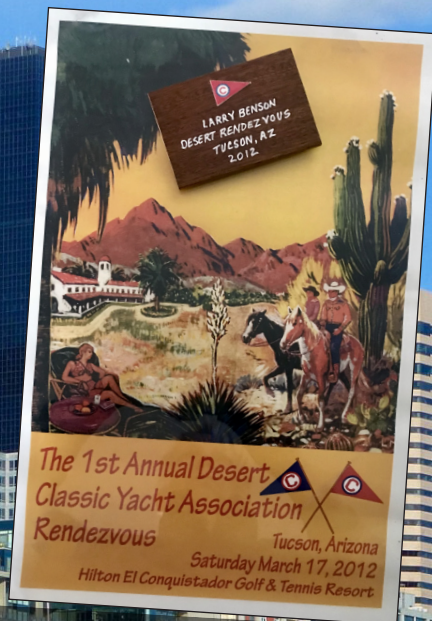


Spring, 2023

Pacific Northwest

CLASSIC YACHTING

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



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From the Bridge of Grandy

By Commodore Todd Powell



Summer cruising is on its way! I don't know about the rest of you, but I find this to be the toughest time of year. You are trying to get the boat ready for summer, but it seems like the cold, wet weather will never release its grasp. Every morning I scan the forecast for the next few days hoping for a break so I can get finally some paint or varnishing done. And of course, the one good day always lands on the same day I have unmovable commitments - such is the life of the wooden boat owner in the PNW springtime!

Last column I mentioned we would be testing a new event called a "Drydock Meet-up" which was intended to be a chance to get together during the off season. The outline of this event was simply a land-based gathering for a couple of hours to socialize and meet some new people. We were able to sneak in two this winter with one being in January and one in April. The January event was held at the Quarterdeck Beer/Wine/Coffee Bar in the Des Moines Marina.

With 25 attendees we took over the tent and while the rain fell and wind continued to blow, we had a great time. We had some long-time members and some brand-new members in attendance so we all met someone new. The April event was hosted by Diane Lander at her condominium meeting room, with 19 attendees. Again, a mixture of new and old. I will consider the Drydock Meet-up a success and we will repeat it next winter.

In the meantime, wrap up the spring projects, keep an eye on your CYA email for updates, check the fleet calendar and plan on joining in some of the many events our fleet participates in every year. Come by land or sea, but plan on being there!

Calm seas,

Todd Powell, Commodore



*Official Newsletter
of the
Pacific Northwest Fleet,
Classic Yacht Association*

Todd Powell.....Commodore
Rick Randall.....Vice Commodore
Kathy Weber.....Rear Commodore
Tina Stotz.....Staff Commodore
John Lebens.....Oregon Staff
Commodore

Chip Kochel.....Treasurer
David Huchthausen...Fleet Historian
Matt Paynton.....Newsletter Editor
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**Next Newsletter Submission
Deadline July 21**

The FO'C'S'LE

By Matt Paynton, Newsletter Editor

I recently had the opportunity to see a production at Seattle's ACT Theater called *Every Brilliant Thing* based on a book by Duncan MacMillan with Jonny Donahoe, directed by John Langs.

The play is a first-person narrative about a character who is faced with the loss of his mother and decides to write a list of everything there is to love about life. The list starts out as any list like this would, with entries such as "Ice Cream", "The Laughter of a Child", and "The Smell of Fresh Cut Grass" but evolves over the course of the story to get more specific and nuanced in the kind of entries that get added to the list. "The Sound of the Needle Touching the Record", "The Smell of Old Books" and "Wearing a Cape" are some of the entries.

After the show, as the audience



was leaving the theater, there was a board set up and a stack of Post-It Notes and a pile of Sharpies on a nearby table so members of the audience could add entries of their own. There were hundreds of Post-Its covering the board, and a crowd was surging around it as people wrote and added theirs. It didn't take

me long to decide what to write on my own Post-It Note and add to the board: "Waking Up on a Boat."

It's one of those singular experiences that not everyone experiences. If I were to get more specific, I would have said "Waking up on a *Wooden Boat*" but I think the intention of the exercise was to keep it simple.

As I wrote out that phrase and added it to the board, I was transported to what it feels like in that very moment to wake up feeling refreshed, maybe a little clammy, hearing the sound of water splashing against the hull. The sleeping bag is warm - maybe a little *too* warm - and the sound of gulls and crows echo across the peaceful harbor.

Moments like that are fleeting, and don't happen as often as we'd like them to. I guess that is what makes them *brilliant*. Those small, seemingly ordinary things that make up our life experiences that mean so very much. ■

Memories of a One-Off CYA Event

By Larry Benson #931

In the spring of 2012, I took my annual driving trip to Arizona for sun and Mariners pre-season games.

It so happened that then-PNW-fleet-members the Birdseye's and the Sheldon's had winter homes in the area, and the Youngs and I were passing through. So Bob, the consummate CYA organizer, put together the first ever (and last) CYA Desert Rendezvous, complete with wooden attendance plaques and poster. The "rendezvous" consisted of a luncheon at a swanky golf resort, with good food and drink, and lots of reminiscence of past CYA experiences (like when

Steve tried to help me dock at my first ever Victoria event and I somehow pulled him into the frigid Inner Harbor).

This was just one of my many wonderful CYA experiences! ■

2012 Desert
Rendezvous
Participants:

Bob and Karen
Birdseye – Comrade
Frank and Karen
Young – Forever
Young
Steve and Mary Jane
Sheldon - Lorelei
Larry Benson
– Thelonus



Caretaker of a Classic

By Kathy Weber #1481

Bob Birdseye epitomized what we mean when we say we are “caretakers” of our classic vessels. We hope that the time and resources we allocate for maintenance and repairs sustains our boats, and that when we are done with them, there is someone standing nearby to carry on. In our hearts, we most want to find someone who will diligently care for and love our classic yacht as we have.

Bob brought *Comrade* home with his Dad, Story Birdseye, in 1950, when he was just 15, after purchasing it from the widow of her second owner. With systems checks complete, they practiced docking. Then Bob and his Dad carefully relocated their new *Comrade* from Portage Bay to Beaux Art Village on Lake Washington, as dusk arrived. Dad Story Birdseye told son Bob to drop him off at the swim dock, anchor nearby, and pick him up at 8:00am the next morning. Suddenly Bob was responsible for the new boat overnight. While this wasn't Bob's first boat, it was a big leap in responsibility, and the beginning of a 67-year relationship.

Bob's care of this 1930 wooden boat spanned two generations. In 1984, primary caretaking transferred from parents to child, when Bob and Karen Birdseye assumed full-time responsibility for *Comrade*. Sharing their love of *Comrade* happened at the Friday Harbor docks all summer, and happened at the many classic boat shows where owners freely share their vessels, stories, and know-how.

Bob was a masterful salesman, always promoting good

Photos by Kathy Weber



▲ Bob training new owners on the day he sells *Comrade* 2017

times, camaraderie, and the love of an old wooden boat. He made a margarita blender from a weed whacker motor to serve refreshments to boat show guests who visited *Comrade's* dockside pantry window. [Current owners still encounter visitors at the window who ask for a margarita.] He could conjure up a whole committee of people to build props for the multiple Seattle Opening Day awards received for the costumes *Comrade* paraded in: covered wagon, spouting whale, Viking ship, among others. He invented and patented a machine to wax apples for grocery display, and sold the special wax on a subscription basis across North

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◀ Bob Birdseye divesting ownership to next caretaker (2017)-training cruise



America. His salesmanship and influence was wide-reaching.

Bob owned a steel fabrication company that made wellhead shelters for the oil fields of Prudhoe Bay, Alaska.

Bob served the Classic Yacht Association on the Board of Directors from 2013-2016, and volunteered in many other ways through his decades of CYA membership.

Robert Birdseye, Rest in Peace. (25 January 1935- 11 March 2023). Bob died at home, the day before receiving an invitation to Opening Day 2023, unexpectedly, of natural causes. He is survived by Karen Birdseye of Snohomish, WA and daughter Elizabeth Bonham of Godley, TX.



▲ *Bob Birdseye celebrates Comrade at Bell Harbor with granddaughter of 1st owner Mary Lou Harris (L) and daughter of second owner Nancy Miller (C) at Bell Harbor 2019*

“He just loved talking to people and virtually every job he had, from the sale of janitorial supplies, wax for apples, or robotics.”
–Karen Birdseye

You can honor Bob’s memory with a gift to the Classic Yacht Association, to support an educational workshop for wooden boat owners and future wooden boat owners. Donate online at classicyacht.org and put “Birdseye” in the memo line or send a check to Classic Yacht Assn, 10203 47th Ave SW, #D-4, Seattle, WA 98146-1025. ■



▲ *Karen Birdseye and Bob Birdseye enjoying a 2021 picnic on Comrade*

Eight Bells – Remembering Monty Holmes

By Jim Paynton #427

“Who is the man with that BOOMING voice?” So asked our son Matt at one of the early Port Ludlow CYA Rendezvous, as Monty Holmes sauntered down the dock past us. Monty was preparing the crews of the yachts for the annual Sail-Past by pronouncing, “Gentlemen, start your engines!” Monty’s voice echoed off the nearby hills, and was said to have been audible in Sequim. Monty Holmes was larger than life. He was a big man. Even bigger were his loving generosity, sense of humor, dedication, and maritime knowledge. His passing on April 8 left an immense void in the PNW Fleet.

A Seattle native, Monty grew up along the ship canal near the locks. He graduated from Ballard High School, where he learned about the importance of striving for excellence, both in the classroom and on the athletic field. Monty’s football coach was a lifelong inspiration to him. Monty’s friends will never forget his ditty about game-day competition:

Hit ‘em in the head, hit ‘em in the belly!

Give ‘em one for Coach Bendelli!

In fact, Monty continued football after high school, playing nose guard for Seattle’s first professional football team, the Ramblers, from 1947 to 1950.

Always the entrepreneur, as a young man Monty started a company which replaced and renewed flotation logs under the many houseboats along Lake Union. One particular houseboat he worked on was the residence of a young woman

named Shirlee McGee. Tall, slender and reserved, Shirlee captured Monty’s heart, and the two were married in 1953. She was the perfect complement – and occasional foil – to her gregarious husband throughout their 63 years of marriage.

Monty’s next adventure was being a partner in the Hood, Hull and Holmes boatyard, where they lofted and built a number of notable wooden yachts and sailboats during the fifties. During this time, Monty was appointed by Gene Walby, owner of Seattle’s Athletic Supply Company, to serve as the mechanic and caretaker for the 1939 Lake Washington Shipyards Monk-designed bridgedeck cruiser *Wahoma*. For over twenty years, Monty crewed aboard the *Wahoma* for Mr. Walby, many times running all the way down the Strait of Juan de Fuca and out onto the Pacific for deep-sea fishing, out of sight of land.

Meanwhile, Monty and Shirlee became parents to Mont and Rani, who joined their parents in numerous classic car rallies all around the west, dressed in period clothing and being steeped in all things vintage and collectible. It was of course natural for the family to spend time on the water as well, and the young Holmes family enjoyed many delightful cruises on their converted 32 foot Navy captain’s gig, *Backwash*.

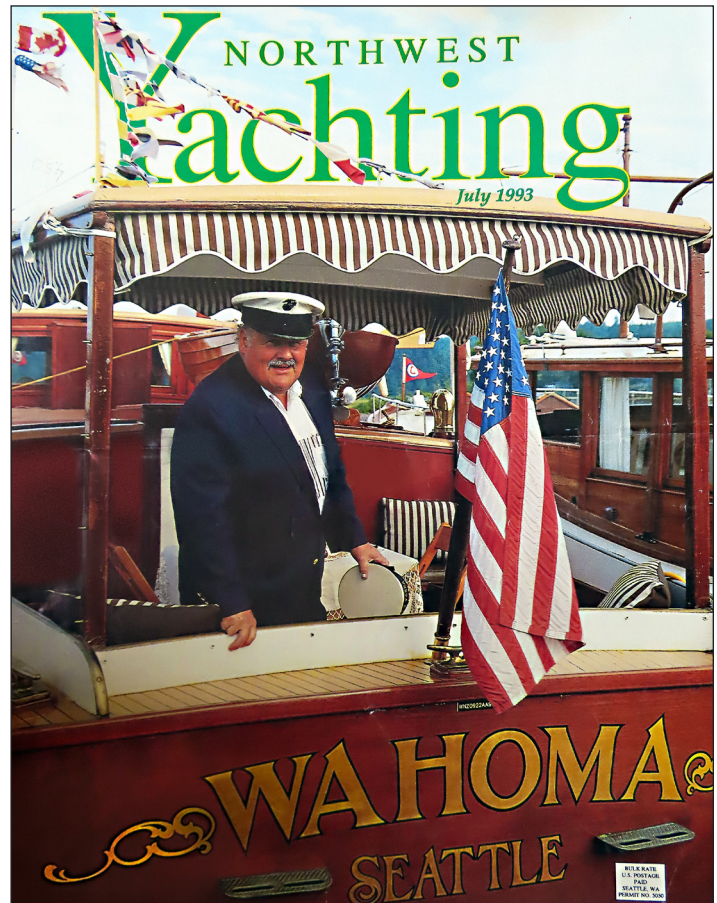
In 1978, Monty had the opportunity to purchase the *Wahoma* from Mr. Walby. It was a natural step for Monty, having already spent so many years as the yacht’s caretaker. He and Shirlee quickly began to make her their own, restoring the rich mahogany cabinsides, refinishing the transom, beautifying the interior, repainting the topsides, and even recreating the original cockpit overhead cloth bunting.

In 1983, Monty and Shirlee founded

their own new business, Athletic Awards Company. With the energy and determination typical of them both, the company quickly became a very successful enterprise, and was the focal point for the campaign to stop the ill-fated “Seattle Commons” project. Athletic Awards continued to grow after their retirement under the leadership of their son Mont. The business is still thriving today under the guidance of their grandson, Ben.

Monty and Shirlee joined the Classic Yacht Association in 1981, and were key figures in the early days of the PNW Fleet, hosting events and recruiting new members. Monty assumed the chair for the famous Port Ludlow Rendezvous by Land and Sea (precursor to today’s Bell Harbor Weekend), hosted a yearly cruise-in event to his tree farm on Ebey Island, served on the local fleet bridge, and was elected Commodore in 1992.

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▲ Monty graces the cover of Northwest Yachting in 1993

Monty was chosen to be a member of the CYA Board of Directors from 1993 to 1996. In appreciation for their years of dedicated service to the Classic Yacht Association, Monty and Shirlee were presented with CYA's highest honor, Life Membership, in 2002.

All the while, Monty and Shirlee were cruising the *Wahoma* extensively throughout Puget Sound and up into British Columbia. Margie and I have delightful memories of gliding alongside the *Wahoma* through calm channels and anchoring in snug harbors together. Winston, the family's English Bulldog, was always an important member of the crew, and Monty enjoyed rowing that stout little fellow ashore. In fact, we gave the little sandspit halfway up Annette Inlet on Prevost Island the name "Winston Point." There was one time that *Maranee* and *Wahoma* got caught in a violent unpredicted squall; I can still hear Monty's calm voice on the radio, "We're almost halfway across." "We're almost to the other side." "It is going to calm down when we get closer to shore."

Monty was a great kidder, and loved to laugh. He was also very good at laughing at himself. Once, he and Shirlee treated themselves to an ocean cruise. The night before the end of the three-week trip, Monty jumped on the scale, and found that while aboard, he had gained twenty pounds. Realizing how close he was to gaining a pound per day, he went down to the midnight buffet and had a ham sandwich.

Monty, you will be missed, but never forgotten. We will always hear your resonant voice reminding us, "The best helping hand is the one on the end of your own arm."

The next time we come out of the locks, we will be pining for your usual hail on 16 wishing us a safe voyage. But knowing you are sauntering through the Pearly Gates, reuniting with your beloved Shirlee and many friends and family, we are comforted. We can even hear St. Peter now: "Who is the man with that BOOMING voice?" ■

2023 Bell Harbor Rendezvous

By Diane Lander #926

All members of the CYA are invited to our 26th Annual Bell Harbor Rendezvous, to be held on June 16-18 at the beautiful Bell Harbor Marina on Seattle's newly renovated waterfront. Come on down and see what we have to offer.

Sign-ups are well underway and at this time we have 36 boats registered for the event. Hurry – the marina will fill up with about 45 boats. Events and activities include the Friday "Sail In" parade where participating vessels will parade down the Seattle waterfront accompanied by the Seattle Fire Boat. Once settled in to the marina, event participants can enjoy Friday "Pizza on the Plaza" with a hosted wood burning pizza truck. The show will kick off on Saturday and Sunday with a hosted continental breakfast, and show hours are 10-4 on Saturday and Sunday. The three-course dinner at Anthony's will be on Saturday at 6 PM. Dinner is \$80 pp. Event sponsors will take care of the tax and tip.

If you have never been to Bell Harbor, it is a wonderful event. Not only will you have the chance to see and mingle with members of the PNW and Canadian fleets, but you will also have the privilege of seeing many beautiful boats. It is so fun to be in downtown Seattle at such a fun and delightful venue, hopefully with the sun shining on us!

Your free registration includes moorage for Friday and Saturday nights, Friday pizza, Saturday and Sunday continental breakfasts, your goody bag, an artist produced event poster by David

Hutchausen and unlimited fun! If you want to come early (Thursday night) and stay late (Sunday night) contact Bell Harbor Marina to make a reservation at your own expense.


Please thank our event sponsors without whom this incredible event would not happen. They are: Lake Union DryDock Company; Haven Boat Works; Port Townsend Shipwrights Co-op; Fisheries Supply, CSR, Center for Wooden Boats, Canvas Supply, and the Northwest School of Wooden Boat Building.

You can register at the CYA website. Also, we have a great list of boats already attending at this link: <https://classicyachtinfo.org/bell-harbor-boats>

Thanks to volunteer webmaster Alex Endzell for handling the registrations and to Rick Etsell for putting together this terrific page of boats in attendance. Our dockmaster, Bob Irving, is hard at work putting together our dock plan. The committee consists of Diane Lander, chair, Jim and Margie Paynton who are on year 26 of serving on and/or chairing the committee, Chip and Kristin Kochel and Bob Irving.

Right after Bell Harbor there will be a joint cruise between PNW and Canadian boats who are in attendance. Contact Larry Benson or Tina Stotz for more information on the cruise.

See you there! Contact me if you have any questions. ■



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WELCOME TO THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF THE PNW FLEET!

By Peter Riess, #848



Blaise and Holly Holly

Blaise is no stranger to CYA members, as he has worked on *MV Olympus*, *Comrade*, *Riptide*, *Nootka* and countless others as Lead Shipwright and now owner of Haven Boatworks in Port Townsend. Holly has lived in PT on and off her whole life. They enjoy taking their boat, *Recovery* out to watch regatta's, etc. *Recovery* is scheduled for a haul this spring for some foredeck work and general sprucing up. Both of them have spent time cruising and working in Alaska, and still enjoy visiting there annually.

Sponsors Diane Lander & Kathy Weber

Reinstatements

Wendell Brunk and Wilson Pipkin
HARRIET
19' 1950 Sparkman & Stephens
Burien, WA

Martine Roudier
ZELLA C
38' 1927 Lake Union Dry Dock
Seattle, WA

Andy and Joelle Blair
Charlotte MacCay
GLAYVA
38' 1937 MacKinnon
Seattle, WA