



Cruise Report

The Longbranch Wagon Wheel cruise over the Labor Day weekend was filled with not only a lot of boats and people but a lot of fun and things to do. It started Thursday night with a set up in the wind as Bob Stewart was the first boat to set the hook. Jim Matheson and Dave Leonard finished off 3 spokes of the wheel that night and Tim Lewis arrived Friday morning to complete the wheel and wait for arrivals. Thanks to this team for helping set up anchor boats. Friday was filled with the formation of the wheel and welcoming everyone for a great weekend.

The final count was 31 boats with 77 attendees. We started Saturday with some wonderfully created games by Lee and Debbie Mattox. The first was the traditional blind-dinghy race. This is always a fun event and is filled with a lot of laughter, as least for those watching. The event was won by guests Glen and Liz Dodge. Their prize was a Hydrobubble dinghy anchor. Second place was won by Nat Collier who received a bag from West Marine. Then came a relay team race inside the Wagon Wheel, with mates having a great time trying to sit on and pop balloons. The finals resulted in a tie and flip of the coin. Tim Lewis and guest Warren Glasbey were the winners of this and they won a \$100 gift certificate for parts to Gallery Marine. Cocktails were then served on Star Search. That evening there was a dinghy parade around the harbor with a record number of 29 dinghies, all passing hors d'oeuvres back and forth, led by Captain Bob Stewart.



Longbranch Wagonwheel

Residents from ashore and anchored boats throughout the harbor were quite amazed at watching this. The parade then headed for the Longbranch Marina for a scrumptious BBQ of ribs and chicken prepared by Mo Flav BBQ. After eating dinner, everyone headed back to their boats for the traditional colors and cannon blast courtesy of Ron Ruchek. Those who wanted to go then headed to the Longbranch Community Center to listen and dance to Junkyard Jane. Everyone really took note of the outrageously great sax player. A good time was had by all at this event.

Sunday started off with a boxed breakfast served off of Sea Jay. We then had another great game created by Debbie and Lee called the Blind Sock Putting On Contest which included Lee putting up a clothes line all the way across the wheel, 5 feet above the water, with

a lot of his old socks attached. Blinded rowers were then instructed by their mates to pull off the socks and put them on the extended foot of their mates, one on top of the other. It was a fun game and quite comical, with Tim Lewis and guest Warren Glasbey winning a 100\$ gift certificate to Kruger & Sons Propeller. Tim and Warren were sure the big winners! A surprise 60th birthday cake and singalong was presented to Dave Leonard, courtesy of Linda Hill. There were four drawings throughout the day of \$50 gift certificates to the ships store. The winners of those were Linda Collier, Lee Mattox (who graciously gave it back to the club), Dave Leonard and Jan LaFontaine. A BIG thanks to Debbie Mattox for being such a great MC for all of the games and events.

While everyone was resting and relaxing from all of this activity, Jim

and Lee were roaming the harbor looking for someone to race and came across another very fast inflatable who was the owner of a 140 foot yacht called the Modoc. He and his wife were invited to the inner sanctum of the Wagon Wheel and were presented an application to join RHYC. The yacht owner promptly invited the whole club to join them that evening on the Modoc for hors d'oeuvres and a tour of the vessel, which we definitely accepted. At 5:00 cocktails were served on the Vindicator then everyone returned to their boats for colors and cannon. It should be noted at this time that a local home owner came into the wheel in a row boat and told Bill Severson how nice and impressive the RHYC Wagon Wheel was and a pleasure to see this kind of quality boating group in such a responsible and organized event.

At 8:30 that evening, Nat Collier led a dinghy parade of 19 strong to the Modoc. When the parade was within 200 hundred yards, the Modoc began setting off spectacular fireworks (we are talking large rockets!) as a greeting to the RHYC dinghy parade. It was very, very cool! To facilitate our boarding, the Modoc lowered a large portable loading dock that is carried on top of a super structure on the aft deck. The Modoc is a floating Palace and the dinghy for this yacht is a wonderful 28 foot vintage wooden Chris Craft from the Gatsby days with two windshields and two open cockpits. We were greeted by a giant open fireplace, where we listened to music, shared hors d'oeuvres and cocktails and were given a tour of the entire ship from bow to stern, including the bridge and engine room. We all left happy and amazed boaters.

The next morning the breakup was completed by 11 AM to avoid to onset of a storm. Many thanks to Dan Lohse and Nat Collier for helping with pulling up the anchors and disassembly without one incident. Since there wasn't a flyover to take a picture of the event, all attendees will be receiving a CD with pictures

of the weekend.

During the weekend we signed up new applicants Taisto Pesola and his friend Mary Loomis on *Celebration* and welcomed new members Steve Jonich and Chris Coplen on *Arjay*, Rod and Joanne Barber on *Flying Pelican*, and Nick and Marilyn Suhadolnik on *Danny Buoy*, with guests Patricia and Web Bates. Other members attending were Cannons, Colliers, Daltons, Grahams, Halls, Hammerquists, Hamptons, LaFontaines, Bernie Larson, Ken & Linda Larson with son Paul, Leonard & Hill, Lewis' with guests Warren & Carol Glasbey, Lohses, Mathesons with guests Robert & Janey Rath, as well as guests on their own boats from the Bouncing Bayliner Yacht Club (BBYC) Glen and Liz Dodge with Deb McCann and 5 other guests that arrived just in time for dinner, Don and Jane Janus, Gary and Shirley Cummins with grandson Sam, Dan and Jan Skelton with Jim Skelton, and Tom and Chris Miner with Debbie and Jeffrey Bailey, Mattox with daughter Brooke, McAdams, McDonalds, Mehlums, Motollas, Ruchek, Seversons, Stellmans, and Stewarts.

It was a great event and a most exciting Wagon Wheel. Thanks to all who participated and made it such a fun weekend.

Cruise captains Jim and Cheryl Matheson wish to thank the cruise team Dan and Ray Lohse, Mark and Jan LaFontaine, and Lee and Debbie Mattox for helping to make this one of the best Wagon Wheels ever.

Jim Matheson
Cruise Captain

Jake Elmore

Our heartfelt condolences to Mark and Pam Elmore on the sudden death of their son Jake. Jake had recently returned to his studies at the University of Hawaii after attending our RHYC Colors Cruise with his parents. A scholarship fund has been established at the University and our club will make a memorial contribution in his name.

Jeanie Bennett-Rash

We are also saddened to report the death of this former RHYC member. Jeanie passed away August 17th after a long battle with cancer. Our thoughts are with her husband Robert on this sad occasion.

New Honorary Member

At its August meeting the Board of Trustees elected Kevin Carlton an Honorary Member of RHYC. Kevin is the Harbor Master at Roche Harbor Marina and has distinguished himself and his staff by providing top-flight hospitality each time we visit. Please congratulate him the next time you see him and make him feel at home as a member of the best cruising club in the Northwest.

I sometimes lay it on pretty thick (e.g. "best cruising club") but I call 'em as I see them on that kind of thing. And I do welcome your suggestions for improvement so let me have them please.

Jim Cannon



By the time you can make ends meet,
they move the ends

New Members

Nick & Marilyn Suhadolnik
Seattle, Wa.
33' Carver
"Danny Buoy"
Sponsored by Colliers & Cannons

Walter & Janine Friesen
Mercer Island, Wa.
38' San Juan
"Wave Guide"
Sponsored by Ron Ruchek & Lohses

Rod & Joanne Barber
Tacoma, Wa.
"The Flying Pelican"
Sponsored by Elmores & Mattox

Kevin Carlton
Roche Harbor, Wa.
Sponsored by RHYC Bridge Officers

New Applicants

Steven Yonich & Chris Coplen
Chehalis, Wa.
"Arjay"
Sponsored by Clarkes & Mattox

Taisto Pesola & Mary Loomis
Keizer, Or.
"Celebration"
Sponsored by Leonard/Hill & Mathesons



Money Talk

We're just back from the Wagonwheel. What a cruise! Those of you who haven't made a Wagonwheel yet are really missing something. If you haven't tried it, give it a whirl. Dan, Jim and the other dinghy tugboats make it so easy. That tour of the Modoc (homeport Gig Harbor) was spectacular.

On the money front, we're in good shape. I've said it so often I won't go into any more details. If you have questions, just call.

We're looking forward to Columbus Day. We'll see you in Kingston.

Ken Hammerquist
Treasurer



Commodore's Ball - Change of Bridge

Saturday November 9, 2002
College Club, Seattle

- 6:00 pm Reception
- 6:30 pm Change of Bridge
- 7:15 pm Dinner
- 8:30 pm Dancing

Be sure to mark this date on your boating calendar
and get ready to
Dine, Dance and Delve
into the mysteries of why RHYC cruises
are so much fun!

Your invitation will arrive soon.

Register early and you might be pleasantly surprised!

Cruise Captains Jim & Peggy Cannon



Commodore Report

Several months ago I mentioned in this column that our Board of Trustees was going to develop a set of long term plans for our club that, hopefully, would not only allow us to maintain the high quality of the benefits we deliver to our members but also improve them as well. We have made some meaningful progress on that project and are now at the point where we can give you some idea of where we're headed.

The basic idea is to develop a set of long term goals for the next 3-5 years which each successive generation of club management will seek to implement. As we see it, these goals should cover only the key areas of club activity. They should focus on meaningful opportunities for improvement and be reasonably attainable given the resources and talent we have to work with. We've tentatively settled on these five areas:

1. Increase club membership to approximately 150 members.
2. Plan our cruise activities and locations on a multi-year basis.
3. Enlarge the outstation space available at Roche Harbor.
4. Develop a backup location for the Reciprocal space at Bremerton.
5. Explore the possibility of an outstation in the South Puget Sound area.

Each of these subjects warrants full discussion before we make any final decisions and you will be given a chance to express your views before those decisions are made. In the meantime, here are some preliminary thoughts to get us started.

1. Increasing Membership We presently have approximately 125 members, including all categories of membership. A careful study of our cruise activities, including how many members attend each cruise, how many boats are at each cruise, and the cruise location and its facilities, indicates that we could significantly increase club membership without degrading the quality of our boating enjoyment. In looking at the financial impact of an increase in mem-

bership, it would appear that 150 members would be somewhere near the optimum at our present dues levels. This additional revenue would help us improve the benefits we offer each member, including improvement in our Outstation facilities.

2. Multi-year cruise planning. As anyone who's recently been Fleet Captain can tell you, it has become increasingly difficult in the last several years to get the locations we want for our cruises if our planning horizon is only twelve months. There is a growing need to plan our cruises 2,3, or even 4 years in advance in order to get the locations we want. And in order to do this, we may need to make some financial commitments for a similar period of time.

3. Enlarge the outstation space at Roche Harbor. Whenever we do a cost/benefit study of the outstation at Roche Harbor and look at it on a "cost per use" basis, we end up shaking our bean-counter heads at the high cost figure. Some attribute the unhappy statistic to an incomplete record of the members actually using the facility. Others take a more sanguine view and aren't interested in looking at it on a cost/benefit basis. Regardless of whether it might be possible to reconcile those views, the general feeling among our members is that having the outstation there is a good idea and the sentiment seems to be that we should attempt to have more space if that is feasible. There are several possibilities which we intend to explore.

4. Backup location for Bremerton reciprocal space. One of the smoothest moves we've made in recent years is working out the arrangement with the Port of Bremerton to use some of their space for our reciprocal purposes. It has improved our credibility with our reciprocal partners a great deal and is one of our most valuable assets. We like the present arrangement very much and intend to continue it indefinitely. However, we think it would be a good idea to have a

backup location available should that become necessary.

5. South Sound Outstation. The results of the member survey we conducted a while back surprised us on this subject. Prior to the survey, the subject seemed to come up regularly so we included some questions on that subject. The survey responses showed a surprising lack of interest. Then, after the survey results were released, it became (again) the subject of some comment. Since outstations are an important part of our club's activities we think it would be a good idea to explore the subject again.

So, there's a quick run-through of our present thinking on the future direction of club management. This is still a work in progress and this is your chance to let us know if you think we're on the right track. We'll keep you informed as we go along but we need, and want, your guidance and support, so please let us know how you feel on this subject.

Jim Cannon
Commodore



Vice Commodore Report

Deb and I had a wonderful time at the wagonwheel in Longbranch. Jim & Cheryl Matheson and crew really know how to coordinate a great cruise. Thanks to all who volunteered to make the weekend yet another memorable RHYC event.

Being part of the membership committee, as we all are, it was great seeing and welcoming to our circle, new members Nick & Marilyn Suhadolnik and Rod & Joanne Barber and the many weekend "guests."

Also, did you get a chance to greet and meet the new applicants in attendance: Steven Yonich & Chris Coplen on *Arjay* and Taisto Pesola & Mary Loomis on *Celebration*? On behalf of the Board, I'd like to extend to you a special invitation to our October Cruise to meet even more RHYC Members.

We have one more "boat cruise"

planned for 2002 and your October Cruise Captains are looking forward to seeing you and your guests in Kingston. The weekend promises to be an easy, breezy, little dicey, one arm bandit kind of a weekend...A sure bet.

Lee Mattox
Vice Commodore



Secretary Report

I have enjoyed reading the cruise reports lately and the color photos add to the fun. Big thanks to the cruise captains for the fine efforts. The Anchor Watch is the main way we communicate within the club and share the fun experiences at the events. Be sure to show off the Anchor Watch to your boating friends and would-be applicants. I will try to bring a couple of extra copies to the next cruise to distribute. Remember that the Anchor Watch is also on our web site and can be printed right from your computer.

Enjoy the last days of this boating season and hope to see you at Kingston and the Change of Bridge. Come and find out if I bring the minutes of the last meeting this time.

Bill Severson
Secretary



Fleet Captain Report

What a magic weekend on the water! The hard working Longbranch Wagonwheel crew has made us proud once again. It was well attended with help from the Bayliner Bu_____ Yacht Club. What was that name again??? BBYC, we appreciated your help and participation.

The dinghy races were creatively thought out by the Mattox's and were fun to participate in. We must have had the longest ever dinghy parade. The food and dancing was, as promised – Red Hot. Our visit to the MV Modoc was an unexpected surprise. Here is a wave of the salty socks to Cruise Captains Jim and Cheryl Matheson, Tim and Mary Lewis, Dan and Raye Lohse, Mark and Jan LaFontaine and Lee and Debra Mattox. Fabulous job, guys.

A special thanks goes to Karin Gregg for sewing another ceremonial burgee. The first one she made for us over a year ago has gone missing. This took a lot of thought and effort, so think of her when it is flying. Thanks again, Karin.

Columbus Day weekend should be fun at Kingston October 11-13. The casino event promises to be "lively." Look at the flyer and give the Turbak's, Swett's or Mattox's a call for reservations.

The Paxton's have the 2003 cruises very well planned and will be looking for cruise captains soon. Step up and help. You will have a great time.

Dave Leonard
Fleet Captain





*October 11-13
 Columbus Day Cruise
 Kingston*

*November 9
 Commodore Ball
 Change of Bridge
 College Club
 Seattle*

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Vice Commodore

Lee Mattox.....253-927-6034

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