

Ship-to-Shore

On Line Special : Summer 2020

June 9 through August 8

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Zoom Meeting
Tuesday August 11
Details two pages downregister
for the Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/>

Ship-to-Shore

This is the last On Line Special for the summer. We revert to our normal schedule, starting with the September S-t-S.

June 9 through August 1

Zoom Meeting Tuesday August 11

Dinghy Racing

PHRF Racing

Bill and Vicky Sheldon Awarded the Sportsmanship Award

Dinghy Racing July 16, lots of photos

PHRF Racing :

Short Handed Races Wednesday Races

Thursday Night Racing, with photos

Wednesday Night Racing

July General Meeting: Rigging and Adventure

PHRF Racing

Portsmouth Racing

Summer Activities :

Portsmouth Racing, Hope Dash, Crace

Portsmouth Racing, with photos

Summer Cruising Part 2: cruising the Sound

Dinghy Racing Starts

New Program: Crace

My Summer Plans: cruising the Sound

Also many articles noting the S-t-S changes over the summer. While much changes, what is constant is that we need your stories and photos. **We want to hear from you.**

PHRF Racing

Summer is nearly over. As we post, the Single and Double Handed races are happening, the latter on Saturday and the former Sunday. Both start in the late afternoon in the hopes of more wind. Then there is one more Wednesday night race before racing ends for the summer.

As it stands now, Bill and Vicky will keep running informal races, on Saturdays in September. See the calendar on our site or the September S-t-S when it comes out.

Portsmouth Racing

Summer is nearly over for the dinghies too (photos from August 6 are one page down). Just two more Thursdays left as we post. This may be last chance till next summer, so do not miss it.

Hope Island Dash

If you are looking for a little structure for your day sailing, think of doing the Dash. You start by crossing a line across the bay defined by the Olympia Shoal dolphins. Round Hope Island, either way. Finish by crossing the start line. Take your own time then report it to me; the fastest time each year, May to May, wins a high tech engraving of President Jackson.

Note that this is corrected time, so you need a handicap. If you do not already have one, see Richard Bigley, D Class handicapper (it is free.)



above, racing Wednesday August 5 photo: Bob Butts
more photos by Bob at

<https://bobbutts.smugmug.com/South-Sound-Sailing-Society-Races/Wednesday-Night-Race-August-5-2020/>



racing Wednesday July 29 photo: Dan O'Brien
More photos by Dan <http://www.ssssclub.com/2019-2020-photos/nggallery/2019-2020/race-july-29-20>

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Take Your
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Dinghy Racing August 6



Photos to the left: Chris Rulla photos to the right: Jim Findley
We have more photos by both that are not yet posted

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PHRF Racing

Our first Covid summer is fast coming to an end, but there is still time to enjoy it. Maybe race your boat for the first time? No better time to start than now. The racing is more informal and relaxed than normal (and our normal “serious” racing is pretty relaxed).

There are no race fees. You do need to register and get a handicap. You can get a Club handicap, free, from Richard Bigley. Then e-mail me your name, boat name, boat type, and sail number along with your handicap.

Dinghy Racing

Thursday is the last race of the Second Series. The Third Series, the last series of the summer, starts next week. Race results to date are posted. Photos are in this S-t-S below.

Summer is passing, but it is not too late to join us. If you have a boat 20 feet or less with a retractable keel you are welcome. We race over the mud flats off Swantown every Thursday night. No fee but you need to register to get a handicap. See the RC boat pre race. No pick up crew this year.

Zoom Meeting Tuesday August 11

The South Sound Sailing Society will be hosting a August Zoom Meeting that will explore cruising in South Sound. We will draw upon our Members to identify the best places to gunkhole, swim, find wind, and explore beaches during low tides.

Also we’ll share great places to run aground and how to take advantage of the currents in Budd Inlet, around Hope Island, Dana Passage, and points north.

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

To join us, register for the Meeting at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/>

Even if you are not sure if you are available, register now. There is no downside if you cannot make it, and it likely will put it in your calendar. Also, if you have friends or know of other sailors who would like to join us invite them.

Out on your boat or in your tent or RV? As long as you have a cell signal, you can join us.

If you have questions, contact Bob at programs@ssssclub.com or via text at (360) 951-6234.

We look forward to seeing you, or your name, on the Zoom call. Stay safe.

Your SSSS Board



photos of the seals by Steve Worcester

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Dinghy Racing July 16

Thursday night's forecast was pretty much spot on. 73 Degrees, winds 10 to 15 with gusts a little higher. We only had six of our dinghy fleet show up but the High School Team came out and raced with us. They can really liven things up. One boat dropped out with a broken dagger board and another made a wise down wind run to safety at Swantown.

Jim Findley

If you have a boat 20 feet or less with a retractable keel you are welcome to join us. We race over the mud flats off Swantown every Thursday night. No fee but you need to register to get a handicap. See the RC boat pre race. No pick up crew this year.

Bill and Vicky Sheldon Awarded the Sportsmanship Award

The Sportsmanship Award was presented to Bill and Vicky at the Zoom Meeting, July 16. This award is slightly misnamed. It is for service to the Club over time: to recognize those who make your Cub run yet do not stand in front of you each Meeting.

Bill and Vicky have a long history with the Club. They are in many ways founding Members, though they were not around 50 years ago this summer when Olympia sailors were meeting on the bay and racing informally. Nor were they at any of the meetings that winter when it was decided to form the Club. They joined a couple years later. Still they had much to do with starting Club institutions: formalizing our race program, starting the Southern Sound Series, and the S-t-S. Bill owned a typography business and set a high standard from day one.

For that, and for serving as Commodore two years in a row after his Vice Commodore divorced and his ex kept their boat. Bill was made a Life Member. That was in the 1970s. He then stepped back from the running of the Club, but not from racing.

Bill and Vicky owned and raced three boats over their racing career: *Apprentice*, *Imposition*, and *Opposition*. They have raced and done well all over the Salish Sea, as well as here with us.

Vicky is a member of our Star Fleet. She told us her father had raced on one of our Stars when the boat was new.

They did not totally ignore the running of the Club. He served as Protest Chair for many Toliva Races, the Black Star, and off and on for our PHRF racing. He was also PRO for several Toliva Races and a J24 regional regatta. Vicky was PRO for a Star Districts.

Five years ago they bought *Transition*. She is a powerboat: a comfortable platform in most weather with a good view. In short, an excellent boat from which to run races. They fitted her out to do just that. Bill and Vicky both took the race management class. Bill became a USSA certified Race Officer. They have been running races for our PHRF fleet ever since. Some of the best run races on the Sound.

It is primarily for this, but also for years of service to your Club, the Board chose to recognize Bill and Vicky.



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PHRF Racing Short Handed Races Back on the Calendar

The Single-handed and the Double-handed Races will go on as originally scheduled. The Single-handed Races will be on August 9 with the Double-handed Races the next day, August 10. These are one day regattas, one or more PHRF buoy races, where the crew is limited as the name implies. Race fees are not required. The Sailing Instructions are on our web site.

Wednesday Races

Wednesday Night Races are being well attended. As I write Bill and Vicky have held four races. Well over 20 different boats have come out, all racing in one class, including D Fleet. Come race.



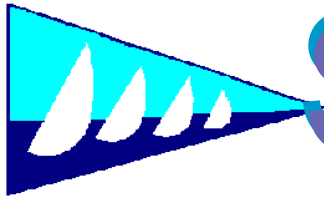
Take your Camera Sailing



There will be an August Zoom Meeting

August 11. Speaker to be announced. Watch your e-mail and the S-t-S for details as things develop.





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Meeting July 14
on Zoom. Details,
including how to register
are one screen below



Wednesday Night Racing

The PHRF fleet is racing again. This will be their third week and the plan is to continue. About 15 different boats have raced so far, all in one division. See the results to see who and how they did.



Thursday Night Racing

As you can see from the photos, dinghy racing is going strong. If you have a boat 20 feet or shorter with a retractable keel, come join us. We race over the mud flats off Swantown, first start 18:30. No fees or pre registration, but do check in with the RC boat. We need to know your boat type to handicap you.

Remember to stay half a boat length from everyone, both on, and off, the water.

Sorry, no pick up crew this year. (Miss crewing? Could this be the year you stopped crewing and became an owner?)



S-t-S: Still Here

We will keep posting as long as there are things to post. I have given up predicting when.

We do want to hear from you: photos of our events and your sailing stories.

Thursday Night Racing July 2
photos by Jim Findley

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PHRF Racing

On June 24 our PHRF Fleet took to the water for the first time since March, for a trial race using their own sailing instructions. Nine boats raced, some with chutes and some without. All were scored in one division.

Bill and Vicky ran the RC boat on their own to eliminate any risk of Covid-19. Bill said things went well with just two, but that they might invite Bob next week.

The racers I have communicated with had a good time. You can see who was out and how they did as the results are posted.

Portsmouth Racing

Our Dinghy Fleet raced again last week, for the fourth night this year. Results are posted.

They race again this week. If you have a boat, 20 feet or less with a retractable keel, you are welcome to come race. Be sure to check in and get a handicap. Remember to give everyone half a boat length, on and off the water. Sorry, but because of the virus there is no pick up crew this year. It is strictly Bring Your Own Boat.

If you have been crewing and miss sailing, think of buying a boat. You can buy a used dinghy for the price of a computer, or for as much more as you want to spend. The dinghy sailors may have leads on a good boat. Then you can go sailing when *you want*.

July General Meeting Rigging and Adventure

Unlike prior years, the SSSS will be hosting a General Meeting in July. The Meeting will be via Zoom on Tuesday evening, July 14. The Zoom doors will open at 18:50 and the Meeting will start at 19:00.

After a bit of business, **Jason Vannice** of Aloft Marine will share tips on how to tune your rigging. Then **Glen and Julie Bradley** will share their adventures of sailing throughout the world.

Julie and Glen will tell the story of quitting their jobs, Julie worked in Military Intelligence for more than 20 years, and setting sail, during which they experienced Force 10 storms in the North Atlantic and the crystal blue waters and native dancers of French Polynesia. They will describe the terrors and pleasures of living a life of total independence on a sailboat where even simple decisions can have big consequences.

You can read about their sailing adventures on her web site at www.juliebradleyauthor.com and get information on the two books she has written.

To register for the Zoom Meeting, click on: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYof-ChpzgvGt3mNJ3nfhNjTvLQjdIDrK9Q>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the Meeting.

We hope to see you there!

Bob Butts, Emma Lee



S-t-S

The Times They Are a Changing

I know that it was just last week I said that the S-t-S was going to stop being a weekly. I said that we would stop posting until things change. Well they changed, which shouldn't surprise you too much these days.

So when will we post again? When things change and there is something to post. Next week? I am not planning to, but ... we will see what happens, and what you, our Members, send us.

When ever we post/print again, we will want photos. Now that we are back on the water we need photos of current SSSS events. We still want cruise stories, thoughts on cruising destinations, advice on maintenance, and to hear from you.

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Summer Activities

in the first year of Covid-19

S-t-S Keeps Changing

Now that summer is here, the Stay at Home order is lifted, and SSSS is back on the water, it is time to get out and enjoy it. Time for the S-t-S to stop being a weekly. We will stop posting until ... things change. Times being as volatile as they have been, who knows.

When ever we do post/print again, we want to hear from you. Your cruise stories: stories *from* your cruise, not necessarily stories *of* the entire cruise. Maybe with a photo? Thoughts on cruising destinations and getting there. Advice on boat maintenance, DIY or where to get help. We are hoping to hear the origins of more boat names.

Crace

This is a new program, the [2020 Cracing Program](#). We established eight courses that can be raced and/or cruised at your own selected time. Courses range in length from 3 to 103 miles. Racers and cruisers can compete for prizes. Extra points are awarded for practicing boating safety skills. The more you sail, the more you score!

Hope Island Dash

Created by George Hansen, this is our yearly contest for the fastest time around the Island, May to May. It is open to all Members, no fee required

You start and finish on a line defined by the two Olympia Shoal marks that extends across the inlet. Start when ever you want, take your own time when you cross the line, round Hope Island either way, and return. Take your own finish time and report both times to me at sts@ssssclub.com.

It is a handicapped competition, so you will need a handicap. If you have raced with SSSS this century the machine probably has your handicap already. If not you will need to get a handicap. To do so see our D Fleet Handicapper, Richard Bigley.

To sail a record run you need to sail fast without much beating, but more importantly you need to time and use the current. Getting it all right requires a bit of luck. But to get a winning time you only need to do so better than others this year. At stake for the winner is a high tech print of President Jackson.

We have one time already. *Balder* made a run. We have her time in the S-t-S posted June 10, see below.

Summer Meetings

The Zoom Meetings may continue through the summer. Watch your e-mail In Box. We may even have something about it here.



June 18 photo: Jim Findley

Portsmouth Racing Almost as Normal

Well, we've pulled off three great nights of racing. The wind has stayed light enough for most everybody to single hand their boats and it's been warm and sunny! And it wasn't even summer yet. Last Thursday night we had 9 boats out with the usual crazy mix of Tazars, Lasers, Laser Radial, Laser2, Tanzer16, and Harpoon5.2.

Come on out and join the fun in the open sunny air with automatic social distancing: if you are closer than 6 feet you are probably colliding or at least fouling someone. I plan on being out with my Lido 14 in the 80 degrees with 5 knots of wind that's forecast. I don't think there's a better place to be under those conditions, even if I do come in last ... again!

Jim Findley

Sorry, it's Bring Your Own Boat. No pick up crew

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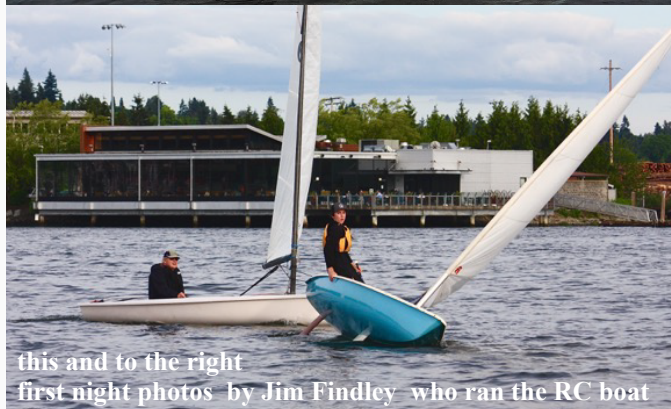
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this and below second night photos by Chris Rulla who ran the RC boat.



this and to the right first night photos by Jim Findley who ran the RC boat

Portsmouth Racing

The Dinghy Fleet started racing June fourth, racing again on the eleventh, and planning to race this week. Results are posted. We have dropped our scheduled series and will simply race every Thursday we can.

We have more [photos from the first night](#).

You are welcome to come race. We want more boats. But it's strictly BYOB, that is Bring Your Own Boat. Sorry, no pick up crew this year.

Keeping social distance at the boat ramp should not be hard. On the docks you need to be aware and be patient. Westbay requires masks, but do not count on them to keep you safe. *Keep at least half a boat length away from everyone, on the dock and on the water.*



S-t-S Changes, Again?

The plan has been to have something new every Tuesday: that means at least one post some time during the week. So if you visit the site once a week, on Tuesday, there should be something new.

I am reviewing the number of viewers to see if it is worth continuing this schedule. Much depends on you, our Members. If you keep looking, and keep writing ... The latter being the most important. It matters not how many want to look, if we have nothing for them to see.

We will still need other things, like your past cruise stories, that is stories *from* your cruises, not necessarily stories *of* the cruise, and advice you can pass on, from boat maintenance to cruising destinations. Maybe with a photo? We are hoping to hear the origins of more boat names. I am a bit shocked no one thought their pet special enough to send in a photo?!

For now, look here Tuesdays for a new post You can bookmark this address, the url will not change, new posts will be added.

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Summer Cruising Part 2

A brief recap from Part 1: With the Canadian border closed at least through June and the San Juan Islands hanging out the sign “Welcome, however....”, we’ve changed our approach to cruising for this year. Instead of setting destinations, we’ll see where the wind wants to take us. The first article covered some of the possibilities as far north as Gig Harbor. Continuing on up Colvos Passage ...

Past the head of Vashon Island is Blake Island Marine State Park. There’s a certain amount of dock space and 36 mooring buoys. It’s a wonderful place to walk around, and if the Tillicum restaurant is open for a tour boat visit, you can get a dinner of salmon cooked on planks around an open fire, and a show with native American dancing in ceremonial dress. A note of caution: if you’re at a dock you may easily be visited by racoons during the night. Fortunately for the rest of us, they can’t swim and don’t have their own dinghies.

If the wind carries you off to the West, you’ll have a chance to explore Sinclair Inlet. It’s quite the experience to sail along, at the legal distance, mind you, and look at aircraft carriers and other big ships. The destroyer, *USS Turner Joy*, is a great tour while you’re right there; lets you see how the other half lived. Port Orchard Marina has very nice showers, some excellent restaurants near by, and, in season, a farmers market. There are also several reciprocals near by.

Instead of West, the wind could take you North toward Elliott Bay. Bell Harbor Marina is one of our

favorite stops. [see photo: Seattle Skyline] The staff is very friendly; the showers are clean and give the opportunity for a long, languid, soapy wash down. Pike Place Market is an easy walk as are a whole range of restaurants. Admittedly, the city noises at night, particularly trains and sirens, are a jarring departure from the expected nights of tranquility and restorative slumber we look forward to on a cruise, but the lighted backdrop of Seattle at night tends to make up for it.

But if you just want the lights of Seattle without the rest of it, I’ve been told that anchoring off Port Blakely provides a spectacular view of Seattle at night. I haven’t yet tried that myself, but it’s still on my list.

Further up from Elliott Bay is the entrance to the ship canal. We’ve often talked about going up through the locks and into Lake Union, and this year the talk is getting serious. The *Waggoner Guide* devotes an entire page to what amounts to anxiety reduction. Upstream from the locks there are two draw bridges to deal with before getting to Lake Union. Once in Lake Union I find it fascinating to cruise by the shipyards, houseboats and marinas, having done it twice in a kayak. There are two reciprocals in Lake Union and one more in Portage Bay, just past the University draw Bridge.

Back out on saltwater and just up from the entrance to the ship canal is Shilshole Bay Marina. [see photo: Sunset from Shilshole] Reciprocal moorage is available on V dock, but we generally



Seattle above, sunset from Shilshole
All photos by Mike Farley



pay for a guest space near the fuel dock; walking distance to the showers/restrooms. With its view across the Sound, Shilshole Bay can

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have some of the most spectacular sunsets in the entire PacNorthwest.

Had the wind taken you instead up Port Orchard, behind Bainbridge Island, you'd first come to Brownsville. Not much there aside from the marina, but it has all of the amenities and is one of the friendliest marinas in the PacNorthwest. Another book exchange, of course.

Beyond Brownsville is the turn toward Poulsbo. [see photo: Poulsbo] You have choices there: a reciprocal at the Poulsbo Yacht Club, with a bit of a walk to the City center, the Poulsbo Marina, or just anchor out with a lot of other boats; paying attention to the charts and your depth gauge. The town is quite the tourist attraction. motto: "Get quaint or die", but we enjoy sightseeing and especially make a point of stocking up at Sluy's Bakery.

Back out on Puget Sound, another favorite stop is Kingston. Again, very pleasant staff, a fuel dock and nice, clean showers plus a couple of reciprocal slips. If you get in during business hours they can give you the keys to an ATV for a trip up town to the grocery store. The Filling Station, formerly the Holding Lane Tavern, is one of my favorite places for pub grub and it's only a short stagger back to the marina.

In an earlier piece about getting to the San Juan Islands by going east of Whidbey Island, I described a number of stops along that route so I'll skip those here and instead round Foulweather

Bluff, then backtrack south to Port Gamble. That was a company town of the Pope and Talbot sawmill, but is now, as *Waggoner* puts it, "charming and historic." There are no facilities for boaters, but just behind the sandspit is nice, fairly protected anchorage.

If your boat can comfortably fit under the 50 foot clearance at the east end of the Hood Canal Bridge, there are supposed to be a number of very pleasant spots to visit along the Hood Canal. Please send me pictures.

The bridge does open. There are interesting places to go on the Canal, like Fishermans Harbor. But that is a story for another day. Ed.

As long as you're in that area, Port Ludlow is another marina with reciprocal moorage, nice facilities, and a very pleasant staff. Our first time there was after a very long day, sailing from Sidney, BC, and we rewarded ourselves with a pretty fabulous pizza that was delivered right to our slip. Good memories.

Port Townsend is the last stop before the Strait of Juan de Fuca. It's one of the best places in the PacNorthwest for boat or engine repairs (and an excellent medical center in case you drop an alternator on your bare foot). There are two excellent marinas; Boat Haven closest to repair facilities and grocery stores, and Point Hudson closer to the 1890s downtown and next to the Point Hudson Cafe, my favorite breakfast place of all time. [see photo: Point Hudson Cafe]



I'm probably doing an injustice to a number of equally fine, possibly better, destinations here in Puget Sound by omitting them. However, I'm just writing this to remind us, myself included, that no matter how long other destinations stay inaccessible, our neighborhood waters still present us with opportunities for great exploration, or simply messing about in boats.

Mike Farley, *Nauti Dog*

**Zoom General Meeting
June 9**
**[You must register to
participate.](#)**

S-t-S Changes, Again?

The plan has been to have something new every Tuesday: that means at least one post some time during the week. So if you visit the site once a week, on Tuesday, there should be something new.

I am reviewing the number of viewers to see if it is worth continuing this schedule, now that we are no longer under the Stay at Home order. Maybe go back to monthly, if the changes come slower than they have been coming? We might even return to normal and go dormant for the summer? Much depends on you, our Members. If you keep looking, and keep writing ... The latter being the most important. It matters not how many want to look, if we have nothing for them to see.

We now have some on the water Club events to report on. But we will still need other things, like your past cruise stories, that is stories *from* your cruises, not necessarily stories *of* the cruise, and advice you can pass on, from boat maintenance to cruising destinations. Maybe with a photo? We are hoping to hear the origins of more boat names. I am a bit shocked no one thought their pet special enough to send in a photo?!

For now, look here Tuesdays for a new post You can bookmark this address, the url will not change, new posts will be added.

SSSS Back on the Water Dinghy Racing Started

We had 7 boats out [Thursday June 4] and ran 4 races in 8 to 10, decreasing to 5, knots of wind on a beautiful night with great social distancing. The seven boats ranged from a Tazar to a Sunfish and no two boats were the same. A true eclectic mix of boats.

There will be racing next week, 18:30 and the RC will be Chris Rulla in the yellow committee boat. If you weren't out, come and join us next week. Suggestions; be careful on the dinghy dock (West Bay Marina requires you to wear masks while on the docks) and the boat launch for social distancing. Take turns, stay apart, relax, and have fun.

Jim Findley, Lido

Come join us, but this year it's BYOB: bring your own boat. Most years we would say come and see if you can get a ride. But unfortunately not this year. No pick up crew. Your crew should come from only one household, yours.

However if you have, or can get your hands on, a boat 20 feet or less with a retractable keel come on out. We race over the mud flats east of Westbay Marina. No entry fee; but you need to register your boat so we can handicap her; best done by e-mail. Then come race. *Remember to keep half a boat length from everyone, both on, and particularly off, the water.*

Steve Worcester

New Program: Crace

Hello Sailors! The South Sound Sailing Society has developed a new program to get us out racing and cruising while still maintaining appropriate social distancing as we recover from the current pandemic. Mary Campbell coined the term Crace when she combined cruising and racing for a recent Halloween Cruise. We are building on that idea by establishing 8 individual courses that can be raced and/or cruised at your own selected time. Racers record and submit their own time, and cruisers can also keep score to compete for fun prizes in the fall. Extra points are awarded for practicing specific boating safety skills while underway. Courses range in length from 3 miles to 103 miles in length. Please read through the [2020 Cracing Program](#) for complete details. The more you sail, the more you score!

Keep the Pointy Side Up!

Your SSSS Crace Committee:

**Jim Larsen,
Mary Campbell,
Rich Adams**

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My Summer Plans

“If you were a bird, and you lived on high,
You’d lean on the wind when the wind came by,
You’d say to the wind when it took you away:
‘That’s where I wanted to go today!’”

“Where am I going? I don’t quite know,
What does it matter where people go?”

A.A. Milne

I would like to plan sailing to all of those destinations I’ve been writing about for several weeks: the San Juan Islands, the Canadian Gulf Islands, Vancouver B.C. Distant places so enjoyable simply because of the effort in just getting there. They’re more than a destination; they’re an achievement. However, the official travel site of the San Juan Islands declares that they hope to welcome visitors back by mid-to-late June, but cautions that “this is a dynamic situation.” The Canadian border might or might not open at the end of June. No one seems to have their arms open. Hence the conclusion: Where am I going? I don’t quite know. [see first photo]

And so this will be the summer that we ditch the plans. *Nauti Dog* has an anchor, a galley, and a holding tank. Oh yeah, and a grill. And a brand-new dinghy.

The question is, where might the wind take us on a given day? There are a number of State parks (latest word: moorage at all parks is available now), over three dozen reciprocals between

Olympia and Port Townsend, and a long list of very pleasant bays and coves where we can just drop anchor.

For this article, for the sake of brevity, I’ll stay within a day’s sail of Olympia.

To begin: If you’ve never been to Jarrells Cove, that’s one of the best places to start. It’s often described as the most gorgeous anchorage south of the San Juan Islands. In addition to the State Park, there’s a marina and/or open space to anchor. The marina has a small store for fuel, beer and even some non-essentials. [see photo: Jarrells Cove]

On the other hand, if the wind takes you north into Drayton Passage there are a couple of great options. The Longbranch Improvement Club Marina, our traditional host for the Halloween Cruise, is in a very tranquil bay. It has shore power and a large covered area with tables and barbecue grills. The fact that it also has a book exchange gives you a clue as to the predominant vibe there. [see photo: View from Longbranch next page]

At the eastern exit to Drayton Passage is Eagle Island. Given the current that runs past it the term tranquil doesn’t quite fit [*I was tied to a mooring buoy on the east side; it was pulled under when the current was strong Ed.*] but the view of Mt. Rainier from the mooring buoy on the east side makes it worthwhile. There are two additional buoys on the western side. There are nice trails through the densely-wooded island, but you need to be careful of the poison oak. To me the island’s best feature is



Where am I going]
All photos by Mike Farley



Jarrells Cove

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the excellent clamming at negative tides; easily the best meal I ever had on a boat.

Either sailing around the eastern side of McNeil Island, or motoring carefully through Pitt Passage during high tide, you get into Carr Inlet and can visit several of the spots Peter Puget described during his first encounter with the native Americans in this area. Many Members are already familiar with Mayo Cove which features Penrose Point Marine State Park with a number of facilities for boaters. Getting to the dock can be pretty sketchy, especially at lower tides, so I recommend using one of the eight mooring buoys and going ashore by dinghy.

Further North and through the Narrows, you can round Point Defiance and, referring to your onboard copy of the State ferries schedule, skirt the ferry dock and tuck into the cove where there's reciprocal moorage either at the Tacoma Yacht Club or just across the waterway at Breakwater Marina (through the Fircrest Yacht Club). From here it's a very short walk to Point Defiance Park with miles of walking trails among old-growth Douglas Fir. [see photo: Point Defiance forest]

Further south, along Ruston Way toward the Foss Waterway of Tacoma, is the Old Town Dock which gives access to the Northern Fish store. Here you can get the fixings for a truly memorable meal.

Across from Point Defiance is Quartermaster Harbor, between Vashon and Maury Islands. This is fun to explore and has yet another reciprocal moorage, Quartermaster Yacht Club, within

walking distance of one of those everything stores you find in small towns. [I am philosophically opposed to the word quaint, otherwise ...

Rounding out this close to home tour, I'd recommend a visit to Gig Harbor. Many of our stops in Gig Harbor are only long enough for lunch, and that because of the Tides Tavern with great food and lots of space on its dock for tying up while you dine. On the other hand, Gig Harbor has many options for moorage and is an eminently walkable village with shops, dining, galleries and, especially, boat supplies.

I'll end the article at Gig Harbor since it's at the entrance to Colvos Passage, which is the gateway to a whole other menu of great destinations while still staying south of Port Townsend. And again, all of those destinations are easily accessible from Budd Bay by just letting the wind take you away.

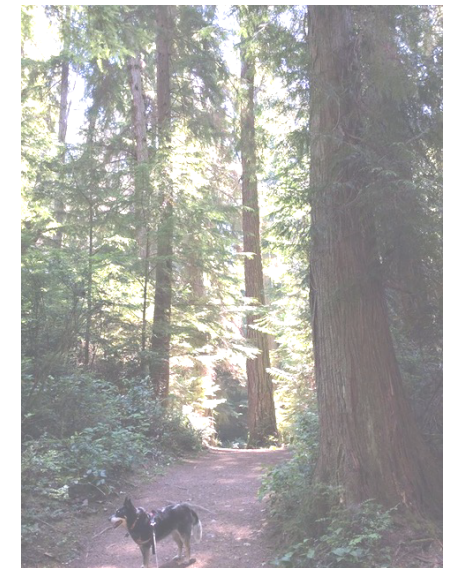
Mike Farley, *Nauti Dog*

This article is not encyclopedic. I would think our Members know more South Sound destinations. Maybe even some you would share? A couple are obvious:

Let's not forget Hope Island just because it is close. If you can not get away early, it is an excellent first night stop. It is also a destination, being one of the largest State Parks in the South Sound. There are two SSSS Cruise destinations not to be missed: McMicken Island, again the whole island is a State Park; further up Case Inlet is Vaughn Bay. I'm stopping only for lack of space. Let's hear from you. Give Mike some ideas.



View from Longbranch



Point Defiance forest

Question: where is the best spot for viewing fireworks?