

# CYCT Club History

**1974**

## **CYCT History/activity**

August 30 Corinthian Yacht Club of Tacoma was incorporated as a non profit group.

**1975 Commodore – Dave Neff**

## **CYCT History/activity**

January An agreement was reached with Tacoma Shipbuilder Al Cummings for use of 7,000 sq ft of property on Ruston Way, formally Caddigan's Marina, for fenced dry storage for 40 boats.

February The first general meeting was held at the Top of the Ocean Restaurant with the following officers presiding:

Commodore Dave Neff

Vice Commodore Bill Nelson

Secretary Jim Healy

Treasurer Harry Wingard

Board of Directors Win Anderson, Larry Burcar & Breck Adams

March An informal lease was signed with Al Cummings for dry storage by the month and the Board of Directors was enlarged to include two additional members, Pete Nolan and Marilyn Thordarson.

April CYCT received acceptance as an affiliate of the Pacific International Yachting Association. They also received the bid to host Area "H" eliminations for the Adams Cup, the women's National Sailing Championship on June 28-30.

June The goal of 50 charter members was met and two hoists had been installed, a one ton and other a 5 ton hoist. The club launched it's first junior sailing instruction program with Mintos and El Toros.

July The first Annual Meeting was held on July 30<sup>th</sup> and the following officers were elected:

Commodore Bill Nelson

Vice Commodore Larry Hanson

Secretary Kay Richards

Treasurer Harry Wingard

August The club hosted the first Annual One-Design Swiftsure Regatta, a successful race around the Swiftsure Lightship anchored in Gig Harbor.

November The club signed a three year lease with Mr. Cummings commencing on December 1, 1975.

### **CYCT members**

September CYCT was represented in Sweden at the World Six-Meter Championships by Breck Adams and crew member Stu Biehl on Razzle Dazzle. They place fifth, but returned to the United States to win the King Olav Cup.

### **Juniors**

In the summer of 1975 Larry Carver held the first junior classes.

## **1976 Commodore – Bill Nelson**

### **Club History/activity**

March As of March CYCT has over 100 members, a useable clubhouse, a committee boat, two hoists and dry storage for approximately 40 boats. The main purpose of CYCT remains to promote one-design

sailing and particularly junior sailing programs, as well as good sportsmanship among sailors.

### **CYCT members**

Summer Roger Rue circumnavigated Vancouver Island onboard his Newport 30, Union Depot.

### **Juniors**

February In February 1976, with the help from Bill Nelson and Larry Hanson a five week frostbite sailing instruction program for all junior members, with 23 young kids from 7 to 18 years of age, was initiated with borrowed Minto and El Toro boats. These beginning sessions formed the early emphasis to pursue a more formal structure and expand the scope of the juniors program.

August The Corinthian Junior Sailors was incorporated as a non-profit corporation with it's own board and officers on August 30, 1976. Clark McPhearson was President and Larry Carver was Vice President.

September By September the Juniors program had acquired 2 El Toro's and 4 C-Larks.

- Note the above information about the beginnings of CYCT was compiled by one of our founding members, Marilyn Thordarson.

## **1977 Commodore – Larry Hanson**

### **Club History/activity**

Acceptance was received from PIYA to sponsor a division 2 Speed Potential Class trophy for the "Swiftsure Regatta" (Gig Harbor) with a perpetual trophy in the name of Governor Teats, a long-time Tacoma sailor. The Rainier Brewery became the sponsor for the "Swiftsure" Regatta. After the 1977 Regatta, it was decided to update the race and change it's locality and name to the Rainier Cup. Teams also

competed in area and national competition such as the Adams Cup (U.S. Women's Sailing Championship) and the Prince of Wales Bowl (U.S. Match Racing Championships) during the late 1970's and 1980's.

### **Juniors**

In 1977 twenty-eight 18 to 21 year old Sea Scouts became affiliated with CYCT Juniors.

In 1977 the juniors team competed in the Gladwell Cup at the Royal Victoria Yacht Club where they gained invaluable experience and the respect of the other clubs as tough competitors.

## **1978 Commodore – Larry Hanson??**

### **Juniors**

Interest in the junior sailing program waned during 1978 and it was apparent By October they would be unable to pay all of their debts. The program needed to be rethought if it was to continue and new guidelines were developed.

## **1979 Commodore – Larry Hanson??**

### **Club History/activity**

March CYCT relocated from the Ruston Way location to the Commencement Bay Marina, formerly the Harbor Marina and currently known as Ole and Charlie's Marina, 4224 Marine View Drive, Tacoma. Work progressed rapidly on renovating a building for a new clubhouse, and repairing the dock and crane at the new site. Books were officially closed for construction of the Club's new facilities at the December 1979 Board meeting.

### **Juniors**

Bob Lee was chosen as the new junior program chairman in 1979. The new summer program involved sailing Lasers. Summer classes for the juniors flourished and generated much enthusiasm for the program.

**1980 Commodore – Harry Wingard**

**Juniors**

The Juniors needed \$4,000 to purchase six Lasers. By mid-summer 1980 they had raised \$1,600 through donations and borrowed \$2,400 from the Old National Bank to purchase the boats. The Juniors also provided classes to teach adults how to sail the Lasers. The Junior Program increased to about 70 members by August, 1980.

**1981 Commodore – Roger Rue**

**CYCT members**

Summer Roger Rue again circumnavigated Vancouver Island this time on his Newport 41, Grand Central. His trip appeared to be for research for his up coming book on circumnavigating the island.

Marilyn Thordarson became National Chairman of the U.S.Y.R.U. Women's Championship Sailing Committee (Adams Cup); Past Commodore Stef Thordarson was a judge at the National Prince of Wales Race in Westport, Connecticut; Ken Slattery was the U.S.Y.R.U. Area H Mallory Cup Junior Sailing Championship representative (Sears, Bemis and Smythe Cups).

**Juniors**

The CYCT junior sailing program, under the direction of Gerry Hulscher, was one of the largest and most active programs on the west coast. Sponsored by CYCT membership dues and donations, it boasted 90 members sailing in Laser and C-Lark fleets and was open

to anyone interested in sailing between 8 and 18 years of age. Hulscher reported that the Junior Program held the best sailing school ever in 1981 and made enough money to pay off the note in September. Fifty youths attended the classes.

The local Sea Scout unit sponsored by CYCT rechartered into the national Sea Explorer program in February, 1981. Sea Explorer Unit 222, known as the American Endeavor, began with 14 members in 1975 and grew to become the largest Sea Explorer unit in the state by 1981 with 70 members.

## **1982 Commodore – Dennis Salt**

### **Club History/activity**

Problems were mounting for the Club by 1982. The pilings under the clubhouse needed repair, numerous repairs were needed for the hoists, telephone and utilities as well as repairs to Upstart the club's committee boat.

### **CYCT Members**

Roger L. Rue published his Cruising Guide "Circumnavigating Vancouver Island".

Roger Rue sailed his Newport 41, Grand Central in the Victoria to Maui race under the CYCT burgee.

## **1983 Commodore – John Henderson**

### **Club History/activity**

The Royal Vancouver Yacht Club and the Corinthian Yacht Club of Tacoma were matched in the third round of the Prince of Wales competition. Ranger 20's were provided by CYCT, the host club for

the match, which was held near Browns Point on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. The first two races went to the RVYC, thus squashing CYCT's pursuit of the cup for one more year.

By 1983 scheduled cruises were becoming an important club activity. Destinations included Dockton, Longbranch, Tanglewood Island and Gig Harbor.

## **1984 Commodore – Ken Schaitel**

### **Club History/activity**

Commencement Bay Marina was sold in 1984. The new owners extended the Club's lease for another year, but requested the Club to vacate the facilities as soon as possible.

The 1984 racing schedule included a Ladies Regatta in May and the Rainier Regatta over the first weekend in June.

## **1985 Commodore – Bill Brosius**

### **Club History/activity**

Club expenses continued to outpace income and drastic measures were called for to avoid a considerable financial deficit by year's end. Survival called for revitalization of all Club activities, including racing, cruising, the junior's program, meeting night programs and membership drive efforts. The clubhouse was vacated in October 1985 to reduce expenses, but the club retained the cranes and dock space through the first half of 1986. General membership meetings were moved to the Turning Point Restaurant, summer meetings were held at Browns Point Lighthouse Park, and Board meetings were conducted at the Three Flags Port Galley.

Activities in 1985 began with the Tacoma Yacht Club, CYCT, Gig Harbor and Quartermaster Yacht Club's sponsoring one race each during a January Commencement Bay Winter Series.

CYCT accepted the Tacoma Yacht Club's invitation to enter a boat with officers aboard in the Marine Daffodil Parade.

The International Order of the Blue Gavel, an organization consisting of past Commodores of recognized yacht clubs, issued a charter to the Corinthian Yacht Club of Tacoma Chapter on March 1, 1985.

## **1986 Commodore – Wes Urbanec**

### **Club History/activity**

Seeing little improvement in the Club's financial situation by mid year 1986, it was decided to sell some of its holdings and apply the proceeds toward debts. The dinghy dock was moved to Tyee Marina. At the November meeting the Treasurer reported a balance of \$169.88 in the checking account. Survival called for revitalization of all club activities, including racing, cruising, the junior program and meeting night programs. A special emphasis had to be placed on membership drive efforts. There was hope!!!

### **Juniors**

Although the junior program was no longer functional at the time, the six Lasers and three C-larks were retained for future use in a rejuvenated junior program deemed necessary in maintaining a viable yacht club.

## **1987 Commodore – Mel Serosky**

### **Club History/activity**



The racing and cruising programs began to see improvements and growth. The 1987 Rainier Regatta saw 20 boats entered, the Fourth of July was celebrated with a Holiday race and Raft-up Party at Old Town. The CYCT Spring and Fall Series consisted of five races in each series. At least nine cruises were scheduled for 1987 and the next few years.

After vacating the clubhouse and dock facilities at Ole and Charlie's Marina, the Club was denied access to remove their cranes, which the marina was using for their own commercial purposes. A claim was filed against the owners of the marina and access to the cranes was eventually regained through a court order. The cranes were removed in July 1987 and stored at Nelson Trucking until the Club could locate a facility where they could again be put to use.

The Perpetual Sportsman Trophy was donated to the club in 1987 by the United States Yacht Racing Union.

### **Juniors**

The "Container" was donated to the CYCT junior program by Sea-Land Service, Inc. It was soon painted gray and trimmed in white and the inside was remodeled to house a classroom and equipment storage for the junior program.

## **1988      Commodore – Michael Taylor**

### **Club History/activity**

The racing program continued its growth with the birth of the Tacoma Area Racing Council (TARC), the Rattlesnake Regatta in Vantage and the Step-Son of Pitch race on Labor Day.

Unfortunately, the cranes were discovered missing from storage in October 1988. It was claimed that both cranes were dismantled with a cutting torch at Todd's Truck Repair and sold as scrap. This resulted in litigation against Nelson Trucking Company and the owners of Todd's Truck Repair in July 1989. The case was assigned to an arbiter and by year's end, the Club received a substantial award through an out-of-court settlement.

Odyssey, the Sea Scout 90 ft yawl built in 1938 was granted CYCT Honorary Membership in 1988, followed by Red Jacket, Terry and Renee Paines's 72 ft schooner that was built in 1921.

## **1989 Commodore – Marjorie Serosky**

### **Club History/activity**

Our 1989 Fourth of July race was a benefit race for the Mary Bridge Hospital with 18 boats competing. More than 40 members trekked over to Vantage for the Rattlesnake Regatta and the Step-Son of Pitch race over Labor Day weekend saw sixty-five boats registered. The 1989 membership drive offered it's first annual race/cruise to Dockton with a Crab Feed for all participants.

CYCT became a member of the Northwest Boating Council.

### **CYCT members**

1989 also saw CYCT's first participation at the Seattle Yacht Club's Opening Day. The members and boats attending were Tom & Barbara Saul on Hooligan, Terry & Susan Anderson on Current Affair, Jack Harris on Ole and Kyle Saum on Kymodoce and Marjorie Serosky has the honors of being our first Commodore to represent CYCT on Opening Day.

## **1990 Commodore – Tom Saul**

### **Club History/activity**

The Club made great strides in gaining new members and seeing increasing participation in meetings, cruises and social events.

Twelve new members joined the club in 1990, nineteen in 1991 and seventeen in 1992.

A new cruise award, the Ruptured Chicken was initiated in 1990. Members earned this coveted prize through “gaffs, faux pas, and other stupid acts of seamanship and personal hijacks.

### **Juniors**

The four fourteen foot C-Larks and two C-Lark trailers were sold by bid in 1990 and it was learned that the Juniors were no longer a corporation due a lapse in filing required annual reports, but they were still recognized as a non-profit organization with the IRS.

The container was moved to Tyee II, the CYCT logo was installed on the container and a new CYCT sign was made by Jack Harris and placed at the entrance to Tyee Marina.

## **1991 Commodore – Daniel White**

### **Club History/activity**

June CYCT sponsored a presentation by Dawn Riley on June 15, 1991 at the Fife Executive Inn (Now the location of the Emerald Queen Casino), she talked about her adventures in the Whitbread Race aboard Maiden and also about her quest to become the first female crewmember aboard a 1992 America’s Cup boat.

### **CYCT members**

The longest CYCT cruise of 1991 was by those who circumnavigated Vancouver Island during July and early August. Members consisted of Terry Anderson who led the cruise on Current Affair, Bill & Leslie Senn on Wisper, Ron Butler and Carolyn Haven on Lothlorien and Jack Harris on his Balbo 26, Ole. Susan Anderson and John Blain joined the others at Port Hardy and sailed back with them to Tacoma.

## **1992 Commodore – Richard Powel**

### **Club History/activity**

In 1992, West Marine sponsored CYCT's first annual single/double-handed Vashon Challenge race.

### **CYCT members**

Tom Saul and crew on Hooligan completed the 1992 Pacific Cup race from San Francisco, California to Ohau, Hawaii.

CYCT Members Lou & Willi Schmidt onboard their Beneteau 35, Whirlwind departed on their around the world circumnavigation in the summer of 1992 and returned to the Pacific Northwest in 1997. An "interesting" story about Lou & Willie as told by Tom Saul who got it directly from Willi ---- Lou and Willi had a no-worry night-time watch system, when they were offshore they would simply shorten sail, set the autopilot and hit their bunks. Willi said they had no difficulty sleeping through the night and had no problems during their circumnavigation except for once when they were in a building storm in the South Pacific. The storm got pretty rough and they were knocked down and rolled over 90 degrees which of course woke them up. Willi quickly dropped the sails and got things back in order before noticing several knives from the galley stuck in the overhead.

They obviously completed their circumnavigation, so who are we to question their watch system.

**1993 Commodore – Ken Fine**

**Club History/activity**

June Dawn Riley returned to the northwest and again was sponsored by CYCT for a presentation at the Tacoma Propeller Club where she talked about her role with the successful 1992 Americas Cup championship and her future sailing plans.

**CYCT members**

Summer Jack Harris singlehanded his circumnavigation of Vancouver Island onboard his Balboa 26, Ole.

**1994 Commodore – John Cole**

**1995 Commodore – Mary Lee Powel**

**1996 Commodore – Michael Evans**

**1997 Commodore – Ron Butler**

**1998 Commodore – Ginny Leach**

**CYCT members**

Summer CYCT's second Circumnavigation of Vancouver Island cruise was made in 1998 with Ron & Connie Holbrook on Carpe Diem, Gene & Louise Brown on Mystic, Ron Butler & Carolyn Haven on Lothlorian and Bob & Mary Jane Young on Acadia.

**1999 Commodore – Ron Holbrook**

**2000 Commodore – Gene Brown**

**2001 Commodore – Robert Young**

**CYCT members**

Summer Greg Houston singlehanded his circumnavigation of Vancouver Island onboard his Albin Vega 27, Ran.

**2002 Commodore – L.C. Campbell**

**CYCT members**

Summer Colin Pallemmaerts singlehanded his circumnavigation of Vancouver Island onboard his Beneteau 36.7, Vita E Bella.

**2003 Commodore – Mary Nye Hampton**

**2004 Commodore – Gary Ahlstrand**

**2005 Commodore – Billy Carter**

**2006 Commodore – Ed Pinkham**

**2007 Commodore – Denny Flannigan**

**2008 Commodore – Jim Merritt**

**Juniors**

The CYCT Junior Program was restarted with the efforts of Brian and Cheryl White, Ron Holbrook, Dan Gaines and Don McAdams. They acquired a floating dock that was moored at Delin Docks. Dinghy racks were constructed on the float to store the boats. During the summer, open sailing events were held every Friday evening on the

Thea Foss Waterway. Many adults participated along with the youths. In the fall, construction began on six Optimist dinghies led by the shipwright extraordinaire Don McAdams.

**2009 Commodore – Tom O’Hara**

**CYCT members**

June Ron Holbrook on his C&C 37 xl raced the 2009 Van Isle 360 International around Vancouver Island Race with crew members Dan & Karen Walker, Ed & Susan Pinkham, Marvin Fritz, Steve Wagner, Lisa Corkum, Jeannie Dougherty and Kris Morley.

**Juniors**

The Optimist dinghies were completed in the spring, just in time to start the evening “learn to Sail” program. With additional advertising, the Junior Program held “Learn to Sail” classes in the summer in addition to the repeat of the Friday evening events. 6 juniors went through the program in two sessions, instructed by Vince Bayette. The evening program saw a substantial number of people sailing almost every week throughout the summer.

**2010 Commodore – Albert Daniel Walker**

**Juniors**

The Junior Program acquired a permit to continue to operate in the Thea Foss Waterway, and moved operations to the Foss Waterway Seaport, where it will continue the Friday Evening open sailing events as well as the “Learn to Sail” classes during the summer weeks.