

# CLASSIC YACHTING

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER PRODUCED BY AND FOR THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST FLEET OF THE CLASSIC YACHT ASSOCIATION

## IN THIS ISSUE

Thanksgiving 2023

Page 6

Electrifying a Classic

Page 4



Opening Day

Page 3



Photo by Jim Paynton

# From the Bridge of Compadre

By Commodore Rick Randall



As we start a new year, I'd like to share a few thoughts about the state of the PNW Fleet and what I see for the year ahead. First, I want to acknowledge the contributions of our recent Fleet leaders, and especially PC Tina Stotz and Staff Commodore Todd Powell. They guided us through the challenges of the Covid years with strong leadership, fresh ideas, and a clear sense of direction. My challenge is to build on that strong foundation. And I also want to thank VC Mike Passage and RC Tim Balzer for stepping up and being a part of the Bridge.

The Fleet began 2024 with 169 members, up slightly from 164 at the beginning of last year. Twenty-six new members joined during 2023; however, 21 members did not renew in 2024. Our small net gain year-over-year is encouraging, but I think we can do better.

At the PNW Change of Watch in October I said I had two goals this year: Increase member retention, and increase member participation. I'll have more to say about retention in a future issue, but today I want to focus

on participation and engagement. I'm sure all of us were encouraged to see event participation improve during 2023 and mostly return to pre-Covid levels. We had good attendance at the Bell Harbor show, with around 45 boats. We also saw attendance increase at our main social event, the Fleet Change of Watch Banquet. And I am particularly pleased that 16 PNW members are active in the CYA Strategic Plan Working Groups, making up more than half of all Working Group members.

This is all great, but is it good enough? I don't think so. Not when we struggle to find members willing to fill key roles, and Bridge officers and Directors continue to be drawn from the same small group of dedicated members. As in many organizations, a small fraction of PNW members carry most of the load. That must change if we are to continue to thrive as an organization.

I hope we can encourage more participation and engagement by fostering a greater sense of community and fellowship within the Fleet. And I think one way to do that is to get together more

frequently without our boats. Todd Powell started the Dry Dock meet-ups last year to encourage members to gather informally and get to know one another. Those events were well attended, and you will notice elsewhere in this issue that we had another Dry Dock in January. If you missed that one, you will have another chance in April. We have another non-boating event in the planning stages for March, so please watch your email and the PNW Events page on the website for an announcement. I'm hoping that the better acquainted we are, the more likely we will be to engage in other CYA activities. ■



Pacific Northwest

**CLASSIC YACHTING**

*Official Newsletter*

*of the*

*Pacific Northwest Fleet,  
Classic Yacht Association*

Rick Randall.....Commodore  
Mike Passage.....Vice Commodore  
Tim Balzer.....Rear Commodore  
Todd Powell.....Staff Commodore  
John Lebens.....Oregon Staff  
Commodore

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**Next Newsletter Submission  
Deadline April 15**

*If you wish to opt out of a printed newsletter, log in to your CYA profile page, select 'edit profile,' then scroll down to 'newsletter mailing preferences'; 'save' when you finish.*

# The FO'C'S'LE

By Matt Paynton, Newsletter Editor

Old is in! Don't believe me? Here's some truth: In 2023 alone, we saw Harrison Ford return to the silver screen as Indiana Jones and Michael Keaton don Batman's cowl again in *The Flash* after over thirty years since his last outing as The Caped Crusader. The Beatles had a Number One hit for the first time since 1969 with the new song, *Now and Then* featuring all four members of the band one last time. Despite living in an age of digital music and streaming platforms, the Fab Four's new song had the distinction of being the highest selling *vinyl* of the 21st Century, with the single selling on 12" black and colored vinyl, 45 rpm singles (also available in black and colored vinyl) as well as on CD and even on *cassette tape*!

I'll admit that it probably doesn't take much to be the biggest selling vinyl of the 2000's, since the format was



all but dead twenty years ago, but it is still an interesting milestone that says a lot about what we love and what we spend our money on in 2024.

And just last month, 74-year old Billy Joel released his first new music in thirty years with a single called, *Turn the Lights Back On*.

It's hard to say if it is all nostalgia driven, or if there's something else that has these septuagenarian and octogenarian actors and musicians still holding our attention, imagination and not to mention our money!

So, regardless of what their hold on us is, I think it bodes well for other "old" things, like our boats! There's still a fascination and an interest in bygone technologies that harken back to a simpler time, even if you aren't even old enough to remember it first hand. Life seems to keep getting faster, and time seems to pass ever more quickly, making it all the more important to slow it down, and try to remember how it used to be, even if it means you have to *Turn the Lights Back On* every *Now and Then*. ■

## Opening Day 2024 is Almost Here

By Diane Lander (#926)

Get your boats ready – Opening Day 2024 is almost here! Bring your boat out for Opening Day on Saturday, May 4, 2024. This year's theme is "Pirates and Pursuers" and promises to be really fun.

CYA has again procured 150 feet of side tie free moorage (no electricity) on Dock Zero at Seattle Yacht Club. We are the only group who is allowed to side tie because of the configurations of most of our boats. The Dock Zero Dockmaster is again Larry Benson. If you wish to moor your boat on Dock Zero contact Larry Benson at [larryleebenson@comcast.net](mailto:larryleebenson@comcast.net) and/or 206-790-6681 and let him know your length, beam and date of arrival. Dock Zero opens on Thursday morning. We can fit a maximum of six boats, three on the dock and up to three rafted depending on size. No boats over 60'.

In addition to the fun on Dock Zero and the parade (details below) be sure to join us for our Annual CYA Opening Day party – this year at 5:30 on Friday, May 3 to be held as a roving potluck aboard our CYA boats on Dock Zero. Bring an appetizer or dessert to share, your drink, and join the fun. Even if you don't bring your boat, join your CYA friends at our annual party. Come to Seattle Yacht Club early on Friday – and join in on all the Friday

afternoon fun. The ACBS will be bringing their boats for free boat rides leaving from between Docks 3 and 4 at SYC and taking guests up and down the Montlake Cut. The free classic runabout rides have become a favorite fixture during Opening Day. Also, the Royal Victoria Yacht Club has their annual Opening Day Party on Dock Zero on Friday afternoon – be sure to brush up on your Canadian "facts" as they ask you a question at the "border" and if you can't answer it you might not make it into the party. Also at 2 enjoy the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club Margarita Party and watch the Commodores of the Seattle, Royal Victoria and Vancouver yacht clubs compete in the "Commode Cup" racing small Mini-12s with the winner drinking beer out of a "Commode" trophy.

Details are still being arranged by Seattle Yacht Club and some details are a super secret surprise, but look for lots of Pirates and Pursuers in the parade including the SeaFair Pirates as Seattle SeaFair celebrates it's 75th anniversary this year.

Any questions about any aspect of Opening Day can be addressed to Diane Lander at 206-919-5099 or [dianelande@outlook.com](mailto:dianelande@outlook.com).

See you there! ■

# Electrification of a Classic

By Bob Wheeler (#1304)

There comes a time when ownership of an old wooden boat and it's upkeep become a problem due to age related issues and one must sell. This is referred to as "ageing out". Most of us will have to face this issue eventually. In 2020 we had finally made the decision to get serious and listed April Ann with a broker. In support of this effort, we had an out of the water survey done which showed she was sound, seaworthy and insurable. *April Ann* is an Ed Monk Sr. design built in 1953 in Tacoma at Cummings Boat Co.

Time went by and she eventually sold in early October, 2020. The new owner had it trucked to Miami Beach FL. where she was put on the hard and a tent built around it. He hired a crew of 5 and working 5 days a week under the supervision of a lead shipwright (one of the 5), they gutted the boat to the frames. Then sistered every frame and replanked the entire bottom below the water line with Spanish cedar. Windows were removed and fly bridge taken off for various repairs including some dry rot. The fwd. bulkhead



▲ April Ann in April, 2023

was moved aft to make a larger head (the aft head was removed) and the fwd. stateroom turned into a galley with new fridge and all. The rest of the interior will be a retro 50's design but has yet to be built. The two large hatches over the engines at the stern have been replaced with one big, gas strut lifted hatch for ease of access.

And the big deal is no more gas engines! The twin Chrysler 318's were removed but the "V" drives were kept. In their place are twin, 60 HP electric motors. These are actually two 30 HP motors each, in tandem in order to keep the wire sizes manageable. Power comes from 129 Lithium batteries. There is a separate cooling system for the motors that has a salt water heat

exchanger so the motors see only treated coolant.

A 7 KW genset has been installed to run the on board Air Conditioning system and provide backup charging to the battery bank. The original Morse shift/throttle controls will be saved but adapted to control things via electronics. So it will be a "fly by wire" system run by a computer!

The motors have been connected to the "V" drives via a belt system adapted from and similar to a conventional super charger drive system with custom made housings to hold it all together. The new owner hired an electrical drive component consultant to design all the battery/motor/control systems but the supercharger adaptation was done by the lead shipwright with some help.

Lower windows have been reinstalled and varnish is going on. Will it all work? The consultant has done sail boat conversions but never a power boat, let alone a round bottomed wooden classic. What will the retro inside look like? And will the iconic wishbone mast be reinstalled? When will she be launched? All good questions. So, stand by and I will report back. And oh by the way, we have been promised a ride in the finished product! Now that will be exciting. ■

The twin Chrysler 318 gas engines were replaced with twin electric motors and 129 lithium batteries. ▼



# 2024 CYA General Meeting, San Diego

By Bob Wheeler (#1304)

The 2024 CYA Annual General Meeting was hosted by the Southern California Fleet at the Wyndham Bayside Hotel on January 12-14. Some of us arrived a bit early, and on Wednesday night Jan 10th, we had a special dinner at the Horton Grand Hotel in an elegant dining room with Commodore/Past Commodore Rick Olson presiding.

On Thursday, early arrivals visited a local boatyard, had a tour of Point Loma Lighthouse and Museum, and enjoyed lunch at the SanDiego Yacht Club. Later on, many of us gathered for dinner at the host hotel.

On Friday morning, we boarded a large and comfortable tour boat and enjoyed a wonderfully narrated two-hour tour of San Diego Harbor. One of the many highlights was the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier *USS Abraham Lincoln*, CVN-72 tied pierside on North Island. Adjacent to our hotel was the aircraft carrier *USS Midway* CV-41 museum. Many folks took the opportunity to tour the ship and the on-board aircraft.

On Saturday we got down to the business of the Annual Meeting from 9 to noon. The afternoon was open for touring the San Diego Maritime Museum just across the street. That night we had the Change of Watch ceremony and banquet aboard one of the Museum's historic ships, the steam ferry *Berekeley*, which plied the waters of San Francisco Bay for 60 years beginning in 1898. It was an elegant affair and dinner, MC'd by Past Commodore John Peckham, top hat and all.

Incoming officers for the Association were Commodore Mike Fazio, USA Fleet, Vice Commodore Michael Topliss, Canadian Fleet, and Rear Commodore, our

own Christian Dahl, PNW Fleet. Past Commodore Gord Wintrup accepted the VC flag on behalf of Michael Topliss, whose travel plans were up-ended by the Alaska Airlines door episode.

The Annual Meeting resumed on Sunday morning and featured a lively discussion of possible task ideas for the Strategic Plan Working Groups. Minutes of the meeting will be posted on the CYA website. We all went our separate ways on Sunday afternoon after a grand and productive time in San Diego. Well done to the Southern Cal Fleet! ■



▲ Top-hatted MC Past Commodore John Peckham presents the incoming officers with their officer flags.



▲ Those who arrived early enjoyed a special dinner on Wednesday.

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# Thanksgiving Cruise 2023: A Sunny Stunner

By Jim Paynton, #427

The PNW Fleet's longest running event, the Thanksgiving Cruise on Lake Union, was held this year under sunny skies and light breezes at the Museum of History and Industry on Friday, November 24. The museum's grand opening for its "Pulling Together" exhibit on competitive rowing took place that morning, and our CYA vessels were invited to attend as special guests of the City of Seattle. Nine member boats participated, including *Mitlite*, *Itineras*, *Teal*, *Faun*, *Big Dipper*, *Marian II*, *Seven Bells*, *Serafino*, and *Maranee*. A number of members came aboard other's boats or by land. Bill Shain and Kathy Weber, Nancy Everds and Peter Mann, Kamela Daniels, Matt and Diane Paynton, Dave and Heather Ellis, and Roger Palmer all took part in the festivities as well.

Many thanks go to Amado and Lisa, who invited all of the participants to hold the annual Thanksgiving potluck aboard the lovely *Teal*.

Deepest appreciation to Past Commodore Diane Lander for coordinating the complimentary

moorage through the Center for Wooden Boats, and also procuring free passes to the exhibit for the participating crews.

CYA members were asked to consider bringing food for the less fortunate as a holiday gift to the St. Vincent de Paul food bank at Guadalupe Parish in West Seattle. They responded with great generosity, donating five boxes of non-perishable food for the poor in our area.

Please mark your calendars for next year's Thanksgiving Cruise – perhaps the one event that best exemplifies our fleet's generosity, community, and stewardship. We hope to see you on November 29, 2024! ■



◀ The CYA welcome banner directed guests to the boats.

▶ The crew of *Teal* relaxes in the warm autumn sun.



## A Visit to the Dry Dock: Informal and Fun!

By Commodore Rick Randall

We are happy to report that the 2024 "non-boating" season got off to a rousing start with our latest PNW Dry Dock gathering on January 21. At least 30 PNW members met at the Quarterdeck at Des Moines Marina to visit, renew old friendships, and make new ones. Past Commodore Todd Powell started this tradition of non-boating get-togethers last year as a way to bring members together while we wait for sunnier times, and they have proven to be a big hit. The rules for the Dry Dock events are simple: No agenda; No moorage fees; Have fun.

We took the opportunity this time to honor Past Commodore Diane Lander by presenting her certificate of CYA Life Membership, which was awarded a week earlier at the CYA Annual Meeting in San Diego.

Unfortunately, Diane was unable to attend the San Diego meeting because of the Boeing lost-door turmoil, but we were happy to catch up with her at the Dry Dock. This was not quite the elegant surroundings of the Wyndham Hotel, but we got the job done! Congratulations Diane!

If you missed the January Dry Dock, don't despair. You will have another chance in April. It

*continued next page*

may still be gray and rainy then, but we can have a good time anyway. Watch your email and the CYA website for details. Dry Docks may not be fancy, but they're fun. Hope to see you there! ■



◀ Past Commodore Diane Lander is presented her certificate of CYA Life Membership

## ***WELCOME TO THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF THE PNW FLEET!***



### *SEA WITCH*

Kierstan Craft and William Russell  
36' 1906 Elco  
Seattle, WA  
Diane Lander, Sponsor



### *FIRST LIGHT*

Charlie and Sarah McDonald  
36' 1968 American Marine  
Seattle, WA  
Erin Masterson, Sponsor

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***WELCOME TO THE NEWEST MEMBERS  
OF THE PNW FLEET! (continued)***

***EL MISTICO***

Torry and Erica Adams  
44' 1927 Ballard Marine Railway  
Shelton, WA  
Todd Powell, Sponsor

***FESTIVAL***

Jeritt and Erin Venable  
50' 1964 Stephens Brothers  
Port Orchard, WA  
Todd Powell, Sponsor

***GRAND ILLUSION***

Devon Bacon and Akiko Oda  
32' 1968 American Marine  
Tacoma, WA  
Todd Powell, Sponsor

***SPIRIT BEAR***

Ron Stevenson  
37' 1979 North Sea Trawler  
(Monk)  
Seattle, WA  
*Reinstatement*

***Upcoming PNW Fleet Events***

April 5-7 SYC Women's Boating Skills  
Weekend, SYC Main station  
*Contact Laura Shifflette*

April 14-16 Daffodil Weekend at TYC  
*Contact Bill Foulk*

April 21 AM Port Captains Membership Drive  
*Contact Michael Passage*

April 21 PM Drydock Social  
*Contact Todd Powell*

May 3-5 Opening Day of Boating Season  
*Contact Diane Lander*

May 11-12 Olympia Wooden Boat Festival  
*Contact Ed and Suzy Docherty*