



KNOT NEWS

June 2020

The Anacortes Yacht Club

Since 1891

June Calendar

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In keeping with ongoing State guidelines, the AYC clubhouse remains closed. However, we still do have many activities taking place.

June 3,10,17-Wednesdays
18:30 Solstice Series racing

June 5,19,26-Fridays
17:30-18:30 Happy Hours
Zoom ID. 863 6770 1655

June 11-Thursday
18:30 AYC Board Meeting

June 12-Friday
18:45 General Mtg and Speaker

June 13-14-Saturday-Sunday
Windermere Regatta

June 24-Wednesday
18:30 Summer Series racing

June 27-28-Saturday-Sunday
Blind Bay Pop-Up Cruise

CANCELLED

June 6-7 Waterfront Festival

June 26-28 Anacortes Boat Show

Commodore's Corner



Earlier this week I received a call from the Flag Officer of the Oak Harbor Yacht Club asking for our plans to open the clubhouse. I found that ironic knowing that Island County had moved on to Phase II and we are still stuck at Phase 1. My recommendation was we would follow his lead and open our clubhouse when restrictions are loosened for us. However, with the restrictions we face I am pleased with the activities our club has been able to “pull off” during this difficult time.

Racing. We began our Wednesday night buoy race schedule earlier this month. This past Wednesday we had over 13 boats participate on a beautiful evening on Fidalgo Bay. Scott Truesdell is our “one man” Race Committee while staging the course on Race Knight.

Cruising. We have had two events orchestrated by John Wilkinson. Articles on the “Mess-A-Bout” and “Spencer Spit” day cruise are in this month’s issue of the Knot News.

We conducted our May “General Meeting” via Zoom with about 70 viewers. Many thanks to Vice Commodore, John Sanford” for obtaining two great speakers for our May “General Meeting”. See a full recap in the Knot News.

Couple of new things at the clubhouse. The board approved a new video security system (Ring). To minimize \$\$\$, David Hansen presented the proposal and agreed to orchestrate the installation. Motion sensors for the lights in the bathrooms are being installed by Bryan Kazem. AYC Board Members - Iain Draper and Mark Maulden - were instrumental for the success of both projects.

My hope for June is good weather with the opportunity to get out on the water and enjoy our AYC friendships.

-Bob Neumann, Commodore

Wednesday Nights on the Bay

Wednesday night racing is in full swing with 13 boats out on Fidalgo Bay. Scott Truesdale has done great job as race committee on board Race Knight as well as publishing our scores. Some of us enjoy short handed sailing. It is challenging but we've all made it around the course safely with good fun. I invite others to come out. Sorry I'm not able to single hand and take pictures. Perhaps my skills will improve.

-Tim Wenger, Race Chair

New Associate Members

Gordon & Chris Hay

Gordon and Chris have been in Anacortes since late 2016. Gordon's Canadian family of origin used a lot of small boats - sailing dinghies and canoes and outboard motorboats. The 14' Megabyte at #6 on the Q-Dock is his. Chris likes being on the water to see wildlife, and will travel for bear viewing. She has been a ski-boat driver, and has an inflatable kayak, but really no sailing experience. They are toying with the idea of a larger powerboat!

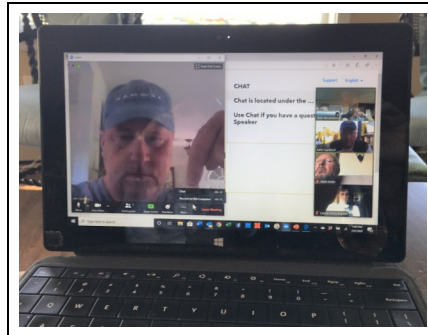
They are excited to enjoy the many social events the club offers.

Please welcome Gordon and Chris to the club!

-Callie Weber, Membership

AYC's Mega Zoom General Meeting!

On May 8th a historic first for AYC; we held a Mega "Zoom" General Meeting! Undaunted by the coronavirus, the club improvised using the technologies we have available and gathered together for a virtual meeting. The session was very well attended with close to 47 screens on-line. John Sanford, in his role of Vice Commodore, kicked off the meeting, covering some Zoom basics for the crowd and made the announcement that Wednesday Night Racing was back. Tim Wenger, the Race Chairman, clarified that only the "on the water" activities have resumed; with crew limitations to follow Skagit County's Health Department guidelines.



John invited two terrific speakers to address the crowd. First off, was Jeanne Goussev, Captain for Team "Sail Like A Girl". Jeanne and her crew introduced us to their team, and shared their adventures with us in pictures and movies during the 2018 and 2019 R2AK (Race to Alaska). In 2018, "Sail Like A Girl", a Melges 32', was the winner and the first mono-hull, and the first all-women crew, to win this rigorous 700 mile "Iditarod of the Sea" event. In 2019, they placed fourth overall, behind our own AYC sailor Lars Strandberg on Broderna; as it turns out. Jeanne's passion is to inspire women to strive for positions of leadership on boats and to grow awareness of getting more women out on the water. She has turned her passion in to a cause and formed the "Sail Like A Girl" 501(C)(3) foundation to sponsor events for women sailors throughout the Puget Sound. If you would like more information about Jeanne and her initiative please go to www.SailLikeAGirl.com.



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Mega Zoom (Con't from page 2)

The second speaker of the evening was Mark Tompkins, the Director of Public Health for San Juan County. Mark ably informed the crowd of the health status of the Islands, the restrictions and mitigation efforts to reduce Covid-19 outbreaks in the San Juan Islands. The Q & A with him was very useful to our members to answer their questions about boating in the San Juans. Specifically on topics such as public moorage, anchoring vs. use of mooring balls, and trail and park usage. Mark was good humored about following Jeanne's "Sail Like A Girl" presentation. He presented a perfect run of facts and had the humility to be second behind some very serious sailor ladies! Considering the pressure that all regional Health Directors are now facing, he was indeed generous with his time and his participation in our meeting was most appreciated. Certainly the second act was equal to the first. For more information about Health and Community Services in San Juan County please go to www.sanjuanco.com/378/Health-Community-Services

If you missed the event, a recorded version of the meeting was taken, and we will post the event in the archive section of the AYC website soon.

-John Sanford, Vice Commodore

Anacortes Yacht Club 2020 Re-Opening Boat Parade

On May 9th, AYC had an informal boat parade to celebrate the Governor's opening of activities to include recreational boating. Eighteen boats including both power and sail participated in a transect of Fidalgo Bay. The weather was sub-tropical, the sun was shining and the winds were steady from the North – about as good as it gets!



Captain Tom and Family in Cavu lead the parade (while throttled back to a steady 5 knots) so the wind-warriors could keep up.

Steve and Ginger in Black Rabbit were in hot pursuit.



Meanwhile Captain Jeff in Off-Constantly flew his AYC burgee and US Flag with Pride.

Not to be outdone in the flags department, the biggest banners were flying for the Rolex and Tulip Regattas.



Throughout the 30+ minute parade route, we were treated to stunning views of Mt. Baker. Anacortes and Fidalgo Bay showed us definitively why our hometown is a premiere boating destination.

Once again AYC showed that we are better together;
take that COVID!

-John Wilkinson

AYC Happy Hours Zoom to the rescue

This month our Commodore, Bob Neumann, is hosting Friday night happy hours via Zoom. After two months of staying at home, it was time to gather together even if that meant using technology. Zoom video meetings have become the life line for the country to keep in touch during the pandemic.

The first happy hour topic was the celebration of the 40th year anniversary of the eruption of Mount St. Helen's. Everyone remembered where they were, of course., and shared some amazing stories.

John Wilkinson took the reins during last week's happy hour to drum up excitement for the run to Spencer spit. And this week the group hatched a pop-up cruise to Blind Bay for June 27-28.

You never know what the topic will be but everyone is invited to come join the conversation. AYC may be physically closed for now but the spirit of friendship lives on...

Make sure to join us any Friday (until the clubhouse is open). Go to Zoom.us. Join the meeting with meeting ID 863 6770 1655.

-MarKay Neumann



AYC celebrates the warmest day of the year with a Dinghy Derby / Tailgate Party

On May 28th, a dozen AYC boats headed to Spencer Spit for a "safe boating" rendezvous and dinghy derby / tailgate party. Boats that participated include Voulez-Vous, Ruffles, Pacific Drifter, Plenty Sparkles, Sova, Pangea, ZenYata, Cavu, Black Rabbit, Finale, Wy'est and Buster.



After anchoring or tying to a ball, many of the boats launched a dinghy and did safe socializing from their floating isolation zones.



At one point, CAVU was attacked by a swarm of dinghies manned by masked pirates. It was quickly determined, however, that the Norris's were not serving free drinks so the dinghies dispersed to either their mother ships for lunch or out to Frost Island to look for Sea Stars and seals.



We are happy to report that the islands near the spit have a healthy population of Sea Stars, Seals and Eagles. The AYC members also reported good health and in true AYC style shared their good spirit during a wonderful, warm and sunny day in May.

-John Wilkinson