions are printed on the carts and dump station. If you have any questions on how to operate pumpout equipment, call the Squalicum Harbor office at 676-2542.

On the water ...

Racing Fun

As Mel Davidson points out in his commodore's column, the turnout for the Thursday night races has been very good, and the weather has been most cooperative. In fact, a record 33 boats have signed up for the weekly races, and the action is replayed at Cascade Pizza later in the evening. Race results are posted on the CYC website, usually by the next day. On Thursday, April 29, there was even a whale sighting between the harbor entrance and the starting line.

Want to see what it's like on the bay? Check the CYC website for a link to photo galleries where you can download photos or upload your own.

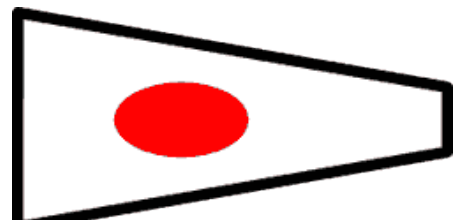
The Thursday night fleet isn't as competitive as the Wednesday night fleet, and the racers have a wide variety of experience. Even experienced sailors learn a thing or two, as was evidenced when Gary Baker discovered that neither one of the horns on his boat (the committee boat) was working on the night of the third race. The racers learned shortly after, via Channel 69, that the starts would be



Bruce Henninger looks over a table full of winches and other gear at the CYC Swap Meet he organized on Opening Day of Boating Season.

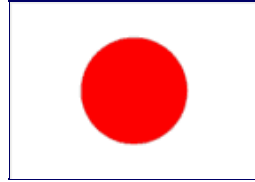
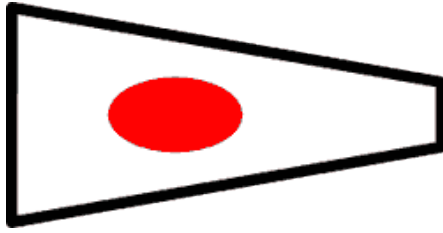


The Bellingham Yacht Club organized the boat parade on Opening Day.

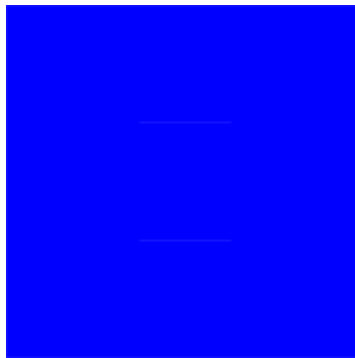


solely by signal flags, and many of the sailors scrambled below decks for a reference book with signal flags.

Was that first pennant that went up on Gary's boat the starting flag for the first of three starts? Or the flag of Japan?



Race committee chairman Bill Apt has provided an explanation of the signals that are used in case it happens again. There are three starts, and each starting group gets a 5-minute warning, 4-minute warning and 1-minute warning before their start.



A solid blue preparatory flag goes up 4 minutes before each start and comes down 1 minute before each start. (Note: many other races use a blue flag with a white square in the middle for the preparatory flag.)

The class flags, for #1, #2, and #3 starts, go up 5 minutes before the respective start and remain up until the appropriate start.

CYC Board Minutes

March 24, 2010

Board Members Present: Mel Davidson, Dave Cahill, Bill Apt, Ray Gobush, Bob Cooper, Chuck Dingee, Steve Clevenger, Bob Jenkins

Member Present: Sherry Jenkins

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM

Minutes of last meeting: February 2010 board meeting minutes were approved.

Committee Reports:

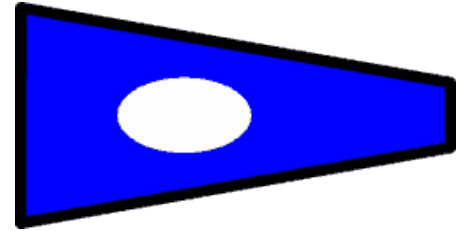
Treasurer Report: Bob presented the financial results from the Winter Dance. A profit of \$615.39 was realized from the dance.

Signature cards for the bank account have been updated for new officers. Officers with signature authority will include Mel, Dave, Bob C. and Kaye.

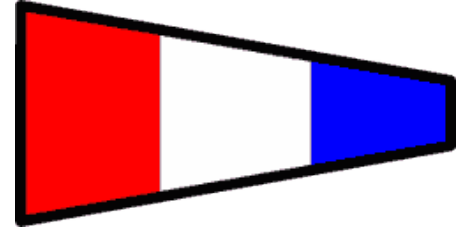
Overall club finances are tracking close to budget. The budget report was approved.

Membership: Membership applicants Jim and Tracie Johannessen were approved for membership. Jim and Tracie have an Ericson 34

Flag #1 for first starting class



Flag #2 for second starting class



Flag #3 for third starting class

called Mandalay.

Administrative: No administrative report this month.

Race: The 2010 racing schedule is final and has been posted on the website. The schedule will be published in the 2010 roster. The pre season racing meeting is scheduled for April 1 at 6:00 PM at Joe Bartlett's house. We will get a count of participating boats at that time. The fee for all races will remain at \$45 for the 2010 season. Bill will put together a roster of race participants for use in future communications about racing. Boundary Bay will be promoted as the after race gathering venue. Bill says that there has been a good team effort on organizing the racing season.

Bill met with Don at the BYC to discuss how the two clubs can cooperate on racing. Registered CYC boats will be able to participate in BYC long distance races at no cost. BYC boats will be able to race on Thursday nights at no cost this year if they are registered and paid up for BYC Wednesday night races. CYC members are invited to attend a seminar by Dick Rose on racing rules on March 30th at the BYC.

Committee boats have been lined up for the first two series but need to be identified for the remaining races. A fallback plan will have to be implemented if no volunteers come forward. Volunteers are needed to help on the committee boat. A notice asking for committee boat volunteers will be posted on the website.

Gary Baker asked for CYC volunteers to work on the BYC race committee boat. Bill wants to begin shifting race committee emphasis away from startup/organization activities and toward attracting new racers.

Cruise: The Matia Island clean-up is on but a cruise host is still needed. Sherry will see if a volunteer can be located.

The BBCBC cleanup is scheduled for April 17th.

CYC members have been invited to participate in the BYC Pirate Cruise this summer.

Website/Newsletter: Mel feels we should have a club newsletter posted on the website that is also emailed to all members. The format will be very simple. Ideas for content included a Commodores column, notices about upcoming events, summaries of recent events, boat parade, facilities upgrades, classifieds and board meeting minutes. The deadline for newsletter content was established as the last Tuesday of each month. Bob C. suggested that the content of club reciprocal letters be posted on the website. Most of these letters have content that would be of value to club members.

Reciprocal: Steve got the damaged reciprocal sign from Bruce. He will repair it and put it back up.

Old Business: The opening day swap meet needs a host and volunteers. Mel will talk with Bruce Henninger about organizing the swap meet and Sherry will line up helpers.

The upcoming Matia cleanup cruise still needs a host.

Sherry announced that a phone committee has been set up.

Items from the Boathouse closet were disposed as follows; Potato chips will be donated to the Bellingham Food Bank, Mel purchased shelving at FMV, Pictures from Japan sister city will be offered to SYC for their clubhouse, all other items to storage in the Jenkins's shop.

New Business: The BBCBC has asked for a donation. The Board agreed to a \$250 donation. This will use up the stewardship budget for 2010. The board needs to address how to deal with future donation requests. Should unbudgeted income such as the profit from the winter dance be used for additional donations or be kept to fund other club activities?

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 PM.

10 MAY 2010

Contributors: Barbara Davidson, Chuck Dingée, Kathy Sheehan

Problems? Notify the [Webmeister](#)

Our mailing address is P. O. Box 101, Bellingham, WA 98227