



Shilshole Bay Yacht Club

Rudderpost

February 2008

Get ready for spring!

We just moved to our new slip on P dock. The biggest job was moving all of the stuff that accumulates in the dock box. This was a great opportunity to sort through and reorganize it all. I was hoping to create some extra room but it seems like the new dock box is already full. The marina is not allowing anything to be left loose on the dock these days. That means when we leave the dock everything needs to be in the dock box except the wash down hose and the dock lines. We try to keep the boat as light as possible so there is a lot of stuff to offload before leaving the dock; heater, dehumidifier, sail covers, fenders and such. Maybe I should get a dinghy to store stuff on!

The days are starting to get a little longer and maybe slightly warmer. The football season is wrapping up. Time to start making plans for the racing and cruising season! A lot of us sail year around but now is a good time to get our boats as well as our bodies ready for the upcoming season. We have several very experienced sailors and power boaters in our club and I am



Chuck Stephens
Commodore

The Shilshole Bay Yacht Club Rudderpost is published once a month, except July and August. You can receive your issue by regular mail, or via a color pdf by email.

Your contributions are always welcome! The next deadline is March 8, 2008. For more information, contact Sandra Munro, Rudderpost Editor. Please indicate anything you do not want placed in the web version.

Member addresses and phone numbers are not published in the web version. Refer to your Club Roster for contact information.

sure any of them would be glad to give advice or a helping hand with your boat, just ask. As far as preparing your body, our favorite club member MD, Betsy is off cruising so we are a little more on your own here but please do take the time to visit your doctor, get a checkup and do any recommended preventive maintenance.

I missed the boat show but thanks to The Sailing Magazine *48° North*, I have noticed some upcoming events that I would encourage all of us to checkout: *48° North/USCG/Race Committee meeting on 2/4,*

West Marine Seattle presents "Cruising Destinations on Puget Sound" on 2/9, US Sailing Safety at Sea seminar at the South Lake Union Armory on 2/9 & 10, North U at SYC in the Fireside Room, Dave Dellenbaugh presents Rules and Tactics on 2/10, Basic Race Management seminar at CYC on 2/23, Coast Guard-Approved First Aid at Sea course presented by Washington Sea Grant and the Port of Seattle/Fishermen's Terminal on 2/26. Additional information on these as well as many other

boater education listings are available on the web at

<http://www.48north.com/calendar/feb2008.htm>

Now where is that "to do" list...

Chuck Stephens
Commodore

Shilshole Bay Yacht Club

www.shilsholebayyc.org

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You are invited to have dinner with the Captain!

Thank you all for making the January dinner meeting a great success. Joe Whinney gave a wonderful talk on Theo Chocolate and it was great to see you all there. So hopefully I can keep going with another informative speaker. This month we have Captain Jeffery Sanders who will talk to us about becoming a Captain and how he teaches the public through his classes and his books. The link to SBYC is that Jeff taught Sam Haney everything she knows about being a Captain. Did you know that Sam is a Captain? Just ask Michael - and we all know who runs *Malolo!* In any case I know Jeff will put on a very informative and entertaining evening. Below is a little snippet of what he does. The Dinner Meeting will be on Thursday, February 21, at Anthony's on Shilshole. Happy hour starts at 6:00. Dinner will be served at 7:00. For your dinner selection we will have Ling Cod or Flank Steak. I will again use the Evite format or you can contact me directly. Please do so by Monday the 18th. I will be traveling for work until Wednesday the 20th but fear not! I will be able to have dinner ready when I return.

Captain Jeffrey Sanders founded United States Maritime Academy in 1987 in Honolulu, Hawaii and has trained thousands of students for their Coast Guard Captain's License. Capt. Sanders was among the first instructors to become certified to teach Coast Guard approved license classes offering training in lieu of CG examinations. USMA now has branches throughout the country which uses texts and exams written by Capt. Sanders and approved by the U.S. Coast Guard. He is the author of numerous navigation manuals, the latest being a " The Celestial Navigation Recipe Book" which offers a unique step by step menu for using the sextant. He has over 75.000 nm of blue water experience and presently resides on Marrowstone Island with his dog Newbe and his vessel Orpheus beckoning him from his beachfront.

Trevor Sterry
Vice Commodore

Race Report

Attention all racers! The final snowbird is scheduled for March 15, with a very reasonable 11:00 am starting time. The spring racing season will have already started by that point and this might be the perfect opportunity to shave that last crucial second off your gybe to help earn the pickle dish I know you all want for the tri-island series. Also, we have been taking some photos from the committee boat and have them all posted on our web page. This has turned out to be a great series so far with some extremely competitive racing and great conditions.

Please check out the website @ <http://www.shilsholebayyc.org/racing.htm> for the photos and more information on any of these races. We also have a link to the Seattle Area Racing calendar on the site as well so you all can book your calendars early and keep out club's race record as good as ever!

Also, if there are any club members that are interested in seeing how the races are actually put on and would like to come out on the committee boat, please contact me for more information!

Lauren Buchholz
Race Chair

SBYC on the Internet

Don't forget to visit the SBYC web site at www.shilsholebayyc.org. All the 2008 cruise and race events are listed as well as race results, past Rudderposts, and an updated list of the yacht clubs providing reciprocal moorage for our members this year. The site is updated often and the home page always lists upcoming events. As always, if you want to see any other new items, have some cruise event or race photos to post, or just have some feedback or comments, please contact me.

We also have a private SBYC group on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=20104338160>, or just search to "SBYC" in Facebook. Come and join the group to participate in discussions, post your own photos and videos, create your own events or social gatherings, and interact with other members with all the fun social networking applications Facebook has to offer. This SBYC group will always be restricted to members only.

David Horn
Webmaster

Cruise Report

Spring ain't sprung yet, but it will come. It's time to seriously start thinking about cruising again!

As I mull over the planned club cruises it becomes apparent that I am going to be looking for some help from volunteers again. The biggest challenge will be planning and running the June dinner dance, although I will also be looking for help with the Burger Burn in May and the Salmon Bake at Brownsville in September. Please let me know if you would like to help out. I would like to have a first meeting of volunteers for the June Dinner Dance by late March. We need to establish a theme for the dinner dance, in addition to food planning, entertainment and decorating and other myriad tasks. All suggestions for a theme will be welcome. Well, almost all. Several excellent themes have already been suggested, but I will keep mum so as not to spoil your creative juices. Please email or call me if you're interested in helping on any of these tasks.

There seems to be some confusion as to whether the Salmon Bake will be at Brownsville or Blake Island. As per the Roster and articles in the Rudderpost, it will be at Brownsville again this year. This turned out to be a very popular venue last year. Unfortunately I couldn't avoid a conflict with the Foul Weather Bluff Race. Hopefully some of you can do both. I used to do both on Bedford Lass, all the way to Blake Island, and you guys have much faster boats!

We are still considering a joint event with the racing crowd in September during the Trans Puget. Maybe a cruise, or maybe turn up for the dancing and party afterwards. A second chance to swing to the tropics shouldn't be missed.

Mark the following dates in your calendars:

February 22 rd -23 th	Ski Cruise to Wenatchee If you haven't already done so, it's still may not be too late to reserve rooms at the Red Lion. The SBYC special rate has expired but they may still have rooms. I secured a room at a good rate via the internet two weeks ago. You may have noticed that the mountains have been receiving large dumps of snow. Both downhill and cross country should be excellent this year
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Detailed information on the following cruises will be forthcoming in future issues of the Rudderpost

March 21 st – March 23 rd	Spring Fling to Blake Island.
May 17 th - 18 th	Blake Island Burger Burn
June 6 th – 8 th	June Dinner Dance at Kingston
July 3 rd -4 th	Poulsbo and Elliot Bay fireworks raft ups
August 9 th - 10 th	Port Orchard Hot Rod Show
September 26 th -28 th	Salmon bake at Brownsville

Cheers-
John Sterry
Cruise Chair

Happy New Year 2008!

Dear Family and Friends,

We are currently visiting in the NW and have just returned from a week spent with family and friends in Boise, Idaho. Sadly, we were in Idaho to attend the funeral of Michael's mother. We miss her very much.

Our stay in Seattle will be until February 15th, at which time we will return to our sailboat *Destiny*. *Destiny* is currently moored in Opuia, New Zealand. Upon returning to New Zealand we intend to spend March and April visiting destinations along the NZ North Island's East Coast before sailing north to the tropics in late April or early May. Our voyage plans this year are to cruise Fiji, Vanuatu, New Caledonia then sail to Brisbane, Australia sometime in November. We will be returning to the northwest for the 2008 Holiday Season and stay for a longer visit into next year.

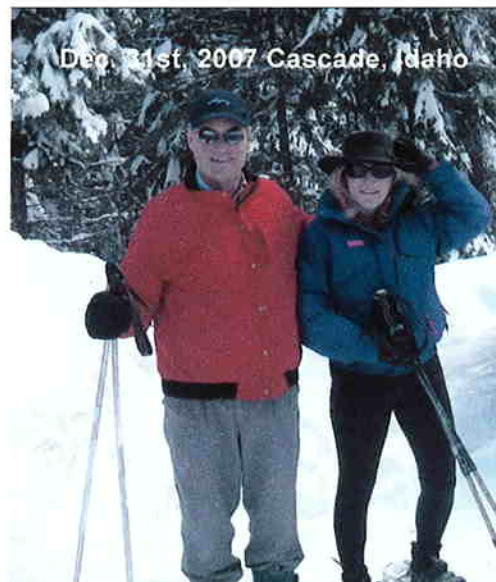
Our last letter was sent out in late May 2007, approximately a week before we planned to depart New Zealand to sail and spend the cruising season in the major island groups of Tonga: Tongatapu, Haipai and Vava'U. At our last writing, we had completed nearly 7 months of work on boat system upgrades, sprinkled with a few weeks of cruising in New Zealand's Bay of Islands.



On June 3rd, 2007, we checked out of NZ Customs, setting sail for Tonga with high expectations. Unfortunately we were forced to return less than 25 miles out, as our newly installed auto pilot failed. Over the next two weeks we worked with the manufacturer while they sorted out the problem, and began waiting for another "weather window". Our next opportunity to make the sail north came about in mid June. The afternoon of our intended departure we discovered water in the oil of our diesel engine, which we had rebuilt during our extended time away from cruising (spring 2002 to September 2006). This is a serious problem and one we could not ignore as the engines reliability was now highly suspect. After a brief deliberation, we made the decision to replace the rebuilt engine with a brand new one. This was an expensive, albeit necessary, decision as having a reliable engine is a must as we sail around the world. Installation of the new engine took a few weeks, resulting in a late departure from NZ in mid July. We left NZ for Tonga in a weather forecast that was less than perfect, but as good as we were likely to get given the time of year.

Our passage to Tonga was a mostly bumpy ride, made more difficult by yet continued failures of our autopilot. For a majority of the trip, wind/sea conditions were too much for our "autopilot backup", the wind steering system. As a result, we had to manually steer *Destiny* much of the 10 day trip. Although conditions were uncomfortable, we never felt seriously threatened or had doubts about the integrity of the boat. Our previous ocean sailing experience, coupled with past years of Pacific NW racing, helped us tremendously both in terms of our ability to handle the boat, as well as confidence in ourselves and *Destiny*.

Because of our late departure from NZ, we intended to skip Tonga's Tongatapu Island Group (as well





as its esthetically challenged capital city of Nuka Alofa) in favor of visiting the Kingdom's more beautiful Ha'apai and Vava'U island groups. However, the failed autopilot, and other problems that arose as the result of its failure, forced us to check into the Kingdom of Tonga at its capitol city Nuka Alofa located in the Tongatapu group.

Although Nuka Alofa lived up to its "esthetically challenged" reputation, the city's limitations were totally offset by warm friendships we made with Tongan people. We were befriended by Tongan people who were among the most generous and caring people of our travels thus far. We were overwhelmed by their

many acts of kindness and interest in getting to know us. We were offered the gift of friendship by Tongans of divergent economic and occupation backgrounds. We did not experience animosity that has been reported by other visitors in the past.

It took nearly five weeks in Nuka Alofa to make repairreplace the failed with a new one. All but a few days of this time was spent anchored in the City's dirty inner harbor.

Although we were happy to leave Nuka Alofa, we were also saddened to say farewell to our new friends from the Kingdom of Tonga. Upon hearing of our departure, they brought by gifts of fruits, handicrafts and hugs, sending us off with tearful goodbyes.

As we now only had a couple of months left to cruise, we decided sail past the Ha'apai group and sail directly to the Kingdom's northernmost large island group Vava'U. Vava'U was a special destination, as it was the last tropical island group we visited in 2001 before making the passage to New Zealand and returning to the States in 2002.

The Vava'U group is comprised of dozens of accessible anchorages on more than 20 beautiful islands. It is cruiser and low key tourist oriented and well charted. Its principal town, Neiafu, has restaurants and services including dive operators, Internet cafes and WiFi, all of which are available from a pleasant anchorage in the city's bay. We thoroughly enjoyed visiting beautiful anchorages in the Vava 'U group, as well as our time spent anchored in Neiafu.



Much to our delight, the extended family of our Tongan friends from Nuka Alofa resulted in friendships in Vava'U as well. We were able to meet their family members living in Neiafu. Once again we were invited into their home for a Sunday meal and were picked up at our *Destiny* by a family member who makes his living by fishing.

We deeply appreciate what we believe to be quite a unique opportunity, to establish friendship with these Tongan families. Being ito share in their lifestyle at a personal level was very meaningful.