

Volume 50 Issue 3

November 2020

www.ssssclub.com

### Commodore's Corner: Future of SSSS, Original Intent

We have a great organization, but I still wonder how we can be better. So, I may be dedicating succeeding Commodore Reports to focus on various aspects of the Club and how

they may be improved. I'm going to throw out some thoughts, and see if we can start a conversation with the members.

The first thing to do is look back at how the Club was founded 50 years ago, and what was their intent. Now, we don't have too many people that were around when the Club was started, so we may have to interpret what they were thinking at the time. On the SSSS Web Site, we have a short section on the history of the Club. It seems clear to me that they didn't want all the trappings of a formal Yacht Club and mainly just wanted to get together and race against each other. So, for 50 years, the SSSS has not had a clubhouse to call their own, we don't own a marina, Membership has been open to almost everyone, and annual dues are kept low.

That mission for the Club has worked for the past 50 years, but maybe we want to think about some changes. I have listened to some Members that think that we should find our own clubhouse, instead of relying of the good graces of the Olympia Yacht Club. There are some good points

Olympia Yacht Club. There are some good points to having our own clubhouse, including: having a permanent base, not paying rental fees, storage for beverages, storage for racing and cruising gear, and being able to expand our services as a not-for-profit social organization. However, the disadvantages of owning a building are huge. First of all, finding a facility that would meet our needs would be difficult. Then, the costs of running and maintaining a building would far exceed the rental fees that we pay.

Owning our own marina seems like a non-starter, even though almost all other boating/yacht clubs seem to have their own marinas and sometimes multiple marinas or moorage stations. The cost of owning a marina are high, and today's environmental requirements are much tougher. However, it could also be a constant income stream for us, if we were able to find the right one.

OK, those are the big ideas. Keep in mind, I am not advocating that we do either of these at this time. There are lots of other things we can do to make our Club better. Recently, I have been keen on the idea of providing more sailing education to our Members, either free or for a minimal charge. We know that OYC has a well-established youth sailing education program, and they also provide sailing lessons to adults. We wouldn't want to take over or duplicate their programs, but we could coordinate with them, and provide our own specialized education programs, like the Introduction to Racing activity that came out of our first Past Commodores Council meeting, and is being developed by our newly-formed Sailing Education Committee.

I want to hear from some our long-time Members that may have been involved in some of the original intent of the creation of SSSS, as well as our more recent Members that may have great ideas on how to make our Club better. I will talk about different goals and objectives for the Club in the next 50 years.

Richard Wells, PenOziequah



Altair, Fall Race 3 photo by Bill Kelly



Start of the Southern Sound Series

Lighted Boats, OYC December 5 Parade only, No socials

General Meeting December 8 Visitors Welcome Doors open at 1850, Meeting starts 1900

From the San Juans : Sailing Education Update : PHRF Dues : Racing Changes



#### Sailing Education, Catching Up

Due to Covid -19 our program has had to bend itself pretzel-like to adhere to rules, keep everyone safe and get our students out on the water. We would like to share with you information that may make our program more real to you and put names

on familiar faces on the docks. Partially due Covid causing cancellation of so many different outdoor sports and our wonderful Coaching Staff we have an abundance of sailors this fall for practices. Over 75 students over four race teams are signed up, and we have a waiting list for the first time!

We are able to run four teams this fall because a few of our coaches from the summer stayed home and didn't go to college in person because of the virus.

Opti Green Team is for those 10-12 years old and most novice sailors. The Green Team is our newest group of sailors. When you see a sailor sit on the edge of an 8 foot Opti Pram and the boat doesn't tip at all, you know we have some light weight sailors. What they lack in body weight doesn't dim their enthusiasm, commitment to practice, and becoming better sailors! They show up twice per week in all types of weather and wind to increase their skills and be part of our new team.

Opti Race Team is for our more advanced Opti sailors, 10-13 years old. Opti racing is enjoyed world-wide by young sailors. Our fleet of Optis are aging, but still vibrant when these young sailors take to the water. Single-handed boats, the mistakes they make on the water are their own as these boat respond quickly. Opti sailing is not for everyone, no crew positions here. You do it all.

Junior Varsity is for Middle and first year high school students and Varsity for High School students. Our Junior varsity and varsity teams are sailing both in our double handed boats and our Lasers, single handed boats.

All of our teams are doing their best to remain Covid aware in our programs boat house and walking on docks and ramps. Sails, rudders and tillers for the bigger boats are being kept in the boats so we don't create bottlenecks of sailors at the boat house doorways or on the docks.

All of our sailors are practicing every week in all types of weather through midNovember. They will be back in March after some time off for the holidays and when our afternoon light allows after school sailing again.

Our Coaches this year have really made the difference in being able to remain upbeat and positive during this trying time. Here are some short biographies for a few of our staff this year, their photos are on line. I will do a few more next month.

Niki Alden: New Full-time Assistant Coach Nicki graduated from Western Washington University with a Marine Science Degree. She was a sailing team



captain and sailor there and has become a leader in our program by assisting Sarah and helping with everything from repairs to outreach for fundraising. Welcome Niki, you are a gem!

Elena Gonick: Oly High Grad, Elena started out with us in high school when our team had only 6 sailors participating. She has instructed for us for over 5 years and is a graduate of Tufts University with a Science Degree. She is coaching part time for us this fall and then leaves for Montana to teach skiing this winter before pursuing a Science Career. Our students love Elena and she has become a mentor and role model for many of our students, especially our young female sailors.

Owen Timms: Oly High Grad, Owen is ranked as one of the top youth sailors in the NW and an inspiration to all of our young sailors. He is a sophomore at George Washington University and is coaching part time for us this fall while he takes his classes online

Kevin Hicks: Oly High Grad, Kevin is a sophomore at Western Washington

University, is an eagle scout and has instructed with us for 3 years.

Evan Krug: Oly High grad, Evan has instructed for us for 3 years and loves to fly planes. He is a sophomore at Central Washington and is studying aviation.

Can you tell? Oly High has had the largest number of sailors graduate from our program and go onto bigger and better things. We will introduce you to more of our staff next month.

Meanwhile, we just finished our cookie dough sale this year and are going to do a wreath and **Christmas tree sales** as well. If you didn't attend our Dinner auctions in the past or purchase wreaths or trees from us, please let us know if you would like to purchase those for the holidays by contacting: **Supporters-of-olympiacommunity-sailing.myshopify.com**. We will also be selling face masks with the new Niki McClure Logo on this site.

The other part of our sailing program at OYC involves getting adults out on the water. We had a slow start this past summer sailing season due to Covid. We have been trying to catch up this fall. Our Adult sailing classes have had many setbacks, due to no wind, and too much wind with rain. I have been juggling make up classes over and over again. But even as we approach our

rainy season, I still have enthusiastic sailors. I would also like to let you know we are hoping to partner with the SSSS in a program they are designing to get adult sailors out racing with Members. It will act as a bridge for our adult students who don't own boats, but still want to get out on the water. We are hoping it will start with the Island Series of races, including some zoom type classes and create and maintain some new interest in both our programs.

Lastly, thanks to all our members for their support in these trying times. We will be sending out a letter in November explaining our cancellation of our annual dinner auction and a request for donations. Save a little something in your holiday gift giving for our program Please!

Despite this year's challenges, OYC remains committed to being an Olympia leader in providing safe and dynamic sailing instruction and boating programs in the Olympia area. Stay positive and stay safe!



# The 2020-21 Southern Sound Series is On!

The Southern Sound Series is comprised of four long distance races and scheduled as follows, get them on your calendars!

#### Winter Vashon. December 5th, Tacoma YC

Duwamish Head , January 9<sup>th</sup>, Three Tree Point YC Toliva Shoal.February 13<sup>th</sup>, OYC / SSSS

#### Islands Race, March 20th, Gig Harbor YC

These races draw sailors from across the Sound and are some of the largest events of the year.

New this year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, is the potential for single/double handed fleets within the normal, or possibly combined, PHRF fleets. This is a measure to encourage those concerned about social distancing to participate in the race series.

Fleets will be assigned based on boats that register to race the Winter Vashon. Check the Southern Sound Series web site for not only the Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions, but also COVID-19 precautions to be observed by each boat, skipper, and their crew/s.

If you are new to racing or do not have a PHRF rating please contact Rafe Beswick at rafebeswick@hotmail.com, for a PHRF rating, or if sailing in the Commodore flying sails or Cruising non-flying sails fleets, contact Richard Bigley at bendigo@comcast.net for a series rating.

Watch for any up-dates in the Ship-to-Shore, or the series web site at ssseries.org. Hope to see you on the water! Jeff Johnson, Folie `a Deux. SSS Rep.

### RC Report

So, how about that summer and fall! Thanks to the SSSS board for pausing when covid hit. Also thanks to Bill and Vicky, and the committee boat, *Transition*, for proposing and executing the casual style racing concept. I, for one, enjoyed the scheduled opportunity to race our boats in a lower stress race environment.

Due to Covid risk, Bill and Vicky will not welcome crew on board any time soon. Distance races can require 12 hour days, and unpredictable fall/winter weather adds another risk factor with just two of them on board. So, for now, no RC boat with our favorite race managers.

We could have racers and boats volunteer for RC duty, but in the spirit of casual racing, we are returning to the roots of SSSS. In the olden days, even before SSSS formed, sailors started at noon and entered their finish times on clipboards at each marina!

By the time you read this, the first two of our Extra Casual distance races are in the books. The intent of self reporting of rounding and finish times allows more people to sail, and reminds us of the casual approach.

Please remember that casual racing does NOT mean casual safety! Our Sailing Instructions are still in force and define our safety requirements. Please review them and ensure your safety equipment is compliant and you and your crew is aware of how to use it. Do a person overboard drill; rescue a fender. If sailing short handed, allow adequate time and distance to complete sail changes and maneuvers. Think ahead, etc. etc. Sail Safe!

Join us via Zoom on November 10<sup>th</sup> for the Meeting that will feature Michael Boyte and Melissa White, who have been Pacific Northwest sailors for 17 years. Beginning with their first boat, a Catalina 27 named *Saucy Sue*, then moving up to their Cal 34, *Moonrise*, the travel sailing bug hit them hard and fast during their first trip to the west coast of Vancouver Island. They made a five year plan to get the right boat, get the house ready to leave behind, pare down their lives, and leave the dock. They left the dock right on time in June 2017.

For three years Michael and Melissa lived and cruised in Mexico aboard their Olympic Adventure 47, *Galapagos*. Three years in the Sea of Cortez and Pacific Mexico, two ocean passages, lots of big events and a rig failure at sea later, they are back in Olympia to refit the boat and get ready to go to the South Pacific.

They'll give a presentation based on their experiences, including choosing a boat, getting ready to go, transitioning to a life at sea, and how to handle the myriad mistakes and potential catastrophes inherent in this particular kind of adventure.

Be sure to come prepared with questions you have if you are wanting to do this kind of adventure yourself.

You can read more about Michael and Melissa and their adventures on their extensive blog: www.LittleCunningPlan.com.

In addition, the board will share information about the status of racing, new developments in sailing education, upcoming cruises, and other information. You will also have an opportunity to interact with other Members.

The Zoom doors will open at 18:50 and the Meeting will begin at 19:00.

To register for the Zoom meeting, go to: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYocO6qrD

siHdL6wmfq\_fb-La\_-dJQ2RZKX

If you need assistance connecting to Zoom, contact me at programs@ssssclub.com.

We hope to see you there

Bob Butts, Emma Lee.

#### Sailing Stories Sought

Share your sailing stories with the Members. How are you using your boat in this Covid year?

## **PHRF** Report

PHRF dues notices go out in November. When you get yours return it with your check, or pay on line, before you get caught up in the Christmas rush.

The Pacific Handicap Racing Fleet of the NW is the organization that makes our racing possible, by creating and maintaining our handicaps. Our D Class handicaps are based on their work. It is a volunteer organization run and paid for by local racers, you. SSSS has historically had the third largest number of PHRF members of all clubs in the North West. PHRF needs our support in these uncertain times.



#### Enjoying Life in the San Juans

One of the greatest adventures that we can have is sailing up in the San Juan Islands. Right now, Michelle, StopIt (aka: Logan the dog), and I are at the dock in Friday Harbor on San Juan Island. Just settling down for the night on our Newport 31, PenOziequah. By the time you are reading this, we will be back home in Olympia. We are buddy boating with our friends Joe and Myra

Downing. They are on their Ericson 38, Balder 2. Unfortunately, they are on G dock and we are on H dock, but we can still talk to each other from across the water.

We left Olympia on

Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00. That was the first thing that didn't go as planned. We expected to leave the dock at 08:00 to be

sure that we got through the Tacoma Narrows before the current changed. We still made it, with a little help from a current push almost all the way. Our goal for our first landing was Kingston, but once we got to Blake Island, we just decided to anchor off the Island (CRace points, ding-ding). The wind was blowing about a steady 7 knots when we anchored, but by midnight the wind was strong and we were getting knocked around pretty good.

On Friday, which was also the start of the Labor Day weekend. we were on track to get to Port Townsend, but that didn't happen either. Before we left Olympia, I did the regular maintenance for the trip: changed the oil and oil filter, emptied the waste tank, filled the water tank. But I only made a half-hearted effort for find new fuel filters. I got the numbers from our manual that the original owner wrote in, 40 years ago. For some reason, these numbers didn't match any of the filters in two stores. So, I thought- what the heck, we should be OK.

As we are heading north, the engine started acting up, and then just stopped altogether. Luckily, we are buddy boating. Our good friends, Joe and Myra, towed us into Port Ludlow. I quickly surmised that it was a fuel issue. Because Joe was really prepared and had spare fuel filters that happened to fit, we changed the fuel filter, and the engine immediately started up. But, since I only ran it for a couple minutes, that wasn't enough of a test. The next morning, before we got out of the Port Ludlow harbor the engine stopped again. Bled the lines again, but that only worked for a minute. Finally, we figured out that it was an air leak in the Raycor. After changing that, and bleeding the lines again, the engine started up and was purring. Off to Watmough Bay on Lopez Island.

Initially, crossing the Strait of Juan de Fuca was rough, but it got better after a couple hours. We arrived in Watmough Bay and we were officially in the San Juan Islands. After two beautiful sunny



days in Watmough, we decided to travel to Deer Harbor on Orcus Island. We tried to sail in Rosario Strait, but the wind was just too much so down came the sails after just a few tacks. We ducked through Lopez Pass into Lopez Sound where it only got worse as we traveled north. That was a trip, up to 30 kt winds sustained. Myra clocked one gust at 34. Four to five foot waves and spray that you wouldn't believe. At least it was fairly warm. We didn't get relief until we were well into Harney Channel south of Orcas

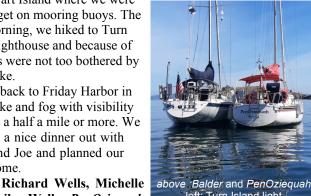
Island. Fortunately for me and the dog, we got tucked away below. Michelle likes to drive and apparently get wet!

From there, we trekked to Echo Bay on Sucia Island. Our Navionics chart said it would be a three-hour trip, but the wind was blowing about 7 to 10 knots, so we put up the sails for about three hours. It was slow going since the wind was on our nose the whole way, even when we turned the corner around Orcus Island, the wind seemed to shift against us. Eventually, the wind died down and we fired up the motor for the rest of the route to Sucia. We spent three days on Sucia Island. The first day was nice and the sky was clear and we had a great hike, but by morning the smoke caught up to us. We then headed for Prevost Harbor

on Stewart Island where we were able to get on mooring buoys. The next morning, we hiked to Turn Point Lighthouse and because of the trees were not too bothered by the smoke.

Then back to Friday Harbor in the smoke and fog with visibility at about a half a mile or more. We enjoyed a nice dinner out with Myra and Joe and planned our route home.

Aguilar-Wells, PenOziequah



left: Turn Island light Photos by Richard Wells

#### **CV Fall Series**

Transition was the RC Boat. Thank you.

plac	e Sail No. Yacht Name Skip	per Name Ra	ating \$	Strt	Race 1	Race 2 F	Race 3	Total
Div	/. Green Races: 1 to 3				7 Strt	6 Strt	7 Strt	
1	64996 WILLIE TIPIT?	Charles Norman	78	3	2.50	4.0	0.75	7.25
2	12 PAX	Rod Tharp	10	3	2.50	3.00	2.00	7.50
3	87652 ALTAIR	Jason Vannice	72	3	4.00	5.00	3.00	12.00
4	79089 LIGHTLY SALTED	Mel Schaefer	90	1	0.75	8.00	4.00	12.75
5	50921 REDLINE	Kyle Reese-Cassa	al 90	1	9.00	0.75	4.00	13.75
6	35 ANGEL EYES	Tim DuMontier	78	3	6.00	2.00	7.00	15.00
7	175 TRICKSTER	Rafe Bewswick	46	1	5.00	8.00	5.00	18.00
8	18324 ROCK PAPER SCIS	Hans Seegers	72	2	9.00	6.00	4.00	19.00
9	10115 ZIG ZAG	Aaron Schofield	75	1	9.00	8.00	4.00	21.00
9	69051 SPIRIT	Steve Jones	81	1	9.00	8.00	4.00	21.00
9	82 MCSWOOSH	Clark McPherson	66	1	7.00	8.00	5.00	21.00
Div	/. Pink Races: 1 to 3				5 Strt	10 Str	9 Strt	
1	1102 FJORD	Eric Egge	195	3	0.75	2.00	2.00	4.75
2	29718 AURORA	Chery Bideman	177	2	6.00	0.75	0.75	7.50
3	64985 LIBERTY	Andy Saller	141	3	2.00	4.00	3.00	9.00
4	50105 JOLLY RUMBALOW	Richard Bigley	135	3	3.00	5.00	4.00	12.00
5	69927 BALDER II	Myra Downing	144	1	6.00	3.00	5.00	14.00
6	39110 KOOSAH	Dave Knowlton	177	3	4.00	8.00	4.00	16.00
7	33333 GRACEFUL MAE	Scott Rowley	135	1	6.00	6.00	5.00	17.00
8	5421 EMMA LEE	Bob Butts	207	1	6.00	7.00	5.00	18.00
9	22884 CHRONOS	Scott Walker	168	2	6.00	9.00	4.00	19.00
9	79838 SEAQUEL	Henry Brooks	240	1	5.00	9.00	5.00	19.00
11	2222 PENOZIEQUAH	Richard Wells	231	1	6.00	10.00	4.00	20.00
11	3220 CHEAP THRILLS	Paul Paroff	186	1	6.00	10.00	4.00	20.00
11	51496 PANDORA	Bob Connolly	188	1	6.00	10.00	4.00	20.00
14	22 KIND OF BLUE	Alan Hoffman	210	1	6.00	10.00	5.00	21.00

#### Want a Marina? How About a Dock?

I want to follow up on some things in Richard's Commodore's article. Twice in our past, SSSS has had a dock. Not a full marina, but a SSSS dock in a marina. Much cheaper up front. A lot fewer worries about maintenance and liability.

The dinghy fleet still has their dock. The sailors chipped in and bought, salvaged, a couple dock sections, hauled them to Westbay, and gave them to the marina, with stipulations. The dock is exclusively for *our* dinghies.

In the 1980s many Members were thinking they would like to moor their boats together. They ended up making a deal with Westbay, then the largest marina in Olympia. They contracted to pay Westbay moorage for all the slips on a dock. They would then fill the slips, SSSS only, and collect moorage.

The rest of the Club, those who did not want slips on that dock, did not want the obligation. They feared getting stuck with a large bill if the slips didn't stay full. Most of the Club either already had a slip they liked or had no boat. So those wanting the dock formed a separate organization made up of Members, to sign the contract. It lasted until Westbay blew away. But that is another story.



Aloft Marine IIc

Rigging - Electronics - Maintinance

Jason Vannice- owner Serving Olympia sailors since 2002 Aloftmarine@gmail.com 3605565200 text ok

Sail

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The Ship-to-Shore is published monthly, except July and August, by the South Sound Sailing Society, PO. Box 1102, Olympia WA 98507. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the policies of SSSS. Mention of products or trade names shall not constitute an endorsement by the S-t-S or SSSS of their use. If you are having a problem receiving the Ship-to-Shore, would like to submit a letter, article, or photo, run an advertisement, or have other questions or concerns contact the **Editor : Steve Worcester** 2425 Otis Olympia WA 98501 (360) 352-9283 e-mail: **sts@ssssclub.com** 

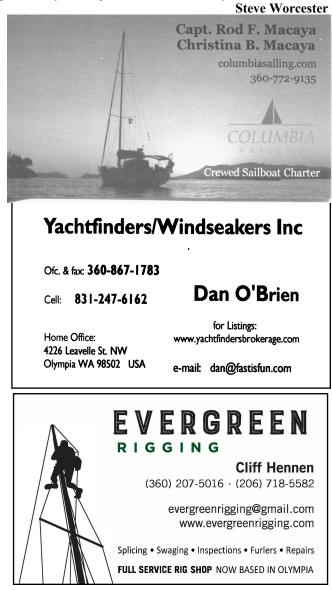
Deadline for submissions is the second Tuesday of the month. 2020-21 SSSS Board Members

2020-2	a boob board ment	113
Commodore	Richard Wells	(360) 490.1147
Vice-Commodore		
Secretary	Glory Dole	(415) 806-5171
Treasurer	Beth Brownell	(208) 596-8848
Member-at-Large	Bob Butts	(360) 951-6234
Race Chair	Eric Egge	(360) 586-6806
Cruise Chair	Richard Adams	(360) 259-8498
Past Commodore	Casey Jones	(360) 878-3324
PHRF Handica	pper Rafe Beswick (3	60) 250-5252
D Class 1	Handicapper Richard	Bigley

Thursc	lay Ni	ight R	aces	Seri	es 3	
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Boat	Skipper	Type	Night 1	Night 2	Night 3	Night 4	Night 5	Total
541	Trummert,Dwaine	TASA	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	3.75
1542	French,Kevin	HPN5.2	4	2	3	11 DNC	3	23
19	Snyder,Charlie	Laser	6 DNC	5 DNC	6	3	5	25
3510	Snyder,Chris	LASE-2	6 DNC	5 DNC	2	11 DNC	2	26
204394	Kuehlthau,Bob	Laser	6 DNC	5 DNC	9 DNC	2	4	26
1304	Harting,Eric	TNZ 16	6 DNC	3	7	6	6	28
195939	Rulla,Chris	Laser	6 DNC	5 DNC	4	4	12 DNC	31
C15	Downing,Joe	COR15	6 DNC	5 DNC	8	5	7	31
402	B,Zachary	C-LK	6 DNC	5 DNC	5	11 DNC	8	35
2399	Pruitt,Casey	TASA	2	5 DNC	9 DNC	11 DNC	12 DNC	39
60	Beswick,Rafe	Laser	6 DNC	5 DNC	9 DNC	7	12 DNC	39
763	Brown,Adam	HPN5.2	3	5 DNC	9 DNC	11 DNC	12 DNC	40
2	Miller,Garner	SF	6 DNC	4	9 DNC	9	12 DNC	40
786	Findley,Jim	LD14	6 DNC	5 DNC	9 DNC	8	12 DNC	40
6103	Long,Jack	LASE2	6 DNC	5 DNC	9 DNC	11 DNC	9	40
197053	Haley,Alice	Laser	6 DNC	5 DNC	9 DNC	11 DNC	10	41
20	Gail.Matt	SBRD	6 DNC	5 DNC	9 DNC	10	11	41
5008	Hariot,Margaret	LD14	5	5 DNC	9 DNC	11 DNC	12 DNC	42

Members should know, and should appreciate, the deal OYC gives us. We pay well below market for use of the building, well below market even for places not on the water. For that, a big Thank You all the OYC members and particularly to the joint members. Thank you.









## Take Your Camera Sailing

South Sound Sailing Society P.O. Box 1102 Olympia WA 98507

