



GULF SAILOR

CRUISING UNDER SAIL



Sailpast – more of a ‘motorpast’ this year with no wind under gloomy skies – turned sunny in the end.

Looking ahead to the end of winter...

Surely it hasn't come to this: praying for sun and warm weather in the middle of May? Just a few days before the Victoria Day Cruise to Thetis and we're still shivering in our long underwear (well, some of us are – maybe not Robert). Here's hoping the weekend will turn brighter for us.

Check out our Fleet Captain's reports to see what cruises are coming up, and learn what **Ron and Eleanor Vandergaag** have planned for the next cruise to Telegraph Harbour Marina.

Naida is heading ever more northwards en route to her haulout in Porto Penasco before her crew return home for the summer.

Staff Captain Doug has wrangled well-known personality, **Grant Lawrence**, to regale us at our next meeting with stories of Desolation Sound. This will be a really entertaining event so make sure to be there, in person or on Zoom.

Club events are well covered this newsletter: **John D.** reports on both our Easter Cruise and the Spectacular Spring Cruise; **Dar** writes about Sailpast, and **Lorraine** provides a photo record of the recent Pub Night at Mahony's. Thanks to all those who provided photos for all these events. I have captioned many of the photos where space permits, naming names so new members can see who's who and old members can get to know new ones. Don't forget to enlarge the photos to get a better look.

A reminder about the Club tools that are available to active members **for free**, pg 13.

And remember Guirec Soudée? The young man sailing around the world with a chicken? Well, **Terry Dixon** was curious about where he is now, what he's up to and how Monique is getting along.

Finally, for sailors, new and old, who desire to boldly go to anchorages where they have not gone before, here is a story about how the Salish Sea Pilot came into being and what new worlds are described for you to explore.

Have fun at Thetis – see you at the next meeting!

Suzanne Walker, Editor S/V White Wolf



JUNE 13

Return to Solitude



Local award-winning author and broadcast personality

Grant Lawrence

will be telling stories of Desolation Sound and reading from his recently released book, *Return to Solitude*.

See Staff Captain's Report p3

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Executive Officers 2022

Commodore: Pat Costa
Sparkle Plenty

Vice Com: Cathie West
Serenity

Fleet Captain: Robert Sinkus
Reality

Staff Captain: Doug MacLeod
Willpower

Exec. Officer: Martin Pengelly
Kailani

Hon. Secretary: Cecilia Wong
Sassy

Hon. Treasurer: Glen Mitchell
Tango

Hon. Signals Officer: Andreas Truckenbrodt
Beautiful Day

Past Com: Christie Stangroom
Christie Cove

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

Commodore's Message

As the 'new' Commodore, I was quite anxious about everything going smoothly at Sailpast. I needn't have worried. In true GYC style, there was a special camaraderie surrounding the weekend and I felt greatly honoured by the whole event!

John and Terry Dixon invited us aboard *Tantramar* as their guests. We anchored securely in Pilot Cove, next to Caufield Cove in some 21 m. of water. The weather was drizzly with low hanging clouds and zero wind so the parade of some 11 boats saluted, or dipped their jibs, as they passed *Tantramar* in a dignified and orderly fashion.

We arrived in Snug Cove just as the ferry was leaving, at 12:00. For some reason Union Steamships would not allow us to dock until 12:30 so John and Rui tied us up at the 'government' dock. We were able then to have

a quick lunch before tying up on A dock. The rest of our members soon followed, greeted by Suzanne and Miles Walker, as this is their home port.



Pat Costa, Commodore,
S/V Sparkle Plenty



The sun finally peeked out just in time for the Commodore's Toast. At 4:30 we all gathered around a flag-draped *Tantramar*, uncorked the champagne and passed around munchies to celebrate our 2022 Sailpast. Then it was off to the heated tents of Doc Morgans for a fun dinner, al fresco, after which we meandered back to our respective vessels, ready to call it a night.

Cristina and Andreas kindly picked up some muffins for our Sunday coffee morning get-together. After a short in-person Executive Meeting (with Glen and Robert on Facetime) we returned to our vessels, 'weighed anchors' and headed off to our home ports.

A special thanks to Dar for dealing out the Poker Hands and contributing to keeping GYC traditions alive and well. Thanks, too, for her guidance supporting my new role. Thanks to Chris for lending me the sparkly Commodore's Cap and to her and Ragnar on *Christie Cove* for participating in the flotilla before heading south to Seattle. I received regrets from members near and far who were unable to join us in person for this weekend: Tony Swain, one of the founding members of the GYC, was on this list.

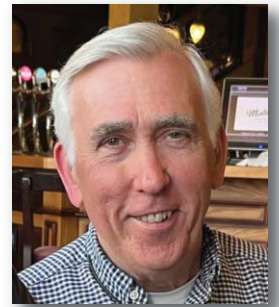
I look forward to seeing you all out on the water sometime in the future. Hopefully it will be warmer and sunnier by then...



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Staff Captain's Report

Sailors always love hearing stories of other sailors' boat problems. Rod Baker, author of *I Need My Yacht by Friday*, provided lots of laughter at our April 11th meeting as he described his 20 years in the boat repair business. See Cecilia's photos of the meeting below.



Doug MacLeod,
Staff Captain,
S/V Willpower



June 13th Meeting

At our June 13 meeting Grant Lawrence, will be telling tales and reading from his recently released book, *Return to Solitude*. The book will be available for purchase and signing.



September 12:
pub night
at Mahony's



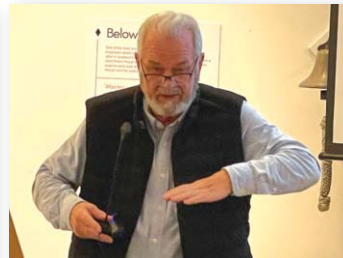
October 17:

Nicole from
Evolution Sails will provide a presentation on Sail Care. She's been in the sail making business for years and has lots of knowledge to share.



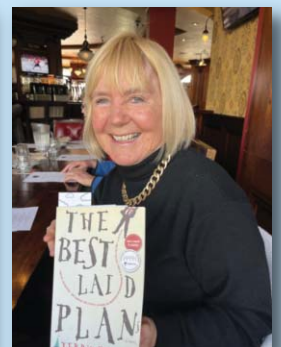
November 14: Amber Mae, nicknamed the Underwater Angel, will give us an audio-visual presentation on *Under Water Garbage Hauls*. Amber works in association with Divers for Cleaner Lakes and Oceans and a world initiative called Project Aware. Here, and on the first page of the last newsletter, the results of their recent dive at Shakedown to clean up the marina bottom.

Rod Baker regaled everyone with his "true tales from the boat repair yard." His motto? "Give them quality, that's the best kind of marketing."



What's the Recipe for a Good Night Out?

Take 30 pints of beer, add 20 glasses of wine, include a menu of delicious meals and the final ingredient - 30 Gulf Yacht Club members. Voila! You've got a fun night at the pub.



Left to right: Long-time (past) member Catherine with Nancy; Jane; John and Jaimie; Past member Nick, Ted and Catherine; Dee recommending enjoyable Terry Fallis novel. See more of Lorraine's great pics p.14.

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Easter Cruise to Ladysmith

A small flotilla headed out for a 'Happy Easter' cruise, despite threatening weather. The Vancouver Island contingent greeted them on the dock beginning the festivities.

Tantramar departed Vancouver at 06:00 on Good Friday and yes, it was dark and cold. Once in the strait the breeze came up and we (*Tantramar* and I) enjoyed a brisk sail, transited Porlier Pass a bit before low slack, then anchored in Clam Bay. *Feliner*, *Moondance* and *Reality* arrived in time for appie hour on the beach, generously hosted by Ron and Eleanor who live nearby on Thetis Island.

The next day we had another nice sail from Clam Bay to Ladysmith Maritime Society Marina where we were warmly greeted at the dock by the GYC Vancouver Island contingent (Glen, Bruce and Adele, John and Karen). At this point there were 10 boats in attendance (*Christie Cove*, *Feliner*, *Forever Young*, *Kailani*, *Moondance*, *Reality*, *Sassy*, *SawLeeAh*, *Sparkle Plenty* and *Tantramar*) and all were gifted with local information packages, a Ladysmith pin and Easter candy.

That afternoon there was a Wine Tasting Competition with each boat offering up a bottle of their favourite grape. Participants



tasted and rated each bottle then recorded their opinions. The winner was Past Commodore Chris, who entered a Malbec blend, and last place was awarded to our Commodore, Pat, who had put in a California Pinot Noir. Pat attempted to blame your humble scribe for recommending this particular bottle! Just to be clear, Terry and I find this wine to be very good and dispute the ratings given. Perhaps it doesn't pair well with cheezies.

Following this, we GYCers made our way to the Fox & Hounds Pub in Ladysmith for dinner.



Sunday brought more agreeable weather and coffee on the dock with delicious cinnamon buns from a local bakery. Six boats left around this time and headed home. Next on the agenda was the hunt for "brown eggs" which were stealthily hidden by Adele and once found could be redeemed for beer. Many bratwursts were BBQ'ed for lunch and enjoyed by the remaining sailors.

That evening there was a potluck dinner in the LMS building and in keeping with GYC tradition, there was plenty of good food.

Monday was wet and windy or as Captain Vancouver indicated his 1793 log "thick and rainy (sic) weather" and the GYC fleet remained at the LMS dock. Bruce and Adele hosted a pizza dinner at their nearby waterfront home and along with the Laings, provided transportation.



On Tuesday the **Spectacular Spring Cruise** started with one boat, *Tantramar*, participating. Conover Cove and Maple Bay

were the destinations, then home on Thursday.

Kudos to Bruce and Adele, John and Karen and Glen, and Fleet Captain Rob, for making the Easter cruise such a great success.



John Dixon,
S/V *Tantramar*



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A Windless Sailpast in 2022

Fortunately the rain held off for sailpast, although it was misty and there was no wind to fill our sails and Robert, our Fleet Captain, was unfortunately unable to attend.

The following boats attended the actual sailpast: *Christie Cove* (Chris and Ragnar), *Contender* (George), *Lady Dane* (Ted and David), *Moondance* (Liz and Klaus), *Sassy* (Cecilia and friend), *SawLeeAh* (Dar and Rod), *Somerset* (Lorraine and George), *Tantramar* (John, Terry, Pat and Roy), *Willpower* (Mariette and Doug), *Windstrel* (Chuck and Jennifer), *Zelda* (David and Kerry), Cristina and Andreas. Other members joined in the land part of the celebration, arriving on the big boat: *White Wolf* (Suzie and Miles), *Seven N Half%* (Gjoa).



Dar Farrell,
S/V SawLeeAh



Tantramar with flags flying standing in for Sparkle Plenty and Commodore Pat smiling despite the weather.



When the time came to sail past for the salute, Klaus and Liz, on *Moondance*, took the lead and started the line past our Commodore, Pat. Pat, who was on *Tantramar*, saluted the members as we motor-sailed past her.

Most of us headed to Bowen, where we had to wait until 12:30 to be assigned our dock space. The rain didn't hold off forever, but regardless, some went for hikes, others shopped or visited. We all managed to enjoy glasses of bubbly at the Commodore's boat later that afternoon.

We also welcomed new members, David Kramer, who is sharing the boat, *Lady Dane*, with Ted and Dee Henriksen, and Vivian Wu, part owner of a *Tanzer 29, River of Dreams*, who came by big boat as her sailboat's home port is Nanaimo.



Left: Doug, Cristina, Ted and new member David Kramer. New member Vivian Wu helping with preparations for the Commodore's Toast.



Our dinner was held under a big tent at Doc Martin's. It kept us dry and warm and we were able to enjoy a good meal.

The next morning, we met again under the big tent, enjoying our own coffee or tea and munching on a variety of muffins that Andreas and Cristina brought for the occasion.

I think everyone enjoyed meeting again at another successful GYC rendezvous.

Muffins galore fueled early morning conversation. Below: Jennifer, Pat and Kerry. Ted, David K., Miles and George. Doug, John, David L.



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Fleet Captain's Report



Overview of
cruises past
and future

Recent Cruises

• **The Easter Cruise** was a great success that had about 12 boats in attendance. Thanks to John and Karen Laing with a lot of support from Bruce and Adele Shuh and Glen and from Chris and Ragnar for the smokie lunch. Also a big thank you to Ron and Eleanor for hosting the preceding Friday night prior their beautiful waterfront spot at Thetis. Look for John Dixon's Report on this great cruise. It was great to see more members posting their locations on WhatsApp in real time on the way there and back.

• **The Spectacular Spring Cruise** (week after Ladysmith) will go down to posterity as one of the most harmonious cruises in club history and a testament to John Dixon's great leadership (although naysayers might say it was only because *Tantramar* was the only boat on the spectacular cruise!). Either way, kudos to John for his spirit and making the inaugural cruise happen!

• **Sailpast** was a huge success, despite the weather and the fact that I did not get to experience it myself – a positive Covid test the afternoon prior kept me at home self-isolating. I understand it was also a great weekend – everyone enjoyed dinner at Doc Morgan's and only having to provision for two lunches for the whole weekend.

Upcoming Cruises

• **Telegraph Harbour Marina Rendezvous (May 21-23):**

Ron and Eleanor are hosting the Victoria Day Cruise, with a Ukrainian theme. Look for cruise announcement elsewhere in this Gulf Sailor.

• **The Radical Reciprocal Route (the week following Thetis)** is a Self-Managed Cruise. You will be able to connect amongst yourselves and decide on your itineraries at the weekend cruise it is being launched from. The intention of this cruise is to make use of Reciprocal privileges that can be enjoyed by those GYC members who are also members of other yacht clubs which have them. Of course, every night needn't necessarily be at the yacht clubs.

Future Cruises

Please note we are looking for people to host a number of the Future Cruises. For most of these, the host really only needs to act as the contact person. Please let me know if you might be interested. Thank you.

• **Cruise to Bedwell Bay, Indian Arm (June 18-19):**

Don and Laura McLeod hosting.

• **Canada Day Cruise at Smuggler Cove: July Long Weekend (Fri Jul 1-Sun Jul 3):** Host desired

• **July Cruise:** John Dixon has been getting interest from those of you wanting to join him for part, or all, of this trip heading north from Smuggler Cove after the July Long weekend. Contact him if you want more information. He plans to voyage through the Discovery Islands and Desolation Sound, and end up at the Filberg Festival in Comox on the August long weekend. This year, he's planning to have shorter day sails and wants to stay an extra night or two at special anchorages.

• **BC Day Cruise (Jul 30-Aug 1)**

North: Comox: Filberg Festival. Host desired.

South: Montague Harbour: Host desired.

• **Labour Day at Newcastle Island (Sept 3-5):**

Glen Mitchell hosting.



Robert Sinkus,
Fleet Captain,
S/V Reality

Flare Disposal Days:

May 14: Steveston Marine both in Kitsilano and Richmond,
May 21: Lakes Marine Supply, 5968 Trans Canada Hwy, Duncan
May 28: Bitter End Boat Exchange, 1044 Seamount Way, Gibsons
June 11: Comox Marine and Woodworking, 1766 Ryan Rd E, Comox

Details at <https://www.cps-ecp.ca/events/safety-equipment-flare-disposal-days-2/>

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Fleet Captain's Report



Ron and Eleanor are your hosts for this year's May long weekend cruise to Telegraph Harbour Marina on Thetis Island. Here's what's going to happen...

Friday:

Many of you who have visited Clam Bay in years past will have likely attended late afternoon get-togethers on the spit on the Friday before the main event. Ron and Eleanor, however, have warned us that the low tides will mean a long, slippery, smelly, mucky walk to their shore on Friday evening.

So GYCers are on their own that evening. If you're at the marina, though, maybe everyone might like to go to the pub. And not to be deterred, John Dixon suggests a GYC Dinghy Raft-up for Happy Hour for those who DO anchor in Clam Bay.

Robert also heard on the grapevine that a number of members who have missed visits to Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park in recent years might head there on the Friday.



Ron and Eleanor
Vandergaag,
S/V Hollyberry

**Raising Your Main in Support of Ukraine:**

In the past we have had "themes" for our special Victoria Day Weekend. This year we count ourselves so lucky to be gathering at Thetis and enjoying being together again after two years of Covid.

Because of what is happening in the Ukraine right now and how it is affecting our world, we felt a show of support is in order. With that in mind, our "theme" will be the colours yellow and blue. Wear it, paint it, eat it! As long as it's yellow and blue. "Dress up in costumes or not – your choice," adds Eleanor.

Saturday:

10-2:00: Farmers Market – Bring cash! A few new vendors this year.

4:00: Happy Hour and Boat Building – On the lawn, weather permitting, or in the Pavilion if need be (it's booked just in case). Boat Building will follow appies. George B. in charge and is providing all the building materials – ONLY those provided may be incorporated in your craft.

7-10:00: Music by Andy and Dancing – Great live music by Andy, so bring your dancing shoes.

Sunday:

Boat Racing Time and location to be announced.

9-10:00: Morning Muffins on the dock. Bring your own beverage.

12:30: Hot Dog BBQ: on the lawn (provided by club)

Afternoon: Boat maintenance, walkabout and games (if desired)!

6:00 Dinner: At the Pavilion – bring your own dinner, protein to bbq, salads, wine etc. Boat Race Award

Monday:

Heading out on Radical Reciprocal Route, returning to home ports, or going off on an adventure somewhere else.

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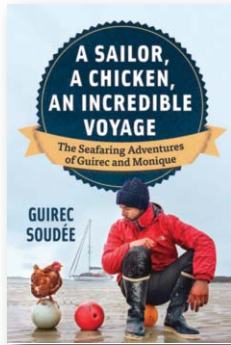
A Sailor, A Chicken, An Incredible Voyage

Terry updates us about a remarkable young sailor, his even more remarkable pet and a most remarkable life on and off the water.

In January 2018 at the annual GYC Member Presentations evening I gave a 15 minute talk about a young French sailor, Guirec Soudée, who we had met in an anchorage north of Port Hardy in July 2017. To summarize, for those who have forgotten or weren't there, our *Tantramar* and his *Yvinec* were the only two boats in the anchorage at God's Pocket Dive Resort on Hurst Island. I had kayaked over to invite him to join us for happy hour but he declined as he was moving on toward Cape Scott before dark. So we chatted, me in my kayak and he standing on his foredeck flying a drone. In the following 10 minutes I was treated to one of the most interesting conversations I've ever had with a stranger.



Terry Dixon,
S/V *Tantramar*



He had started his sailing adventure a couple of years before from Yvinec, a tiny island off the coast of Brittany where he lived. After crossing the Atlantic and spending some time in the Caribbean, he sailed north up the east coast of North America to Greenland where he purposefully tested his survival skills (and the fortitude of his boat) by spending four months marooned in the Arctic ice. At break-up, his voyage continued west through the Northwest Passage to Alaska where he stayed a few months before continuing south through BC on his way to San Francisco. As if this story wasn't entertaining enough, he wasn't alone in this adventure, he said. As he drew my attention to the graphic of a chicken on the bow of his boat, he told me his crew was his pet hen, Monique. If he hadn't been so enthusiastic, articulate and charming I might have thought him crazy. Gesturing towards the drone I asked if he was making a documentary and in response he handed me his card with website, Facebook and Instagram links.



When I next had an internet connection, about a week later, I looked him up. A social media star, he was, with thousands of followers, including one of my English cousins. There I found his entire story featuring the intrepid Monique at the tiller, on a surfboard, and skating on the ice wearing a handmade sweater. I signed on immediately and have been following Guirec Soudée ever since.



then complete one last Atlantic crossing to finally finish his north-south circumnavigation in December 2019.

Since then Guirec Soudée has toured his documentary film around France, written a children's book, rowed the Atlantic Ocean solo from east to west, and the following year from west to east. He also became a father. Via social media he recently announced he will be a contender for the Vendée Globe 2024, having secured both a boat and a major sponsor.

About 6 months ago a friend who works in publishing told me about a book that was soon to be published in English...a book written by a young French sailor who had completed a north-south circumnavigation with his pet chicken. Not for a second did she expect to hear that I had met him. A few weeks ago she handed me *A Sailor, A Chicken, An Incredible Voyage* by Guirec Soudée. My goodness, what an adventure tale. It takes a certain kind of person to not only survive the hardships that Guirec and Monique endured, but to continually seek them out? Well that's something else altogether. It's a worthwhile read.

And Monique? She has not joined Guirec in any of his subsequent adventures. She prefers instead, he says, the company of her poultry girlfriends on the Isle of Yvinec.



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Naida's heading back up north again.

Can't believe we are already reading about Ken and Anne making tracks north to *Naida's* summer home in Puerto Penasco to be hauled out and kept safe until the fall. They have a lot of water to get under their keel en route, lots of sights to see, anchorages to explore and hikes to enjoy. And we along with them, vicariously.

You can follow them on their adventure here:

<https://forecast.predictwind.com/tracking/display/Naida>

And here are the next lot of posts on their journey:

La Paz: Sat Apr 16 2022

We put our Hydrovane with its new rudder to work effectively on our full day (11.5 hours) sailing north to Los Muertos. It worked well (we set the course and tweaked it a few times and it held our course unlike our experience with the other over-balanced rudder) and we enjoyed the quiet sailing although we did have to motor the last few hours to get to the anchorage before dark.

Los Muertos is fairly remote with some resorts on one side of the bay and a boat launch on the other that caters to fish boats, both commercial and sport. It is often the destination/departure point for boats crossing the Sea of Cortez. There were a handful of boats at anchor when we arrived. It's a day sail from Los Muertos to La Paz, the state capital of Baja California Sur, where boats stop to provision and refuel.

The following day we headed into shore for a beach walk and to have lunch at the restaurant Trenes adjacent to the resort. On our way in we stopped to chat with our neighboring boat *Sagittaire* as they were sitting out in their cockpit when we passed by. We wondered whether the owner was French, but it turned out that the boat was from Quebec and the current California owners didn't change the name. They'd been sailing the Sea of Cortez for the last decade and knew *Naida* from their early days.

This was the first of several connections with folks who've known *Naida* and its previous owners.

Los Muertos, although oriented to the southeast still had strong coromuel winds (southwest winds that blow through the mountain gap of the peninsula driven by the Pacific high pressure) and our second night we had winds gusting to 25 kts. We delayed leaving in the morning due to the lingering strong winds but when we did leave and were 1-2 nm out of the bay the winds were only 5-7 kts, barely enough for sailing. All the wind was in the anchorage.



Bahia de los Muertos, Baja

We motor sailed north on the inside of Isla Cerralvo (now renamed Isla Jacques Cousteau) and headed for Bonanza Bay on the east side of Isla Espiritu Santo for protection from the forecasted evening coromuels, arriving just at sunset. The one other boat in the anchorage turned out to be *Azura Kai*, our bungee boat (Passport 40) coming down the coast, now with the new owners aboard.

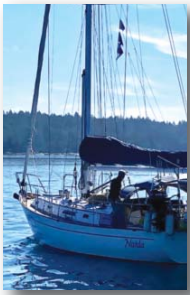
We chatted with Steve and Terri in the morning when they came by on their paddle boards. They are planning to summer the boat in Ensenada and will be doing the trip north on the Baja coast in early May. Although it would have been nice to spend the day in the anchorage and visit more extensively with AK crew, we opted not to delay our arrival in La Paz as Semana Santa (holy week before Easter which is a major holiday in Mexico) was coming up and we wanted to be sure to connect with a rigger for some work. As it turned out we got the chance to visit with AK crew a day later when they pulled into the slip next to ours in Marina Palmira in La Paz!

We had a few small cruising world connections while here in La Paz. First, the boat *Joy*, a Passport 43, one slip over from ours recognized our boat when we pulled in. Owner Jeff had sailed down the west coast of the US with previous *Naida* owners John and Barb, 14 years ago! He's had the boat in Mexico for a while and is planning to take it back to Ventura, California this spring.

Our other small world connection occurred when we were chatting with Steve and Terri over a dinner of tacos pastor and we mentioned that *Naida's* previous owners live in Pender Harbour. Terri turned to Steve and said that *Southern Cross* crew, Cam and Bet, were from Pender Harbour. Indeed it turned out to be the same Cam and Bet we'd met in God's Pocket at the north end of Vancouver Island four years ago and we rounded Cape Caution with them. Steve and Terri had met them in February when arriving in Mazatlan. C&B had bought *Southern Cross* in San Carlos a few months earlier. Cam has retired from teaching chemistry and Bet is still working part time. We reconnected with them on WhatsApp. They are leaving *Naida continued on p.10*



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Naida continued from p.9

Southern Cross in Nuevo Vallarta for the summer, and we look forward to meeting up next cruising season.

One morning Anne was sitting on the promenade at the marina chatting on the phone when Mike of *Aphrodite* walked by. We first met Mike and Tom on *Aphrodite* at Ascuncion on the outside of the Baja coming down in the fall. We keep crossing paths with them and always have enjoyable time visiting.

Lastly, as our time in La Paz was drawing to a close *Vortice* came in to drop their visiting daughter and partner off and



The malecon is well lit and stretches from the downtown marinas to Marina Palmira, a stretch of 5km. Many locals make good use of it in the evening and on weekends.



Planeta Veggie's quaint courtyard. La Paz was thoroughly enjoyable! Walking the malecon on an overcast morning, or in the evening, reconnecting with friends and enjoying some of the eateries!

With boat jobs completed we're heading north in the Sea of Cortez.

reprovision before heading north. We visited a couple of times and enjoyed some meals together. They too are heading north in the Sea of Cortez and we look forward to bungee boating with them along the way.

La Paz is a wonderful town which is much newer and cleaner than Puerto Vallarta, Cabo San Lucas, and Ensenada, the other Mexican towns we've spent time in. We exclude Nuevo Vallarta as it is really a North American resort community.

La Paz feels newer since it has grown significantly in population in the last 20 years.

There has been planning with the Malecon along the water and shops across the waterfront street instead of right on the malecon. This makes for a less commercial and more enjoyable promenade. The quaint neighbourhoods reminded us of Kitsilano. Our marina was linked to the town

center via the 5 km long malecon. We walked home one evening and the well-lit malecon had many families and friends walking, cycling, roller-blading and sitting enjoying the fresh breeze and city lights. It's wonderful to see public spaces being put to good use. Of course the Mexican climate at this time of year is very comfortable for enjoying the outdoors.

In the end we spent 10 enjoyable days in La Paz getting some new mast wedges installed, the rig retuned, provisioning, connecting and reconnecting with friends. Now it is northward into the Sea of Cortez, or Golfo de California as we really should say. ☀️

☞ Cruising the Sea of Cortez: Mon Apr 25 2022

Time seems to elapse at a different rate when we're cruising. The pace is more relaxed. There's planning passages and stops with the weather, but otherwise the days are filled with sufficient variety between cruising (this week has been sailing with southern winds), arriving and exploring our new whereabouts.

So when we reflect back it's always surprising that only a week (really eight days as we arrived in Puerto Escondido Saturday) has elapsed since leaving La Paz. We've been in so many places along the way and have connected with different folks.

For the record we had one semi-rolly night in Caleta el Candelero on Espiritu Santo where we also had a manta ray come with 4-6 feet to check us out as we were swimming in crystal green water; three nights in the picturesque Isla San Francisco well protected from northern winds and nowhere as busy as we might have expected for the Easter long weekend; and a one night stopover in San Evaristo, a small fishing village with an excellent palapa restaurant which we supported with an early dinner followed by a walk along the village where cows graze in the lowlands that are edged by the striated rock cliffs of the Sierra de la Giganta, before heading to Agua Verde where we spent three nights.

The lowlands on the way to the ridge hike at Isla San Francisco had wonderful examples of desert plants in bloom and several different cacti. The galloping cactus is



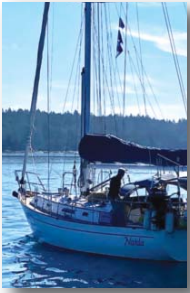
Sunset as seen from the marina.



San Evaristo village.

Naida continued on p.11

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Naida continued from p.10

related to the organpipe cactus (*Stenocereus thurberi*) whose fruit, pitaya dulce, was a significant food for Indigenous people. They even had a second harvest where they collected seeds from their dried feces which was ground into a paste used in cooking.

We would have liked to stop in Bahia de Los Gatos, a scenic anchorage surrounded by pink granite stone that had been recommended to us by GYC friends Larry and Elizabeth (*S/V Toolik*) from their cruising days in the SOC 20 years ago. Sadly the south winds were generating swell that was getting into the anchorage and making it uncomfortable. It was the last day of south winds for a while so we carried on another 16 nm to Agua Verde and we'll hopefully get to Los Gatos on our way south in the fall. So much of cruising is making decisions based on weather and time and many places get bypassed in the hopes of future visits. In the same way we've had spectacular anchorages that may not be favourable the next time we are by.

Agua Verde was beautiful, and after our first day, we moved to tuck inside the northwest corner of the anchorage in 15 feet of water for protection from the north swell entering the bay. We swam and snorkeled at that end of the bay and around pyramid rock in the



Agua Verde

southern portion of the bay. We saw the usual reef fish - King Cortez Angel fish, Damsel fish and small Rays on the

sandy bottom. Some of the more unusual finds were a Scorpion fish, a Giant Hawkfish and a Jewel Moray eel.

We could have easily spent a week in Agua Verde, but fellow cruisers had mentioned that Puerto Escondido was busy and getting one of the 70 mooring balls could be difficult. There was also mention of an upcoming fishing derby that could add to the demand, so we decided to head north. There's no anchoring allowed in and around the protected harbour, and no protected overnight anchorage in Loreto, a small historic town on the east coast of the Baja peninsula 12 miles to the north, which we want to visit. We were really counting on getting into the anchorage to have good land access. Luckily when we arrived there were many moorings available and the marina is beautiful.



Isla San Francisco.



The ridge walk on Isla San Francisco.



Looking back at the bay.

Puerto Escondido is a large protected anchorage nestled against the mountains

with low rolling hills on the east side. We've enjoyed the calm anchorage and with our buddy boat *Vortice* crew are off to explore the Mission in San Javier and the town of Loreto. ☀

Cruising the Sea of Cortez:

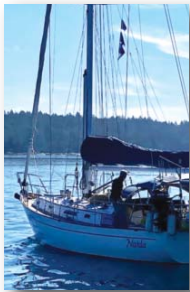
Sun May 8 2022

We are definitely feeling that our time in the Sea of Cortez is dwindling. By the end of May we need to be in Puerto Penasco, 250nm further north, where we will haul the boat and leave it until the fall. We are watching our time carefully, choosing what we have time to see and what we don't, and, as always, watching the weather.

We enjoyed Puerto Escondido and Loreto, Anne posted some things to Facebook. We headed out of Escondido for Isla Coronados which is an old volcano. The anchorage was very pretty and shortly after we dropped anchor we saw a whale surface near another boat and then swim away. One day in Coronados was spent doing projects; Anne got into cooking and made up a big batch of Moroccan veggie burgers for the freezer, Ken repaired one of the solar panels that had failed. A warranty replacement is at home in Vancouver so it was time to try some surgery. Two of the traces had burned through and according to YouTube (the source of all knowledge) a sharp knife and some solvent could provide access. A couple of hours later and a little soldering had the panel working again. It is not pretty but hopefully it makes it through the season. One day we hiked to the top of the defunct volcano

Naida continued on p.12

GULF SAILOR



Naida continued from p.11

cinder cone, the terrain was rough but it is pretty astonishing what manages to grow on dry rock. Another day we went snorkeling around a rocky point. The visibility was not spectacular but it was still enjoyable to be in the water and see the variety of fish.



Isla Coronados is an old volcano.

Next we headed up to Caleta San Juanico. There was a light wind blowing and we were not in a hurry so we put the sails up and tuned and tuned and tuned. We think we did well but there was no one else to compare to! At San Juanico we did some more walks, kayaking and lots of swimming. The anchorage filled up with boats of young people cruising which is great to see.



San Juanico anchorage.

We then moved to Punta Chivato for one night, bypassing Bahia Concepcion and Mulege. We wanted to have some time in Santa Rosalia and there are north winds coming so something had to give.

Santa Rosalia was founded in the late 1800's when a local found some odd green rocks that turned out to be copper ore. A couple of Germans paid him to learn where he found the ore



Isla Coronados anchorage.



and started a small mining operation. Several years later a French company got involved and negotiated a land concession from the Mexican government. The government agreed to a 50 year term and required that the company leave behind everything it brought or built. The company then proceeded to build a town which remains today and has an odd French and Mexican vibe to it. We enjoyed a great tour from a young Mexican fellow at some short mine shafts that are just across the road from the marina. He conveyed the history of the town very well, pointing out the exploitation of Chinese workers and Indigenous Mexican workers in the early days of the town. There was a social heirarchy in the town of French, then Germans (who were still involved supplying equipment), Mexicans,

Indigenous Mexicans, and lastly Chinese. When WWI broke out the Germans dropped to the bottom of the social heirarchy.

Requiring the company to leave behind all the equipment was good and bad. It allowed the Mexicans to take over the company at the end of the concession but the 50 year term was based on the expected supply of ore so the mine was not profitable for long. The town struggled for quite some time turning to squid fishing for a while. The mine has reopened and the town appears to be rejuvenating. There are quite a lot of decrepit buildings and equipment around town. Some has been turned into historical sites, some repurposed, and some just decaying in place. Like a lot of Mexico, there is great potential but not currently enough people to realize it. ☀



Gustav Eiffel metal prefabricated church shipped to Mexico from Brussels.



Santa Rosalia old mine foundry.

GULF SAILOR

Club Tools

The following tools are available to all active members of the club without charge. They are the kind of tools that are invaluable when you need them but too expensive for most individuals.

You may borrow them by contacting **Martin** at 604-986-0971 or marpen@shaw.ca.



Members are responsible for picking up and returning in a reasonable time frame.

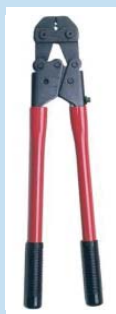


HEAVY DUTY BATTERY LUG CRIMPER

If you are doing any battery rewiring this tool is a must to do it right. Calibrated adjustment screw and compound lever action prevents operator fatigue. Capacity: Crimps 8 - 4/0 AWG /8-103 mm2 lugs and terminals.

RIG TENSION GAUGE

The Loos tension gauges take the guesswork out of cable rod tension adjustment. They are especially designed for accurate, repeatable tuning of a sailboat's standing rigging. This gauge will handle 3/16 to 9/32. This gauge was generously donated by **Stephen Lapin**.



LIFELINE SWAGER

Use to hand-swage lifeline fittings. Will handle all typical size Sherman Johnson stainless fitting. Using this tool the cost of replacing lifelines is a fraction of paying a professional.

ADDITIONAL TOOLS

- Bosch Random orbital sander
- Simoniz Power Buffer and Polisher
- Fid for splicing braided line
- Wire cutters for heavy battery cables

Salish Sea Pilot and The Perfect Anchorage

With all the talk about charts, electronic and paper, on WhatsApp recently, I wonder if new(er) sailors might find this of interest.

Picked up from the Bluewater Cruising Club's newsletter just out.

This month's advertorial introduces *Salish Sea Pilot*.

Article by Jim Burgoyne, *Silom*, Tayana 37 Cutter

We sailed into Singapore Harbour with no chart plotter, no cruising guides, nothing except a tattered paper chart that did not seem to match the real world. The shoreline was not remotely like what the chart promised. A closer inspection, by and by, revealed the chart was printed in the 1930s. I had purchased Quiver, a tiny cutter, seven years before in Thailand and, discovering the browned chart in a locker, I thought: "Well, got that place covered, don't have to worry about Singapore again until we get there."

You are unlikely to be surprised to learn that Singapore has been incredibly transformed since the 30s, with vast stretches of sea reclaimed and filled by the tiny city state, very little unchanged.

And Lynne's look of disgust, for me and my chart, is also not going to surprise you. While we sailed many miles around to find The Sisters, the islands where small vessels check in, she threatened to go below and have nothing to do with this leg of the journey, the stress was too much.



Looking east from Sidney Spit Marine Park across Haro Strait to Mount Baker.

So I learned some things, in time, maybe about the resilience of Lynne, who did not disappear below decks, but helped me find The Sisters and so much else along the way. I also learned about the importance of preparation and the value of stress relief.

After we sailed home from Asia, friends we had met along the way wrote to ask about the Salish Sea, and what they would find when they sailed there.

So we put together an e-book with some of our favourite anchorages and gave it to friends. It was the sort of guide we liked, hand-drawn illustrations, with words and photos kept to a bare minimum. Just the facts. And with an aim to relieve as much stress as we could.

We decided to build a more-polished guide or two and offer them as free downloads. Our little company, *Salish Sea Pilot*, started with the Gulf and San Juan Islands. We figured if an advertiser got on board, that would be great. A couple did.

The foreign friends who promised to sail here never arrived, but it was fun to meet many interesting people and explore places we had previously sailed past. Our free guides were downloaded 17,000 times, according to our tracking software. We didn't know there were that many sailors in the Salish Sea. Maybe it was just some bot programmed to download them, again and again.

But it took over our lives. We spent months at sea doing the research and months more in front of computers and on the phone with marina contacts. And every year we added new anchorages and updated the rates and facilities information at marinas, parks and public docks in the e-books, something that is so difficult and expensive with paper guides. The e-book guides are fully interactive, everything just a click away. They work on every computer, smartphone or tablet.

We often tell the story of our banker, who

Salish Sea Pilot continued on p.14

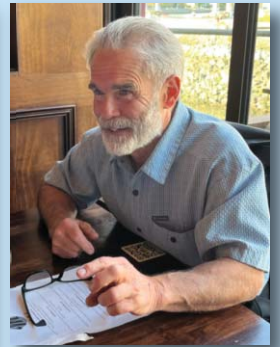
GULF SAILOR

Pub Night Pics by Lorraine

continued from p.3



Left to right above: new members Yvonne and Ernie Van Dyk with Dee and David Kramer; Yvonne, Robert and Martin; Klaus and Liz; Wolf and Judy. Below: Bernie and Phill, Day and Kerrie; Dee and David; David Lyon with new member Sean; George.



Salish Sea Pilots cont. from p.13

patiently heard our story, then asked: "What part of 'unsustainable' don't you understand?" So we started to charge a bit for them. Each guide is CA\$17 each, with a package of seven costing CA\$59. Anyone who has previously bought a full set can buy an annually updated and expanded package for CA\$24.99.

The bots did not like the new price structure at all, and downloads slowed. But revenues ticked up some. Not exactly windfall profits, but enough to keep diesel in the tank.

Salish Sea Pilot has guides to the Gulf Islands, Sunshine Coast, Desolation Sound, Broughton Archipelago and West Coast of Vancouver Island in BC, as well as the San Juan Islands and Puget Sound in Washington. Each new guide we think is the last, but sailors we meet ask if we have thought about Haida Gwaii or Glacier Bay... In fact, we have. Time will tell.



Looking east from Sidney Spit Marine Park across Haro Strait to Mount Baker.

Minutes of April Hybrid General Meeting cont. from p.15

- Pat welcomed our newest member, Vivian Wu. Her sponsor was Chuck. She also welcomed our guests: Sean and Jennifer, and Wendy who was a friend of Klaus.
- Our special thanks to Ken and Anne for their contribution to the Gulf Sailor.
- Sailpast – it would be advisable to make your reservation at Snug Cove now. We would be contacting Tom to reserve the same place we had for Shakedown [Doc Morgans] for Sailpast.

OLD BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS –

- Robert posted information about flares disposal.
- Motion to Adjourn** by Commodore Costa, approved.
- Meeting adjourned** 19:54 hrs, followed by Photo Contest results presented by Lorraine and Doug.

- 15 people have entered the contest
- Winners for the 4 categories:
 - Living: 3rd place: Martin Pengelly; 2nd place: Miles Walker; **1st place – Eleanor and Ron Vandergaag**
 - Boats and Destinations: 3rd place: John Dixon; 2nd place: Ken Buckley; **1st place: Martin Pengelly**
 - Bays and Beaches: 3rd place: Fred Bain; 2nd place: Eleanor and Ron Vandergaag; **1st place: Deidre Bain**
 - Sunset: 3rd place: Anne Trudel; 2nd place: Suzanne Walker; **1st place: Eleanor and Ron Vandergaag**

Minutes prepared and respectfully submitted by Cecilia Wong, Secretary, S/V Sassy.



GULF SAILOR

Minutes of March Zoom General Meeting cont. from p.16

to the festival. John D mentioned that Nautical Days are at the same time.

Motion to Adjourn by Commodore Costa, approved by all present.

Meeting adjourned 19:58 hrs, followed by presentation Cape Horn – The History and The Danger by John Laing.

Minutes prepared and respectfully submitted by Cecilia Wong, Hon. Secretary, S/V Sassy.



Minutes

of the Hybrid In-Person and Zoom General Meeting, April 11, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 19:33 hrs by Commodore Pat Costa.

COMMODORE COMMENTS AND WELCOME MESSAGE

- Commodore Pat Costa welcomed everyone to the April 11 General Meeting. The minutes from Mar 14 General Meeting would be reviewed and approved in Jun meeting.
- We had set up with tables full of articles for swap, some would be free and others would be negotiated with owner. There would be Silver Ship Ballot at the meeting, everyone would be provided with voting slip, Martin would be going through the details. Printed copies of the Roster were available to be picked up and extra copies would be available for \$10.

Motion and Second for the Minutes of the previous meeting

- Deferred.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

Executive Officer –

- Martin reported 37 members appear in person at VMM and 8 members on Zoom. Total of 45 members.
- Martin explained the ballot for the Silver Ship Award would have 3 to 4 ballots a year. The award would be given to a member who best represented the "Spirit of the Gulf Yacht Club" as voted 4 times by the membership. It would be counted at the annual Awards Dinner by non-members.

Treasurer –

- Glen Glen provided the March month-end report: Assets of \$5000 GIC, and along with Cash and Chequing account, the total balance was \$20,860. YTD Expenses as of March month-end was \$1100.

Fleet Captain –

- Robert reported 16 boats and 30 sailors at Shakedown cruise.
- Shakedown:
 - Feliner as the host boat helped with having no extra expenses
 - There was no 50/50 at this cruise as members would need to bring cash
 - Dinner at Doc Morgans downstairs turned out to be more preferable to the Summerhouse.
- Easter would be hosted by the Laing's at Ladysmith

Executive Officers Present:

Commodore	Pat Costa
Vice-Commodore	Cathie West
Fleet Captain	Robert Sinkus
Staff Captain	Doug MacLeod
Hon. Secretary	Cecilia Wong
Hon. Treasurer	Glen Mitchell
Executive Officer	Martin Pengelly
Past Commodore	Christie Stangroom

Other Officers:

Gulf Sailor Editor	Suzanne Walker
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Absent:

Hon. Signals Officer	Andreas Truckenbrodt
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– Glen made announcement on WhatsApp regarding the Easter cruise

– After Ladysmith, John Dixon would be doing the weeklong Spring Cruise

- Sailpast would be at Caulfeild Cove and dinner at Doc Morgans.
- Cathie volunteered to consult with Ron and Eleanor at Telegraph Harbour.
- Miles/George would be hosting boat building at Thetis.
- June Cruise would be Indian arm.

Secretary –

- Cecilia reported roster was completed and available to be picked up at the meeting.

Staff Captain –

- Doug thanked Jaime's for his help in setting up for the meeting while Andreas was in the Caribbean. Doug also introduced speaker Rod Baker, who would be talking about his career with the Marine industry and running a boatyard.
- Next month there would be a Pub Night at Mahony's.

Vice Commodore –

- Cathie announced that the coffee bar was up and running, and would require change. Coffee or Bubbly would be sold at \$2 each.

Hon. Signals Officer and Council of BC Yacht Clubs –

- No report.

Past Commodore

- No report.

Gulf Sailor Editor –

- No report.

Commodore –

- Pat Pat expressed that the last Gulf Sailor was another amazing journal.

Minutes of April Hybrid General Meeting cont. on p.14

GULF SAILOR



Minutes

of the Zoom General Meeting,
March 14, 2022

The meeting was called to order at
19:30 hrs by Commodore Pat Costa.

COMMODORE COMMENTS AND WELCOME

- Commodore Pat Costa welcomed everyone back. Special thanks to Rob and Suzanne who volunteered to scan the proof of vaccination.
- Vaccine check would be expected at time of Shakedown cruise. Members would be encouraged to wear mask in close settings.

Motion and Second for the Minutes of the previous meeting, February 14, 2022.

- Moved by John Dixon and seconded by (not recorded). Carried.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

Executive Officer –

- Martin reported 33 members appear in person at VMM and 14 members on Zoom. Total of 47 members.
- For members requiring a new burgee, they would be available at the Shakedown Cruise for \$30.

Treasurer –

- Glen reported the assets of \$5,000 in GIC, with \$452 expenses paid, the current balance was \$21,722.

Secretary –

- Cecilia reported roster was almost ready and would be distributed at Sailpast.

Hon. Signals Officer and Council of BC Yacht Clubs –

- Andreas did not have a Signals Office report.
- Minutes for BC Yacht Club Council would be sent out.
- Members were reminded of photo contest with deadline on the night of meeting. Andreas would be extending the deadline to Thursday. Members are allowed for 3 photos per person.

Fleet Captain –

- Robert reported Manager of Gibson was looking for changes in reservation system and would love to host GYC events.
- Shakedown cruise was expected 20 people with 11 boats already reserved.
 - There would be no Summerhouse, the boat building would be moved to Thetis Island (Miles/George to coordinate).
 - Dar would be looking after onshore activities, including a group booking at Doc Morgans, preparation for muffins Sun morning with BYO coffee.
- Pat mentioned that the Summerhouse would be at \$500/night at half the size, but we hoped it would be ok by Sailpast.
- Easter cruise to Ladysmith – members were advised to call to reserve and to say attending with GYC. Robert would be putting reservation number on WhatsApp.
- Get-together would be at Clam Bay on Good Friday.

Executive Officers Present:

Commodore	Pat Costa
Vice-Commodore	Cathie West
Fleet Captain	Robert Sinkus
Staff Captain	Doug MacLeod
Hon. Secretary	Cecilia Wong
Hon. Treasurer	Glen Mitchell
Hon. Signals Officer	Andreas Truckenbrodt
Executive Officer	Martin Pengelly
Past Commodore	Christie Stangroom

Other Officers:

Gulf Sailor Editor	Suzanne Walker
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Absent:

Staff Captain –

- Doug welcomed an in-person presentation by John Laing on the night. Also announced meeting on Apr 11 would be expecting Rod Baker who wrote *I Need My Boat by Friday*.
- Doug would be putting out a couple tables for Swap Meet with only one rule: if you bring it and nobody wanted it, you would need to take the item back.
- Pub night would be at Mahony's.
- Upcoming speaker event by Graham Lawrence, with a book coming out *Return to Solitude*
- Pat thanked Doug for setting up.

Vice Commodore –

- No report.

Past Commodore

- No report.

Gulf Sailor Editor –

- No report. Would like to share material very soon for the next edition, preferably 1 week after the night's meeting, i.e. by Mar 22.

Commodore –

- Pat noted that it was a very interesting few months. She would like to acknowledge Chris for her contribution during her term as Commodore.
- Pat also congratulated Klaus and Liz for their 50th anniversary.

Business Arising from the Reports

- None.

NEW BUSINESS –

- Awards held on Feb 14 were presented. The Commodore's cup was presented by Chris.
 - Miles, Jaime, and Andreas were award receivers present. Note: Chris W, Bob Hamelin, Ken and Ann
- Vivian Wu was introduced by Chuck Spong
 - Vivian kept her boat at Nanaimo, and so Glen would be able to offer some partnership.
- Dar mentioned Philbert festival would be on Apr 1, interested parties would be able to buy membership online. The Filberg Festival would be on Aug long weekend in Comox. Members usually stayed in Harbour Authority, and people would just walk down

Minutes of March Zoom General Meeting cont. on p.15