



FHSC Working Jib



Friday Harbor Sailing Club

September 2024

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HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AT the Sailing Club

September 18 - 5:30 PM
General Meeting & Potluck

September 27 - 29
Bird Cruise - Smith Island

October 1 - 4:30 PM
Board Meeting - Heritage Bank

September 4-6
Hobby Geologist Cruise - Sucia Island

Friday Harbor Sailing Club
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www.FridayHarborSailing.com

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Passage between Thetis Island and Penelakut Island



Get involved and don't miss out on our fun club activities!!

Sign-up for your club activities on the

The club's website

www.fridayhARBORSailing.com

NOTE from your WEBMASTER: Make sure your email account has fridayhARBORSailing.com as a whitelisted or trusted sender of emails so club communications do not end up in your spam file!!

COMMODORE REPORT BY Val Veirs



Today the cool and gray are back, and a fog-horn is sounding as a ship ghosts invisibly along the Haro Strait. Summer seems over, though we have been through some cycles of ‘fall’ and ‘summer’ over the past few weeks. Let’s hope for some more ‘summer’ cycles!

Just a week ago, Gary Boothman died and we lost Gary’s calm and wise counsel. Gary was a founding member of our Club and former council member and then mayor of Friday Harbor. This spring I sat down with Gary in a coffee shop in town and had an hour-long recorded interview with him. I was seeking his history of the formation and the early years of the Friday Harbor Sailing Club, and his thoughts on what the Club could be doing going



In the early days, Gary was an avid sailor, he recounted how racing was organized at the beginning. A person would come up with an idea and volunteer to organize a race, setting the line and the mark, etc. That person would also provide a trophy and then the race would be run with that volunteer acting as committee boat. One race that Gary enjoyed was an early May race from Friday Harbor to Snug Harbor, overnight there, and then on around back to Friday Harbor the second day. . We could honor the memory of Gary with our own “Around the Island” race, or even make it a cruise or both!

Gary told me that the Club was initially only for racers. Power boaters had the San Juan Yacht Club. Initially, social activities amounted to racers getting together at a restaurant Gary called The Electric Company where racers compared experiences. But, after time, interest in racing shifted and then to keep the Club strong, power boaters were allowed in. Likely, this is when cruising was added to the activities of the Club. And, as time went on, social activities were more carefully organized, eventually centering on monthly potlucks at the Grange.

We are in one of those transition periods now with interest in racing limited to a few old-timers and it seems cruises populated mostly with senior club members. Gary had some suggestions for what we might do to engage more of our members. For example, he told me that the Club pay for a “Pizza Night” from time to time “so people don’t always have to think, oh jeez, I gotta make something”. He also suggested changing up the venue for our social activities- maybe meeting at various places around San Juan Island such as Roche Harbor, Snug Harbor or picnic spots.

So here was Gary Boothman, just a few months before he suddenly died, thinking creatively about the Friday Harbor Sailing Club; its history and its future. As mentioned in The Orcasonian Proclamation, Gary cared about his community and wanted to find solutions to make it better. We can all take energy from Gary’s actions and thoughts and maybe we can find ways to come together to re-energize the Friday Harbor Sailing Club.

VICE COMMODORE REPORT BY Sam Johnson

Early this month we traveled to visit family in South Carolina, where relatives had a beachfront condominium in Myrtle Beach.

We made several excursions around the Charleston/Myrtle Beach area, one of which was a boat trip out to the Island fortress of Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor (now a National Historic Park). The fort was built after the War of 1812, and was not quite complete when it was famously attacked in the first battle of the Civil War. The fort is built of bricks, a lot of bricks (estimated to be around 2 million). The bricks were hand formed by slaves during that time over the several years that the fort was being built. You can still see finger impressions in many of the bricks. As I put my hand down to press my own fingers into some of these impressions, I noticed that they were made with small hands, considerably smaller than my own.

It was only later that I learned that the bricks were primarily made by slave children, while their adult parents were out working in the fields. This was a very personal and poignant reminder of those terrible times so long ago. And viewing the displays describing the Civil War, it was also a reminder of how close we were to remaining a divided country, and how important the resolve of President Lincoln was to keep the Union together.

Another boat related trip we made was to tour the aircraft carrier Yorktown at Patriots Point in Charleston Harbor. It turns out that even an older aircraft carrier (the Yorktown (CV-10) served in WW II and the Viet Nam war) is a BIG ship. It was amazing to think that this vessel housed over 2,500 sailors and almost 100 aircraft.

A final excursion we took was much lighter in mood, the 'Brew Boat' cruise in Murrells Inlet. This is a large salt marsh where the Waccamaw River enters the Atlantic. The surrounding salt marsh is full of birds not found on the Pacific coast and a landscape very different from our own San Juan Island. We did less 'brewing' and much more looking and bird watching on this cruise

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REQUEST

We (Really) Need You!

The Friday Harbor Sailing Club needs members who could either serve on the nominating committee, or volunteer for officer duties.

We currently have vacancies for Rear Commodore (organizes FHSC cruises), Secretary (attends General and Board meetings, writes Board meeting minutes), Fleet Captain (organizes FHSC races), and Trustee (provides advice to the Board).

The club truly cannot function without people like you volunteering to make our meetings and activities happen. Volunteer and keep FHSC alive and vibrant!

CHEMAINUS THEATER CRUISE REPORT by Ruth Ann Krooswyk

Telegraph Harbour (harbour, that's the Canadian spelling) was the first stop on August 19. A little light rain throughout the trip up, arriving were:

Kent Howell & Barbara Daly on the **Day Six**

Bill & Laura Jo Severson on the **Fairhope**

Stefan Michalowski & Georgia Smith on the **Talpa Kin** & Ruth Ann Krooswyk on the **Morning Star**

Chris & Alexia Reed on the new **Lightwave**

We were invited to have hors d'oeuvres and dessert on Chris and Alexis Reed's new boat. The proud owners gave a tour and information about their Hybrid diesel/electric boat.

August 20 most of the boats had reservations at Chemainus Harbor Val and Leslie Veirs arrived on the **Cat's Cradle** boat in the late afternoon. That evening, several couples went to the Indian restaurant and the other couples went for Thai food.

August 21 we enjoyed a wonderful buffet luncheon at the Chemainus theater, followed by a fabulous production of 9 to 5. We enjoyed hors d'oeuvres that evening, hosted by Chris and Alexis.

August 22 boats took off in all directions. Just too many directions to name.



SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING

By the Vice Commodore and the Social Chairs

Date: September 18, 2024

Time: 5:30 PM

Where: San Juan Island Grange Hall

Don't forget to bring:

A food item to share

Your own plates, glassware, and utensils

Your own drinks

A grill will be set up on the deck for those who would like to grill their dinner.

Hope to see you there!

Susan Leff

Our Speaker will be John Neal and talk about offshore sailing and distant lands. If you don't know about John, he has been sailing and long-distance cruising for decades.

John operates Mahina Offshore Services which puts on offshore training expeditions, including trips to the Scottish Islands and New Zealand in 2024 and 2025.

He is an author, consultant, and has worked with National Geographic, Discovery Channel, Disney, NOAA, and Office of Naval research. He has accumulated 408,000 offshore miles in his sailing career, rounding Cape Horn six times, and led expeditions to the South Pacific, Patagonia, and Antarctica.

Sam Johnson Vice Commodore