

July & August 2008

Volume 27, Issues 7 & 8

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Commodore's Report – Pierre Chatelain

I would like to thank Tish and the GCYC volunteers for the Friendship Club sailing event which took place on August 3rd. Tish probably gave an update during our last General Meeting. I apologize as I could not make the last two General Meetings. My work schedule has changed and I now work on Wednesday nights. I can switch nights yet the last two dates coincided with large events I needed to attend. Lynn, Don, and volunteers of the 4th of July parade presenting the Gold Country Yacht Club received a "Honor Mention". Great job and the boat and children looked great and happy! A GREAT THANK YOU to Gary and Cathy for organizing a WONDERFUL "Go For The Gold" Regatta. Mark your calendars for next year's GFTG on June 6-7, 2009.

There will be a new perpetual trophy presented to the GCYC member/family during our Christmas party and its purpose is to recognize and thank the GCYC member/family who brought in the most new members during the year. The new trophy's name will be: "The GCYC Annual Gold Digger". I look forward to forward to seeing you at the next General Meeting on September 10th at 6:00 PM on Scott's Flat Lake.

Pierre

Vice-Commodore's Report – Gary Dowd

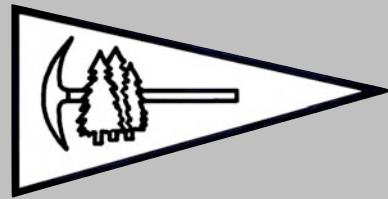
Hello Sailors!

The 27th Go for The Gold Regatta is now in the history books.

I want to thank all the volunteers who helped before, during, and after the event. Without all your help this would not be such a special event. We are a working club and we all came together to pull off a great regatta. So give yourself and the others a big hand of applause! I feel for a small club we put on a BIG Regatta! We had over 52 boats racing and 140 dinners served. That's great considering the price of fuel. We had some winners and some losers, but what the heck, that's racing! Better luck next year! Again thank you to all who helped, and to all who came out and had fun.

With regards, Gary

a little dinghy



Beer Can/Wine Bottle Race Series



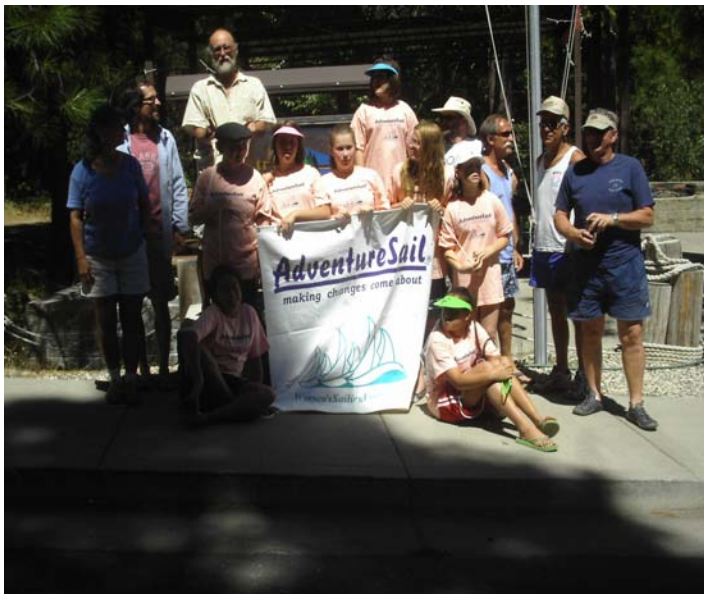
Well the summer is getting away from us!

The Beer Can/Wine Bottle Races have been great fun and a wonderful distraction in the middle of the week. We started out on every other Tuesday night in June, then every other Wednesday night in July and now in August we meet every other Thursday night. We've had some close races and some not so close races, but all in all, it has been a lot of fun. Past Commodore, Wayne Buti, has really mixed up the formats so you just never know what we'll be doing next!

We have just a couple of races left: August 21 and September 18, water and weather permitting.

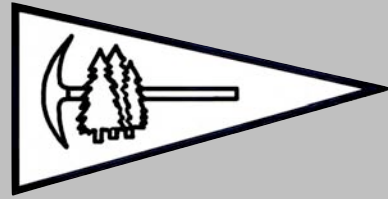
Friendship Club Day 2008 - Tish Buti

After a full month's delay due to smoke and fires, we did manage to get the Friendship Club Day activity in on Sunday, August 3rd. I'd like to especially thank all of our volunteer skippers and hosts who helped out that day: Doug Epperson, Ken Neely, Hugh & Nicky Talman, Melissa Mercier and Steve Blum, David Niedzioko and my husband, Wayne Buti. Due to the change in date, we were not able to host as many girls as usual but that worked out just fine since the number of skippers I could recruit was down as well. We started the day with knot tying lessons and a bit about boat safety for the day. This particular group of girls were all novices and they were a bit wary of a boat actually tipping. Our Scott's Flat winds piped up a bit earlier than usual and we were able to have a great sail. And of course, the water wars were absolutely outstanding! Since we had the photographer, Denise Tambasco, onboard, we could fake everyone out by crying, "Don't get the camera wet!" By the end of the day, the most tentative girls were scurrying about the decks with the water canons in hand, ready to blast any boat brave enough to get within striking range.



We had a tasty hot dog barbecue after and ended the day around 3 PM. Maybe next year things will work out better all around! Thanks to the National Women's Sailing Foundation, we had tee shirts and backpacks to give the girls as a memento of the day. Anyway, we had a great time and plan to do the event again next year. Thanks again to all the helpers.

a little dinghy



Membership Report – Beth Buti

Ahoy new and old members!

Now that summer is here, we seem to be having more and more members join. New members over the past two months are:

Buzz Birnbaum and Patti Dewan
Ron and Janet Rosner
Don Augstein and Janet Allesandra
Warren Smith
Cindy and Paul Pekarek
Kathy Eldridge and Mike Fitzwater
Robert Walker

Welcome to our club! Please feel free to call or e-mail me if you have any questions. Please read on to find out more about some of our new members.

New Members

Name: Kim and Don Crevoiserat (Joined in April)

Family: Nathan (10 years old), Elissa (9 years old), Cosmo (2 year old miniature schnauzer – he feels like a third child)

Type of Boat: No boat yet.

Reason for Joining: Kim loves sailing. She learned on a Laser 25 years ago, logged some time sailing a Thistle, and also enjoys Windsurfing. No one else knows how to sail in the family but we're working on that.

Racing Background: Kim did some racing on the Thistle Sunday afternoons out of the Inverness Yacht Club... nothing serious. That was a lot of years ago. She also did some competitive Windsurf competitions back in 1983-1985. The entire family loves the sunshine and fresh water so sailing is a good fit. Both Nathan and Elissa are signed up for lessons this summer and Don will learn at the school of hard knocks.

Cruising Background: No cruising experience.

Other interests, hobbies, things you'd like to share: We love all things outdoors and up here are naturally drawn to the water. We own a 22' Crownline bow rider and are frequently out enjoying the local lakes.

Name: Don Augstein

Family: Janet Alessandra

Type of Boat: 18' trimaran I built, 14' canoe, 18' runabout, 36' catamaran

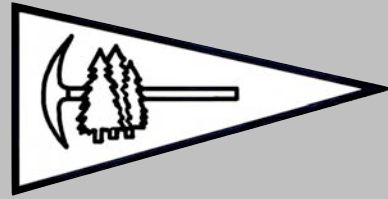
Reason for Joining: Camaraderie

Racing Background: Islander 36' for about 6 years doing foredeck

Cruising Background: Anacortes, WA & Moorings in BVI

Other interests, hobbies, things you'd like to share: scuba diving, wood and metalwork (I'm a furniture cabinetmaker)

a little dinghy



Membership Report – Chris Buti - Continued

Name: Cindy and Paul Pekarek

Family: One son: John Pekarek he is 27 years old and lives on his own.

Type of Boat: Aluminum boat. Looking for a sailboat.

Reason for Joining: Enjoy people sailing racing sailboats and learning the science in sailing.

Racing Background: Raced with El Toro sail boats in the Del Valle sailboat club.

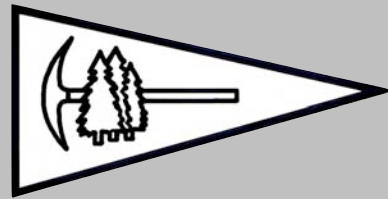
Cruising Background: Sailed with my brothers various sailboats. Took a class in sailing terminology and sailing skills at the Del Valle Sailing Club in Livermore. I happen to have sailed in the San Francisco Bay and Del Valle lake in Livermore.

Other interests, hobbies, things you'd like to share: Paul and I are avid gold miners. We belong to the Bottle club and Gold Hound club. Cindy enjoys sewing and cross country skiing. We like to go camping. We are treasure hunters. We lived in this area for most of our lives. Cindy attends Sierra College. Paul works for Service Masters. Cindy works for the County of Nevada. We travel to other countries for gold panning competitions. We placed first place in the world and State championships in gold panning. We are very pleased to be a part of the Gold Country Yacht club.

Cruising Report – Ken Neely

I am accepting applicants for the 2009 Gold Country Charter vacation. To sign up, I need a name, email/ telephone number, and a preference (Baja / Sea of Cortez, San Juan Islands or BVI), and an indication of the applicants desired position (crew or skipper). Costs should range from \$200-\$400/cabin/day for somewhere between 7-10 days in April, May or June 2009. I will be circulating the sign up sheet at the next general meeting, and presenting the final costs and details at the November meeting.

a little dinghy



Secretary's Report – Tish Buti

General Meeting Minutes – May 14, 2008

Called to order at the Clubhouse at Scotts Flat Lake at 7:00 PM by Commodore Chatelain.

First order of business was to wish Sailing Education Chairman, Lynn Buchanan a happy birthday.

Officer Reports:

Membership & Publicity – Beth Buti: reported three new memberships. Stickers for members are now available for \$1. She's been really busy with PR for the Regatta.

Treasurer – Jean Cutshall: reported bank balance and the Regatta income to date. Currently have 44 paid membership families.

Secretary – Tish Buti: distributed correspondence and reported on number of regatta entries.

Port Captain – David Niedziejko: Barge is in the water and works! The new Sunfish dollies work great. The dinghy dock is floating but the pins have not been set to hold it in place.

Race Chairman – Jerry Lewis: Race is scheduled for the weekend of May 18th along with the Junior Sailing Racing clinic. A reminder to all that the dry run for the regatta is usually the weekend just before.

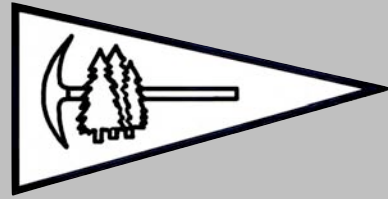
Sailing Education Chairman – Lynn Buchanan: has been working on getting all of our Sunfish registrations changed over to exempt status. She has 2 kids registered for the Junior Sailing clinic so please help advertise. Don Hare, one of our Keel Boat Instructors, also now has his Small Boat Instructor certification.

Newsletter Editor – Scott Muir: not present, but asked to please check with Tish to make sure we have your correct email address. Also, if you take a trip, please send in a story and pictures to share.

Cruising Chairman – Ken Neely: Last Bay cruise was on a 34' Beneteau from Tradewinds. Price is \$50 per person. Watch for a South Lake Tahoe cruise in August. He's been working on an international cruise for 2009 – probably Croatia or the Carribean. Still has room on his BVI trip in June.

Vice Commodore – Gary Dowd: Regatta updates: scheduled to speak on Talk of the Town on May 27. Still need help for the BBQ on Saturday night. Gordon would like to meet with the barge crew for the Regatta. Jerry will be here to help set marks and set up on Friday. He still has a few open jobs left for the Regatta. He reminded everyone that they should be here to help with the Regatta. Discussion ensued of separate Start and Finish lines.

a little dinghy



Secretary's Report – Tish Buti - Continued

Old Business: none

New Business: A reminder that Friendship Club Day is scheduled for June 29th. If you can help out, please see Tish.

We still need lots of helping hands for the Junior Program.

We will have a float in the 4th of July Parade. All members are invited to participate with us. We'd like to have it represent our Junior Sailing Program using our sunfish on the trailers.

Raffle won by Butis.

Next meeting will be June 4th.

Business Meeting was adjourned 8:00 PM. A bit of Cruiser story-telling followed: Joe Day's big boat is now in Alameda. His little boat is here on the Lake. Ed Guinaugh gave reports on his travels. Pierre talked about attempting to launch kids along with boat.

**Gold Country Yacht Club,
Board of Directors Meeting
May 20, 2008**

Called to Order: Cutshall Home at 7:05 P.M. by Commodore, Pierre Chatelaine.

Present: Pierre Chatelain, Tish Buti, David Niedziejko, Gary Dowd, Ken Neely, Jean Cutshall, Scott Muir, Beth Buti

Absent: Jerry Lewis, Lynn Buchanan

Officer Reports:

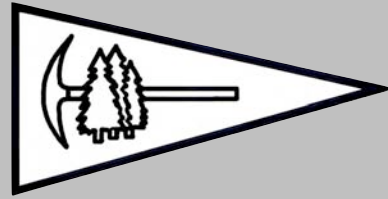
Commodore – Pierre Chatelain: Focus was on Regatta.

Secretary-Tish Buti: distributed mail that was received. Reported that we all ready have 20 registrations. Need to remind everyone that the next general meeting is early, June 4.

Treasurer – Jean Cutshall: gave bank balance. Reported on Regatta income to date. Tish gave her PICYA bill for the year.

Publicity – Beth Buti: Tish will forward new member information to Beth so she can contact them. We will work on getting directory together and will send out new member packets. Would like to know where all the picture albums had gone. Everyone seemed to think that Dave Bloch had them. She will check with him.

a little dinghy



Secretary's Report – Tish Buti - Continued

Beth will make sure the entry for the 4th of July Parade gets in although she will not be here. Has contacted the newspaper and KNCO and scheduled the morning interview.

Newsletter – Scott Muir: Would like all articles by 05/28 – especially one from Gary.

Port Captain- David Niedziejko: nothing to report. Will set up for Regatta on Friday. Barge motor is still giving us fits. Sunfish dollies working well and he has a couple of more in the works. The dinghy dock is floating and the wind on the lake has been great.

Cruising Chairman – Ken Neely: nothing to report.

Vice-Commodore-Gary Dowd: Still needs more help for the BBQ and a couple of other spots. Has received a half dozen phone calls about the Regatta. He has checked with Beth about the PR and had checked with Gordon regarding the race dry run at the regular club race prior to the Regatta. Jean is working on the tee shirts with Susan Murphy.

Adjourned: 8:45 PM

General Meeting Minutes – June 4, 2008

Called to order at the Clubhouse at Scotts Flat Lake at 7:05 PM by Commodore Chatelain.

Officer Reports:

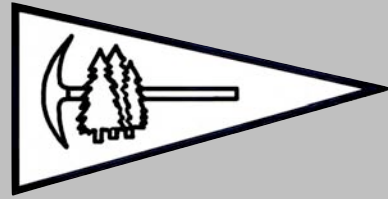
Treasurer – Jean Cutshall: reported bank balance and the Regatta income to date. Also reported on Raffle prizes for the Regatta. There are not as many as in the past – due to the economy and the timing of trying to do it.

Membership & Publicity – Beth Buti: Been busy with PR for the Regatta. Great article in the paper and spots on KNCO and KVMR. New members introduced: Cindy and Paul Pekarek. Returning member: Robert Walker. We now have stickers available for members.

Secretary – Tish Buti: distributed correspondence and reported on number of regatta entries.

Newsletter Editor – Scott Muir: short newsletter. Promises longer next month.

a little dinghy



Secretary's Report – Tish Buti - Continued

Sailing Education Chairman – Lynn Buchanan: reported on the great fun for Junior Sailing and adult sailing classes held since May meeting. Lynn's doctor is making her slow down. She has had to cancel one set of Junior training this month.

Cruising Chairman – Ken Neely: No Bay cruise this month. They will resume in July. He will be filming the Regatta.

Vice Commodore – Gary Dowd: Regatta updates: has sample tee shirts tonight. Have short sleeve and long sleeve. Member need to bring appetizers for dinner on Saturday night. Please pre order dinners tonight. Need to make sure we have enough tables. Reminder that all members should attend.

Race Chairman – Jerry Lewis: reported on racing at Whiskeytown and preparations for our own Regatta.

Port Captain – David Niedziejko: Will need help with clean up on Friday. If you can help out, be here at 2 on Friday.

Business Meeting was adjourned 8:00 PM.

General Meeting Minutes – July 9, 2008

Called to order at the Clubhouse at Scotts Flat Lake at 7:35 PM by Port Captain, David Niedziejko. Minutes recorded by Janis Johnson for Tish Buti.

Officer Reports:

Sailing Education Chairman – Lynn Buchanan: ten Juniors graduated from the Junior Sailing Program. We had a float in the 4th of July Parade with our juniors. They used a Lido 14 being towed by Past Commodore, Don Samuelson.

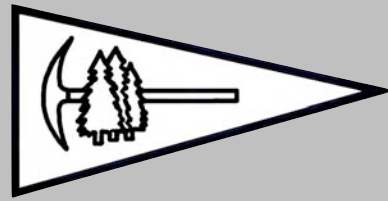
Treasurer – Jean Cutshall: reported that the Go For the Gold Regatta did really well. Our raffle did particularly well thanks to Jackie Day and Kiana Kraft.

Cruising Chairman – Ken Neely: Ken and Janis reported on their BVI trip and did a little Q and A. They will be putting together information for the 2009 International cruise. Bay trip dates will be updated.

Port Captain – David Niedziejko: reported on the repairs done to our rope gate knob.

Vice Commodore – Gary Dowd: requested help with firestarters.

a little dinghy



Secretary's Report – Tish Buti - Continued

Announcements: next Beer Can/Wine Bottle Race will be on July 16th.
Sunfish Sail on Sunday, July 13th.

Business Meeting was adjourned 8:00 PM.

Gold Country Yacht Club, Board of Directors Meeting July 22, 2008

Called to Order: Cutshall Home at 7:00 P.M. by Commodore, Pierre Chatelaine.

Present: Pierre Chatelain, Tish Buti, David Niedziejko, Ken Neely, Jean Cutshall, Beth Buti

Absent: Jerry Lewis, Gary Dowd, Scott Muir

Officer Reports:

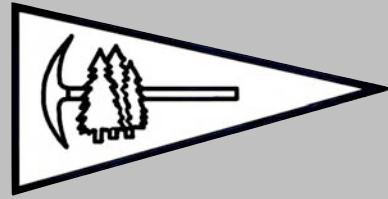
Commodore – Pierre Chatelain: kudos to Vice Commodore, Gary Wade and all his helpers. Everyone appeared to have a great time and things went well.

Publicity – Beth Buti: Has been working on contacting all the recent new members. Brought our HONORABLE MENTION ribbon for the 4th of July Parade. Great pictures and a really neat job by all the participants – especially all the Junior sailors and the driver, Don Samuelson. Had a brief discussion regarding memberships paid in mid year. In recent years, the board had waived following year's dues for anyone who joined in September or later. All agreed to continue this policy. Discussion of a GOLD DIGGER perpetual trophy for the member who recruits the most new members. Action item: require 6 hours of service to the Club to help involve new members.

Secretary-Tish Buti: distributed mail that was received. Reported that new member packets had been sent out with calendar, bylaws and membership cards with personal notes. We have received a reciprocal privilege card from the Cabrillo Beach Yacht Club. Also received a thank you card acknowledging our contribution to RBOC. Friendship Club Day has been rescheduled for August 3rd.

Sailing Education – Lynn Buchanan: we've received the last of the exemption papers for the Sunfish. Some of the boats are in need of a bit of repairs. The question arose if the club would consider selling any of the boats. Question of participating in a fall Flea Market event, garage sale or silent auction for exposure. Also, check to see if our flyers are at the local Chambers. Lynn offered to check and drop off some copies.

a little dinghy



Secretary's Report – Tish Buti - Continued

Treasurer – Jean Cutshall: gave bank balance. Reported on Regatta income to date. Commended Gary Dowd and wife Kathy for a great job with the Regatta. Despite the economy downturn and the price of gas, it was one of our most profitable Regattas on the books. Need to check on the dates for next year's regatta – June 6th and 7th.

Cruising Chairman – Ken Neely: reported on BVI trip. Also did a burgee exchange with Richmond Yacht Club. He presented the burgee to Pierre. No Bay cruise this month but there will be one in August. Schedule for the rest of the year for Bay cruises will be: August yes, September no, October yes, November yes, December yes. He'll also have a sign up sheet for those interested in an International cruise. Also talked about a cruise for Fleet Week. Lynn offered to host.

Port Captain- David Niedziejko: water is down in the lake. Folks are using the Sunfish. He keeps moving the dinghy dock. We will have to seriously think about doing something about the motors. We have a new member, Meyerson, that has offered to check out all the motors. Blue tee shirts seemed to go over very well. Jean will check with Susan about the extra shirts that needed to be ordered. Someone has cleaned the shed – David said thanks to Lynn for all the hard work. David also reported on the Beer Can/ Wine Bottle Races – on 7/16 had 3 Sunfish and 2 boats with the closest finish yet!

Adjourned: 8:45 PM

Editor's Comments – Scott Muir

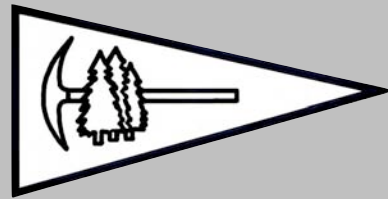
Well, this is very late in reaching everybody - so late that we missed two editions of the newsletter before this one came out... Ah well. In this edition you'll find minutes for several meetings, recaps of the Friendship Day event, coverage of our midweek "for fun" races, and more. Even though you haven't been hearing from me, it doesn't mean that club members haven't been busy out on the water (and having fun doing it).

The regatta was very successful. I spoke with several sailors from out of town who came to participate in the regatta and they were having a good time and enjoying the racing.

I've been able to sail on the lake a bit, as well as getting in several trips down to the bay. Although it can be a trek to get there, I do enjoy the summer breeze on the San Francisco Bay.

I hope your summer has been filled with pleasant sailing adventures. If not, there's still time to get out and enjoy the water.

a little dinghy



Trip Report – Ken Neely

BVI Charter, 2008

(The following is an excerpt from a blog at www.wingandwing.net)

“If schooners, islands and maroons
And Buccaneers and buried Gold,
And all the old romance, retold,
Exactly in the ancient way,
can please, as me they pleased of old,
The wiser youngsters of today:
SO be it, and fall on!”

-Treasure Island, Robert Louis Stevenson

DAY ONE

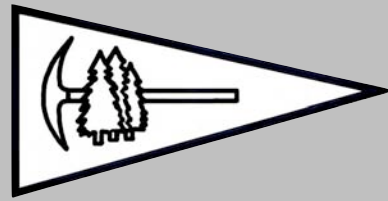
Our catamaran, Kristina (a lagoon 570), is at least three times better than I anticipated. Our provisions have arrived, I have been checked out on the boat systems, and the wifi is up and running, but two of our crew have yet to arrive (Phil & Liz). They should be here any minute, and then we're off to Spanish Town - woohoo!

Ahoy from Spanish Town!
We plan on keeping the boat here in a slip for a couple days while we go diving and do some shopping. The marina has nice showers and is surrounded by eats and

souvenir shops. Our dive shop is right on the water too, so it's like we pulled our hotel room right up to the entertainment!... The sunset is starting, and Janis just made our first round of “painkillers” (the national



a little dinghy



Trip Report - Ken Neely - Continued

drink of the islands: Pusser's rum, pineapple, orange and cream of coconut) then it's off to the showers, then dinner. I'm looking for some conch gumbo tonight. Hope ever'ting is alright back home, but aside from the humidity, which is only relieved by the breeze, this place truly is paradise.

From Janis:

Things happen slowly in the tropics, as the thick air dampens the urgency to do anything quickly. The locals do everything at a leisurely pace; no hurries, no worries, mon. It's called "island time." Which is a perfect excuse for why I'm just getting around to put my impressions and experiences down in words. There is much to do and see here in this island paradise and sometimes that includes just kicking back in the shade with a cold drink and watching the local life. One's eye is often drawn to the sea, the intense turquoise and cobalt blues of the water imbue a sense of coolness that the mind cannot resist. However, the water temperature is much warmer than its cool color portrays and, thankfully, the sea breeze offers the real relief from the heat.

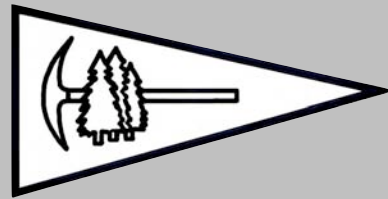
Yesterday, Darcie and I embarked on a journey-on-foot while the rest of the crew went diving. Our destination was The Baths, a geologic playground (and national park) on the southwest side of Virgin Gorda. Giant granitic boulders form a rock fun house, as if huge toy blocks had tumbled down from the hill sides and spilled into the sea. Years of erosion have created scours and bowls, natural seats and lounges that reminded us of the rock forms in the Yuba River.

On our way through town we heard loud thumping music coming from up the street. We thought that a music festival might be starting (it was only 10:30 in the morning). As we approached the local gas station (DP-Delta Petroleum), we saw the source of the beats: huge speakers were pumping out tunes where the Department of Agriculture had set up a tent in the parking lot of the gas station. People were lining up—for what purpose is still a mystery. But this was the second time we had spotted the DA tent; the day before it was set up in another part of town.

After a fun day in the sun and sand, and a real shower(!) we all jumped in a taxi to the Rock Cafe. Most of the taxis here are pickup trucks with benches in the bed protected by a shade canopy. I find it amusing that riding in the back of pickup is illegal in the states, but is the usual mode of transportation here, at least for tourists. The Rock Cafe is built into a hillside with multi level outdoor dining areas nestled amongst more bus-sized granite boulders. We enjoyed a fabulous dinner (the captain ate for free!) and were treated by our waiter Franklin to a round of flaming Sambuca after dessert. He insisted on a group shot (photo, that is) of us behind the bar before we departed.

Life is good here. I think more Americans need to incorporate "island time" mode into their lives—a drug-free way to minimize stress. Sit back in the shade and have a cold one with me!

a little dinghy



Trip Report - Ken Neely - Continued

DAY FIVE

Ahh, finally we find an island that feels remote. The structures on Cooper Island are clustered around Manchioneel Bay, which hosts a large field of mooring buoys (\$25 per night). There is no power on the island save for the generator at the hotel/bar. Despite this, they have the best Conch Fritters in the islands!

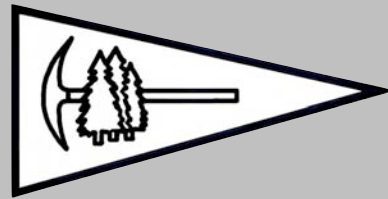
Upon our arrival we set to launching the dinghy. After an hour of troubleshooting the outboard motor, which had one problem after another, we gave up and called the charter company. This is the second issue we have had, and it is not acceptable to have the dinghy out of commission. Fortunately, we rented a two person kayak as a back-up, which is how Phil and Achut went ashore last night and returned with two orders of fritters and half a strawberry daquiri to go with the barbeque'd chicken dinner Liz prepared.



So we wait on our mooring for the repairman, who should have been here an hour ago with a replacement outboard. I've waited in worse places, to be sure, but only being able to go ashore in pairs is slow... Island time prevails yet again. We have some dive planning to do - we're picking out spots along the southern islands which are shallow enough for the snorkelers to join the divers, and catch some footage of the adventure. The pirate caves of Norman and the wreck of the Rhone are the two destinations of importance, the rest of the itinerary will be wherever the wind takes us.

DAY SIX

a little dinghy



Trip Report - Ken Neely - Continued

Ahoy from the Pirate's Bight on Treasure Island (shown on most maps as Norman Island). After a slight delay with our dinghy (they brought us a new one yesterday morning) we dinghy'd to a snorkel in Manchioneel Bay. The area is called The Cistern, and it was excellent. Achut found a sea turtle right away, and we got footage of some BIG fish.

Afterwards, we set off down-island to find a dive shop and ice. The Peter Island Yacht Club/resort is located in Sprat Bay, sandwiched between Great Harbor and Dead Man's Bay. The cove was emerald and teal, surrounded by palm trees and palapas. We got a great deal on ice, and sailed around the corner to Norman Island's "Bight".

Complete with a floating bar called the Willie T, and a beach bar called, appropriately, Pirate's Bight, the bay is in the shadow of Spyglass Hill, the lookout post used by buccaneers. The Willie T is a replica of a top

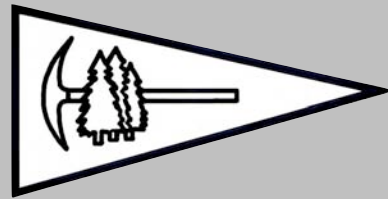


sail lumber schooner named after William Thornton, the architect of the US Capitol building. The original Willie T sank and then was hauled offshore for a shipwreck dive destination. There are phosphorescent sea caves just outside the bay, which we are going to snorkel this morning. Pelican Island and four pinnacles known as the Indians are just outside the bay too, and we are going to snorkel and dive as a group there this afternoon. Hopefully Janis will get some good footage of the divers.

We'll stay here another night (we're having our pirate party tonight, arrr), then back towards Spanish Town to

return the dive gear, then a guided dive on the Rhone on Wednesday. The Rhone is the best shipwreck dive in the Caribbean, and we're all very excited to do this dive. After that, we go around Tortola to Bomba's for the full moon party (arr)...

a little dinghy



Trip Report - Ken Neely - Continued

All in all, this place is awesome. We can sail most anywhere, any day, and still have time for some sunbathing and swimming.

I think we're around the half way point, but I'm trying not to dwell on anything past the full moon.

DAY SEVEN

Yesterday was a very full day. The caves on Treasure Point were cool, if rather crowded with other snorkelers. It was easy to imagine hiding treasure there, although if I were a pirate I would go looking for treasure in every cave I happened upon! After the caves, we moved out of the Bight to the Indians and Pelican Island. The Indians are four pinnacles rising up from 80 feet. We had to wait about 15 minutes to get a mooring buoy, and once we secured the boat, we dove and snorkeled around the rocks. Then we left



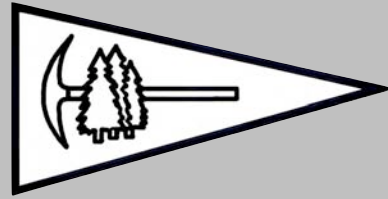
the buoy to make room for others who were waiting and moved over to Pelican Island to dive "Rainbow Canyon," which was a spectacular underwater Dr. Seuss landscape, with 30 foot tall coral heads and narrow canyons between reefs.

Late afternoon we took the Willie T by storm! I don't think they have been boarded by such a raving band of pirates in years! We staked our claim with a jolly roger and danced and played limbo until the sun set, then up and split while we were still the life of the party. We were such a spectacle, some east-coast-based cruisers from a neighboring boat joined us aboard Kristina after dinner.

Today finds us back in Manchioneel Bay to refill some tanks before we move on to Ginger Island to dive "Alice's Backside,"

and then on to Spanish Town for a dive at the "Aquarium" before we return our rental scuba gear and refill our fresh water tanks. Then we plan to return to Cooper Island for the night. Tomorrow morning we have an appointment to dive the RMS Rhone, a Royal Mail Steamer that sank during a hurricane in the 19th century.

a little dinghy



Trip Report - Ken Neely - Continued

DAY NINE

Soper's Hole was our anchorage for our last night aboard. A tropical wave of thunderstorms came through the islands while we were ashore at Diamond Cay. By the time I had the crew ready to dinghy back to the boat, winds were blowing 30 knots and there were four foot waves trying to swamp the dinghy! Everyone made it aboard safely, although a few crew were visibly shaken. We cast off the mooring and ran for shelter at Soper's Hole.

Like every anchorage in the BVI, Soper's Hole has a famous bar. The Jolly Roger Inn is a harbor-side BBQ joint with a mean rum punch. Their dinghy dock is part of the outdoor dining deck, and the view of the surrounding islands, including the USVI, is spectacular.

We did some final souvenir shopping before a nice dinner aboard with wine from home. The BVI's are a cruisers paradise, with multiple destinations available no matter where you wake up, I highly recommend visiting this part of the Caribbean as often as possible! Please feel free to ask me any questions you may have concerning chartering or the BVI.

Ken Neely, Cruising Chairman

Upcoming Events

August

- 24 - Summer Race #3 - Scott's Flat Lake
- 26 - GCYC Board of Directors Meeting
- 30 - Cruise on SF Bay - \$50@

September

- 6 - Summer Race #6 - Scott's Flat Lake
- 10 - General Meeting - Scott's Flat Lake Clubhouse
- 18 - Beer Can/Wine Bottle Race - Scott's Flat Lake
- 23 - GCYC Board of Directors Meeting
- 27 - Cruise on SF Bay - \$50@

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