



British Columbia Multihull Society

August 2021

Encountering *Orgyia Pseudotagata**

Ken Pepperdine



This summer's two week cruise was scheduled to begin June 26 which happened to be in the midst of the unusual heat wave that we all remember. Media outlets were constantly warning everyone to stay somewhere cool, be hydrated and remember the signs of heat stroke with the temperatures forecast in the 30's for the next couple of days. Having pre-planned our summer cruise, we decided to set off anyway, leaving the comfy air conditioned the house behind. Hopes of a cooler breeze off of Georgia Strait led us

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towards the destination of Kendrick Bay at the top of Valdes Island with the thought that “a bit cooler “ would be good enough.

It was a pleasant gennaker reach to Kendrick Bay, and we anchored at the north end to maximize the possibility of air movement. Towards evening, when the mosquito screen question always arises, we opted against them for the risk of stifling any further air flow, besides, we hadn't seen any “mozzies” to that point. We reasoned that a bite or two would be preferential to hyPERthermia, we also thought that a cooling dip before bed should help...and it did. So after a Mexican nightcap, it was off to bed remembering to turn the anchor light on due to our exposed position.

A bit of background here before continuing.....

Our spring project was to renew the headliner in the port forward berth and head, the end result of which exceeded our expectations. As part of the project I replaced the lights in the head and forward berth with some nifty L.E.D. lights that were on sale at Harbour Chandler. The lights were each a long series of L.E.D.'s that I mounted vertically in each compartment. Interestingly, the bottom L.E.D. was illuminated blue, and acted as both a night light and off on switch when the main panel switch was on. It takes only the lightest touch to that bottom blue L.E.D. and “voila” lights on..... sooo..... how you say.....sexy... I would find out just how sexy a bit later.

Back to the story..



At about 0200 I awoke to the kind of chaos that a mildly tequila numbed brain just could not at all process. There were crazy flashing lights and a soft swishing sound that together were utterly alien to anything I'd ever

experienced. The first thought in my half-awake state was “this F#\$%ng boat is possessed”. The second thought was that my fancy-schmancy lights were malfunctioning [wrong on both counts]. Trying to process this insane scenario, I crawled out of my berth and stumbled naked into the unworldly scene of one or two hundred moths... yes really that many..., flying around in the head and forward berth. Every time one would brush by either sensitive little blue switch it

would turn that light on or off, and all of this was happening randomly at a very very high rate. This was like some kind of “moth disco orgy”. Of course, much after the fact, it became obvious



that they were drawn down from the anchor light by the little blue light, and once brushed.... well, the party was on and word really got outI had just arrived late and uninvited, that's all.

Standing in astonishment, my

first thought was “fix this now cause if Wendy see's this she's gonna swim home!”

Please.....now before reading this next part, remember.....suddenly awakened.....standing naked with mild tequila brain....flashing disco lights....hundreds of moths....OK?

Given the above situation I did the only logical thing... grab the handy drinking cup by the sink and trap the moths, covering the top of the cup with my hand until I had a bunch in it then fling them out through the open hatch hoping they wouldn't fly back in [which a few did]. It was like bailing the boat of moths without first plugging the moth leak, [not unlike the guy with the apparent empty bucket bailing his boat of propane]. After an hour or so of valiant and slightly comedic moth wrangling [a sketch for Monty Python with Marty Feldman as the “Moth Man”, if there ever was one] it was down to only a few stragglers. Thinking I'd be able to take care of those in the morning, I closed the hatches shut off the lights at the panel and went back to bed with only the occasional soft flutter as a reminder.

In the morning I arose early and opened the hatches so the stragglers could make their escape. Many appeared to be sleeping it off on deck where they landed, and the few left inside were so tired from their night of debauchery, that for them it was back to cup, trap, and fling, or at this later point in my frustration, just pinch them by the wing and launch them to freedom.

After this final effort, I felt a great sense of achievement having conquered the winged invasion. Wendy woke up none the wiser, and asked how I'd slept, upon which I related my heroic story, much to her mirth. Later of course, that achievement was tempered, when I noticed the super bright headlamp, lying on the chart table. I simply could have used it outside of the open hatch to invite them back to the outdoor party after turning the interior party lights off.

I just hadn't read that solution in 48 North

*Orgy Pseudotsugata [Tussoc Moth]

Check out BCMS News @ www.bcms.bc.ca

Newcastle Sail-in

Photos: Alec Mackenzie

The Newcastle sail-in was well attended. We took advantage of the relaxed restrictions to have dinner at the Dinghy Dock Pub. It was great to catch up with everyone.



BCMS Labour Day weekend sail-in at Port Browning

Alec Mackenzie

**** As always, this gathering is subject to the rules and recommendations made by the BC public health authorities ****

We have a full weekend planned with lots of outdoor socializing, a fun race and a group dinner.

Schedule:

Friday/Saturday (September 3rd & 4th) – Arrive and anchor off the beach at Port Browning. Alternatively, make your own arrangements to tie up to the Port Browning Docks <https://www.portbrowning.ca/>

Come ashore to visit the nearby shopping center <https://penderislandshopping.com/> (food, drinks, etc.), explore the Island, or socialize.

The Farmers market <https://www.pifi.ca/farmers-market> is open from 09:30 to 13:00 hours on Saturday. It is about a mile up the road at the junction of Otter bay road.

Saturday evening Dinner (~18:00 hours) – Group meal under the tent on the lawn in front of the Port Browning Pub. Bring your own food and beverages. Cook your food on the provided grill.

Sunday morning

Breakfast on your own. Some may wish to eat at the Port Browning Restaurant.

Fun race:

Ron will come up with some courses and perhaps some unusual rules just to keep it interesting.

Skippers meeting at 10:00 on the lawn in front of the Port Browning pub. If you don't wish to race your own boat you may be able to crew on another, subject to Covid-19 rules. Crew assignments will be discussed at the Skippers meeting, so attend the meeting if you want to participate.

Race start at 12:00 noon (or other time agreed to at the skippers meeting) off razor point at the east end of the harbour.

Race wrap-up and prizes on the beach at 17:00

Sunday evening Dinner

We were not able to reserve the tent for Sunday night and none of the local restaurants are able to cater to large groups due to Covid restrictions and staff shortages. It may be possible for some small groups to eat at Jo's or the Pub at Port Browning. Alternatively, consider dinner on the beach (bring your own food and non-alcoholic beverages) or have dinner on your boat. Some may enjoy socializing in the pub after dinner.

Monday, September 6th – Say your goodbye's before returning home or travelling on to your next destination.

Many BCMS members have expressed an interest in attending, so we are looking for a great turnout.

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