

Pacific Northwest  
**CLASSIC YACHTING**

Winter, 2018

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



**OLYMPUS**  
*in the Bahamas*  
by Diane Lander, page 4



## ***From the Bridge of Adagio***

*By Commodore Christian Dahl*

Just back from rebuilding the carburetors and fuels lines on *Adagio*. Those 53 year old Gray Marines seem to run a little better now. Jeanne and I had been up to our cabin on Decatur, but my laptop failed, so I hope to have this off to our editor Matt tonight. I hope all of you have been getting your vessels ready for the 2018 season. The sun is out and we have already hit the 60's, so this summer it should be great for cruising. We have some changes in the calendar, and the latest events are now posted on the CYA website, and Rick Etsell has been keeping it very current. Janice Palmer has the 2018 Roster is making its way through the printer, so you should see those soon. Opening Day is soon upon us May 5th, and if you have not registered for the parade and moorage, please do so ASAP. There is a new event in Astoria planned for May 18th-20th. Mike Keane and John Lebens have planned events around the Astoria Maritime Museum. If you are not cruising to the Tides Tavern that weekend, you should head south over land. The Center for Wooden Boats has moved their Festival from the Fourth of July to the end of September. They have already planned a dinner for us

to coincide with our Annual meeting. More details as the date approaches. We have a few changes in Hosts for the Festivals this summer. We have appreciated the efforts by those who have served in the past, and the ones taking over the helm. Classic Weekend at Bell Street funding has changed, and Diane Lander has already secured the sponsorships needed. We hope to see some of our new members present with both new vessels to our area, and some old familiar ones under new captains. Our Secret Island Rendezvous hosts Kurt and Marsha Erickson have stepped down after many happy years hosting boaters between Vancouver and Victoria Festivals. In order to keep up the tradition, Jeanne and I are inviting members to our cabin on Decatur Island during the last week of August in the San Juans. Plenty of anchorage in two bays and activities to keep you busy for a few days. Anyone not cruising can arrange other passage and overnight with us on shore. Please contact us and we can plan for additional lodging if we get a larger group. If we survive this year, we hope to make it a reoccurring event. For those of you who missed the CYA Change of Watch in Marina Del

Rey, we also had some great sunny weather in January for a cruise out of the Harbor. Next year the Northern California Fleet is promising another great event in the Bay Area. Looks like we will need to start planning for our turn after that, so any ideas will be appreciated. Please check out the new CYA web site if you have not been on line recently. Please review or schedule, and let us know if you have any ideas or would like to organize an event. Our Vice Commodore Laura Shifflette has arranged a discussion about getting your captain's license March 27th, and the full class is scheduled for April. We have discussed reviving the CYA auction, and if anyone would like to take that project on, we have some room for you to help. We had one other reassignment on the Bridge this winter after Peter Leenhouts was unable to finish his term, and Tina Stoltz has assumed the Rear Commodore position for this year.

Safe boating, and please take care.

  
**Pacific Northwest**  
**CLASSIC YACHTING**

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

Christian Dahl.....*Commodore*  
 Laura Shifflette....*Vice Commodore*  
 Tina Stotz.....*Rear Commodore*  
 Jennie Dahlby.....*Staff Commodore*  
 John Lebens.....*Oregon Staff*  
*Commodore*

Nina Altman.....*Secretary*  
 Chip Kochel.....*Treasurer*  
 Matt Paynton.....*Newsletter Editor*  
*m.paynton@comcast.net*

# The FO'C'S'LE

By Matt Paynton, Newsletter Editor

**W**e as hearty Pacific Northwesterners know full well that after a long and cold winter, nothing is a more welcome sight than the sun breaking through the clouds and letting us know that Spring is right around the corner. However, it's not usually so easy to discern the two seasons from each other, even if the sun is out.

We're coming out of one of the coldest Februarys on record in these parts. As we are all wrapping up winter projects on our classic yachts, there's always that hope that maybe some weekday afternoon or random Sunday that we can sneak out in the channel and get a little cruise in, if only just to prove that we remember how to handle our boats. This winter hasn't been the most hospitable for those little day cruises however.

I remember spring cruises with the family aboard both our 1941 Chris-Craft *Terry-Deb* and *Maranee* that may as well have been winter cruises from the unpredictable weather we encountered. There was a trip to Blake Island that turned into an icy winter wonderland as the boat was



▲ *Just about perfect Pacific Northwest cruising conditions.*

suddenly pelted with hail in one of the most impressive ice pellet storms I've seen. The window channels filled up with balls of ice, the grass and trails up on shore turned white, and the windows steamed up as we waited out the storm. It ended as quickly as it started though and we were hiking in the sun (and the mud) later that day.

A few years later, we managed to duck out in between storm cells to cross the sound to one of our favorite destinations, Poulsbo. We could already taste the donuts waiting for us from the bakery, and it wouldn't be the first time the weather forecasters were wrong about the dismal weather they had predicted for the week ahead. Long story shorter, shortly after we

arrived, the wind came up and ripped through Liberty Bay, with white caps right off the end of the marina. It rained as the wind pummeled the few boats that had braved the conditions to get there. We were stuck there all week, with our one of our crew suffering devastating injury on the slippery gangway. Known for years as the "trip from heck" (which in retrospect doesn't sound that bad now), it was always a reminder that the spring weather is just as unpredictable as the winter. The sun and longer days just cloud your judgement sometimes, yearning to get back out on the water. Don't worry, it'll still be there after April's showers finally bring May's flowers. Happy cruising!

---

## Keeping the Steam Up Aboard Virginia V

By Larry Benson, #931

**V**ery early in the year 2000, I became a volunteer aboard the *Virginia V*, our iconic honorary member. She was being restored at a Lake Union Dry Dock, and I spent many Saturdays, along with other CYA members, sweeping, varnishing, schlepping - whatever was needed to help get her back on the water.

I was hooked! After the re-launch, I worked as deck hand, helmsman, bartender, board member, treasurer, whatever... for most of the years since. (I also met my beloved Tina aboard 10 years ago, but that is another story.)

In early 2017, I was invited to rejoin the board of directors, and about that time Nina Altman (Astelle) also became a board member.

I was recently elected board president, and Nina vice-president. Nina's mate Doug Weeks also rejoined the board. It's very gratifying to have such representation from the CYA working to bring the *Virginia V* into her second century.



## Bell Harbor Classic Weekend

by Diane Lander, #926

Plans are well underway for the 2018 Bell Street Classic Weekend to be held on June 15-17, 2018. I have taken over chairing Bell Harbor this year and thank Chip and Kristin Kochel for their years of stellar service organizing this huge event. Thank goodness I have a great committee including Jim and Margie Paynton to keep me on the right track.

The biggest change in this year's event is that our fleet is on its own for procuring sponsorships without the assistance of the professional marketing people at the Port of Seattle. The Port of Seattle marketing department has their hands full with many other large events including the Seattle Boat

Show which was held at Bell Harbor this year for the first time, and the visit of the Race Around the World. We have lost several of our major sponsors who are concentrating on supporting other issues now. With our 501 C 3 status, fund raising is going well, but if there are any ideas for sponsorship out there, send them my way to [dianelanders@outlook.com](mailto:dianelanders@outlook.com). All sponsorships are tax deductible and give sponsors lots of great publicity and exposure to our 2,000 + visitors to Pier 66 over the weekend.

This year's Marquee Class of boats will be Blanchard Boat Company built boats. Already committed to attend are the 100' *Malibu*, the beautiful *Faun*, and the largest

sailboat ever built by Blanchard, *Red Jacket*.

The weekend will include Friday night desserts, breakfast provided both Saturday and Sunday, and a possible catered dinner on Saturday night. Plans are still underway for a wonderful weekend of sharing our classic yachts and comradery. I have put an article in the latest International Newsletter encouraging members of other fleets to attend even if they don't bring a boat.

The sign-up information will be e-mailed out in early April. All sign ups will again be via e-mail.

I am looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at 2018 Bell Street Classic Weekend.

---

## OLYMPUS in the Bahamas

by Diane Lander, #926

In February of 2017 I said a tearful goodbye to the *M/V Olympus* as she transited the Ballard Locks for probably the last time and she left on her adventure to the east coast with her new caretaker.

I was delighted to be invited aboard her in November of last year when she cruised back into New York Harbor for the first time since she departed there in May of 1938.

This February, I took 6 of my girlfriends down to Nassau, the Bahamas, where *Olympus* is docked at Lyford Cay in an exclusive yacht club for her winter home. We had a seven-day adventure aboard and loved the sun and sparkling blue water. There will be details of our trip published in the International CYA Newsletter later this spring. In the meantime, I am most pleased to provide a photo of the *Olympus* with her CYA burgee, she is again in the CYA, this time in the USA fleet.

Next year, when she celebrates her 90th birthday, I am looking forward to being aboard for another fabulous adventure, this time in the Hamptons.

# Boating - 1940's Style

by Larry Benson #931

In early 1942 my family moved to Bremerton from Tacoma. My father established Benson's Variety Store, taking advantage of the wartime population boom. The store prospered, and we soon owned *Klatawa*, a 42-foot bridge-deck cruiser, probably late 20's vintage. I recall playing around the Bremerton Yacht Club and cruising extensively the next few years - I have no idea how 'pop' managed to get fuel during this war-restricted time.

Bob Wheeler (*April Ann*) sent me an article from the Bremerton Yacht Club archives about boating during that era. The article is probably from the Bremerton Sun, probably mid 1946, describing preparations for a predicted-log race to Nanaimo. Following are some excerpts from that article:

## **YACHT CLUB WIVES SHARE WORK OF PREPARING BOATS FOR BIG RACE**

*"Man's work is from sun to sun,  
woman's work is never done"*

*These words at an old rime and being sung as a chanty this week by Skipperettes of the Bremerton Yacht Club as they busy themselves at a thousand different tasks in preparation for the International Cruiser race to Nanaimo, BC tomorrow.*

*Every conceivable activity, from painting the outside of the yacht to baking reams of cookies, calculated to minimize the hours to be spent in the galley during the cruise, is occupying the busy fingers of the Skipperettes. Most of the yacht owners are taking not only members of the family, but guests as well, which calls for extensive planning in the way of menus and supplies.*

*Commodore R. L. Stevenson and Mrs. Stevenson, president of the Skipperettes, will be entering the races for the second consecutive year. In addition to their children, Dickie, Tommy and Marjorie, they will take*

*as their guests Mr. and Mrs. David Leonard, 202 So. Montgomery Ave. On their yacht Zephyr, they plan an extended cruise after the races.*

*"I try to plan to spend the minimum of time in the galley", Mrs. Stevenson said. Toward this goal she makes much of using paper - plates, cups, towels, etc. All easily disposed of following their use, there is a resultant (decrease) in dishwashing and laundry.*

*On the Donalie, the Ray Harts will have their nine-year-old daughter, Jean, and prized cocker spaniel 'Skipper' for a crew. Lots of experience was gleaned from last years race and is being utilized in preparation for the coming event, Mrs. Hart said today. Seersucker clothing, that requires no ironing, is one of her favorite work-savers.*

*If present plans carry through, Prince Rupert, and even Ketchikan, Alaska, may have a chance to admire the sparkling paint job on the Klatawa, the pride and joy of Mr. and Mrs. Milton L. Benson of this city. Their two children, Joan and Larry, Mayor L Hum Kean, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wothern, will complete the party aboard Klatawa. Planning a rendezvous with the Donalie*

*and the Emmeline (a current CYA vessel owned by Jack and Elizabeth Becker, moored in Port Townsend) at Princess Louisa, the Bensons expect to cruise for a full month before returning to Bremerton. Veterans of many races, this is their second time to participate in the Nanaimo event. Mr. and Mrs. James N. Jensen will have as their guests on the Emmeline, Dick Chombly, manager of KBRO, and Bill Fox, program manager for the station, and Mr. and Mrs. Clinton O. Darby, 31-G Jones Drive. The Emmeline boasts a new paint job, in honor of the occasion, and well points the past three months of feverish activity designed to put her in perfect shape for the races. Mrs. Jensen is a pressure cooker enthusiast, but also plans a number of meals ashore to cut down on the galley duty. Emphasizing the generosity displayed by the Canadians during the war years when rationing restricted the amount of food that might be purchased, Mrs. Jensen reminded fellow travelers that Tuesday and Friday of each week are still 'meatless' days in Canada and so is counting on 'lucky fishing' to supplement the order.*

Epilogue - My parents divorced in 1948 and *Klatawa* was sold as part of the settlement. Some years later, when he got back on his financial feet, my father bought *Cle Illahee*, which he cruised for over 20 years. Some years later, I met Dorin Robinson, owner then (and now) of my fathers old boat. Through Dorin's influence I got back into boating. But that's another story...

# 2017 Thanksgiving Cruise

by Jim Paynton #427

Under gray skies but pleasant and calm conditions, the annual PNW Classic Yacht Association Thanksgiving Cruise took place on Friday, November 24, 2017 at South Lake Union Park. Member vessels *Maranee*, *Faun*, *Freya*, *Seven Bells* and *Mitlite* gathered mid-day to celebrate the beginning of the holiday season and enjoy a “Progressive Potluck.” Each vessel hosted a portion of the shared meal. The warm conversation and friendly camaraderie of the members who gathered were delightful, and the setting, right at the MOHAI and Historic Ships Wharf, was splendid. Quite a few visitors to the park walked up and viewed the assembled classics, offering their compliments and greetings.

We were delighted to welcome many members who attended without their boats: Mohammad and Kimberlee



Shakeri (*Pasada Mañana*), John and Jane Lebens (*Suellen*), Matt and Diane Paynton, Roger and Janice Palmer (*Sonata*), Rick Powell (*Sea Otter*), Ellen and Mel Flavel (*Capella*), and PNW Fleet Commodore Christian Dahl (*Adagio*). A new record for the most people aboard *Maranee* at one time was set during the appetizers, with twenty-one!

There are many times that I feel great pride in my CYA membership, but never more so than at each Thanksgiving, when our generous members bring non-perishable food for the less fortunate. We were able to bring three boxes of food to a local food bank in West Seattle following the event, brightening the lives of folks in our own community during the holidays.

---

The 29th Annual Chris-Craft Rendezvous of the Pacific Northwest will begin on Thursday July 12 and conclude on Sunday July 15, 2018. All events will be held at the Port Orchard City Marina in the historic town of Port Orchard, Washington. Up to 80 classic

Chris-Crafts are expected to attend, including many CYA member vessels. Entry for visitors to the events on the docks and to see the boats is free.

Daily features are: live music, dock parties and touring of boats, a raffle, a farmers market, seminars, swap meet and demonstrations. Additionally, for registrants, there will be coffee and doughnuts every morning, a Friday BBQ dinner on the dock, and on Saturday the Dinghy Dash, the Awards Banquet and the Live Auction. The Sunday morning pancake breakfast prepares the fleet for the informal cruiser parade leaving the marina. Chris-Crafts of any vintage or condition are welcome!



Please see our website for more history, stories and photos: [www.chriscraftrendezvous.com](http://www.chriscraftrendezvous.com)

# WELCOME TO THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF THE PNW FLEET!



Rick and Julie Grover  
*PEARL*  
32' 1959 Chris-Craft  
Seattle, WA  
Jim Paynton, sponsor

Kathy Weber and Bill Shain  
*COMRADE*  
38' 1930 Franck & McCrary  
Everett, WA  
Bob Birdseye, sponsor



Steve and Lisa Vanek  
*GRACIE*  
28' 1962 Grandy  
Portland Yacht Club  
Lebens, Keane and Finks, sponsors

**NEW MEMBERS, Continued**

Alan Winningham and Ryan Ihrig  
*UNFORGETTABLE*  
57' 1965 Chris-Craft  
Seattle Yacht Club  
John Berg, sponsor



**NEW MEMBER**

Erik and Aspin Teevin  
North Pacific Expeditions  
*SEA STAR*  
85' 1965 Burger Boat Co.  
Ballard, WA  
Larry Benson, sponsor

**ADDITIONAL VESSEL**

Michael Effler and Erin Leader  
*ENCORE*  
18' 6" 1993 Simon Fletcher  
Bainbridge Island, WA

**REINSTATEMENT**

Kuhrt Wieneke  
*LINMAR*  
Seattle, WA



Pacific Northwest Fleet  
**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Captain's License Class**  
April 18-20

**Astoria Weekend/Columbia River  
Maritime Museum**  
May 18-20

**Daffodil Weekend, with Tacoma Yacht Club**  
April 13-15

**Tides Tavern Classic Fish 'N' Ships Festival**  
May 19-20

**PNW Commodore's Cruise**  
April 29

**Edmonds Waterfront Festival**  
June 1-3

**Seattle Opening Day of Boating Season**  
May 5

**Burrard Yacht Club Classic Boat and Car Show**  
June 9

**Olympia Wooden Boat Festival**  
May 11-13

**Bell Harbor Classic Weekend 2018**  
June 15-17