



KNOT NEWS

February 2018

The Anacortes Yacht Club

Since 1891

February Calendar

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Club open every Friday at 17:30

February 2 -Friday
17:30-Club Open

February 4-Sunday
15:00-Super Bowl Party

February 7-Wednesday
18:00-Race Season Kick Off

February 9-Friday
17:30 General Meeting/Speaker

February 15-Thursday
18:30 North Sails Seminar

February 16-Friday
19:00 Third Friday Fun Night

February 22-Thursday
18:30-AYC Board Meeting

February 23-Friday
17:30-Five Buck Night

February 24-25-Sat/Sunday
Girls Rekevics Foul Weather
Race and Cruise

Buoy Racing begins March 14



Commodore's Corner

This is my first address to the AYC membership in writing since being inducted on January 20, 2018! Firstly, let me thank all of you for allowing me to represent and lead you for the next 12 months. Let me also thank all those who attended the event. Those who stayed home missed a great party!!

I do have a number of items that I would like to address this year.

- At the recent board meeting we voted to initiate a long term strategic planning process that will hopefully continue into the future past 2018. It appears to me that the club has grown and changed both in the physical size of the club and the size and makeup of the membership. I have been a member since 1997 and have been racing here since about 1988. Many of the faces have changed but the strong spirit of volunteerism stays the same. In my time here I have mostly raced sailboats and cooked for larger events. My sense is that this is the best Yacht Club on earth but we may be having some growing pains and that maybe we can use a minor tune up!

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Commodore's Ball 2018

"Gertrude's Hearse", led by AYC member Keith Stone on saxophone, hit the high notes for another memorable Commodore's Ball. Master of Ceremonies, Pat Barrett, kept the program moving along giving the members plenty of time to kick up their heels and still be home well before midnight.



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Commodore's Ball 2018

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A big crowd attended to celebrate John Wilkinson's highly successful year as Commodore and to toast the outgoing officers for their hard work this past year. The traditional flag



exchange took place as the incoming officers prepared to take over the mantle of responsibility.*

The ambience was festive and nautical thanks to the efforts of Denise Vasquez who led the decorating efforts. The AYC Clubhouse has never looked so good. Many thanks go to the bartenders (Geri Gunn, Clay Wilcox and Carol Herbert) who kept the wine and spirits flowing throughout the evening.

Two special awards were presented during the evening. Stephanie Schwenk was presented with the Volunteer of the Year trophy in recognition of her efforts to sustain the very successful AYC Race Program. Steve Orsini received the Inspiration Award for his long time commitment to developing a Youth Sailing Program. As John Wilkinson said "Steve is like Don Quixote jousting at windmills".



Commodore's Corner-continued from page 1)

The strategic plan into action process will be facilitated by Duane Knapp of Brandstrategy, Inc., a world class provider of this service. He is an internationally recognized expert in his field and I have had some experience with his work at the Port of Skagit. My opinion is that it was an overwhelming success and very positively changed the culture there. He is offering a great opportunity for us to help work through this tune up. This effort will require help from many if not all members to answer some questions in a brief questionnaire that hopefully will be distributed in the near future.

The next step will be to have a retreat at the club for the board and a number of other volunteer members. The basic process is to assess where we are at present – find out where we want to be in the future then develop a plan to get there. This represents an opportunity for the general membership to have input into determining the future direction of the club. My hope is that this process will help to draw the club together and provide clear direction into the future.

2. I want to make it easier and less stressful to volunteer for club work like bartending, race management, cooking on Wednesday nights after races etc. Some ideas I have presented to the board and anyone else who would listen are as follows:

a. Consider creating a volunteer coordinator position for the whole club plus a racing program volunteer coordinator.

b. The race program volunteer coordinator would contact all racers by email and/or telephone to make sure that we have qualified people to do race committee for Wednesday night races as well as to be absolutely positive that there will be a cheese burger with trimmings and condiments plus potato salad after every race. The idea is that racers can rely on being able to get a meal and a beer at the club while waiting for the race results without fail! This person would need to email and/or call to remind people each week to be sure that they do not forget or if something comes up have time to find a replacement.

c. If the members want to we could have a training session to help people learn to do on-the-water race management including taking times of finishing boats. If I can do it, it can't be that hard!!

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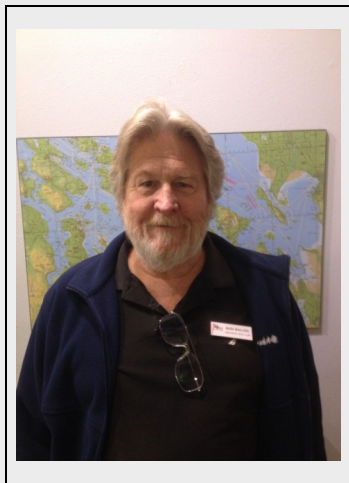
Robb Anderson—Director Position 1

I grew up in the 60's and early 70's on a Minnesota lake where I developed a love of sailing and boating. Our town (White Bear Lake) was home to Johnson boat works and we owned an X class and D class of that builder. Most of my summers were spent sailing those boats and racing with neighbors.

In 1978 I completed a degree in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Minnesota and took a job with Boeing at the Renton plant. I moved on after only 1-1/2 years but always missed the PNW and hoped to return some day.

During my college years I interned at Pillsbury in Minneapolis and eventually returned there and spent most of the remaining 30 years of my career designing and installing food process and packaging lines. One of my assignments moved me to Nashville where I was intending to spend the next 1-1/2 years starting up a plant. After meeting my future wife, Julie, that 1-1/2 year plan ended up lasting another 22 years.

While in Nashville, we sailed beach catamarans and a Pearson 28-2 pocket cruiser on a local reservoir. Over the years we spent a good deal of vacation time in the PNW including several charter trips out of Bellingham. In addition to sailing, hiking and skiing rank high on our activity list. As we came close to retirement, we found a home in Anacortes and a C&C 115 in Sidney. We've been here 3 1/2 years now and love the area and all of the friendships we've developed, many of them in the AYC.



Mark Maulden—Director Position 2

I think I'm part of a rare breed in that I grew up in the Pacific Northwest and I'm still here!! I grew up in Normandy Park just southwest of SeaTac. My grandfather had a K-38 sailboat and later on a Spencer 42 that I enjoyed sailing on and learning the Salish Sea. So, I sort of did things backwards by starting sailing on bigger boats instead of dinghies. He did have a Ranger Minto that I did some things with I won't admit to.

Fast forward to later life, I had a very rewarding 37 yr career with Boeing Engineering and retired four yrs ago. My later sailing life was living aboard several boats and then meeting Marci and deciding to live aboard a Gulfstar 44 ketch that we did for nine yrs. When we sold the Gulfstar, we bought our current house and remodeled it being without a boat for ten years. We found our current boat in Seattle (there's a story there) as a slip queen and slowly refitting (done) and then found Anacortes Yacht Club thanks to Andy. In my mind, the things that stand out with AYC are the diversity and cooperation of various mariner activities in an all volunteer manner. I've tried to be active by photographing different events to share amongst our members and working on the tech team along with some bar tending. I look forward to participating on the Board with all of our various activities.

Membership Update

New Preferred Members

Gary White and Carole Stewart
“Last Splash”-MV Nordic Tug 37

Gary and Carole have been boating in one form or another since the 70’s. Over the years they have navigated into power boats, with fishing and cruising their primary interests. They are excited to join the club cruising and getting to know the club members during social events.

Ben and Connie Mikaelson
“Resonance” MV Selene 47

Ben and Connie just moved to Anacortes last fall from Bozeman, MT. They have just bought “resonance” which they plan to rename in the future. They are ready to go cruising with the club and enjoy the many social events the club offers.

New Associate Members

Vincent Townrow and April
Canada

Vince and April have been sailing for more than 40 years with their love of IOR Yachts, ginger cookies and Monty Python. Vince is a sailmaker with Ullman Sails in Anacortes. They are excited to be involved in the racing program as well as social events.

Please welcome our newest members and introduce yourselves when you see them at the club.

-Callie Weber, Membership

Garth Frazier– Director Position 3

Garth has been a member of AYC since 2014 with his lovely wife Marti. He grew up sailing in Monterey Bay. They purchased their Islander 28 in 2013. After selling that boat they acquired a Midship 34’ in 2017. Garth and Marti enjoy volunteering and are cruise captains for the Deer Harbor cruise. They also enjoy bartending and providing training to anyone that would like to learn.



Stephanie Schwenk-Cruise Chair

I began sailing when I was six. My parents bought a Catalina 27, and my dad built me and my sister El Toro dinghies. They graduated to a Ranger 28 and I moved up to a Laser when we started racing at Port Madison Yacht Club on Bainbridge Island. I have raced dinghies and keelboats competitively since then, around the country as a Junior sailor, in college, and now in one-design racing. I’ve made a few trips across the ocean and raced in the Vic-Maui twice. I have now been racing at the Anacortes Yacht Club for 12 seasons. We started up here with a Moore 24, and now we’ve had our Santa Cruz *Wild Rumpus* for eight years. We are active in our one-design fleet, and I am the current National Champion.

I’ve helped Andy run the show behind the scenes at AYC for many years, so I think I’m ready to take over this year! But I will need everyone’s help and support to make it work.



Sandy and Tom Norris-Cruise Chairs

Tom and Sandy Norris have been boating, first sail and then power, for many years. Their first purchase after getting married was a 14’ sailboat. Currently they enjoy cruising in *CAVU*, their North Pacific ‘42. They live in Anacortes on weekends/vacations and in Seattle.

Tom is a retired UW Family Medicine professor, and Sandy is a senior Administrator at Swedish. They have three adult children. All of the kids and their families are active





Commodore's Ball 2018

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In his inauguration speech Walt Meagher, incoming Commodore, promised another great year of race, cruise and social activities. He announced his goals for the upcoming year, some of which include increasing the level of volunteerism and to introduce the use of credit and debit cards at the Bar.

*Read all about your 2018 Board Officers by visiting the new re-vamped Anacortes Yacht Club website - see Knot News January 2018

-Wendy Gray



Commodore's Corner -(continued from page 2)

d. Also, if the members would like we can have some training for the hamburger/cheeseburger food preparation as well.

e. I would like to have developed, more complete job descriptions and written instructions for each volunteer job prepared and posted on the web site so anyone -anywhere can access the information on the fly. For example, a newer volunteer has agreed to cook for a Wednesday night burger feed and is not sure where to buy the food or how much to buy etc. These types of items could easily be available on your iphone via the website. In short, I am wishing for better support for our volunteers to make it easier and less stressful to be successful at each volunteer job!

3. I want to open the discussion again about trying to find a way to be able to use credit/debit cards to pay bar bills. There is quite a lot of opinion against this idea. Some of the criticisms are that it;

- a. Takes too long
- b. Is too difficult for volunteer bartenders
- c. Costs extra (2.75% surcharge)

If these are true and it makes no sense, I will stop trying to swim upstream but I would feel better if we gave it a chance before deciding it cannot work. In my fondest fantasies people would come to AYC for our larger Regattas and spend a lot more money on drinks because they can without having to remember to bring cash. One thought that might work would be to have 2 people pouring drinks while another just processed cards. I wish there could be a meeting of all the bartenders and those considering becoming bartenders to go over the details involved to see what their collective opinions are. If the consensus is no – I will immediately drop the subject!

Anyone who has questions, comments or is just interested in talking about these topics please contact me at Walt@Fidalgocommercial.com or 360-941-0854.

Thank you for reading this!!

-Walt Meagher, Commodore

Check out the re-vamped website and explore the new offerings. If you have any questions or concerns, contact Jan Chapman at info@anacortesyachtclub.org