



*Bob and Kellay in Bucerias say they are really sorry to be missing the snow! Yah, right!*

## The sun is just teasing us – it's still freezing!

Make sure you book your space for Shakedown right away as we're getting together before the start of the marina's summer season so they have less dock space available! Don't forget to mention you are with the GYC and we should all be accommodated. But they will only hold dock space for us until two weeks before the arrival date so **book today** and avoid disappointment.

Because our February meeting was cancelled, this is a super short newsletter mainly to tell you about the speaker at our next general meeting, **Glen Dickson**. He is going to be telling us all about the coast we are so familiar with and I'm sure we're going to learn many interesting factoids to enhance our cruising enjoyment.

**Kellay and Bob** are just returning home after an extended time south in the sun and sent us a few photos to illustrate the tough time they were having, complete with a whale sighting! Many of our members are off seeking warmth and adventure: the **Laings** have just returned from a long stay in Hawaii; **Chris and Ragnar** were all over the map, including Hawaii; the **Pengelly's** are cruising around South America and are looking forward to rounding the Horn and **Cam and Maryanna** are struggling to avoid dehydration in Malaysia and other parts east. And those are only the few I know about. How about chiming in with a few words and a pic from your winter retreat this year? While the boats are still covered in green instead of rolling on the deep blue, the newsletter could use a little cheering up.

If you're in the planning mode, check out the theme of the Victoria Day Cruise to Telegraph. If you'd like to participate and have some suggestions for new games to play that will fit the theme, let Fred know.

See you at the March meeting (weather permitting).

Suzanne Walker, Editor S/V White Wolf



**MARCH 11**

## The Geology of the Coast



### Glen Dickson

When you're drifting down Trincomali Channel have you ever wondered why the southwest side of Galiano has vertical bluffs while the northeast side has sloping beaches?

Well, Glen can explain why.

**Don't miss the presentation on March 11th to find out.**

Continued p.2 Staff Captain's Report

# GULF SAILOR

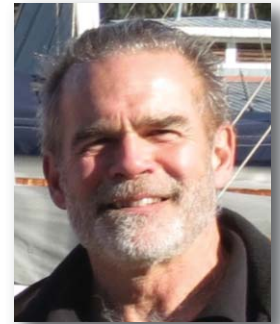
## Staff Captain's Report

In our next presentation Glen Dickson will be talking about the relationship between geology and resultant marine features of BC coast.

Glen graduated from the University of Saskatchewan in 1974 with a BSc Degree majoring in Geology. He spent the next 40 years in the mineral exploration industry, primarily in northern Canada. Now retired, Glen provides a steady stream of geological gems of knowledge.

Ever wonder why BC is such a geologically diverse and fascinating part of Canada? Of course you do!

Hang on to your hats as Glen reviews the past few million years that formed the land and seas of Beautiful British Columbia at our next meeting March 11th.



George Bamford,  
Staff Captain, S/V Somerset

And while we have a geologist in our midst maybe he can explain this item that has the navigational world abuzz...(Ed.)

## The magnetic north pole is moving, causing navigation issues

U.S. military requests update to World Magnetic Model to help navigation:

Rapid shifts in the Earth's north magnetic pole are forcing researchers to make an unprecedented early update to a model that helps navigation by ships, planes and submarines in the Arctic, scientists said.

Compass needles point toward the north magnetic pole — a point which has crept unpredictably from the coast of northern Canada a century ago, to the middle of the Arctic Ocean, moving toward Russia.

**It didn't move much between 1900 and 1980 but it's really accelerated in the past 40 years.**

"It's moving at about 50 kilometres a year. It didn't move much between 1900 and 1980, but it's really accelerated in the past 40 years," Ciaran Beggan, of the British Geological Survey, told Reuters.

A five-year update of a World Magnetic Model was due in 2020 but the U.S. military requested an unprecedented early review, he said. The BGS runs the model with the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).



*The U.S. military has requested an unprecedented early review of the scientific model used for compass navigation because of the rapid drift of the Earth's magnetic north pole in recent decades.*

*(Petty Officer 3rd Class Rachel French/U.S. Coast Guard/Reuters)*

Beggan said the moving pole affected navigation, mainly in the Arctic Ocean north of Canada. NATO and the U.S. and British militaries are among those using the magnetic model, as well as civilian navigation.

### Unpredictable changes inside Earth

The wandering pole is driven by unpredictable changes in liquid iron deep inside the Earth. An update will be released on Jan. 30, the journal Nature said, delayed from Jan. 15 because of the U.S. government shutdown.

"The fact that the pole is going fast makes this region more prone to large errors," Arnaud Chulliat, a geomagnetist at the University of Colorado Boulder and NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information, told Nature.

Beggan said the recent shifts in the north magnetic pole would be unnoticed by most people outside the Arctic, for instance using smartphones in New York, Beijing or London.

Navigation systems in cars or phones rely on radio waves from satellites high above the Earth to pinpoint their position on the ground.

"It doesn't really affect mid or low latitudes," Beggan said. "It wouldn't really affect anyone driving a car."

Many smartphones have built-in compasses to help to orient maps or for some games, such as Pokemon Go. In most places, however, the compass would be pointing only fractionally wrong, Beggan said, within errors allowed in the five-year models.

CBC Online posted  
Jan 15, 2019  
12:01 PM ET  
| Last Updated:  
January 16  
Thomson Reuters ·



*The moving north pole has affected navigation, mainly in the Arctic Ocean north of Canada. NATO and the U.S. and British militaries are among those using the magnetic model for navigation.* (Wallace Woon/EPA-EFE)



# GULF SAILOR

## Executive Officers 2019

**Commodore:** Darlyne Farrell  
SawLeeAh

**Vice Com:** Chris Stangroom  
Christie Cove

**Fleet Captain:** Fred Bain  
Koinonia

**Staff Captain:** George Bamford  
Somerset

**Exec. Officer:** Pat Costa  
Sparkle Plenty

**Hon. Secretary:** Cam. Shields  
Kwinnum

**Hon. Treasurer:** Martin Pengelly  
Kailani

**Hon. Signals Officer:** Andreas Truckenbrodt  
Beautiful Day

**Past Com:** John Dixon  
Tantramar

**Hon. Editor:** Suzanne Walker  
White Wolf  
dandg@portal.ca

## Commodore's Report

We've had a cold start to 2019. Our February General Meeting was canceled due to snow but I'm looking forward to seeing everyone this Monday, March 11 at the Maritime Museum.

The Executive Meetings have been held as scheduled and your executive is working to make this an interesting year.

Rod and I have not been sailing yet; however, we've both been skiing at Whistler and I spent a week with 13 amazing women in Silver Star, Vernon, skiing and snowshoeing.

Rod is just now cleaning the green from the outside of SawLeeAh so we'll be ready for Shakedown Cruise on March 23rd

For those of you who are not yet ready to shake out your sails, I hope to see you at the Easter Cruise.

The Roster is near completion and you will soon be receiving a pdf version by email. The hard copy will be ready in April.

Hoping for sunny warm weather and favourable winds.

Arbutus Cove awaiting attention.



"My boat and my neighbour's boat in Nanaimo before I cleared the snow off them."  
Stewart Murray

Tantramar under wraps.



"Looking forward to tarp removal, spring commissioning and sailing season."  
John Dixon, Past Commodore



Darlyne (Dar) Farrell,  
Commodore,  
S/V Saw Lee Ah

## DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE TO RUN AWAY AND JOIN THE CIRCUS!

Book your moorage for the Victoria Day Cruise first.

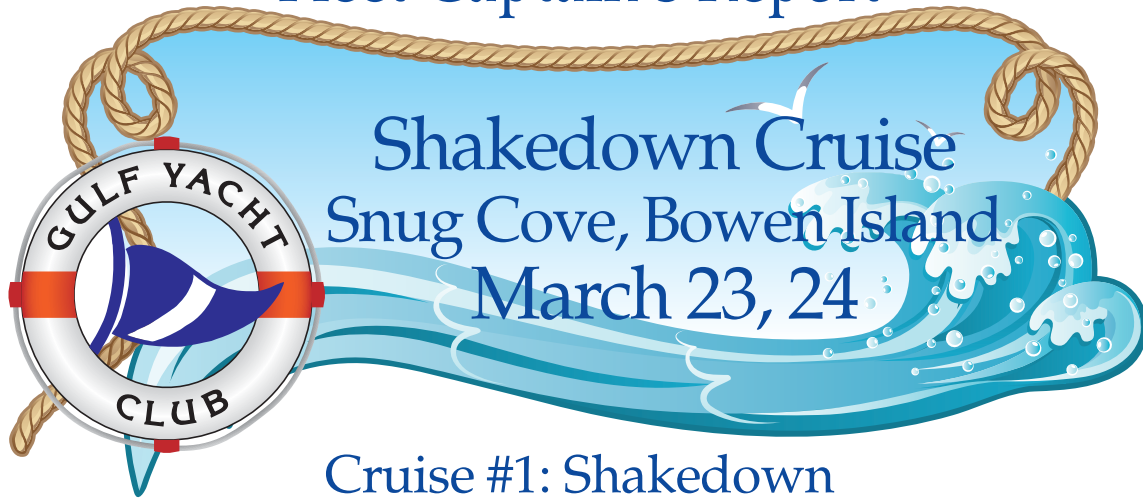
Then let your imagination run wild to come up with the perfect (and comfortable) costume for...

A NIGHT AT THE CIRCUS

AND GET YOUR RINGLING THING HAPPENING

# GULF SAILOR

## Fleet Captain's Report



### Cruise #1: Shakedown

#### Saturday, March 23: Arrive at your leisure. Dar hosting. Summer House activities...

- The Summer House will be open usually by **1600hrs (4pm)** for those not on a boat).
- **Appies** will miraculously appear and much visiting will occur.
- A pre-dinner game could be in order if someone was led to lead one.
- Another soon-to-be-famous **pot-luck dinner** will be served.
- After the dinner a **boatbuilding exercise**, overseen by George B. and Miles, will take place that will include designing and building a competitive sailing vessel to compete with other vessels on Sunday morning.

#### Sunday, March 24: Breakfast followed by Boat Race with George B. and Miles officiating.



*Will it be a dock start?*

- Sunday begins with an **early breakfast** organized by Suzanne and the usual cast of characters (you know who you are) in the Summer House.
- Following the breakfast, members who constructed "sailing ships" the evening before will launch at a place that is decided by George B. and Miles.
- Let the race begin. **Note: This is the ONLY club sanctioned race for the whole year! Don't miss it.**

George and Miles will probably have some idea of the intricacies and rules involved in hosting the race.



*Or a beach start this year?*

### OUT-OF-TOWNERS OR BOATLESS?

For those who do not have their boat available for the trip or no longer have a boat, we have rented the Summer House: \$25/night (+\$10 if you bring a pet) + taxes. Please let us know if you are interested in this.

The Summer House is booked for **Saturday night** only.  
Cleanup and everyone else out by 1100hrs Sunday.

### Have more fun by Volunteering!

Does this sound like fun? Make it even more fun by volunteering. We need help in dinner and breakfast preparations, cleanup, a scribe to record this event for the Gulf Sailor, someone(s) to take pictures for the memories, someone for running the 50/50 draw, and someone for starting the Poker Hand competition that lasts the season.

For further information, see the Gulf Sailor, January/February 2019 or call Fred 604 921 8392 or mail fb8392@telus.net



Fred Bain, Fleet Captain  
S/V Koinonia



## GULF SAILOR

## Fleet Captain's Report



## Cruise #2: Easter

The Easter rendezvous takes place at the **Ladysmith Maritime Society Marina**. It is the first marina you come to on the port side as you enter the harbour and their phone number is **250 245 1146**.

**Good Friday:**

Some of you may be planning on going straight to Ladysmith on the Friday, but others may stay at other locations (to be determined depending on consensus).

- **Happy Hour** somewhere

**Saturday:**

Most boats will probably arrive on Saturday morning. .

- **Potluck Dinner** in the upstairs room at the marina: remember there is **NO OVEN** so all food must be prepared aboard your boat. Bring **EITHER** a main dish **OR** a salad and dessert.

**Easter Sunday:**

Sunday at noon we will have a hot dog lunch on the dock: hot dogs, buns and salad will be provided.

- **Coffee and sweets** on the dock of the marina
- **BBQ Hotdog Lunch** on the deck of the marina

**Monday:**

- **Departure**

More details about these cruises coming soon.

## Cruise #3: Sailpast

Our **SAILPAST** is still a long time off (**April 27, 28**) but make your reservations soon at **USSC Marina (Union Steamship Company)** **604 947 0707**.



First marina  
as you enter  
the harbour.



Fred Bain, Fleet Captain  
*S/V Koinonia*



# GULF SAILOR

## Brew Your Own and Stave off Scurvy

For several centuries, seafaring explorers remained relatively healthy by chugging spruce beer, a drink made by boiling the tree's green tips.

If the only fruit in your house during the holidays is fruitcake, fear not. There's another way to stave off scurvy without eating the munitions you've been saving for the annual Great Fruitcake Toss. For centuries, indigenous North Americans, Vikings, and Colonists stayed alive and well using the tips of the tree that millions of people throw away every year after the Christmas season.



For several centuries, seafaring explorers remained relatively healthy by chugging spruce beer, a drink made by boiling the tree's green tips. Voyagers recognized the evergreens were a source of nutrients in Scandinavia and the Great White North, even during the most barren and bleak of winters. Spruce appeared in both alcoholic and non-alcoholic preparations; however, fermenting the young needles removes their vitamin C, so alcoholic versions weren't (successfully) used as a treatment against scurvy.

Ancient Norwegians believed the brew offered strength in battle, enhanced fertility, and kept them healthy during long stretches at sea. By the 16th century, European explorers in North America were recording the use of spruce to keep sailors scurvy-free. In Newfoundland, it became one of the most popular, readily available drinks around. Captain James Cook describes two of his men brewing the fragrant beer for the crew's daily consumption in his 1784

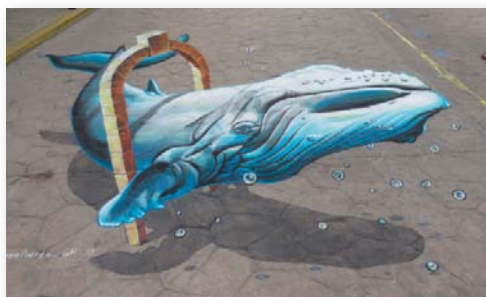
book, *Voyage to the Pacific Ocean*. The British navy also became dependent on the elixir as a cure and prevention for scurvy. Eighteenth-century British and Colonial American armies were equipped with a constant ration of the stuff. Spruce beer remained common until the end of the 1800s, when it faded into obscurity.

Unsurprisingly, the beverage tastes a lot like drinking a Christmas tree. Fans call it "crisp and refreshing," while others liken the experience to "downing Pine-Sol." Though a flavor resurgence trend never occurred, in recent years, select craft breweries and soda companies have taken to brewing with the needles for novelty. This time around, spruce is packaged as a luxury good for the curious palate, rather than as a necessary element of basic survival.

Spruce beer is sold in Canada but if you've got a Christmas tree handy, you can make a batch of the stuff at home using 18th-century recipes posted online. The most pungent of spruce beer is made with fresh tips, but the needles of a dead Christmas tree will work fine as long as they're still green and not completely dry.



John Dixon,  
S/V Tantramar



## A whale of a time...

Bob and Kellay will have a rude awakening when they touch down – they'll need their winter hats!

*A great photo from the 3 day street festival here in Bucerias: this was our favourite chalk drawing. Hope you aren't suffering in the cold snap, not to rub it in but it's 28-30 every day here! Left to right below: our poolside deck; our great niece relaxing in the pool; words to live by; the boys sitting on our Mexican wall, they build good walls here. Lots of fun had by all.*



Kellay and Bob Hamelin,  
S/V An Affair





# GULF SAILOR



General Meetings  
begin at 7:30 pm



Executive Meetings  
begin at 7:30 pm

## GYC Cruise and Meeting Schedule 2019

Month	Cruise Dates	Event and Cruise Location	General Meeting MONDAYS
January 2019	14	AGM and GM: Maritime Museum	Jan 14
February	11	General Meeting: Maritime Museum	Feb 11
March	11	General Meeting: Maritime Museum	Mar 11
March	23, 24	<b>SHAKEDOWN CRUISE:</b> Snug Cove	Sat/Sun
April	8	General Meeting: Maritime Museum	Apr 8
April	19, 20, 21	<b>EASTER CRUISE:</b> Ladysmith	Fri/Sat/Sun
April	27, 28	<b>SAILPAST:</b> Snug Cove	Sat/Sun
May	13	Pub Night: TBA	*May 13
May	18, 19, 20	<b>VICTORIA DAY CRUISE:</b> Telegraph Cove, Thetis Island	May 14
June	7, 8, 9	<b>SUMMER CRUISE:</b> Gulf Islands: TBA	Fri/Sat/Sun
June	10	General Meeting: Maritime Museum	June 10
June/July	June 29, 30/July 1	<b>CANADA DAY CRUISE:</b> Smuggler Cove	Sat/Sun/Mon
August	3, 4, 5	<b>BC DAY CRUISE:</b> Squirrel Cove (Northern); Montague (Southern)	TBA Sat/Sun/Mon
Aug/Sept	31, Sept 1, 2	<b>LABOUR DAY CRUISE:</b> Newcastle Island	Sat/Sun/Mon
September	9	Pub Night: TBA	*Sept 9
October	4, 5, 6	<b>FALL CRUISE:</b> Port Graves/Gibsons	Fri/Sat/Sun
October	7	General Meeting: Maritime Museum	**Oct 7
November	11	General Meeting: Maritime Museum	Nov 11
November	16	<b>AWARDS DINNER DANCE:</b> RVYC	Nov 16
December	9	<b>CHRISTMAS SING-ALONG/General Meeting</b>	Dec 9
	31	<b>NEW YEAR'S CRUISE:</b> Snug Cove	Dec 31
January 2020	13	AGM and GM: Maritime Museum	Jan 13

\*Pub Night

\*\* Denotes General Meeting on First Monday of the Month

