



# The Channel Marker

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 6

June, 2011



### Calendar of Events:

- Winter Weenie Woast, Jan. 15-16
- Commodore's Ball, Jan. 22
- Fishing Derby, Feb. 19-20
- ABBA Pajama-Rama & Sleepover, Feb. 26-27
- General Membership, Mar. 12
- Bowling & Bonfire, Mar. 19-20
- SYC Mexican Riviera Cruise, Apr. 9-16
- Club House Clean-up & Shakedown Cruise, Apr. 16-17
- Opening Day Parade, May 7
- Ladies Cruise, May 20-21
- **Steak Fry & Golf, Jun. 11-12**
- Pub Crawl, Jul. 16
- Fishtown Dinghy Cruise, Jul. 23
- **Clam Bake, Aug. 20-21**
- Wine & Dine, Sep. 10-11
- Past Commodores' Breakfast, Sep. 17
- Oyster Run, Sep. 25
- Past Commodore/Salmon Barbecue, Oct. 1
- New On-the-Water Event, Oct. 15-16
- Halloween, Oct. 29
- Fall Membership Mtg./Crab Feed, Nov 12
- Christmas Decorating/Lighted Boat Parade, Dec 10
- New Year's Eve, Dec 31

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## Commodore's Log... Tom Streit

It is the end of May and as many of us get ready to head out for a long weekend over Memorial Day I feel that it is important for everyone in SYC, their first mates, and all their friends to make a huge effort to do all they can to help with this important cause: **SAVE THE SWINOMISH CHANNEL.** If you can help please email me @ [tkstreit@msn.com](mailto:tkstreit@msn.com) and I will email you a cover letter, blank petition for you to get signed, and addresses where to send the petition. The club is emailing all of our reciprocal yacht clubs asking for their help. Can you help too? **SAVE THE SWINOMISH CHANNEL.** Pacific Northwest boaters regularly using the Swinomish Channel between Skagit Bay and Padilla Bay (the route past La Conner) may have formed an impression that the waterway is becoming shallower. Such an impression is well founded.



In the 1990s, congress eliminated regular dredging any waterway in the US that doesn't carry at least 10-million tons of commercial cargo per year. The Swinomish Channel is a vital economic artery for the town of La Conner and is used during the summer months by hundreds of pleasure boats per day. Hundreds of jobs in local boatyards, restaurants, gift shops, and other establishments would disappear if the Swinomish Channel were to become impassable. According to Patsy Martin at the Port of Skagit, "The last time the channel was dredged was in 2008 and they only had the money to take out the very worst high spots." We really need to dredge every three years to keep the channel free of hazards. The dredging we have been able to do in recent years has been possible because congressman Rick Larsen, along with Senators Murray and Cantwell, have managed to include dredging money in the federal budget. We should dredge again this year, 2011, but so far there is no money available. If we don't dredge now, by 2015 the north and south ends of the channel could be so silted up that most boats would no longer be able to use the Swinomish Channel.

We can help save the Swinomish Channel by signing (and getting friends to sign) a petition. We need to get all the signatures we can and forward copies to congressman Larsen and senators Murray and Cantwell. (addresses attached) Also, a copy to Port of Skagit, Attn: Patsy Martin, PO Box 348, Burlington, Wa..

Getting involved to **SAVE THE SWINOMISH CHANNEL** is a "no brainer". It would be nice to get by boat to our yacht club dock and our slips in 2015. Right now the best thing we can do is get this petition signed and to the right people.

Tom Streit  
Commodore  
RUBY IRENE



## Steak Fry & Golf Tournament

June 11-12, 2011

Lopez Islander Resort/Fisherman's Bay

The annual Steak Fry and Golf Tournament at the Lopez Islander Resort on beautiful Fishermen's Bay on Lopez Island is coming up! Please call Kathy Casey at the Lopez Islander to make your slip reservations; 1-800-736-3434. Make sure you tell her you are with the Swinomish Yacht Club.

**BRING YOUR OWN STEAK, PLATES, CUTLERY AND A POTLUCK DISH TO SHARE.**

- ◆ Last name A-J, please bring a salad or hot dish
- ◆ Last name K-Z, bring a dessert.

**All alcoholic beverages on the deck during dinner are to be purchased from the resort bar.**

**NO BYOB!**

### Friday, June 10th

5:30pm. Happy Hour on the dock. BYOB & potluck appys.

### Saturday, June 11th

7am. Coffee, eye-openers, continental breakfast on the dock hosted by Mike & Linda Rawls, Bill Walker & DDee Besser

8am. Transportation to the golf course

9am. Golf tee-off hosted by Doug Nordstrom, Bill Kortum and Brent & Gretchen Malone.

*\*If you are planning to golf, please RSVP no later than May 15th to Bill Kortum at [beamwater@aol.com](mailto:beamwater@aol.com) or [bill.kortum@lewisbuilds.com](mailto:bill.kortum@lewisbuilds.com) or call him at (206) 799-0338.*

*\*If you are not planning to golf, you might enjoy the resort pool and hot tub or rent a bike and tour Lopez. The Saturday market in town is only a short walk away.*

5pm. **BBQ's will be ready.** Dinner on the resort dock.

After dinner we will have a raffle drawing and word is ... the Buoys and Gulls will be performing a few songs in the resort bar!

### Sunday, June 12th

8am. Coffee, eye-openers and a continental breakfast on the dock

11am. Check out



For more information or if you would like to lend a hand, please call **Brent & Gretchen Malone** @ (360) 466-7418 or (360) 770-1088 or via e-mail: [gbmalone@live.com](mailto:gbmalone@live.com)



## Vice Commodore's Report ... Dave Pfost

WOW, spring is rushing by so fast and it still feels like winter much of the time. Our Opening Day Parade and celebration was a big success and seemed like everyone had a great time! I especially want to thank my first mate, Mary, for all of her efforts planning and orchestrating this very successful event. Of course, like all SYC events there are a large number of folks who contribute significant time and effort into making it all come together and to all, a hearty thank you!!! Our theme of Ole' Mexico seemed to spawn a lot of decorating and acting by many of our members! Thank you to the Three Amigos for staying in costume for much of the day and night! We had quite a few very well decorated boats and this made our judges have to work very hard to pick a winner, but in the end everyone had fun. For future reference, the judges take many factors into account in picking the winner; decorating, music playing, showing you are having a great time to name a few. Congratulations to the Fish Tales team for the win in 2011! Although I may be a bit biased since I really like Mexican food, I thought that El Gitano did an excellent job catering our hungry crew and allowing our members to enjoy the event.



As the evening progressed, our very own Buoys & Gulls rocked the house with another stellar performance. The music and dancing truly make these clubhouse events into magical experiences, and I am constantly amazed at how many of our members are so talented and such great performers. Of course, Gary Baugh did have the group practice many times, and it really shows in the delivery and coordination! Thank you for all of the work and dedication, it is much appreciated.

We are switching to our season of on-the-water events and these start with the Steak Fry June 11<sup>th</sup>. Of course, there was the Ladies Cruise on May 21<sup>st</sup>, but I do not know anything about that and will leave it to others to report on...

See you on the water and in the sun!!!

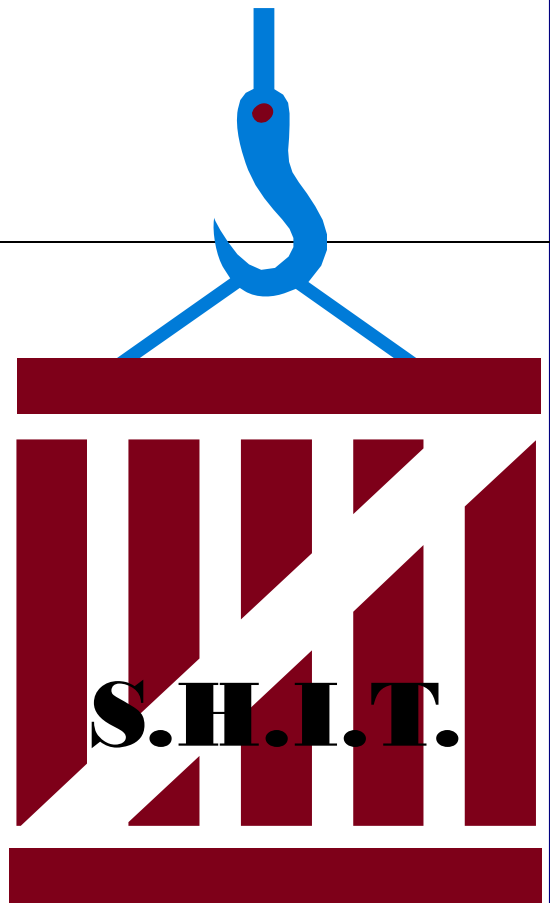
Dave Pfost  
Vice Commodore  
MARY JENN II

## Have You Ever Wondered ... ???

Certain types of manure used to be transported (as everything was back then) by ship. In dry form, manure weighs a lot less, but once water (at sea) hit it, it not only became heavier, but the process of fermentation began again, of which a by-product is methane gas.

Since the stuff was stored below decks in bundles you can see what could, and ultimately did, happen; methane began to build up below decks and the first time someone came below at night with a lantern ... BBBBBOOOOMMMM!!! Several ships were destroyed in this manner before it was discovered what was happening.

After that, the manure bundles were stamped with the term "S.H.I.T." which meant to sailors to "Ship High In Transit". In other words, high enough off the lower decks so that any water that came into the hold would not touch this volatile cargo and start the methane production process.





# Rear Commodore's Report ... Jeff Toycen

May has been a busy month for events: a great Opening Day put on by hosts Dave & Mary Pfost, the Ladies' Cruise to Blenderland and the Roberts Memorial Weekend Wagon Wheel. A truly unique event! May is also marks the end of 5 months of unemployment for me and now I will be hearing "Down Easy" on my work radio again.

The past 5 months, however, did not mean a reduction in time on the water for our blue and white Down Easy. The past 5 months did reveal to Cryss. and I where, in our list of priorities, our time on the water and with our SYC family comes ... at the very top!!!

The economy has hit us all very hard and it was not lost on us the warm handshakes, the cold beers and the conversations about how we've all managed to "git 'er done". You can never know where someone may be in their life, and out on the water it just doesn't seem to matter. We all have a common love for our boats and in our case, our club. Thanks to all of you for the encouragement and warm handshakes and hugs. They go a long way to help you keep your head above water.



Jeff Toycen  
Rear Commodore  
DOWN EASY



## 2011 SYC PUB CRAWL & POKER RUN

JULY 15-17, 2011

CAP SANTE ~ ANACORTES, WA



THIS YEAR WE ARE INCORPORATING A POKER RUN INTO THIS YEAR'S PUB CRAWL, JUST TO MAKE THINGS A LITTLE MORE INTERESTING. THERE WILL BE A \$10/PERSON BUY-IN FOR THE POKER RUN WITH CASH PRIZES FOR THE WINNERS AS WELL AS OTHER CHANCES FOR SOME GREAT RAFFLE PRIZES. DETAILS FOR THE POKER RUN WILL BE EXPLAINED SATURDAY BEFORE THE "RUN".

THE POKER RUN WILL CONCLUDE BACK DOWN ON THE DOCKS WITH THE AWARDS CEREMONY FOR THE POKER WINNERS, THE RAFFLE DRAWING, FOLLOWED BY A GREAT DINNER OF PULLED PORK AND POTLUCK SIDES. THEN, AS IF THAT WEREN'T ENOUGH, LIVE MUSIC ATOP FISH TALES'!!!

SO JOIN US FOR ANOTHER GREAT WEEKEND OF SYC FUN, FRIENDSHIP AND FOOD ... PLEASE CALL CAP SANTE @ (360) 293-0694 TO MAKE A SLIP RESERVATION.

RSVP TO YOUR HOSTS: GLEN & LINDA BEAM:  
[GBEAM@STANWOOD.WEDNET.EDU](mailto:GBEAM@STANWOOD.WEDNET.EDU) (360) 708-8539

OR

JEFF & CRYSS. TOYCEN: [DOWNEASY@FRONTIER.COM](mailto:DOWNEASY@FRONTIER.COM) (425) 308-9459 / JEFF OR (425) 478-6707 / CRYSS.



# Ole Mexico ...

## Opening Day ~ May 7th, 2011



2011 SYC Ladies' Cruise

**Alice in Blenderland & Mad Hatter Tea Party**

May 21-22, 2011 ~ Lopez Islander Resort

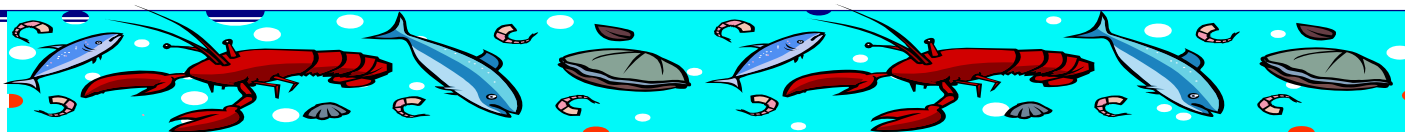
Twice-the-Beam, Impulse and Down Easy plied the waters from LaConner to Lopez Island for the 2011 SYC Ladies' Cruise and the Alice in Blenderland/Mad Hatter Tea Party. Three lady captains and ten crew members made an impression on the island that Lopezians will not soon forget!!

*Kim Streit, an Impulse crew member, has volunteered to host next year's cruise, which will be the biggest Hollywood Red Carpet Bash north of California. Can't wait to see what you have in store for us, Miss Kim!!*

Each year this event gets more popular, however, in order to make room for more gals to go, we more lady captains. So ladies, get to work this season on improving your boat handling skills and come out with us next year. It is truly a great event that also teaches us valuable skills!!

~~~~~  
*If you don't know where you're going, any road will get you there.*  
~~~~~



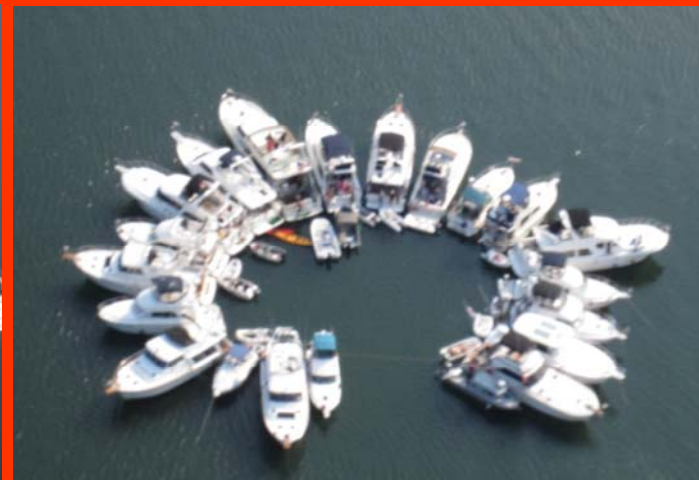


## Memorial Holiday Wagon Wheel @ Prevost ... An Unevent

After a year's hiatus, the Roberts Memorial Weekend Wagon Wheel was back and bigger than ever. Twenty-one boats met, again, at Prevost Harbor, Stuart Island. A few boats arrived on Thursday to begin taking up space for the rest of the fleet that would soon be trickling in on Friday and Saturday. Most of the boats were club members, but there were a couple of guests, who just may end up as part of our ever growing SYC family.

Mike and Linda Rawls brought along about 50 crusty little friends for "Lobstermania" and were ceremoniously boiled on the swim steps of Liki Tiki, Rawls Royce and Ruby Irene, with the rest of us contributing our usual gourmet fare of potluck sides and desserts! There was fishing, eating, cards, socializing, music in the inner circle courtesy of Gary Baugh, Kim Streit and Gail Kortum, and LOTS & LOTS of sunshine!!!

The photo of the wheel is courtesy of Kenmore Air. After overhearing the wishes of Sandy of an aerial photo and watching the regular flights into and out of Roche Harbor, Jeff Toycen called Kenmore Air to see if an aerial photo would be possible. Debra was able to find a willing pilot with a camera to buzz the bay and give us a shot of a lifetime. Thank you so much, Debra and Kenmore Air, for your graciousness!!!



## A Thank You Note ... by Bill Kortum

If there has ever been a question of why the Swinomish Yacht Club is the best club, and has the best members, last weekend at the Wagon Wheel should dispel any doubts.

Following a great holiday weekend up at Prevost Harbor put on by Sandy and Susan Roberts, Gail and I began to retrieve our anchor. However, our anchor chain caught and bound up in the hawse pipe, jamming our windlass. After a couple of frantic moments, and a quick disassembly of the windlass, the retrieval continued smoothly; or so we thought. With all the swinging around we discovered, as our anchor broke the surface, we had fouled the anchor on the 41' Luhrs that was tied next to us in the Wagon Wheel. Thinking things are going from bad to worse in a hurry, who should appear but fellow members, Brad Exley and Jeff Toycen, just in the nick of time to help untangle the mess to free us, and then on to reset the Luhrs' anchor. The guys had been watching our little circus and without having to be asked for help and without regard to the potential they were putting themselves in (after all I was at the helm), came to our rescue and turned a bad situation into my and Gail's undying gratitude.

Gentlemen, you guys are the best and the next drinks are on me!

Thank you,  
Bill & Gail Kortum



## ***An Auction on November 12, 2011... ???***

In 2006, 07 and 08 I organized silent auctions held on the date of the SYC Fall General Membership meeting at our clubhouse. The items in the auction were donated by SYC members, their boating friends and several of the local marine repair businesses offering certificates for work, haul-out and/or bottom painting. In addition we had some beautiful gift baskets created by artistic SYC members.

The amount of money raised, over \$7000, was all donated to the SYC general fund and these monies helped keep your dues from increasing. I would like to do this again in 2011 but I need your help. The help needed is for every SYC member to look in their boat, their garage or the garage of their neighbor who is not an SYC member for items to donate that you think another SYC member would buy. I have many who will assist me in getting the items to the club, stored and then arranged and sold on the day of the event so additional help is not needed in this area.

The amount and quality of items that you have reported to me as being available for the auction by September 20 will determine if we continue and have an auction or withdraw the idea. I can be reached by phone at 360-678-4171, email [sdroberts@wildblue.net](mailto:sdroberts@wildblue.net). This is a great fund-raising event for our club so see what you have to donate.



**May there always be water under  
your boat,  
May she always be seaworthy, ever  
afloat,  
May the bilge pump be certain to  
work night and day,  
May the compass and charts always  
show the safe way,  
May you find gentle harbor as every  
day ends,  
May you lower your anchor amidst  
peace and good friends.**

**Boater's Blessing ...**

## Check out SYC on Facebook!! ... Janelle Miner



SYC now has a Facebook page. Become a "friend" of SYC on facebook and see what's going on with events, places people are going and when or see what they are talking about. The old "message board" has been sent to Davy Jones' locker in favor of an easier to use and more popular method. In addition to member discussion and the ability to comment on posts, SYC's page also offers greater opportunities to promote our club for membership and rental of our facility.

Check it out by clicking the Facebook icon on the SYC website's homepage at <http://www.swinomishyachtclub.org>. If you already have a Facebook account, please "like" our page so you can comment on posted topics or start/join a discussion. And remember, you don't need a Facebook account to look at our page. But hey, if you're not already a member, think about joining and become an active follower of SYC on Facebook!

# PayPal Is Here!!



PayPal is a safe, secure way to make payments to SYC for various things such as membership dues, events where there is a charge (e.g., Crab Feed, Commodore's Ball, etc. ), and on-line Ship's Stores orders. In just a few clicks, you can send payments securely via your checking account, debit card or credit card.

Instructions to use the PayPal system are included on our web-site: [swinomishyachtclub.org](http://swinomishyachtclub.org) under the PayPal section and only requires you to set-up an account with PayPal.

If you have any questions or problems with the PayPal system you can e-mail Janelle Miner: [webadmin@swinomishyachtclub.org](mailto:webadmin@swinomishyachtclub.org) or Cheryl Stinson: [slscks@msn.com](mailto:slscks@msn.com) and they can walk you through the process.

Consider using it next time you need to pay the club for your next dues installment!



**Due to the Latts & Atts harbor party @ Sucia, the Clam Bake date has been changed to Aug. 20-21, 2011.**

**Mark your calendars!**

## For Sale

### 1987 Bayliner 3218 Motoryacht

- ◆ 110 Hino diesels
- ◆ Very good condition
- ◆ Under 350 original hours
- ◆ Fresh water boat until 2009
- ◆ Many recent updates

**\$39,900**

Call Ken @ (360) 708-6204. A \$500 finder's fee will be paid.



## **16th Annual Mt. Baker Blues Festival** **July 29-31, 2011** **Deming Log Show Fair Grounds ~ Deming, WA**

Come join Rob Raplee and Glen Beam at the 16th Annual Mt. Baker Blues Festival. It takes place in Deming at the Deming Log Show Fair Grounds on the weekend of July 29th. Fifteen bands will be outside on stage: That's three bands Friday night, six on Saturday and six on Sunday. You can attend Saturday or Sunday for \$60 per person, or you can get an all-weekend pass for \$110 per person.

There is free camping and bathrooms — free showers this year. Bring your tent or trailer and stay with us for one night or two. Rob has fresh coffee in the morning. Also, bring a chair and a cooler, sit back, relax and enjoy the great music.

We checked this out last year and Leon Russell was there! It's not that crowded as they only let in about 2,000 people. You can get your tickets at Hugo Helmer in Burlington. It's Woodstock, Baby!!

Glen Beam  
gbeam@stanwood.wednet.edu

# Membership Drive Update ...

The 2011 SYC Membership Drive is off to a brisk start! Currently, there's a 3-way tie for 1st place between Brent & Gretchen Malone, Steve & Marla Reis, and Cap'n Ozzie, Ed Oczkewicz.

"That Guy", Guy Dillenger and Jennifer Janda, who will be celebrating their wedding at the clubhouse on June 18th, are sponsored by the Malones. Guy and Jennifer have a young son and are ready to cruise about on their 24' sunbridge.

Dr. Bob (Robert Sperry, a primary care doc from Bellingham) and Rhonda McLaughlin, (you may have had a cold one served up at the LaConner Brewery from Rhonda) were recruited by the Reis'. Dr. Bob and Rhonda have a 30-ish ft. sailboat on which they have been doing some work but, I believe, are now ready or close to being ready to join us on the water for some more SYC-style fun.

After some arm-twisting, Cap'n Ozzie convinced Richard Hunter to join our ranks. Richard is a former dive charter owner-operator aboard the 65' Pacific Star in Monterey, CA from 1993-1998. Richard is now the proud owner of Anam Cara; a 40-ish ft. aft cabin cruiser that he bought in Friday Harbor in 2004. Anam Cara is a Celtic phrase for "Soul Friend". Richard has extensive experience on the water of which you can peruse yourself on his website: [www.rghunter.com](http://www.rghunter.com).

There is also a reinstatement by Janelle Miner. Welcome back, Fred Phillips!

Welcome to those who have joined our great club and good luck to those in the running for the membership contest. Though I don't think any one of them would say that it's about the money ... right Brent?!



# ... more of May's Madness





# ... more of May's Madness

**SWINOMISH YACHT CLUB**

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Published by  
The UPS Store, Burlington, WA [www.theupsstore.com/5499.htm](http://www.theupsstore.com/5499.htm)

# Ship's Stores



Check out the new inventory in the Ship's Stores. And now with the capability of PayPal ordering your new boat apparel online just got a whole lot easier. Just be sure to include the item description, size, color and mailing address and whether you will be paying by check or PayPal account. Once your payment has been received, your item(s) will be shipped to you.



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