

Pacific Northwest  
**CLASSIC YACHTING**

Winter, 2019

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



*Center for Wooden Boats*

**Lake Union Wooden Boat Festival**

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Greg Gilbert, photo



## *From the Bridge of Faun*

By Commodore Laura Shifflette

Welcome to another year of spectacular classic boating! I am grateful and honored to have been installed as your Fleet Commodore at the Change of Watch celebration at the Seattle Yacht Club in October, and look forward to the opportunity to spend time with you at one of our many events in the coming year.

Mike and I did not anticipate, when we decided to kill some time and drop by the inaugural Bell Street Rendezvous in 1997, that it would be life changing; that we would stumble upon and fall in love with our vessel, *Faun*, a 1926 36 foot Blanchard Cruiser; that we would embark on a passionate love affair with her that has not dimmed with time; and that we would begin a journey of devoting countless hours and many dollars to her upkeep and enhancement. But we did. And here we are, 22 years and many projects later.

Friends who have not been bitten by the wooden boat bug sometimes look at us sideways when we first tell them we have a classic powerboat, saying, “Boy, what a lot of work!” or some variation on that theme. Little do they

understand the seductive nature of wooden boats. Their beauty, their graceful lines, the reflection of sunlight on shiny varnish that takes your breath away, the fact that they quietly cut through the water with barely a ripple... All of these contribute to the magic. I cannot imagine my life now without a wooden boat.

We frequently attend classic powerboat rendezvous, which often feature the opportunity to open our vessels to the public and allowing strangers to come aboard. Why would anyone want to allow strangers to invade their privacy and come aboard their vessel, you ask? Well, there are a couple of reasons. First is that you really can’t “get” these vessels from the dock. You cannot understand their efficient design and layout; their commodious and comfortable appointments, and their timelessness, until you step aboard. The second is that, from time to time, visitors to our rendezvous are considering purchasing a boat themselves, and some just may become “converts” to our wooden boat community if they feel welcomed and see

just how wonderful these vessels are. If we can influence just one potential owner to appreciate how wonderful classic vessels are, to take on the stewardship of a wooden boat, to be willing to expend the time, energy and money required, and thus possibly save just one more classic, then it will have been worth it.

The Pacific Northwest, with its mild weather, salt and fresh water, and vessels made of old growth timber, is home to many lovely classic vessels. More have survived here than elsewhere. There are still many potential member vessels out there that have not yet joined the ranks of the Classic Yacht Association. When cruising or visiting a new dock, please arm yourself with CYA Membership brochures and extend an invitation to join our organization to owners, classic boat aficionados, or vessels you spot that would make good membership candidates. Membership for individuals is now just a few seconds and a quick click away! Help us by being an ambassador for the CYA!

Please come join us at one of our many exciting CYA Events in 2019. We have a full calendar planned! Many of our events repeat from year to year, so if you are a longtime member, you will be familiar with the calendar. This year, I encourage you to attend at least one event this year that you have not previously attended. Try out something new! Reach out and invite a newer CYA member to join you at an event that you plan to attend so that they feel welcomed to our organization.

I look forward to seeing you on the water!

# The FO'C'S'LE

By Matt Paynton, Newsletter Editor

New Year, same old boats. Happy New Year! As we show Old Man 2018 the door and welcome Baby Happy New Year into our lives, there's at least one thing that doesn't have to change or be resolved away: our love of these old wooden wonders!

It's right about the time you finish your second plate of turkey and all the fixin's on Thanksgiving Day that you think to yourself, "well, it's so close to the end of the year, I'll get back on track with my diet on January 1st. Please pass the pie."

And that's okay.

It's a subject of great debate when the "Holidays" actually officially start, whether it be Halloween, November 1st or Thanksgiving Day, but it's easy to let them completely pass you by and not take the time to fully appreciate what they actually mean. It's time to spend together with your loved ones and family to eat, drink and be merry!



You can let the diet slide for a few weeks.

But come January 1st, the gyms are packed with their new members who have vowed that this will be the year that they'll finally lose that weight. Finally write that novel. Finally stop suffering and write that symphony. And I commend them for doing so, because I have found as soon as you call something a "New Year's

Resolution", it's pretty much destined to fail. So let me tell you what I recommend you resolve to do instead: spend more time on the water! Get out on that beautiful boat of yours and do what she was built for! It'll be the easiest New Year's Resolution to keep. And now that the days are finally getting longer again, that means Spring is on its way. A perfect time to exercise that grand New Year's Resolution!

## Chris-Craft Rendezvous Celebrates 30 Years

by Jerry Toner, #1306

The 30th Annual Chris-Craft Rendezvous of the Pacific Northwest will begin on Thursday July 11 and conclude on Sunday July 14, 2019. 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. 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 farmers market, seminars, swap meet and demonstrations. Additionally, for registrants, there

will be coffee and doughnuts every morning, a Friday on the dock BBQ dinner, 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)



# Change of Watch Banquet



▲ The 2019 PNW Bridge (from left to right) Past Commodore Christian Dahl, Commodore Laura Shifflette, Vice Commodore Bill Foulk, Rear Commodore Roger Palmer, Treasurer Tad Unger, Secretary Janice Palmer, and Oregon Staff Commodore John Lebens

The Pacific Northwest Fleet held their 2019 Change of Watch Banquet in the Fireside Room at the Seattle Yacht Club on October 27, 2018. As it was the Saturday before Halloween some members arrived dressed in proper period attire.

The event started with a no host bar, passed hors d'oeuvres and music provided by jazz vocalist Emma Caroline Baker. We then enjoyed a sit down dinner and dessert while music and dancing continued.

The 2018 PNW Fleet Awards were followed by the Change of Watch ceremony.

After the fleet awards members lingered for more conversation and karaoke – a first for this fleet!

A grand time was had by all!



Flanked by Larry Benson (Thelonius) and incoming commodore Laura Shifflette (Faun), Diane Lander (Marian II) receives the award for best attendance.



▼ *Jim and Margie Paynton (Maranee) in 1940 period attire*

▲ *James Poirson (El Mistico) and guest in 1927 period attire*



▼ *The music teachers – Jim Paynton and Roger Palmer – show us how karaoke is done!*



► *Dancing and frivolity ensued throughout the evening, with attendees singing their favorite tunes and cutting the proverbial rug well into the night.*



# Lake Union Wooden Boat Festival

by Ken Meyer, #855

Brandt Faatz, the CEO of the Center for Wooden Boats, and his committee were looking for a situation that would improve the then problematic logistics for the Wooden Boat Festival that was traditionally held during the July 4th holiday. After asking opinions of many of the previous participants, a decision was made to hold the festival the last weekend of September. This year the final outcome was a fantastic festival and a large number of participants, many of them from our own CYA. It was also the first showing of the new Wagner Educational Center to the public. The PNW-CYA annual meeting was the first meeting to be held in the large conference room, which was quite an honor to our group. The CWB also brought us lunch at the finish of the meeting. But, on to the festival.

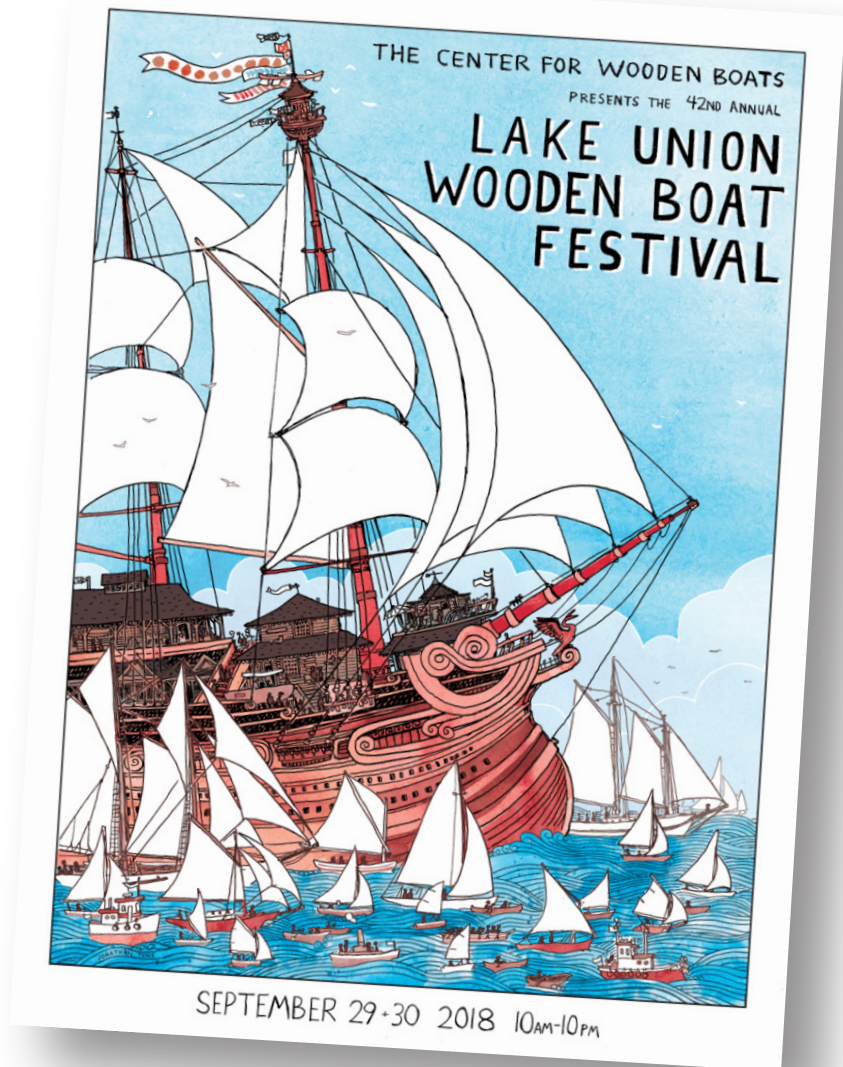
The boats were grouped by similarity along the docks, and I was greatly impressed by the east dock that was filled totally with 10 classic power boats, the newest being the *Gyr Falcon* of 1941; the next a 1937, and all of the rest were from the 1920s. Moving to the more westward docks were other CYA classics and classic sail boats all of various sizes and shapes. The oldest boat to participate was the 111 year old *Sea Witch*, in all her polished bronze-work splendor. Socializing was the word of the day from the Friday night opening barbecue hosted by the CWB, to inviting guests and interested visitors onto your boat, to wonderful music in the park

that unfortunately was dampened by a bit of light rain, to watching children build wooden boats, to the food circus, to historical exhibits, to model boats, to workshop tours, to competitive boatbuilding, to boat rides on sailboats and the *Virginia V*, to just being there in this wonderful atmosphere.

Without reservation, I can certainly say that the whole weekend was a rousing success. We cannot thank enough the Staff of the CWB, its volunteers, and the sponsors enough. A tremendous amount of planning and work went on beforehand. Referencing the CWB the statistics are the following:

The 2018 Lake Union Wooden Boat Festival at a glance:

- 5,200+ visitors
- 852 toy & model boats built
- 700+ CastOFF! Public Sail participants
- 534 volunteer shifts were filled by 164 volunteers (THANK YOU!)
- 165 wooden vessels of all types on display
- 65 visiting Exhibitor vessels on-the-water
- 12 Boats participated in CastOFF! Public Sail
- 3 Quick & Daring boats built
- 1 People's Choice Award Winner... *S/V Suva*!



# Thanksgiving Cruise

by Jim Paynton, #427



Let's see – on the day after Thanksgiving, a choice between going to the mall and getting swallowed up by thousands of bargain hunters, or taking a quiet boat ride and joining with some dear CYA friends.....  
Hmmm. As Jack Benny used to say, “I’m thinking it over!” It didn’t take long for a number of PNW fleet members to decide to enjoy the latter option, and a wonderful afternoon was enjoyed by all.

Mike and Neri Oswald, along with daughter-in-law Anna, arrived first at the Husky Stadium floats aboard *Freya*, followed by Jim, Margie, Matt and Diane Paynton aboard *Maranee*. Roger Morse and Kevin Utter, taking a welcome “summer” vacation from their current home Down Under, brought along aboard *Thunderbird* Andy, Genevieve and Jeremy Carlson (*Cinnamon Girl*) and former members Mark and Ginger Garff. Then the original flagship of the PNW fleet, *Marian II*, gracefully slid into her mooring under the deft helm of Diane Lander.

The participants took part in the traditional “progressive potluck,” with snacks, main dishes, and dessert all served aboard different boats. Two large boxes of food for the less fortunate were donated, and later taken to a local food bank. As lights began to twinkle on around Union Bay, and the famous Husky Stadium eagle took his position on the tall willow above the floats, the classics took their leave and headed back through Montlake cut for home.

It really is an easy decision! Please consider taking Jack Benny’s advice, and join this relaxing cruise next year.



▲ Two large boxes of food for the less fortunate were donated, and later taken to a local food bank.

▼ CYA Member vessels line the float at the University of Washington Husky Docks for the annual post-Thanksgiving celebration.



# WELCOME TO THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF THE PNW FLEET!



Paul and Teresa Sabin  
*TOMARA*  
36' 1941 Edison Technical School  
Tacoma, WA  
Addition of Vessel – change from  
'Member' to 'Classic'

Richard Gilmore and Sandra Tate  
*TUSITALA*  
58' 1908 Anderson Boat Yard  
Poulsbo, WA  
Jim Paynton, Sponsor  
Classic



Kyle Holt and Garret Holt  
*CATOCTIN*  
40' 1946 Wheeler  
Seattle, WA  
John Lebens, Sponsor  
Vintage

## NEW MEMBERS

Devon and Janet Liles  
*SOFIA*  
Tacoma, WA

Larry Wood  
Port Townsend



## Pacific Northwest Fleet UPCOMING EVENTS

**Opening Day**  
May 4

**Olympia Wooden Boat Festival**  
May 10-12

**Edmonds Waterfront Festival**  
May 31 - June 2

## Pacific Northwest **CLASSIC YACHTING**

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

Laura Shifflette.....*Commodore*  
Bill Foulk.....*Vice Commodore*  
Roger Palmer.....*Rear Commodore*  
Christian Dahl.....*Staff Commodore*  
John Lebens.....*Oregon Staff  
Commodore*  
Janice Palmer.....*Secretary*  
Tad Unger.....*Treasurer*  
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**Next Newsletter Submission  
Deadline March 31**