



C Commodore Report

Hello everyone,

As I am writing this, I have just finished a Zoom meeting with your amazing board. In that time, we covered many topics including our outstations, reciprocals, our upcoming cruises and we even interviewed 3 potential new members! It was jam-packed. I never thought that I would use the words “zoom meeting” in a sentence more than once in a lifetime as a physical therapist, and now I use these words daily. I also use the words telehealth, social distancing and tell people to “be safe” as I end a phone call rather than the usual “see you soon.” I know you know this and have heard this but we are in the middle of something rather epic and strange. As boaters, especially in this club, we really enjoy being social. We hug and kiss each other, we eat food together and we toast each other. This pandemic has shifted many things for each of us.

Back at the time of the boat show, Matt had asked me if it was safe to go and be at our booth. China was seeing a massive rise in covid-19 infections and we had already had a confirmed case here in Seattle. I got scared in a way that I didn't think was possible—Matt is the calm one, yet he was questioning if going to the boat show was safe. And I am the one who typically wigs out and all I could think was—I wasn't going to be able to go to the BOAT SHOW??? OMG!! We went, and I am glad but as the month went on it was clear that things here were escalating. As we got closer and closer to the St. Paddy's Day cruise I was becoming more and more conflicted about what we should do as a group. I want to thank a few people from the bottom of my heart. First of all, I want to thank Randy McCoy and Leslie Hanay. They worked really hard to set up the cruise and then spent A LOT of time talking with our health department before they made the decision to step down as the cruise team. I know that this was a really hard decision for them as they didn't want to disappoint the club but I am thankful that they did because it made us confront the realities of what was actually happening. I also want to thank Dennis McCrea our fearless fleet captain. Members took it upon themselves to continue with the cruise unofficially and Dennis helped them out by continuing to communicate with the marina to ensure that boats could still tie up. As all of this was happening my business was taking a significant nosedive. As some of you know I own a physical therapy clinic in Burien. I spent a lot of time talking with my staff and I made the decision to shift my entire practice to telehealth, not knowing if I would get payment for any of it. The stress and pressure really got to me and Matt stepped in and was kind enough to ask Sonja and Tom as well as the rest of the board to take over for me as I was clearly not in any state to handle the club business along with my own business. I want to extend the most gracious thank you to this board. They immediately stepped up and I appreciate how seamlessly they did this. Today I returned to the helm running our board meeting and I was so happy to see everyone and be apart of this amazing group of humans again.

At this time information is continuing to come at us but maybe less like a freight train than a few weeks ago. We are still in stay-at-home mode until May 4th according to the governor. We are getting updates on outstations, reciprocals and other marinas regularly. The quickest way to get information is to go to our club Facebook page. If you are not a member of the page yet then go there and request this so that you can get the latest information. It is also a great place to find out how to continue to boat and maintain social distance with other club members. Tom Miner, Dennis McCrea and Larry Cronin are getting information and they are posting it there regularly. Our web-

Deadline for next newsletter..... May 10

site will also have some information but that information may not get updated as quickly.

Finally, if you have any questions or concerns I want you to feel free to contact me directly. As an organization we are going through something unprecedented and we will handle it the best way we can. Please know that we are always acting with the best interests of the club in our minds. Read on to hear more about our plans regarding cruises and reciprocals. Hope to see you all on the water real soon where I will kiss and hug you from afar! Stay safe.

Thanks,
Orit Hickman
Commodore



Vice Commodore Report

Membership Report: As of April 15, 2020 we have 104 Active Members, 9 Associate Members, 5 Honorary Members, and 23 Senior Members.

Sonja Sackett
Vice Commodore

Please welcome the following New Members

Steve & Susan Warner
Home Port: Elliott Bay
Boat: OZ



Paul & Nancy Griff
Home Port: Kirkland
Boat: Lucky Dog

David & Marie McBride
Home Port: Poulsbo
Boat: Stella Maris

Anthony & Stephanie George
Home Port: Port Orchard
Boat: Sol Mate



Rear Commodore Report

Well, this is an unusual time in our lives and our boating life seems to have suffered along with everything else. I have been hearing from many yacht clubs that are closing the reciprocal moorage temporarily during this time. The clubs that I have heard from include Corinthian Yacht club, West Vancouver Yacht Club, Silva Bay Yacht Club on Gabriola Island, Sidney North YC, Des Moines YC, Pleasant Harbor YC, Capital City YC and Queen City YC.

Since the border to Canada is closed you can assume all reciprocals up north are probably closed. Our outstations in Tacoma and Lopez are open. The San Juan Islands are asking you to stay home during this time.

Before you set out, call ahead and see if the places you want to go are open.

I'm looking forward to the next cruise so I can see all of you and hear your stories of survival.

Rear Commodore
Larry

Border Crossings

The Governments of Canada and the United States (U.S.) implemented restrictions on March 21, 2020 for all non-essential travel along the Canada-U.S. border in response to the spread of COVID-19. This means that travel across the border of an optional or discretionary nature, including tourism and recreation, is not permitted while these to give back to for the "good times" I have had in the past. I felt I couldn't just take.

restrictions remain in place. This measure will be in place for 30 days, at which point it will be reviewed by both parties.

- Both countries indicate that foreign nationals attempting to cross the border for non-essential reasons will be returned to the country of origination.
- Returning citizens and others authorized re-entry to either country will be subject to mandatory self-isolation or self-quarantine measures.
- US small boat reporting stations are closed.



Secretary Report

No report submitted.



Treasurer Report

The financial statements have been reconciled thru March 31, 2020 and presented to the board at our monthly meeting on April 7, 2020. As part of the preparation of the financial statements, our bank account with US Bank has been reconciled thru March. All of the financial statements are available for your review on the website. To access them you need to login to the website, click on the link for Documents, Board of Trustees, Treasurer and there you will find all of the financials I have posted to date.

We recently had a Zoom Meeting with our investment committee to talk about the clubs Vanguard Investment club. We would like to give a big thank you to Doug Stewart for the years and years of service that you have given the club. Doug has expertly managed the clubs Investment Account with Vanguard but has decided it is time to step back from his role of many many years. Thanks Doug! Per [Article VII Section 3 Item J](#) the Investment Committee shall be a permanent standing committee comprised of the Commodore, Treasurer and two Active Club Members appointed by the Board of Trustees. The board has appointed Dennis Rampe and Frank Sherwood to serve as the two Active Club Members. Dennis will be the Chairperson of the committee and is working with Doug on the transition of the clubs records. Again a big big big thank you to Past Commodore Doug Stewart!

Thanks everyone. Like many of you we are ready to go boating! I hope to see everyone on the water soon!

Michelle Nelson - Treasurer



Fleet Captain Report

Just a quick update for everyone as to the status of independent cruising and our RHYC scheduled cruise dates.

Our Kingston and Roche Harbor outstations are still closed and will probably remain that way until sometime in May. Our Dock Street Tacoma and Fisherman's on Lopez are still open. Dock street has limited restroom availability, and the restrooms and showers are closed on Lopez. You will also need to handle your own lines, as they will not be providing dock hands.

As of April 10, 2020, Brownsville, Arabella's, Everett, Kingston, Oak Harbor, Friday Harbor, Roche Harbor, Langley, and most of San Juan County Marina's remain closed to moorage requests. Fuel is available at some locations but hours are limited.

The Canadian border is closed to all recreational and non-essential boat traffic, and CBP officers have advised that if a vessel is found in violation it may possibly be seized and impounded. Olympia (Swantown Marina), Des Moines, Bremerton, Port Orchard, Port Ludlow, Poulsbo, Anacortes (Cap Santé), and La Conner are still operating – but you must call ahead and reserve a slip with a credit card. Port Townsend (Point Hudson is taking reservations by phone) Fuel docks are still open at most Marina's, but you must call ahead and schedule a time for fueling and pay by credit card.

Almost daily I receive notifications that additional reciprocals are closing or already closed. Be aware that you will not be able to use the list in our member handbook. If you are out cruising, call ahead to see if a marina is open or accepting transit moorage. If you plan on using a mooring ball or anchoring out, most Islands are now restricting access to docks and you must use a dinghy to land on the shoreline.

Our Memorial Day cruise hasn't been canceled yet, and I will be updating everyone with planned cruise information at the end of this month. Stay safe and if you can, get out on the water and wave to everyone.

Dennis McCrea
Fleet Captain RHYC



Past Commodore

Crazy times!

I have certainly seen my share of disasters as part of my career but this one is beyond my wildest imagination. Hard to believe what has happened in just the last two months. On February 27th I flew to Mexico for a once in a lifetime journey to French Polynesia with Fran and Jeff Sharp aboard Salpare. By March 15th the world had changed. I made the decision to return home to be with Chris and help take care of my grandkids since their mom is an emergency room nurse in Tacoma and by all reports she was going to be in the thick of things very soon. Within two days of returning home the bottom fell out of everything. Borders closing, stay at home orders, all plans put on hold. Fran and Jeff left Mexico on the 18th but by the 20th, French Polynesia closed their borders to all foreigners. All foreigners already there had to leave their boats and fly home to their native lands. Fran and Jeff had to change plans and head for San Diego but after battling head winds for several days went to plan c and headed for Hawaii instead. As of this writing they are now safely in Hawaii and a 14-day quarantine. I am very thankful I made the decision to return home and not continue on the South Pacific journey.

We are taking care of our two grandchildren, Chloe and River, as our daughter Becky takes care of Covid 19 patients at the hospital. She has had a number of her patients test positive, but so far they are not overwhelmed like in other parts of the country.

I have been trying to stay current with what options we have as boaters in the Pacific Northwest and whether we will be able to head north as planned in May. Unfortunately, things are not looking good. With the stay at home orders many of our favorite boating destinations have closed their doors and are not serving the boating community until the order is lifted. The San Juan Islands per county order and at the request of the Chamber of Commerce, has asked boaters to just not come north, not even to anchor out or to travel to your vacation home if you have one on the island. Their infrastructure will be rapidly overwhelmed if they have an outbreak on the islands. Same with the Gulf Islands and reports from some of the small resorts in the Broughtons and along the inside passage have said they do not want us there. Bella Bella and the first nations tribes have made it abundantly clear, we are not wanted there for the same reason the islanders of French Polynesia do not want us to come. Their infrastructure, their supply chain and their vulnerability is far worse than ours. One of two cases in these areas will overwhelm their medical system and imagine if our big superstores are out of stock what those who depend on weekly barges of supplies might look like. We cannot be the ones looking for toilet paper and basic supplies in their remote communities. Out of respect for the local population, we as responsible boaters should heed their requests to stay away. I know, how can we be a risk if we stay on our boats? What if you have a problem, need emergency help, have a breakdown, get sick, your plan to stay isolated suddenly puts you in contact with the local population. I have put a link to some of the informational sites regarding marina status on our webpage.

Hang in there, hope everyone and your families are well and have avoided the virus and continue to do so. Hopefully we will be back on the water and boating again soon.

Tom Miner
Past Commodore



Rod Rombauer has been undergoing treatment for a cancerous brain tumor. The tumor was successfully removed and he is now in the midst of about two to four months of radiation therapy. Please give Rod a call to let him know you are thinking of him, test your knowledge of 30's-era Buick trivia, and wish him a smooth recovery. We will all look forward to seeing Rod and Susan back on the water soon.

Scott Hogan broke his fibula and ankle in a biking accident, which required the insertion of some screws to put everything back together. If you know Scott well, you know he was probably discussing the merits of different grades of screw and thread size options with the surgeon while the procedure was underway. Please give Scott a call to wish him a speedy recovery and let him know you look forward to seeing those sails full of wind soon.

Bob and Verna Maruska's beloved dog, Vino, passed away April 2nd. This follows the loss of Olivia, back in December, so it has been a rough few months for them. Please call on Bob and Verna and share your memories of Vino and Olivia guarding the docks.

Your Sunshine Guy,
Matt Hickman

Cruising Report – Salpare's Adventurous Passage

As I write this, you might be saying "you are in beautiful Hawaii; how exciting"! My view right now is of the commercial port buildings and a trucking yard...not what we expected but hang on to the end of this for the next chapter.

A brief recap of the beginning. Jeff and I had planned for years to sail away on Salpare. Actually, that's what Salpare means; "sail away" in Italian. We were finally able to realize that dream last September as we sold our land possessions and cast lines off in Tacoma. Our original plan was to sail to Mexico then down to Central America.

After visiting the Galapagos, we would continue west thru French Polynesia, Tonga and end up in New Zealand.

After the long passage down the Washington, Oregon, California and Baja coasts, we realized we wanted to slow down and spend more time in the Sea of Cortez. Change of plans! We would winter in Mexico and in early spring, do the “pacific puddle jump” to French Polynesia and beyond. That is a rhumb line distance of 2800 open ocean miles; a major accomplishment for any sailor.

We convinced our friends Tom Miner and Kris Wilhelmsen to join us for this fun filled ocean passage where beautiful Polynesian women would greet them on the other side! Tom and Kris bought in to it and joined us in La Paz, Mexico. We sailed a kinda boring trip with little to no wind over to Puerto Vallarta. Here, my fool proof plan would have us wait a few days for our long anticipated Long Stay Visas for French Polynesia. We waited and waited... During the wait, a curious new virus called Corona started making the news.

By the time we had visas in hand and were waiting a few days for the right weather window, the full blown pandemic had happened. Tom flew home as his priorities, (absolutely fine with us), were with his family. Kris would stay on as our crew. We anxiously waited until Wednesday March 18th for the weather to cooperate. We met the Puerto Capitan of Nueva Vallarta and cleared out of Mexico.

At that time, the news from French Polynesia (FP) was mixed. The islands were still open and we were still welcome. But as all of you know, things change very quickly with Covid 19. Through emails from other sailors, we learned on day 3 that things had changed. Options now were to sail past FP and land who knows where since no other countries were open or stop in Tahiti, surrender your vessel and they would repatriate you to the US. Ok... neither of those options would work for us. So we turned north.

I called my brother, a retired Vice Admiral in Coronado, and let him know our status. He quickly arranged a dock at his Yacht Club for us upon arrival in San Diego. Just one small detail... we had to get there.

As any old salt knows “Northing is tough!”. Oh yea it is. There was quite the storm brewing on the Baja Peninsula so we headed nearly 400 miles west offshore to try to skirt the worst of it. For 3 days we clawed our way north barely making way. As most of you are powerboaters, you may ask “why not use your engine?”. The 10-12’ waves, coming from the north, more than overpowered our engine and kept us at less than 2 kts. Sailing is the only way. We had to tack back and forth, back and forth and back and forth to make any ground. On day 3, we reviewed the new forecast and it called for a doubling of wind and waves from the north. We felt defeated... We had a brief crew meeting and made the decision to try our luck going back to Mexico. Cabo San Lucas was a mere 200 miles away.

Now we knew we could not “legally” go back but we felt a bit desperate. I called my brother to tell him our decision and he merely had to say “have you talked to the people in Hawaii about going there?” Those few words told me - DO NOT GO BACK TO MEXICO! I quickly had visions of the Mexican Navy - out of Cabo - boarding us, arresting us etc... Mexico had just started getting very, very serious about the pandemic.

Ok, let’s turn west and go another 2500 miles to Hilo, HI! When that is your best option; clearly something is going wrong in your world. We asked our weather router for yet another forecast for west and we turned Salpare to a course of 272 degrees true.

The waves were a bit more off our beam and we started making way. I have read nearly every book and article about Pacific passages and had planned on motoring 30-40% of the time in light air. But ooops! That would be for a southern Pacific Crossing. The passage we were undertaking to Hawaii should be delayed to May and June when the weather patterns have stabilized. Well, we didn’t have much of a choice on this; we had to go.

For the next 21 days, we sailed in 20-25 kts true with gusts higher and full ocean conditions. I heard and thought the word “relentless” many, many times during those 3 weeks. If you have been in these winds in the Salish Sea, consider what the seas can build to with an endless fetch. I may be prone to overestimating wave height but when Jeff looks out at the sea and says “My God these are so big; and they just keep coming. I’ve never seen seas like this”... well, you can imagine how I saw them!

We sailed with a double-reefed main and a 30% jib the entire time. That means we had the smallest sail area out we could to not overpower Salpare in those winds. We averaged 6 kts for the entire 3200 miles of the full passage rising high above on the crest then sometimes sliding sideways down the other side. The noise of the breaking waves was deafening at times and when we did those big catywampus slides it was downright scary.

We had an inflatable MOB pole on our port side upper rail. It was ripped off on one of those slides. Nothing left but a string.

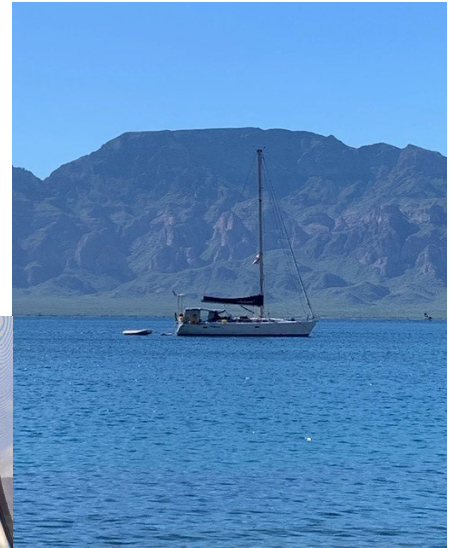
After a few weeks, we were a bit more nonchalant when we would come up and get a watch report. Same old same old we would say. We walked like drunks, hanging on for every step. Cooking was an adventure and more than once I was thrown across the cabin and landed on the other side with a bowl of food - “hey honey, how about tossed pasta tonight!”.

We arrived in Hilo, HI under the dark cloud of being a non-resident of the island during the pandemic. We came to Radio Bay to check in and all was going fairly well. We had an additional 14 day quarantine (I know, crazy since we were out for 24 days), we could order food through Door Dash, take a trip to town for necessities and use the head facilities on land. On day 5, all that changed as the Governor was taking flak for not “tracking the people coming in to the islands”. That was directed to those flying in but the backlash hit us. They confined us to our boats and posted security guards! Of course, we were the safest people to visit their island but that didn’t matter. They also closed the Bay to incoming vessels; 2 of which are our friends. It felt a bit hostile and more than uncomfortable.

But today I was able to secure (95% sure) a permanent slip at Ko’ Olina Marina on Oahu. When the inter-island travel ban lifts, we will point Salpare to her new home. Well, at least for the next year.

We really appreciated all the messages and folks who followed our passage. It was incredibly challenging with more than a few ups and downs. But, we are safe and happy on the other side now. And, already dreaming of where we go next.

Salpare’s Adventurous Passage



Stay In Touch





We need Cruise Captains and assistants.
If you have not been a cruise captain in the past 2-3 years, contact
Fleet Captain 2020 Dennis McCrea at fleetcaptain@rhyc.org to volunteer



Roche Harbor Yacht Club 2020 Cruise Schedule



Date	Location	Activity	Cruise Captains
January 18	Elliott Bay/ Seattle Yacht Club Outstation	Ice Breaker Chowder And Soup Cook-off	Tyler & Amanda Nelson Steve & Michelle Nelson
February 15	Portsmith Condominiums Kirkland, WA	Sweetheart Brunch	Jon & Holly Edwards
March 13-15	Port Orchard	St Patrick's Day Cruise	Randy McCoy & Leslie Hannay
April 24-26	Poulsbo Marina & Sons of Norway Lodge	Business Meeting Cruise CANCELLED	Gary & Betty Greene
April 29 May 3	Montlake Cut	Opening Day CANCELLED	Jim Wagenblast Lori Booth
May 22-25	Port of Everett	Memorial Day Cruise	Jon & Sonja Sackett
June 19-21	Port Ludlow	Father's Day Cruise	Need Cruise Captain
July 3-5	Liberty Bay Poulsbo	4th of July Wagon Wheel	Ryon & Deb Figgins
TBD	TBD	On the Move/Progressive Cruise	
July 31—Aug 2	Roche Harbor Marina	Colors Cruise	Jerry & Kathy Norman / Co-hosts Joe & Lynn Nelson
Sept 4-7	Pemrose Point State Park	Labor Day Cruise - Wagon Wheel	Andrew & Jennifer Guyler (need cruise team)
Oct 9-12	Arabella's Landing Gig Harbor Guest Dock	Columbus Day Cruise	Will & Karla Cain
Nov 7	TBA	Change of Bridge	Orit & Matt Hickman
Nov 26-29	Des Moines Marina	Thanksgiving Cruise	Glen & Liz Dodge
Dec 11-13	Kingston Marina	Christmas Lights Cruise	Tom & Chris Miner
Dec 31—Jan 2	TBD	New Year's Cruise	Need Cruise Capt.

Upcoming Cruises



Annual Business Meeting
Port of Poulsbo
April 24-26



Opening Day Cruise
Mountlake Cut
April 29-May 3



Memorial Day Cruise
Port of Everett
May 22-25



2020 RHYC BRIDGE CONTACT INFORMATION



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Ship's Store

We Need a Volunteer to step up for SHIP'S STORE.....
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