

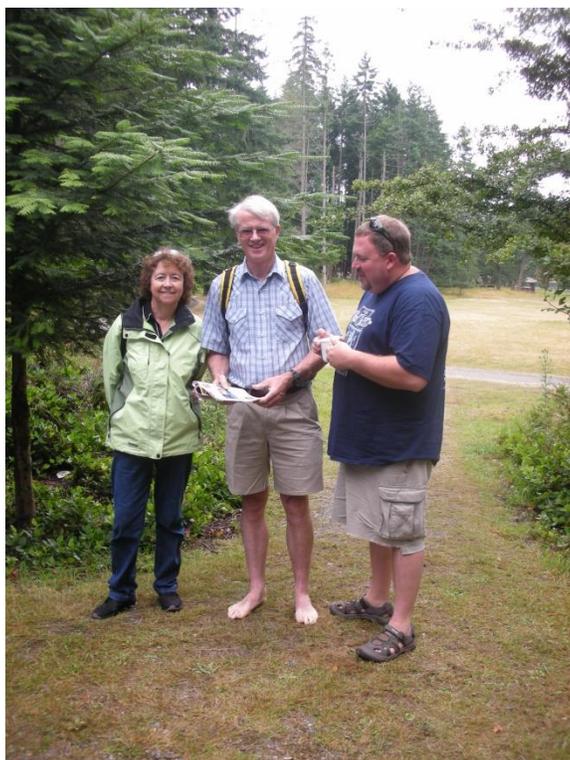


British Columbia Multihull Society

July 2021

BCMS Summer sailing plans

Alec Mackenzie



I apologise for the last-minute notice, but we have been waiting for Covid restrictions ease and things to open up before we finalized our plans.

Many of us are now vaccinated and most travel restrictions removed. Group gatherings are now allowed both inside and out. Daily new Covid-19 cases continue to fall and Vaccine uptake numbers continue to rise. The Covid-19 situation looks good for the rest of this summer, but caution is still the order of the day. Some people remain unvaccinated and are at heightened risk of catching and spreading the disease. Others are vaccinated, but at a higher risk because of underlying health conditions. New, more infectious variants continue to arrive at our shores. These concerns continue to influence the rate at which the Province Opens up.

The BCMS normally runs two major summer events, the Newcastle Island Sail-in in late July and the Port

Browning sail-in on the September long weekend. Here is what we have planned for this year:

Newcastle Rendezvous

As of now, the City of Nanaimo has canceled the bathtub race and other festivities that we normally enjoy as part of our sail in. This cancelation, along with the lingering concerns outlined above, has forced the BCMS directors to develop a modified plan for this year.

The BCMS Directors decided on a 'Rendezvous' style gathering this year, with no formal support from specific BCMS members.

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Newcastle schedule

1. Friday, July 23rd. Cruise to Mark Bay at Newcastle Island on the morning tide change at Dodd Narrows (for those arriving from the South) and secure Park moorings in Mark Bay. With the Sea festival canceled, moorings may be more available, but you never know, so plan to arrive early. After arrival, we can socialize on our boats or in the park. The Park has a great trail system, ice cream and snack sales, washrooms and showers. We may try for dinner at the Dinghy Dock Pub – a short dinghy ride from the moorings – or see if we can order Pizza. Dinner venue to be determined in the late afternoon.
2. Saturday, July 24th. More time to socialize and enjoy walking the trails in the park, ending with a bring-your-own-food meal on the picnic tables right beside the anchorage. Alcoholic beverages are not allowed in the park, so stick to Sarsaparilla or something that at least looks non-alcoholic. Fireworks are unlikely this year, but we are a resourceful bunch so I am sure we can work out other ways to entertain ourselves.
3. Sunday, July 25th. Say our goodbyes before departing, with some boats heading back home and others heading north to Desolation Sound or points beyond. Nanaimo is a great place to provision with all shops a short walk from the Boat basin directly across from our Mark Bay moorings.

Post Newcastle Cruising



Some members are planning to start their summer cruising from Nanaimo. We have no fixed itinerary but expect each boat to go its own way at its own speed, joining the others from time to time at convenient anchorages such as Manson's Landing, Squirrel Cove, Rebecca spit, Prideaux Haven, Roscoe bay, Pendrell Sound... (I could go on and on!). We can use the (intermittent) cell service for phone or data communication and there is always VHF channel 16 when all else fails. This is a fun way to do your own thing

while enjoying the company of others at your discretion.

Labour Day Weekend Sail-in

We hope this gets us back to our regularly scheduled events

1. Arrive at Port Browning on Saturday, September 4th and anchor off the beach or book space at the Marina. Make sure you set your anchor well and have room to swing. The holding can be poor if you pick the wrong spot or don't have sufficient scope. We have booked the Tent and Barbeque space on the lawn in front of the Port Browning Pub for that evening. Bring your own food from your boat or purchase food at the grocery store at the Driftwood center, ten minutes' walk up the road. You can also order food from the pub kitchen and I am sure the marina will be glad for the business.



2. Sunday September 5th. This is where it starts to feel like normal again! For those who wish to do some sailing, we plan to have our usual fun race around Plumper Sound with guests and crew on board to share the fun. Our Sunday evening plans are unsettled at this time, but may include Dinner catered by Jo, replete with good food, drink and, most important of all, the coveted prizes and trophies. We may need to make alternate

arrangements depending in the situation at that time.

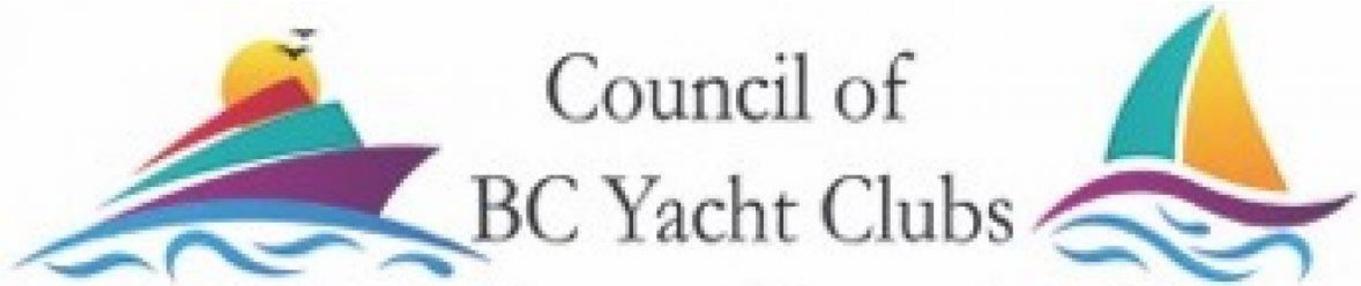
3. Monday, September 6th. Breakfast on your own - on your boat, or at the Port Browning Restaurant. Say our goodbyes and head for home or a little more cruising.

Sadly, that will be the end of our much-abbreviated sailing season. I hope everyone can get their boats operational and make it to these events. It will be great to see everyone in person and, with luck, we may be able to catch a glimpse of a few naked faces!

Wanted: Newsletter articles

BCMS members, we desperately need articles for our upcoming newsletters. Please send photos and essays on all things multihull – repair projects, sailing adventures, hot tips to share with our members, or (almost) anything that suits your fancy. Get your pens out and your cameras ready!

Please send submissions directly to the newsletter editor at: wsc5968@gmail.com. We can help you with final editing or even discuss an article topic before you start. Looking forward to some interesting submissions.



Council of BC Yacht Clubs report

Alec Mackenzie

Marlene and I attended the June meeting of the CBCYC. It was a full agenda covering many issues of interest to recreational boaters. There seems to be a lot going on as we work our way out of the Covid -19 restrictions. I selected some of the bigger issues that may be of interest to BCMS members.

Government Liaison – Report presented from the RBAC (Recreational Boating Advisory Council) meeting.

- Interesting fact: Pleasure Craft Operator Cards issued went up by 128% from 2019 to 2020, and they have doubled again in for the first few months of 2021!
- The consultation period for the proposed changes to pleasure boat licencing is over and it appears that these changes will be implemented and Gazetted by 2022. These changes will affect most BCMS members. Changes include:
 - \$15 fee for licencing and renewal. Boating BC (representing BC marine trades such as boat vendors) suggested the licencing fee should be higher, although no reason was given. \$15 for a 5 year boat license is certainly low, so I would expect this to increase over time, regardless.
 - Renewal to be every five years rather than ten.
 - Change of ownership will have to be completed within 30 rather than 60 days.
 - In addition to boats with engines over 10 HP, all boats over 6 m (excluding human powered) will have to be licenced.
 - It will be easier to cancel licences.
- **PFDs:** There is a researcher at Transport Canada looking at the whole issue of mandatory PFD wearing. An online survey was done and this year they will be observing the actual level of wear at various sites and in various conditions. They are doing promotional messaging regarding PFD wear and will do more observation in 2022 to see if there has been any change. The results of all this will go to **CMAC** and the **RBAC**. Transport Canada is also looking at approving more wearable PFDs and more cross border approval of PFDs.

Luxury Tax

The proposed luxury tax on new boats is almost certainly going to be in place by the end of this year. This new tax appears to be virtue signalling without considering the consequences (if you

want to tax rich people there are better ways to do it) This new tax could have a profoundly negative effect on boat manufacturers and their suppliers. **Boating BC** has been fighting this. Much of the data to support their argument comes from a similar tax rule in the USA that decimated the US boat manufacturing industry until the tax was rescinded. Here is a link to an explanation and their arguments against the tax:

https://mcusercontent.com/686385416003dd0ba3cacf8ab/files/62c2da4d-4b62-2f0f-7ca3-f4bf2e5b38a9/Luxury_tax.pdf

Moorage shortages

BCMS member Richard Britton asked me to raise some questions at the CBCYC meeting regarding the apparent loss of moorage along the Fraser River. Richard thought it might be driven by federal government restrictions, but it turns out it is not that simple. There was some discussion and several Council members offered a number of reasons for these losses including a mix of regulating authorities such as the Fraser River Port Authority, Municipal, and Provincial Governments, along with changes in upland usage.

The council agreed that this is a concern to recreational boaters, but as the waterfront may involve a number of different levels of government, it could be complex to investigate. They requested I ask Richard to investigate some examples to see if we can identify some specific causes that they might take action on. Over to you Richard!

Council of BC Yacht Clubs name change

The Council of BC Yacht clubs has been considering a name change to remove the term "Yacht" from the name as some fear it is viewed as elitist by some Government staff, possibly negatively impacting our lobbying power.

There was considerable discussion on this subject. A formal name change requires a 14 day notice of the motion, and a 2/3 majority of those present to pass. As an alternative, an informal change to a subtitle such as "A Voice for BC Recreational Boaters" on our website does not require any formal approval.

A number of yacht clubs do not seem to feel strongly about a name change. Others feel the name change would be a positive move to give the Council a less elitist and more inclusive name. It was suggested that, to retain the original mandate of the Council, the name include a phrase such as 'recreational boating associations' rather than "yacht clubs".

Moved/seconded Michael Swangard/Tom Hammond, that a committee be established to investigate all aspects of changing the name and purposes of the organization: to report back to the members at least one month prior to the September meeting. Motion carried.

Bad Kitty Reminicing...

Alec Mackenzie

As a continuation of Bad Kitty's trip down memory lane, I thought I would share a link to a video of Bad Kitty crossing Nahwitti Bar in the 2015 VanIsle360 race. Just one of dozens of 'adventures' I have experienced on Bad Kitty over the last 40 years.

When I first started sailing with Karl in the 1980's I heard a lot of stories about his outlandish 'adventures' and thought to myself: "those stories just can't be true". They really were beyond belief. By the time Karl died in 2010 I had long since learned that his stories were true and told with no embellishment. How did I discover this? By then I had witnessed about half the situations on which his stories were based and can attest to their veracity.

Some people talk...Some people plan...And Karl just went and did it.

As this video will attest, we honour Karl by continuing to push the limits



Click on this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pRM_DRIHr6M

or

Google "Bad Kitty does Nahwitti Bar"

2020 / 2021 Directors list

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