

# Multnomah Channel Yacht Club

## Channel Chatter

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July, 2009

Commodore's Comments

Greetings MCYC Skippers and First Mates. I think the summer solstice needs to be earlier. Can I get a motion to move that date to the first of the month? June has been so busy that I need a few more daylight hours to get it all in. The good thing is that it has, for the most part, been a lot of fun. From club events to firing our cannon at the tall ships visiting St. Helens. I still look forward to the next event or cruise.

It was really interesting watching those replicas of our sailing heritage glide into the city docks. Let it be known, MCYC's Commodore drew first blood as Lady Washington and Hawaiian Chieftain came within range. However, our three round salvos were nothing compared to the return fire aimed at your Commodore, PC Dave and Skipper Matt. They let us have it with all guns to starboard. To our sacrifice, we saved the St. Helens Yacht Club and the Pirates of Portlandia our fate. I think the Lady Washington and Hawaiian Chieftain ran out of gun powder☺.



With so much going on in June I don't think the Chatterwallah is going to allow me much more space to record the fun I'm having. See you all in July for more fun and friendship. << CC >>

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First Lady's Comments

The month of June was exciting and full of wonderful things to do. It began

First Lady's Comments, Con't

with Louie Louie on 6/5/09. Great food and let's not forget those martinis. I usually don't care for them but I discovered the chocolate martinis are quite tasty. Next was WYC's Lady's dinner on 6/11/09, superbly done I might add which was followed by the St Helens cruise. DYC had their Lady's dinner on 6/18/09 and this one is one of my personal favorites. I highly recommend your putting it on your 2010's list of events to attend. We then had a going away party for Robin and Joel. They will be missed for their many contributions to MCYC and their eagerness to participate in any project or event but mostly for their kindness to all of us. June 20<sup>th</sup> was Bob's birthday and house warming early in the day then we went to John and Sue's wine and cheese in the Lavender patch served with the most wonderful lavender champagne. What a wonderful day. We closed the month out with an exquisite birthday party for Mike White and I. Mike and Terry worked for many days decorating, shopping, setting up, and arranging for help. The end result of all their hard work was a very memorable birthday party. I personally owe them my thanks for making it the birthday of my life. Thank you. I would like to thank all the other members that helped out in all kinds of ways to make it all run so smoothly. Thank you all. And let's not forget the stars of the show, The Loafers. Those guys really ROCK. The music was toe-tapping right out to the dance floor. It was really nice to see all of our members out there dancing and having a good time. So thank you Loafers. I am having Charley take Orion to Cathlamet a week early so I can stay on the boat and just relax. I hope to see many of you there for Bald Eagle Days. <<First Lady Linda Jensen>>

Social Director's Comments

No material was received from the Social Director in time to publish it here. If something comes in, it will be published by email – Editor.

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Editor's Comments

Your Chatterwallah has been busy for the past week or so. Now that ChatterMate Blanche has recovered from her foot surgery, the household duties are not quite as demanding, and your Editor actually went boating over the Independence Day holiday. David Sutherland was kind enough to host the Editor on "Home Aweigh", and we cruised over to Willamette Yacht Club's holiday celebration of our Nation's 233<sup>rd</sup> Birthday. Getting in to the WYC clubhouse in the far corner of Tomahawk Bay was interesting, due to the sandbar that has pushed in from the river and almost completely blocks "L" Row, the fairway to the clubhouse. Reading nothing on the depth sounder and making LOTS of brown water under the boat, David expertly guided the big Uniflite through the small part of the channel that was deep enough. Later in the weekend, club members made light of the situation by wading out there, mostly not up to their knees! Word to Columbia Crossings: You MIGHT consider putting up a sign warning of the sand bar while waiting for a dredging window to remove it. But, WYC rocks, and the party on the 4<sup>th</sup> stretched well into the 5<sup>th</sup>. It's been a while since your Editor has seen partiers not only howl at the moon, but at the sun on the following day! The heat wave might have taken it's toll, but "Home Aweigh" now has air conditioning, which saved the day, as did almost-constant hydration. OK, OK, it wasn't always water! "Home Aweigh" entertained another family on the way back, and your Editor drove their car to MCYC in time for more fun

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### JULY:

17-19 – Cathlamet Cruise

22cd – Business Meeting

### AUGUST:

5<sup>th</sup> – Board Meeting

7-9 Sandy Is. Cruise

15<sup>th</sup> – Bonnie B-Day Pty

119<sup>th</sup> – Business Meeting

22cd – Summer Party

### SEPTEMBER:

2cd – Board Meeting

5-7<sup>th</sup> – Labor Day

12<sup>th</sup> – Golf Tourney

16<sup>th</sup> – Business Meeting

19 – Pirate Party @ ?

19-20<sup>th</sup> Gilbert R. Cruise

### Editor's Comments, Con't.

The Fourth Holiday ended on a somewhat sour note as Brian Hale blew out a hammie while water skiing. It looked painful, but to every tragedy, there is a silver lining: we now know that a MCYC dock cart will carry 260#! Kudos to all those “ambulance drivers” who took Busted Brian back down to C-Dock after the ER so he could finish the party. Brian is tough, and the “Loafer” will be able to do a presentable Festus impression, I'll bet!

OK, Captains. This is where we prepare for something most of us do infrequently: anchor out. In a month, MCYC is going to do their first Club raft-up weekend in many years. For the REAL old-timers, this sort of cruising weekend used to be the norm instead of the exception, but since the advent of the Oregon State Marine Board and their fine docks, we have gotten spoiled. CC Charley, a more traditional mariner, thinks we should re-visit the idea of an anchoring-out weekend, and I agree.

From past anchoring-out affairs, I have a short list of do's and don'ts.

- DO bring ALL the anchors you own, and all the anchor rode also. Anchor buoys are also nice.
- DO practice, or at least refer to the Anchor Bend for attaching the anchor to the rode. It is VERY embarrassing to have your rode come loose and leave

### Anchoring out, Con't

- that fine Danforth or plow on the bottom.
- DO practice lowering and retrieving your dinghy, if you don't do much with it normally. In an anchorage, it's your only way ashore without swimming. There WILL be beach parties!
- DON'T use any speed above idle when you approach the anchorage. Idling boats can usually be fended off if the skipper makes a steering mistake, but if he also has power on, there is almost always busted fiberglass, or worse.
- DO bring every fender you can lay hands on. In between boats, you will need at least three, and four or five is probably better. Ditto all the short docking lines you have.

The typical rafting tie-up will be carefully planned, so it is important to be available in the anchorage, with your terminal & fendering gear ready, when it is your turn to join the raft-up.

Some safety notes: since this is NOT the usual thing for MCYC, we need to pay special attention to safety arrangements. WEAR those PFD's when dinking about, and HAVE that throwable Type 4 ready on your afterdeck.

The drill if anyone falls in, either from a dink or a rafted boat, is to shout “MAN OVERBOARD” loudly, sound air horns, whistles, etc, and THROW those Type 4s out to the person in the water. If we have swim ladders, they will be in the water anyway, and there shouldn't be any engines running, either.

Carbon monoxide: if you have a genset and want to run it, be VERY CAREFUL unless you KNOW that the wind is blowing the exhaust directly away from the raft-up. Every year, people all over the nation die needlessly because of carbon monoxide poisoning from running

### Anchoring out, Con't

gensets and boat engines to charge batteries. Some of us will have portable gensets, and they are somewhat safer since they can be moved to where the wind will carry the exhaust away. It will be best to rely on batteries, though, so make sure yours are fully watered and charged before you head for Goble.

One other avoidable disaster will be injuries from moving from boat to boat. The safe way to do this is with help, even if you are young and spry. If someone wants to cross your afterdeck to get to another boat, we'll let them, and better yet, we will be there to assist them.

Raft-ups are even more of a communal living experience than dock cruises, so we need to remember that our voices carry farther when they are in the key of Whiskey Baritone! 'Nuff said.

Your Chatterwallah/Safetywallah is REALLY looking forward to this cruise, maybe more so than others, because it is a chance to demonstrate and learn parts of seamanship that we don't practice much.

References:

The Anchor Bend:

<http://tinyurl.com/rd8tp>

or:

<http://tinyurl.com/ndv63l>

Rafting Up:

<http://tinyurl.com/kvnf8x>

or:

<http://tinyurl.com/kvm33z>

Plan on coming to this cruise. It's only a couple of hours downriver, and our fun level there will keep us going all winter!

<<Chatterwallah>>

