



# SAUVIE ISLAND YACHT CLUB NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 2524, Portland, OR 97208-2524

[www.siyc.org](http://www.siyc.org)

No. 359, April, 2015

## SIYC OFFICERS '14 -'15

Commodore  
Craig Johnston  
[k7cej@aracnet.com](mailto:k7cej@aracnet.com)

Vice Commodore  
Richard Sandefur  
[yachtmoonshadow@hotmail.com](mailto:yachtmoonshadow@hotmail.com)

Secretary  
Sue Stonecliffe  
[sstonecliffe@gmail.com](mailto:sstonecliffe@gmail.com)

Treasurer  
George Stonecliffe  
[georgestonecliffe@gmail.com](mailto:georgestonecliffe@gmail.com)

Asst. Treasurer  
Terry O'Shea  
[terry.oshea@me.com](mailto:terry.oshea@me.com)

Rear Commodore  
George Stonecliffe  
[georgestonecliffe@gmail.com](mailto:georgestonecliffe@gmail.com)

COMMITTEE CHAIRS  
Membership  
Ed Daugherty  
[wedaugherty@q.com](mailto:wedaugherty@q.com)

Database Editor  
George Stonecliffe  
[georgestonecliffe@gmail.com](mailto:georgestonecliffe@gmail.com)

Newsletter Editors  
Alicia Watkins  
[aliciawatkins@gmail.com](mailto:aliciawatkins@gmail.com)  
Taunya Coutts (cruising reports)  
[tmcouts@gmail.com](mailto:tmcouts@gmail.com)

Website  
Mark Nerczuk  
[marknerczuk@gmail.com](mailto:marknerczuk@gmail.com)



## April Navigation Cruise

Red Lion Jantzen Beach  
Hosts: Craig & Barbara Johnston

Friday April 18<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> 2015

More information on page 2

## Upcoming Events

May Membership Meeting  
Raffle and Auction

Friday May 1<sup>st</sup> 2015  
Sauvie Island Academy 7:30pm

May Race/Drift Cruise  
May 16<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> 2015

This month's cruising reports  
start on page 8

## Commodore's Comments, April 2015

### Time to Start Planning Your Warm-Weather Cruise!

As the end of the SIYC year nears, so also nears the best cruising of the year. Taking advantage of the warmer weather and water will help remind you why you are shoveling all of that cash into your “hole in the water.”



The Navigation Cruise (April 18-19, Red Lion Inn docks on Hayden Island) is fully subscribed, with 11 boats signed up and reservations for 19 for dinner. This year there will be a prize for both experienced navigators and also those competing for the first time.

The Race/Drift Cruise (May 16-17, Sand Island, St. Helens) is your chance for some good-natured competition in two classes, fin and full keel. We know perennial winner Garry won't win this year, as he will be running the race! You should contact Garry immediately ([sailcambria@gmail.com](mailto:sailcambria@gmail.com)) if you want a race T-shirt and haven't already signed-up.

This summer we have made reservations in Cathlamet for another fun summer cruise on July 11-12. Plan on at least 3 or 4 days to take full advantage. We have the barbecue reserved as well! This is a great chance to spend some time exploring the lower Columbia and its many scenic backwaters. We will start taking sign-ups at the May meeting.

Fair winds,  
Craig

## April Navigation Cruise



This month marks the annual Navigation Cruise. Craig Johnston has carefully constructed and handed out a test to challenge us sailors on our navigational skills.

We will be meeting at the Red Lion Jantzen Beach docks, upriver from the I-5 Bridge on the Oregon side of the river, the weekend of April 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> 2015. We have already reserved the space and welcome all those in the club to attend.

Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> we will be having dinner at the hotel restaurant and correcting our exams. Prizes will be awarded, so do your best!

If you are planning to attend dinner but are not bring your boat you are more than welcome! Dinner reservations are required so please let Alicia know if you are attending so she can let the hotel know. [aliciawatkins@gmail.com](mailto:aliciawatkins@gmail.com) or (503) 780-1144.

## May Meeting/Raffle/Auction

After we gorge on dessert at the May meeting, we will hold one of our more enjoyable activities: a raffle and auction. We already have a start on the raffle with some great items, but to make it work, bring a piece of boat gear you aren't using, a bottle of wine or specialty food, or whatever will make someone else happy.

As a special, Ed and Sarah are donating a pair of GMRS hand-held two-way radios, just the thing for keeping in touch with your shore party! The radios will be auctioned separately from the raffle.

Tickets for the raffle will be sold at the door. All proceeds will go directly to the Club to defray the activity expenses incurred for April.

## May Race/Drift Cruise

SIYC 35<sup>th</sup> annual Race/Drift Cruise is coming up on May 16<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> 2015. The race will start on Saturday at noon at Warrior Rk, just upstream from St Helens. There are two classes, full keel or fin Keel. Fabulous prizes!

If you have never done the race don't worry, you can be as serious or just for fun as you like. We meet after the Race at Sand Island directly across from Old Town St Helens for the awards and always delicious potluck dinner.

We also have Race T-shirts for \$14 short sleeve and \$18 long sleeve. Order these ASAP because I must put the order in soon. Contact Garry by email to place an order.

Registration is free. To register e-mail Garry Weber at: [sailcambria@gmail.com](mailto:sailcambria@gmail.com)

Thanks and let's have fun

## Recipe of the Month

Submitted By, **Alicia Watkins S/V Rowena**

### Zesty Quinoa Bean Salad from *Urban Sacred Garden*

This salad takes Quinoa, a plant based complete protein, and pairs it with protein rich legumes and zesty Lime and Cayenne Pepper to create a tangy dish. Quinoa is one of those perfectly lovely foods created by nature. It has a pleasing texture and takes on the flavors of anything it is paired with. Quinoa is a plant seed with the qualities of a grain. Originally made popular in Incan culture a long time ago, Quinoa is customarily grown in the Andes Mountains to this day. Yield: About 6 Cups

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 Cup Quinoa
- 2 Cups Water
- 1 Can Black Beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 10 oz Bag Organic Edamame, thawed\*
- 3/4 Cup Cherry Tomatoes, cut into halves
- 1/4 Cup Parsley, finely chopped
- 2 Organic Limes, Juice and Zest\*

- 4 Tbsp Olive Oil
- 1/2 Tsp Cayenne Pepper
- Freshly Ground Sea Salt
- Freshly Ground Black Pepper

\*Organic is important for Edamame so you can avoid GMO soybeans. A product labeled as "Organic" in the U.S. cannot be genetically modified. Organic is also important when using citrus zest to avoid pesticide residues.

### DIRECTIONS

1. Rinse Quinoa in cold water several times before cooking in fresh water.
2. In a medium sized pot bring lightly salted Water and Quinoa to a boil.
3. Lower the heat to a simmer and cover. Stir occasionally and ensure Quinoa is not sticking. Cook for about 15 minutes, or until Quinoa is just becoming transparent and has a thin white band around the middle.
4. Dump cooked Quinoa into a fine mesh strainer, place the strainer over the pot, and allow it to drain and cool. Often no water will drain off the Quinoa, but allowing it to cool from all sides will keep the Quinoa from clumping together and getting goopy. As the Quinoa cools, occasionally fluff it with a fork. Allow to cool and rest for about 15 minutes.
5. Once mostly cooled, dump Quinoa into a large bowl and add Black Beans, Edamame, Cherry Tomatoes and Parsley.
6. In a small bowl whisk together (or shake together in a Ball jar) Lime Juice and Zest, Olive Oil, Cayenne Pepper and Sea Salt. Taste and add salt if needed. Pour Lime Dressing over the top of the Quinoa and toss together. Add Sea Salt and Black Pepper, if needed, to taste.
7. Serve fresh or refrigerate and serve later. Enjoy!



## Thanks and Appreciation

Special thanks to Taunya Coutts and Rusty Geiser for providing last months refreshments.

## SIYC Clothing & Accessories For 2014 to 2015

To give you an idea of what you can purchase, here is a short list.

Sport Tek Tech Fleece Ladies Tech Fleece Full-Zip Hooded Jacket; Ladies sizes xs-4XL  
\$49.00

1/4-Zip Pullover; Adult sizes xs-4XL  
\$47.00

Sport Tek Super Heavy Weight Sweatshirts Crew neck; Adult sizes xs-4XL  
\$37.00

Pullover Hooded; Adult sizes xs-4XL  
\$43.00

Full Zip Hooded; Adult sizes xs-4XL  
\$47.00

See me, Sarah Daugherty, at the meetings or email at [wedaugherty@g.com](mailto:wedaugherty@g.com)

### Reminder: Annual Dues

Your annual dues will be payable on April 1<sup>st</sup>. George Stonecliffe will be accepting checks or you can mail checks to the club at:  
SIYC  
P.O. Box 2524  
Portland, OR 97208-2524.

Here are the different classes of membership, and the annual amounts to be paid by each.

Membership is per boat, not per person:

Regular Membership	\$50
Life Member	\$-0-
Post Member	\$20
Cruising Member	\$20

**Life Member:** A member who has paid full dues for at least 20 years.

**Post Member:** A member who has paid full dues for at least 5 years and no longer owns a boat, but wishes to stay involved in club activities.

### Cruising Member:

- Has cruised away from Oregon and Washington at least six months during the last fiscal year (April 1-March 31);
- Has paid full regular membership dues for at least two years; and
- Has made at least three newsletter contributions during the last fiscal year.

## Boat U.S. Membership

The SIYC is a participating member of the Boat U.S. Group program, which allows SIYC members a 50% discount on their individual Boat U.S. membership dues. To take advantage you will need our group code: **GA81077Y**. Use the code when renewing your individual membership. There are numerous savings available with a Boat U.S. membership, on a few of which include:

- A 4% rebate (\$10 for every \$250 spent) at West Marine
- Marina fuel and service discounts
- Towing discount, Insurance and many more.

See the whole list at [www.BoatUS.com](http://www.BoatUS.com)

## Election of Officers

Our next slate of officers will be elected at the May meeting and dessert potluck. We have a fine group of cruisers who have agreed to stand for election, including some new faces. **If you are unable to make the meeting and would like to register your vote, please**

**send your vote for the nominated candidates or write-in of your choice by email to Sue Stonecliffe, SIYC Secretary ([sstonecliffe@gmail.com](mailto:sstonecliffe@gmail.com)).**

2015-1015 SIYC Officer Candidates:

Commodore: Richard Sandefur

Vice-Commodore: Gabrielle Lennartz

Treasurer: Jenny Bruning

Secretary: Charing O'Shea



## Club Business

### Annual Business Meeting & Dessert Potluck

On May 1<sup>st</sup> the SIYC Club meeting will be our Annual Business Meeting & Dessert Potluck.

The agenda includes:

1. Electing Officers for 2015-16
2. Collection of Dues
3. May Race/Drift Cruise on May 16-17
4. June 6 Annual Picnic at Kelly Point Park
5. Summer cruise to Cathlamet, July 11-12
6. A Dessert Potluck
7. A raffle (bring your raffle items)

### SIYC Membership Meeting April 4, 2015 Sauvie Island Academy

This meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Commodore Craig Johnston. Also present were Vice-Commodore Richard Sandefur, Treasurer George Stonecliffe, and Secretary Sue Stonecliffe. Guests: Debra Johnston, Rich

Richardson, Holly Verhoeren, and Greg Mardock. 33 members present.

Ed Daugherty inducted new members Tara and Nat Powning.

Treasurer George Stonecliffe reported \$3,331.75 in the bank. Dues are due now for 2015-2016. Noting that we have more money to spend on cruises and picnics next year, copies of the new budget were displayed on each table.

The Nominating Committee shared the roster of officers to be voted upon at the May meeting: Commodore Richard Sandefur, Vice Commodore Gabrielle Lennartz, Treasurer Jenny Bruning (who volunteered at the meeting), and Secretary Charing O'Shea. Ray McCracken will chair the Membership Committee and Alicia Watkins will continue as editor of the Newsletter. We are still in need of someone to organize refreshments.

George read a Rule Change to be included in the new roster under 2.2 Dues and Fees: *When more than two people co-own a boat, an additional initiation fee of \$10 per adult beyond the first two, will be charged to cover the cost of the additional name tag(s).*

Newsletter Editor Alicia Watkins will include a biographic article this month about new member Kimberly Winkler.

Webmaster Mark Nerczuk reported over 15,000 hits to our website. Alicia also pulls member articles from the website to include in the Newsletter.

The Navigation Cruise will be held April 17-19 at the Red Lion Inn dock and restaurant just east of the I-5 Bridge. Depths were measured a consistent 15'. All are encouraged to attend by boat or car for the reading of the test results and prizes awarded on Saturday night. There will be live music in the bar on Friday night.

A sign-up sheet was passed around for the Race-Drift Cruise May 15-16. As last year's

winner and organizer of this year’s race Garry announced to huge applause that he won’t be competing this year. As usual, participants will race in either full keel or fin keel categories. Following the race from Warrior Rock to Martin Slough, all boats will dock at Sandy Island for the award ceremony and potlucks.

Our summer cruise to Cathlamet, Washington will be July 11-12. Craig has made a reservation to use their BBQ pit. Anyone coming should allow a full day to cruise downriver, and 2 days to return due to river current and distance.

Our May membership meeting will include planning of next years’ activities plus a raffle for donated items followed by a dessert potluck.

For the good of the club:  
 PYC invited any women to participate in their April 16 Ladies Dinner. Sue and Kimberly will go.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 followed by refreshments and a very informative program by Dr. Ann McCartney, teacher of wilderness medicine.

**SIYC Board Meeting April 1, 2015**

The SIYC Board met at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Craig and Barbara Johnston. Commodore Craig Johnston and Barbara, Vice-Commodore Richard Sandefur, Treasurer George Stonecliffe, and Secretary Sue Stonecliffe, attended.

We are in need of someone to order more ceramic coffee cups to be used for prizes, new members, and speakers.

The slate of new officers, details of upcoming meetings, cruises, and summer activities were discussed.

Respectfully Submitted,  
 Sue Stonecliffe, Secretary

**2014-2015 CALENDAR**

GENERAL MEETINGS		BOARD MEETINGS		CRUISES	
Date/theme	Location	Date	Location	Dates	Where/theme
September 5 Potluck	Captain’s Moorage	September 4	TBD	Sept. 13-14	Gilbert River Docks
October 3	Sauvie Island Academy	October 1	TBD	Oct. 25-26	Annual Halloween cruise – Government Island E.
November 7	Sauvie Island Academy	November 5	TBD	Nov. 22-23	Annual Thanksgiving cruise – Hadley’s Landing
December 6	Christmas Party - TBD	December 6	At party		
January 2	Sauvie Island Academy	December 30	TBD	Jan. 17-18	New Year’s cruise – Coon Island
February 6	Sauvie Island Academy	February 4	TBD	Feb. 14-15	Valentine Cruise – Coon Island
March 6	Sauvie Island Academy	March 4	TBD	Mar. 14-15	Anchoring Cruise
April 3	Sauvie Island Academy	April 1	TBD	April 18-19	Navigation Cruise
May 1 Annual Meeting/ Dessert Potluck	Sauvie Island Academy	April 29	TBD	May 16-17	Annual Race/Drift Cruise – Sand Island
June 6 Annual Picnic	TBD				

**SIYC CRUISING BOATS**

<b>Boat Name</b>	<b>Owners' Names</b>	<b>Location</b>
<i>Adagio</i>	Jeff & Jane Woodward	San Carlos, MX
<i>Casita</i>	Devon Quinn & Rowan Madix	Alameda, CA
<i>LunaSea</i>	Frank & RaeAnn Haynes	Santa Catalina, CA
<i>Nashira</i>	Mike Floyd	La Paz, BCS, MX
<i>Penelope</i>	Peter & Susan Gierga	La Cruz, MX
<i>Perpetua</i>	Pat & Susan Canniff	Mazatlan, MX
<i>Pied-A-Mer III</i>	Eric & Pam Sellix	La Paz, MX
<i>Ranidan</i>	Jim & Linda Noval	La Paz, MX
<i>Silvergill</i>	Bob Hulegard & Robin Fouche	Newport Beach, CA

**Member Websites**

- CarolMarie:** <http://www.svcarolmarie.com/>
- Julia Max:** <http://www.sailblogs.com/member/juliamax/>
- Penelope:** <http://cruisingwithcaptainpeterandtheadmiral.com/>
- Perpetua blog:** [http://www.sailblogs.com/member/our\\_journeys/](http://www.sailblogs.com/member/our_journeys/)
- Perpetua Pictures:** [http://imageevent.com/our\\_journeys/](http://imageevent.com/our_journeys/)
- Moonshadow:** <http://www.voyagemoonshadow.blogspot.com/>
- Moontide:** <http://www.svmoontide.com/>
- Pied-a-Mer III:** <http://www.sailblogs.com/member/sesesail/>
- Ranidan:** <http://persimmonsky.wordpress.com/>
- Rowena:** <http://www.sailblogs.com/member/rowena/>
- Sequoia:** <http://www.svsequoia.com/>

SIYC members : Do you have a website or blog for your boat that isn't listed above? If so, please get the information to your trusty editor, Alicia Watkins, [aliciawatkins@gmail.com](mailto:aliciawatkins@gmail.com), and we'll make sure your website or blog is included in future issues of the newsletter.

## ***CRUISING REPORTS***

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### ***Jeff & Jane Woodward, S/V Adiago***

Just a very quick note to let you all know Adagio is safely tucked into her slip in Marina San Carlos, and we are happily tucked into our apartment! It has been a whirlwind day and we are pooped, but thanks to our dear friend Sheila we've had a beautiful dinner and are ready for a good night's rest before we begin putting Adagio away for the season.

Hopefully all will go smoothly and we'll be home very soon!

Jeff & Jane  
S/V *Adiago*  
Marina San Carlos, Mexico



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### ***Peter & Susan Gierga, S/V Penelope***

**Mar 22 - Running, Swimming, Snorkeling, Paddling, Writing, Reading, Napping, Yoga:**

It's hard to fit everything in a single day.

Janny suggested I use my snorkeling goggles to swim so I don't have to get salt water in my mouth and eyes. Excellent idea!

I swam from *Penelope* to *Living Free*, about 100 yards, with Peter following close behind in the dinghy. While visiting with Janny at *Living Free*, she said, "You should try our paddle boards." Peter and I took off on their boards and paddled around the bay for a couple hours. I swam back to *Penelope* and felt like I had gotten some good exercise today.

In the evening Peter listened to Santana on the stereo while he cooked 1-inch thick pork chops on the grill and talked with his family on the phone. Every day feels like a celebration.

**Mon – March 23 - Kind of a Bummer:**

Like on land, some days are better than others. While yesterday I felt full and satisfied, today I felt restless and anxious. Our friends, Steve and Janny, left this morning for Chamela. They motored near *Penelope* on their way out of the bay and we were awakened by the sound of Gracie, their dog, barking. We both bolted from bed and raised our heads above the companionway to holler and wave, "Adios!"



We had intended to leave today, also, but with the wind and swell we've had over the past few days, Peter was concerned we might encounter uncomfortable chop if we try to head north too soon. Better to wait and give the ocean another day to lay down. Besides, Neal and Kristy from *Liahona* invited us for dinner.

I was bored throughout the day. I didn't feel like doing anything but felt like a slug laying around any longer. Peter said it would take another week before I completely get my energy back following my cold but I still thought of myself as a putz, not being more productive. Peter started getting Penelope ready to pull out tomorrow which meant removing the out board motor from the dinghy and hoisting it up onto its handrail mount.

At 5:00 pm we rowed the dinghy over to *Liahona*. Neal and Kristy, both gourmet chefs by profession, had prepared Cajun sea bass, rice and beans with bacon and broccoli. After dinner, another couple, Heather and Chris from *Legacy* came over to enjoy Flan. Heather and Chris have been cruising 12 years and are heading home at the end of the season to sell their boat and buy a house. They were able to describe the process of "up locking" and "down locking" through the Panama Canal. Fascinating! We look forward to this exciting experience while they, on the other hand, look forward to a house and a yard and a car. It's an evolution.

### **Mar 26 - Onto Banderas Bay:**

I motored Penelope out of Chamela in my robe and slippers this morning. I guess I have lost all dignity, now. I drank coffee down below, by myself, while Peter headed us west toward Cabo Corrientes, Banderas Bay and Puerto Vallarta.



In Spanish, Vallarta is pronounced Bay yarta. "Vs" are always pronounced like "Bs" and "ll" is always pronounced "Ya". Sailboat is Valero, pronounced Balero. I bet all these years, many of you have been saying Puerto Vallarta, huh? Or, just me?

Our first rule is, "Always sail if there is enough wind to fill the sails and they are not flogging." Initially, the wind was light but by noon we were sailing quite nicely on a port tack with moderate wind out of the south. Soon we were faced with a dilemma. Should we fire up the engine and motor into Ipala before dark (Rule No. 2 – never enter an unknown anchorage after dark) or should we continue to sail out around Cabo Corrientes and arrive in Banderas Bay soon after day break?

Our third rule is, "Don't sail if it means being out an extra overnight when a protected anchorage is available." We had already intended to round Cabo Corrientes (Cape of Currents) through the night when winds would be calm. Also, the guide book warned Ipala could be tight quarters and rocky. Against our better judgement, we elected to take a chance on Ipala. I told Peter if he wasn't comfortable with the anchorage we could leave, knowing 3 – 5 hours would be added to our passage to go into the bay and have to sail back off shore.

The guide book was right. The tiny little bay, about the size of a basketball court was riddled with buoys indicating underwater hazards. The bay was almost completely surrounded by rocks and hidden reefs. Two boats were already at anchor. You could see their masts rocking to and fro like the needle on a metronome from the ocean swell entering the bay from the south.

Peter said, “No way! I’m not staying here!” I was furious. I acted like I was mad at Peter when in fact I was really mad at the ocean for causing so much trouble and myself for getting attached to being quiet and at anchor in less than 30 minutes. I went down below to start dinner before my 8:00 pm watch, being certain to loudly slam and bang cupboards and pans as much as possible!

### **Mar 28 - Welcome to La Cruz**

We are anchored just outside the La Cruz Marina break wall. There are about 25 other boats anchored approximately equal distance apart, over an area about 5 acres. We were hailed on the VHF radio by a number of our friends and fellow cruisers early this morning. John and Cass on *Victoria* are in the marina. Ron and Mary Ann, *Whirl Wind*, Steve and Janny, *Living Free* and Mike and Jodi, *Against the Wind*, are all anchored nearby. Everyone called to say, “Hello. Welcome to La Cruz.” And to inform us of the swap meet at 10:00 am.

We saw everyone at the swap meet and saw a number of other couples we haven’t seen for a while. Like Tenacatita, La Cruz is a popular place for cruisers. Sometimes they even stay, buy property, build a house. It’s beautiful, groceries are inexpensive, services are convenient, and the sun shines every day. What’s not to love? But, I’m sure you’ve heard me mention, it gets very hot in Mexico in the summer.

April is pretty much the end of the “cruising season”. Everyone is making plans for the summer. A lot of people put their boat “on the hard”. This means they have it taken out of the water where it is placed on jacks, turned off, covered with tarps and left. Peter would never consider leaving our boat on the hard. He says a boat is meant to be held in place by the equilateral buoyancy of the water, not six or eight metal jacks. Also, because there is no cooling effect of the water against the hull, the boat gets very hot inside. It gets so hot inside, it’s been known to melt plastic zippers.

Other people leave their boats in the water in a marina for the summer. Everything is turned off, emptied out, and battened down, but, at least the boat is left in its more natural environment. Some people go home to their homes or rent an apartment or live in their RV or take advantage of friends and family. We have no home to go to – they are both rented. We can’t afford to rent an apartment and keep the boat in Mexico, too. We don’t own an RV. So, at least for this year, we are planning to buy a very large air conditioner and stay on our boat in the Mazatlán Marina.

### **Mar 31 - New Circulation Pump**

This morning I cleaned “house” while Peter hauled 15 kilos of laundry in the dinghy to the lavanderia. At 12:30, I was back at the VIP lounge for Spanish class. Now that we are going to be in a single place for a known period of time I can connect and make commitments.

Our refrigerator stopped working. Using his priceless Volt-Ohm meter Peter traced the problem to the cold water recirculation pump. He took it out, looked it over, and declared it toast. Soon he was off on the bus in search of a marine store and a new pump. Several hours later we again had refrigeration. Peter said it was a 30 minute job with 5 hours of technical difficulties. But, he got ‘er done. Only one problem, the new pump is so loud it sounds like a jet engine landing on the settee. Knowing Peter, we will soon be buying a different circulation pump and the jet engine will become a spare.

### **April 1 - Public Transportation**

Public transportation in Mexico is phenomenal. Buses run up and down almost every street continuously. The buses range from small 10-person vans, like women back home drive their kids to soccer in, to silver streams with AC, Wi-Fi, Bi-lingual movie, leg rest luxury coaches.

On the outside of each bus, the passenger side windshield displays a list of the intended stops. Each location is spelled out using masking tape or stick on letters. The letters vary in size. Stand on the sidewalk and watch for a bus indicating the place you want to go – Walmart, La Cruz, Mega, Puerto Vallarta. You don’t actually need

to know where the bus stop is. Simply, step off the curb and wave the driver down. He will stop anywhere along the road. Sometimes screeching to a halt if he sees you late.

The fare varies depending on where you get on and how far you plan to go. Simply tell the driver where you will get off and he'll tell you the cost. It could be anywhere from 6 pesos (\$0.50) to 13 pesos (\$0.92). At more formal bus stops, there may be a man with a clip board directing traffic. "You! La Paz! Over there!" he hollars. "Costco? Five minutes! Over there!" The traffic controller holds the bus at a stop for a minute or two, hurriedly checking his watch, and then waves the driver off like the start of the Indy 500.



The buses are seldom air conditioned except the long distance coaches. All the windows are open as wide as they'll go and the people push their faces into the opening, tongues hanging out like panting puppies. Riding the bus is an afternoon's entertainment in itself. There are always beautiful Mexican children sitting on the laps of their mothers gazing around with their huge amazing brown eyes.

You may be approached by a deaf/mute or a handicapped person distributing small laminated cards with biblical passages. Once you accept it they hold out their hand for pesos. Peter took a card, not realizing what came next. After he dropped two pesos into the young man's hand, I teased him, "Look what your money bought you today, a small laminated card with biblical passages you can't read."



Yesterday a man got on the bus carrying a huge tray of pumpkin pies and assorted muffins. "Cuanto cuesta?" I asked. "Twenty pesos (\$1.42)," he said. I couldn't talk Peter into buying me one but they looked delicious. Soon many people around us were enjoying a muffin or a piece of pie while the bus bumped along the cobblestone street.

The buses are usually pretty dilapidated. Coming back from Marina Vallarta yesterday, I noticed the vinyl flooring down the aisle had been removed and the floor of the aisle was plywood. It's not unusual to see a young man, after work, at the end of the day, board the bus drinking a beer.

The other day on our way to Walmart, the bus was pulled over by the siren and flashing lights of a police car. From what I could tell, it appears the driver may have received a citation for allowing a teenage girl to sit on her boyfriend's lap in the front passenger seat of the van. I guess the officer wasn't concerned the driver's side windshield was shattered like a huge spider's web. Once in Las Hadas, the driver was casually smoking his early morning cigarette while he went about his job of driving the bus. Another man's job was to get on board the bus, serenade us by singing and playing his guitar and then pass the basket.

Finally, anywhere there isn't a bus there is a taxi. The taxis are waiting patiently around every corner. Usually two or three men, out of their cars leaning against the hood, visiting with the other drivers, waiting expectantly for their next fare. It's a good idea to negotiate the fare before getting in. "How much to go to Bucerias?" "Sixty pesos," he replied. "Okay," I say before I jump in. The drivers are always courteous and cheerful. He nods and says, "Si! Si!" even though he probably doesn't understand a word I said.

### **Apr 3 - The End of the Cruising Season:**

Peter and I were so busy paying off the house in Bend and getting the boat ready to “go cruising” we didn’t think very far past the Baha Ha Ha. We arrived in Mexico, 1,200 miles from Portland, after two months underway, the beginning of November, 2014. By the middle of November we were in Cabo San Lucas, another 800 miles south. From there we continued another 600 miles south to Zihuatanejo.



It has been a very steep learning curve. We have learned about weather patterns and ocean conditions and how fast barnacles grow on the bottom of the boat. We have learned about Visas and park passes and getting pesos out of an ATM. We have learned how to receive mail without an address. We have become experts on landing the dinghy in all kinds of surf. We have listened to rock and roll until 3 in the morning while anchored near town and have motored the dinghy home through the dark, with millions of stars overhead. We learned to play bocce ball and do yoga on the sand. We learned to buy food without knowing what it is. We have slept well and slept not at all and eaten a thousand fish tacos.

The cruising season is winding down. Almost all the gringos have gone home. We are beginning to understand the cycle of this lifestyle. We now know by June the temperature will climb into the 100s, the humidity will hover around 100 percent, there will be torrential rain and lightning and the possibility of a hurricane.

Initially, we thought we would go to San Carlos which is north in the Sea of Cortez, north of 27 degrees latitude. Later we were intrigued by the possibility of staying in the marina in Mazatlán where we would plug into AC and run an air conditioner most of the time although Peter has never been happy with the idea of being tethered to an AC outlet to survive the heat.

Later we learned Banderas Bay is better protected from hurricanes than Mazatlán and we began to investigate La Cruz, Paradise Village, and Marina Vallarta. Today we took the bus to Marina Vallarta to see if that looked like a desirable place to spend the summer. I’ve said it before. “A cruisers plans are written in the sand at low tide.” Currently, we are considering the option of sailing back to San Diego and spending the summer there.

### **Apr 8 - San Diego Here We Come**

It looks as though our plan now is to bash back up the Baja peninsula and spend the summer in San Diego. If you had told me two weeks ago this is what I was going to do I would have said, “Over my dead body!” Somehow, Peter convinced me.

He convinced me the heat and humidity in Mexico in the summer would be very hard on poor little Penelope. He doesn’t want to be tied to a marina all summer – unless, of course, it’s Chula Vista Marina. It’ll be easier and cheaper to get needed boat parts. We’ll be closer to friends and family. And, after all, who would complain about San Diego Bay for the summer?

My only complaint was the 1,000 mile boat ride against prevailing wind and current. There is a reason they call it the Baja Bash. We’ve learned, though, June is not a terrible time to cruise that direction. So, we’ll take it slow and stop along the way to wait for wind out of the south. Peter is excited about the possibilities. He’s been looking for jobs on line. Something on the water.

I guess I've warmed to the idea. The thought of being tied to a dock, alone with Peter in this tiny boat if he's unhappy is scarier than facing a firing squad. I'll back track 1,000 miles to keep peace in the family. Who wouldn't? I'm blessed in so many ways. I'm healthy. I'm happy. I have wonderful friends and a loving family. The rest is just geography.

Susan and Peter  
*S/V Penelope*  
La Cruz, Mexico



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## ***Jim and Linda Noval, S/V Ranidan***

### **March 11 – Hiding Down South:**

I have been hiding in Portland for the past few weeks thinking about this sailing adventure. What I've decided is that I am not really a cruiser person. So, with much deliberation Jim has arranged to ship the boat back up north rather than continue on to the Caribbean. He has been working diligently to clean the boat up and get whatever maintenance he can have done in Mexico where it's cheaper.



Here is a photo of Radian on the hard getting a cleaning and paint job done to her bottom. Wow, the barnacles had really started to grab hold so it was very much needed.

Yes, that's a very big yacht she is sitting next to!

We cannot actually sail up the coast, the currents coming down from Alaska are too strong. Sometimes when people end up trying they get pushed even further south! So, we will put her on the MV Trumper and let her steam up on a big cargo ship. She will be lifted up by the big cranes and whisked away to Victoria, BC where our adventure will continue. With the warm weather we've been having in Portland so far this year it may be a good time to sail around Vancouver Island. We have learned a lot from this adventure and are very glad to have done it even if our plans have changed.

Pick up is scheduled for mid-April so we are going north in the Sea of Cortez to visit some of the islands before getting picked up in Pichilingue, Mexico.

### **March 30 – Dinghy Retrieval:**

It is so hot here.

So we went out to the islands. But during the night, a corumel came up and blew like snockers. When Jim went out to adjust the dinghy, the rope slipped out of his hands, blew away and disappeared into the abyss. Jim came in with a long face and felt really bad about it because it was brand new. Oh,



but God is good! In the morning way over on the beach the dinghy had washed up on shore and was waiting patiently for Jim to come get it. What's a 1 1/2 mile swim, pulling over 100 pounds out into the bay and a strong row back to the boat? Cross fit! My secret solution to get him to exercise. So we're back in port, the dinghy is now back with us and hopefully the a/c engine thing will get sorted out this week.

The big cargo ship is arriving in Fort Lauderdale on April 1. It is scheduled to leave shortly thereafter to make its way through the Panama Canal and up the west coast of Mexico in about 2-3 weeks. In the meantime I am working on my drawing homework and walking around town but only early or late because the sun is unmerciful and the temp is already mid 90's.

All the people who came down with us on the Baja ha ha are either moved on or sorting out where to be for the summer. A lot of the Canadians leave their boats and go home. Some people move their boats up to the northern part of the Sea of Cortez to get out of the hurricane zone. Everything seems to be slowing down as even the Mexicans don't do much in the heat of the afternoon. Even the road crews quit about noon. They return about 4 pm and then work until 8.

La Paz is a busy town and everyone walks the Malecon in the evenings. There are shops that rent toys (bikes, trikes, scooters etc) close to this long sidewalk that lines the bay. Families rent everything and let the kids be maniacs charging down to the end then turning around and charging back as their parents stroll along behind them. The atmosphere is very congenial. A week ago there was a triathlon with over 1000 participants. Almost every evening there are musicians lining the walkway to entertain people along the way, especially now that it is Semana Santa.

Did I mention the butter sitting on the counter is a puddle by noon?

Jim and Linda Noval  
S/V *Ranidan*  
La Paz, Mexico

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## Let's Stay in Touch with our Cruising Members

*If you enjoyed the stories from these cruising members of Sauvie Island Yacht Club, please say so. Sometimes the cruisers comment that they feel like they are sending their articles into a black hole, and they never get any feedback. Let's all make an effort to let them know they are appreciated. If you see them, say something. If they are still out cruising, send them an email. If you have questions for them, do ask – it may be the seed for an interesting future report. – Ed.*



*Photo by Jeff & Jane Woodward of S/V *Adiogo**

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