



KNOT NEWS



September 2020

The Anacortes Yacht Club

Since 1891

September 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.

September 2,9,16-Wednesdays
18:00 Wally's Tours racing

September 7,14,21,28-Fridays
17:30-18:30 Happy Hours
Zoom ID. 863 6770 1655

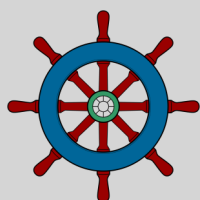
September 10-Thursday
18:30 AYC Board Meeting

September 12-Saturday
9:00 Salish Series-Bird Rocks

September 12-13-Sat/Sunday
Rosario Cruise

September 19-Saturday
9:00 Post Point Pursuit Race

September 25-Friday
18:30 General Mtg w/Speaker
Zoom ID 838 3755 3289



Commodore's Corner



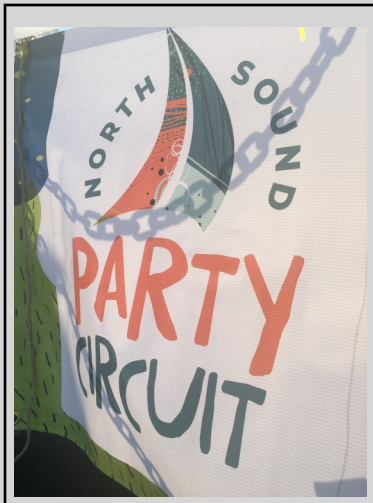
As the hours of daylight are beginning to wane as we approach Fall, our membership has been active "on the water". We have been able to enjoy a full season of sailing and cruisers have taken advantage of "gunkholing" in the San Juan Islands and other points south. We are looking forward to our clubhouse reopening, hopefully, sooner rather than later.

Our signature event for the summer was the AYC sponsored "Northern Century Race" (50/100 nautical miles). A number of AYC members and sailing enthusiasts watched the start of the race from the 5th Street Cap Sante Park - quite majestic. We appreciate all of Stephanie Campbell's efforts to make for a successful event.. Also, a "shout out" to our Wednesday night race committee of Scott Truesdell and John Sanford for orchestrating a "top notch" program for the 15-18 boats participating each week. Kudos to those AYC members offering their boat to be the race committee platform during the last portion of the season.

Cruisers will be meeting at Rosario Marina the second weekend of September. Mike Bastrom, Cruise Chair, has promoted the opportunity for our members to participate in a variety of "pop up" cruises throughout the summer. A cruiser blog has been added to the AYC website to allow members to "connect" with other cruisers in preparing for their gunkholing adventures. Another way to find AYC members at your favorite destination is to use "AIS" and reference the listing of member boats in your AYC 2020 roster.

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

-Bob Neumann, Commodore



Northern Century 2020

Northern Century might be the toughest race you'll ever love. It's possibly the hardest race of the year but the beauty of the islands is truly staggering. The Perseids meteor shower, the Milky Way, the crescent moon, the sunrises and sunsets, all incredible. Whether you saw the whales or just heard them at night, it was unreal. The flies that invaded us near Point Roberts we all could have lived without. Yes, I know you thought it was just your boat, but we all got 'em. Nature plays a big role in what makes the Northern Century race.

I'd be lying if I didn't say that tides also define the race. There are huge tide rivers that flow through the islands. During the daylight hours it's hard to navigate through the currents. Somebody gibes at the wrong time and they are left in your dust. Don't get too smug! Your turn is coming as well. In the dark, tide lines are a zen experience. Small mistakes and decisions play out epically because it takes awhile to realize that the red running light you were watching is now white. Now what? You're half asleep and need a plan to fix it. As shared by Kim St, who came up from California to race on Miss Mayhem, "...after all there's nothing like spending 24 hours on a 24 foot boat in every imaginable condition- beautiful breeze and no current, not breeze and lots of current, lots of breeze and lots of ebb chop with the kite up, you name it, we had it all. Some of it in Spades... we laughed, we cursed, we cursed other people not even (on the boat)..."



43 boats competed in the 2020 edition of the Northern Century. Certainly an up-tic from recent years, and likely due to the scarcity of racing events this year. Anyway, we'll take it! What a fleet! TP52's, classic schooners, multihulls, a live aboard, several would-be Pac Cup entries, more than one San Juan 24, and everything in between. Imaging spending two nights on a Melges 24! Sleeping squished on the cold plastic bunks of Millennial Falcon, oh my! Contrast that with a queen size bed and a down comforter and fan on Odin, and that is what makes the race interesting. On Eleven, they anchored to really enjoy a meal together. I recall stories of movies and popcorn at anchor on Saturday night in previous years. It was tactical camping at it's best! Or it's worst... it's all how you embrace the challenge.

(continued on pg 3)

Summer Series Racing

Wednesday night racing continues on Fidalgo Bay. The second series of the season began on June 24 and ended August 12, and was comprised of 7 weeks of racing.

Top finishers for the series were Kinetic (Vince Townrow), Area 51 (Stephanie Campbell), Normandie (Will Porter) and Little Annie (John Gunn). All results are found on the website.

Kudos to Scott Truesdell and John Sanford for manning Race Knight and keeping the starts legit.

The next series of races, Wally's Tours, began Aug 19 and runs through September.

September also brings two long distance races to Bird Rocks and the Post Point Pursuit race.

More Phrases you Never Knew Came from Sailing

"Feeling Blue"

How often do you hear people talking about feeling blue or have the blues? Who knew that came from the world of sailing? This popular phrase comes from a custom practiced when a ship lost its captain during a voyage. The ship would fly blue flags and have a blue band painted along her hull when she returned to port.

"Pipe down"

Parents have been screaming "pipe down" to their kids forever, but where does that actually come from? Apparently, Pipe Down was the last signal from the Bosun's pipe each day, which meant lights-out, quiet down, time to go to bed.

Northern Century (Cont' from page 2)



There were three starts on Friday night, starting with Double Handed 100 at 7:30 pm. With about five knots of breeze and a slack tide, it was a great start with most boats electing to turn and burn downwind around the outside of Guemes Island. The Fully Crewed 100 boats started next, and enjoyed the initial run to the corner of Guemes chasing the double handed racers. The Northern 50 fleet started last, at 7:50. After the first corner, the breeze started to recede and it really paid to chase it before you got left in the dust with your drifter. Some clever tacticians caught an amazing shore breeze and rocketed up the Guemes beach. The big picture is usually to favor Lummi Island, for bonus wind and tide relief. Friday night was kind to most of us. It was a relatively painless trip to Point Roberts on Lodos, right up until the last two miles before the mark. Some boats were able to just round it and ramble on, but others made many attempts.

Everything after the first turn was a gamble of wind, tide, and minimizing extra distance. Everyone has their own story! Some will tell stories of the tide rip at Patos Island, others will groan as they remember Turn Point or Hein Bank, or even Cattle Pass. Day Two of the race is supremely tactical. You literally can take any path you choose from Point Roberts to Hein Bank. On Lodos we went through the middle, as did the majority of the fleet this year. We enjoyed some great zooms and even kept a hand on vang for awhile! It was not epically fast, but all indicators pointed toward a Saturday night finish. With 7 miles left to go and 14 hours to make it happen, surely we were solid! As the sun set around Davidson Rocks we were just drifting, but the stars were amazing and there was nothing to rush home for. As we nearly drifted right into Millennial Falcon, we talked about the merits of sticking with it. "Hope is sometimes all you've got left!" Well, they said something like that, and it was brilliant. Just what we needed.

However, as the sun came up and we had drifted out to Smith Island, the party was over. Northern Century! You'll laugh, you'll curse, you'll marvel, and maybe you'll make it all the way! Congratulations to the TP 52 Sonic! First to finish the 2020 Northern Century and recipient of the barn door trophy! Congratulations to Ev and Jeanne Goussev on Greywolf, finishing the race double handed! Everyone fought hard to make the finish, and several boats were so close! The Northern 93 would have been finished by many! Recovering and returning to real life is a bit of a struggle, but it's all part of the challenge. It was never meant to be easy in the first place. There were many winners and spectacular performances to be celebrated, and many stories of mayhem and misadventure. Northern Century is always on the 3rd Friday of August. Put it on the calendar for next year, you'll be glad you did.

(See all race results on the AYC website)

-Stephanie Campbell, NC100 Chair