



# SAUVIE ISLAND YACHT CLUB NEWSLETTER

P. O. Box 2524, Portland, OR 97208-2524 [www.siyc.org](http://www.siyc.org) Vol. 336, January, 2013

## SIYC OFFICERS '12-'13

Commodore  
George Stonecliffe

Vice Commodore  
Craig Johnston

Secretary  
Sue Stonecliffe

Treasurer  
David Mangan

Rear Commodore  
Garry Weber

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Membership  
Ed Daugherty

Database Editor  
George Stonecliffe

Newsletter  
Barbara Johnston

Website  
Mark Nerczuk

*Happy New Year to all  
SIYC members, near and far!*



*News flash! - CPR Training this  
Thursday in Scappoose.*

Details page 8

## *Upcoming Speakers*

Club meetings: Friday nights, 7:30 pm  
Sauvie Island Academy

**February 1, 2013:** Our speaker will be Mark Schrader, captain of the Around the Americas expedition, a 28,000 mile circumnavigation of North and South America -- raising awareness of the oceans combined with compelling adventure!

**March 1, 2013:** Ruth and Randy Webster will talk about weather.

**April 5, 2013:** Mike and Gail Cannady will tell us about cruising destinations in South Puget Sound.

**See details for all on the next page.**

Be sure to check out this month's  
cruising reports, starting page 9.

## Commodore's Comments

New Year's resolutions may be 'old hat', but they help us focus on what we are currently seeking in our lives. Whether the list is short or long, all of our lists should include a 'Maritime' category. Sub-categories may include: Boat, Boat Projects, the Seattle Boat Show, Books, Boating Magazines, Dreams, Skills, and SIYC. There is no better place than SIYC to talk through the meat of your resolutions, your projects, and your dreams. The right idea can save hundreds of dollars, or frustrating hours of work in the wrong direction. Whether Club programs or monthly boating cruises or informational newsletters or a casual phone call to a fellow member, SIYC can be part of your answer!

Cheers, and Happy New Year,  
George Stonecliffe  
Commodore

## Upcoming Speakers

### February 1, 2013:

Mark Schrader, captain of the Around the Americas expedition, a 28,000 mile circumnavigation of North and South America aboard S/V Ocean Watch -- raising awareness of the oceans combined with compelling adventure!



The Around the Americas expedition was a circumnavigation by sailboat of the North and South American continents. Captain Mark Schrader and crew departed Seattle on May 31, 2009 sailing the 64-foot boat S/V Ocean Watch. They were the first sailboat to go through the Northwest Passage, and they were able to do this because of the lack of ice. They sailed down the east coast, around Cape Horn, and up the west coast of the Americas. The circumnavigation was completed with their return to Seattle in June 2010.

This is a legendary voyage that also created a wealth of new information on the marine environment and global climate change. Mark will have copies of the book about the trip for sale. This is a great talk to invite a guest to.

**March 1, 2013:** Ruth and Randy Webster: "What's a front?" Ruth and Randy will give a lesson in understanding and forecasting ocean weather, with illustrations from their trip to and from Hawaii aboard their 35' ketch.

**April 5, 2013:** Members Mike and Gail Cannady, who recently moved S/V Wild Rover's moorage from the east coast, to Olympia, Washington, have been exploring south Puget Sound. They'll be telling us all about the hidden destinations that are so often overlooked by those going north for the summer.

## Valentine Cruise

In February we'll dock again at Coon Island, for a Valentine's Day themed gathering.

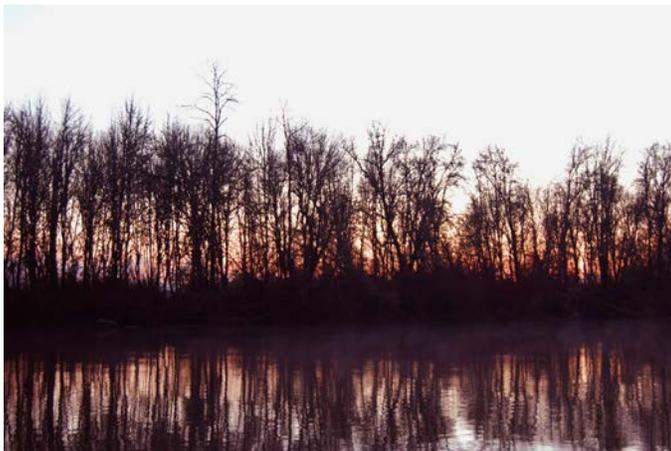
Sue and George Stonecliffe will host the cruise, to be held on February 16 and 17. Look for more details in the February newsletter!



SIYC cruise, May 2012

## New Year's Cruise

On December 29 and 30, 2012 four member boats gathered at the Coon Island docks to say goodbye to the old year and celebrate the upcoming New Year. Our numbers were small, so we gathered aboard S/V Sequoia (well heated against the cold) for our potluck dinner and plenty of good conversation.



*Dawn at Coon Island.*

The advertised theme was keeping warm with warming foods and beverages, and that was just right for the weather.

Dinner was orchestrated around a pot roast which David was going to do in the slow cooker but was too short on time. The new Dickenson oven did a pretty good job, but the crock pot would have made it a bit more tender. There were some special drinks for the occasion, including a very tasty wassail by Barbara that befitted the season admirably.

The conversation seemed to hover around watermakers, refrigeration, alternators and battery consumption. Very enlightening and spirited and another good reason more members should attend these cruises - real, first hand experience by people who have "been there, done that" and can help future cruisers with the real world nuts and bolts of blue water cruising, which is what this club is all about, after all. A great way to end the old year and begin a new one.

It was cold Saturday night, and then even colder on Sunday morning. The dock was be-decked with a sheet of ice, but the skies were beautifully clear. A pot luck breakfast was shared aboard Sequoia, and then we all set out for our respective home ports.

Boats participating included S/V Hawksbill, S/V Julia Max, S/V Penelope and S/V Sequoia.



*S/V Penelope in the predawn light at Coon Island.*



## SIYC Clothing & Accessories For 2013

### 'Sport-Tek' Brand

#### Sweatshirts

Pullover, hooded-----\$30.00

Adult-F254

Zip front, hooded----- \$36.00

Adult-F258

#### Fleece Jackets

Ladies Zip front, hooded-----\$38.00

Adult-L265

### 'Port Authority' Brand

Competitor Jacket-----\$42.00

Wind & water resistant

Adult-JP54

Wind Jackets-----\$52.00

Full zip

Adult-J707

Ladies-L707

\*\*\* Call Sarah for color choices: **503/774-3381**

\*\*\* A check made out to 'SIYC' needs to accompany orders.

Mail checks to Sarah Daugherty (see roster for mailing address), or give her your order at the next SIYC meeting.

## Recipe of the Month

This month, we're starting a new column, featuring a recipe from our members.

At SIYC's Christmas party, Molly Hull's potluck contribution was a real hit. There were many requests for the recipe. Molly tells us that the original source of the recipe was her mother, Phoebe Gayner. Molly is sure that Mom would have been flattered that people enjoyed it.

### **Barley and Pine Nut Pilaf (serves 6)**

1 1/3 cup pearl barley

6 T butter

1/2 cup pine nuts

1 c. chopped green onions

1/2 c. chopped fresh parsley (2 1/2 T. dried)

1/4 t. salt

1/4 t. pepper

3 1/2 c. chicken broth

Preheat oven to 350.

In a 10 inch skillet, heat butter and brown pine nuts. Remove with slotted spoon and reserve. Saute green onions and barley until lightly toasted. Remove from heat. Stir in nuts, parsley, salt and pepper. Spoon into ungreased 2 quart casserole.

Heat broth to boiling and pour over barley mixture. Stir to blend well. Bake, uncovered, for one hour and ten minutes.

*Did you notice we called this the "Recipe of the Month"? If you like to cook, please send us your favorite recipe, suitable for preparation aboard, for inclusion as a future recipe of the month!*



## Club Business

### SIYC Board Meeting

January 3, 2012

The SIYC Board Meeting was called to order after dinner at the home of George and Sue Stonecliffe. In attendance were Commodore George Stonecliffe, Vice Commodore Craig Johnston, Rear Commodore Garry Weber, Treasurer David Mangan, Secretary Sue Stonecliffe, and Newsletter Editor Barbara Johnston.

**Membership:** 4 non-member couples have been invited to the January meeting: Mike and

Sandy Wilson, Rudy and Susan Marchesi, Mike and Gabrielle (who came to the Christmas party), and Nicole and Carol Sirois (crew for Erik and Pam going south to Mexico). George will ask Ed Daugherty to bring applications for each of them and find out if Mike and Sandy's boat has been visited. They will be inducted at the meeting. There was a question whether we need to order more burgees.

**Newsletter:** Barbara would like to print the recipe for the rice pilaf Molly Hull brought to the Christmas party.

**Program:**

Jan 4: Ryan McGoldrick, American Red Cross  
Feb 1: Mark Schrader, Around the Americas Expedition  
Mar 1: Ruth and Randy Webster, Forecasting Ocean Weather and their trip to Hawaii  
April 5: Members Mike and Gail Cannady, South Puget Sound cruising

**Refreshments:**

Michele Wilson signed up for January. Sue will call to remind her.

**Club Cruises:** Host David Mangan reported 4 boats attended the New Year's Cruise: Hawksbill, Julia Max, Sequoia, and Penelope. Weather cooperated with no rain although it was very cold, even icy on the docks Sunday morning. We need a host for the Valentine Cruise.

**Old Business:** 16 came to the Johnston's home for the Christmas party. \$300 was donated by members to the Oregon Food Bank. 10 cans of food brought were given to the Scappoose Food Bank location.

**New Business:** As a member of Boat US, SIYC members can get discounted insurance, on-water towing, and on-road towing.

George distributed copies of a financial worksheet and the 2011-2012 Financial Statement. New ones covering this year will be distributed at the year-end meeting in April.

Craig would like to spearhead a seminar on the Life Sling to take place this July. The classroom session including a video could be held on a week-night from 6-9 with pizza. The in-water segments should be the following week-end, Saturday and Sunday.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Sue Stonecliffe, SIYC Secretary



*Memories of summer – Government Island.*

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**SIYC General Meeting  
January 4, 2013**

The SIYC Membership Meeting was called to order at 7:30 by Commodore George Stonecliffe. 4 guests were welcomed: Mike Dowding and Gabrielle Lennartz who came to the Christmas Party, and Rudi and Susan Marchesi.

**Treasurer:** The current balance in the checkbook is \$2,666.92. A \$50.00 check has been received but not yet deposited.

**Newsletter:** Barbara asked us to please respond to those who have written cruising letters. She will publish Molly Hull's recipe for pilaf.

**Membership:** Ed Daugherty will contact Mike and Sandy Wilson to arrange a boat visitation. We have plenty of burgees to give to new members.

**Program:**

Feb 1: Mark Schrader, Around the Americas, a research and ecological expedition

Mar 1: Ruth and Randy Webster, Forecasting Ocean Weather and their trip to and from Hawaii in 2011

April 5: Members Mike and Gail Cannady, South Puget Sound cruising, the meeting to be held at West Marine.

Craig asked us all to bring guests to these programs.

**Refreshments:** Sue Stonecliffe signed up for February.

**Club Cruises:** Host David Mangan reported 4 boats attended the New Year's Cruise at Coon Island: Hawksbill, Julia Max, Sequoia, and Penelope. Weather cooperated with no rain although it was very cold, even icy on the docks Sunday morning. The Stonecliffes will host the February cruise, also at Coon Island. Terri and Michele Wilson will host the anchoring cruise in March scheduled for Martin Slough.

**Old Business:** 16 came to the Johnstons' home for the Christmas party. \$300 was donated by members to the Oregon Food Bank. 10 cans of food brought were given to the Scappoose Food Bank location. All were treated with Christmas music. Barbara Johnston played the cello and Sue Stonecliffe accompanied her on the piano.

**New Business:** Commodore George reminded the members that as a member of Boat US, SIYC members can get discounted insurance, on-water towing, and on-road towing.

The 2012-2013 Financial Statement will be distributed at the year-end meeting in April.

Vice Commodore Craig addressed the club announcing a summer seminar on use of the Life Sling. Training videos are available. The seminar will take place in July on a week-night and the following Saturday/Sunday for in-water trials.

Following a break for refreshments, Ryan McGoldrick from the American Red Cross gave us a very interesting talk on emergency preparedness. With the possibility of a 9.0 earthquake in Portland in the immediate future, our homes should have a "ditch bag" similar to our boats. CPR, 1<sup>st</sup> Aid, and Wilderness and Remote 1<sup>st</sup> Aid classes are available through the Red Cross.

Respectfully submitted, Sue Stonecliffe, SIYC Secretary



*S/V Adagio, Tenacatita Bay, Mexico*

## 2012-2013 CALENDAR

GENERAL MEETINGS		BOARD MEETINGS	CRUISES	
February 1 7:30 pm	Sauvie Island Academy “Around the Americas Expedition”	January 31	February 16-17	Valentine Cruise, Coon Island
March 1 7:30 pm	Sauvie Island Academy Weather: “What’s a front?”	February 28	March 16-17	Anchoring Cruise
April 5 7:30 pm	West Marine, Delta Park (tentative) “Cruising South Puget Sound.”	April 4	April 20-21	Navigation Cruise
May 3 7:30 pm	Sauvie Island Academy Annual Business Meeting: Dessert Potluck and election of officers	May 2	May 18-19	Annual Race/Drift Cruise (Sand Island)
June 1	Annual picnic, location TBD			

### SIYC CRUISING BOATS – Locations outside of the Pacific Northwest

Boat Name	Owners’ Names	Location
<i>Adagio</i>	Jeff & Jane Woodward	San Carlos, Mexico
<i>Ahwahnee</i>	Tom & Kathy Edwards	Port Charlotte, Florida
<i>Imi Loa</i>	Devon Quinn & Rowan Madix	Alameda, CA
<i>Kailani</i>	David & Christy Dykkestén	Panama
<i>Lungta</i>	Dan Finkelstein & Kathy Mitchell	West Coast of Mexico
<i>Moonshadow</i>	Richard Sandefur & Anita Melbo	Costa Rica
<i>Nashira</i>	Mike Floyd	Crescent City, CA
<i>Perpetua</i>	Pat & Susan Canniff	Mazatlan, Mexico
<i>Pied-A-Mer III</i>	Eric & Pam Sellix	La Cruz de Huanacaxtle, Mexico
<i>Rolling Thunder</i>	Bruce, Jan & Max Payne	San Carlos, Mexico
<i>Silvergírl</i>	Bob Hulegard & Robin Fouche	Newport Beach, CA

## Member Websites

<b>Adagio:</b>	<a href="http://sailblogs.com/member/turningleft/">http://sailblogs.com/member/turningleft/</a>
<b>Ahwahnee:</b>	<a href="http://www.sailblogs.com/member/voyage_continued/">http://www.sailblogs.com/member/voyage_continued/</a>
<b>Julia Max:</b>	<a href="http://www.sailblogs.com/member/juliamax/">http://www.sailblogs.com/member/juliamax/</a>
<b>Perpetua blog:</b>	<a href="http://www.sailblogs.com/member/our_journeys/">http://www.sailblogs.com/member/our_journeys/</a>
<b>Perpetua Pictures:</b>	<a href="http://imageevent.com/our_journeys/">http://imageevent.com/our_journeys/</a>
<b>Lungta:</b>	<a href="http://www.lungtalife.com/blog">http://www.lungtalife.com/blog</a>
<b>Pied-a-Mer III</b>	<a href="http://www.sailblogs.com/member/sesesail/">http://www.sailblogs.com/member/sesesail/</a>
<b>Sequoia:</b>	<a href="http://www.svsequoia.com/">http://www.svsequoia.com/</a>

### Other websites of interest to Portland area sailors

<http://www.siyc.org/> Our very own **Sauvie Island Yacht Club**. If you haven't checked out the club website yet, please do so – it's looking really good, and is full of informative articles and spectacular photography by club members.

<http://www.webnautica.us/CRYA/>: **Columbia River Yachting Association** – This is the umbrella organization for Yacht Clubs along the Columbia River – SIYC is a member. See especially their links to all the other yacht clubs' websites, and their calendar of club cruises.

<http://www.oregon.gov/OSMB/pages/index.aspx> **Oregon State Marine Board** – Your source for information related to licensing, safety, boater education, Oregon boating destinations and many other maritime concerns.

<http://www.weather.gov/> The **National Weather Service** – Find out what the weather will be *before* you head out on the water.

<http://threesheetsnw.com/> A Seattle-based website that's chock full of good information about cruising in Puget Sound and farther afield, plus general information that's helpful to any cruiser anywhere.

<http://www.owsa.net/> SIYC women – If an emergency arose while you were out cruising, could you take over from your partner? If not, this is the one for you: **Oregon Women's Sailing Association**. This local organization offers sailing classes (including cruising skills) especially for (and sometimes exclusively for) women.

### News flash! – CPR Training this Thursday in Scappoose.

At the January meeting we heard a Red Cross presentation about emergency preparedness, and Craig Johnston promised to find more information for us about CPR (cardio pulmonary resuscitation) classes available at the Red Cross or elsewhere in the community. It turns out this training is offered by numerous organizations. The Scappoose Fire Dept. offers CPR and First Aid training FOR FREE four times a year. **Scappoose CPR class this Thursday (January 17), 6 pm. Call 503-543-5026 to register.**

Other organizations offering this training: [American Red Cross](#), [ABC for Life](#), [EMS University](#) and [Cascade Health Service](#). The courses cost \$35-\$50 for each, or \$50-90 for the combined six hour first aid and CPR course.

## CRUISING REPORTS

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*From Richard Sandefur, S/V Moonshadow*



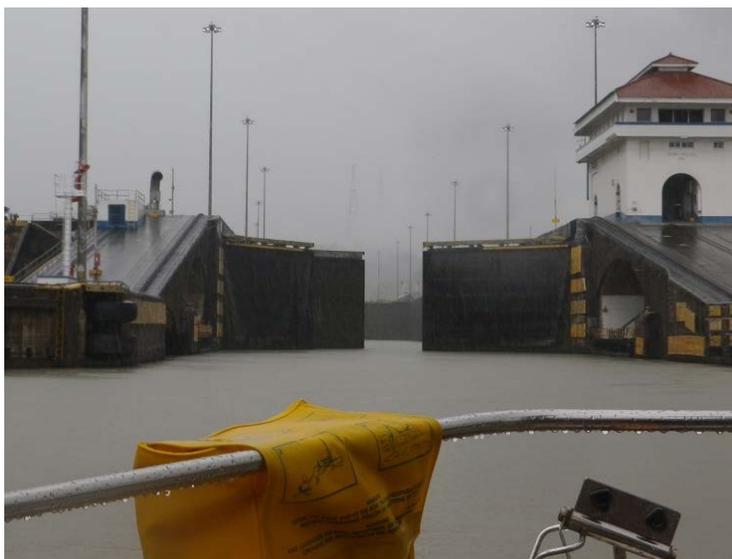
Hello Friends,

I am writing this from Panama City, Panama while anchored next to the causeway that protects the Pacific entrance to the canal.

The transit and process went well but was not inexpensive. We went to Colon and anchored at Club Nautico while completing the application process and waiting to be measured. Club Nautico is a reasonable little club with a few empty docks except for one motor yacht. They charged

\$3/day/person. The day we were to be measured we motored the 2 miles to the Flats. This is where people used to anchor while awaiting the transit but it is now difficult to get ashore there as the club and dock has been torn down. Then we went back to Club Nautico and waited three more days until the transit.

Two cruisers from another yacht joined us as line handlers (four are required) and we paid one local fellow. An advisor also joined us. We started the trip at 4 PM heading toward the first set of locks in a heavy downpour which made it difficult to see. Fortunately it subsided as we approached the lock. We were selected for a center chamber transit with two other sailboats. We rafted to them with



Moonshadow on the outside. The yacht in the middle has to drive. We stayed together through all three locks, then split up when in Lake Gatun. After the first set of locks were completed we went into Lake Gatun and tied to a buoy at about 8 PM.

The advisor left, leaving five of us for the night which is still way too many for Moonshadow! However we all got on good and it went well.

The next advisor arrived at 0630 the next morning and we continued on through Lake Gatun with more heavy rain which continued most of the day. It became very wet inside the boat as well.



Before entering the Pedro Miguel locks we rafted again and stayed together through the Mira Flores locks. We completed the last set of locks, which lowered us down to the Pacific and we anchored here at Panama City about 2 PM.

Both of our advisors were very professional, polite, spoke good English and put us at ease. They seemed to take their job seriously. Unfortunately the Panama Canal Authority raised the prices 30% last October.

This is what we paid:

Agent	\$ 150
Lines	80
Tires	16
Transit fee	984
Line handler	80
Tire disposal	8
Total	\$ 1318

We also paid a \$891 deposit which was refunded after the transit.

My excellent crew left to return to work after we arrived. She has written more about the transit including photos of our trip on her blog:

<http://emgtame.wordpress.com/>



I plan to sail single handed the 300 miles to Costa Rica, leaving here in two weeks or less. I am meeting another crew there who has agreed to join me for the crossing to Hawaii.

Nobody said this is a cheap way to see the world but hey, the wind is free!

Cheers, Richard  
SV Moonshadow

## *From Jeff & Jane Woodward, S/V Adagio*

Saturday, 24 December 2012  
Marina San Carlos, San Carlos, Mexico

Dear SIYC Friends,

I hope this does not come off as a whine session. We are, as they say, "living the dream". And feeling lucky to be doing so. The dream includes lots of beautiful sights and adventures, but it is not without cost. Since a main purpose of the club is to help aspiring cruisers to "get out there", we think sharing this story might be helpful.

I'm physically and emotionally exhausted after three weeks of struggling to get our normally reliable Volvo diesel engine to run. My back aches, and I've got scrapes and bruises all over my body. It's amazing how beat up I am from long hours of working while bent into a pretzel. Several nights of suddenly waking up from a sound sleep at 0200 with a jolt of inspiration that just might be the solution to why the damned engine won't start has taken its toll as well. Everything is finally back to normal. And with a little luck we'll be able to take a sea trial sometime soon to really prove our work.



San Carlos has a lot of people and businesses making a living servicing cruising yachts. This is our fifth year here, so we have become pretty familiar with what's available. We really appreciate the skill and efforts of these fine folks, but the reality is that we are cruising in a foreign country. And it is not at all like maintaining your boat at home.

The challenges include language and cultural barriers, difficulty getting parts, and a generally low level of expertise when it comes to highly technical problems. Here's a bit of advice: Learn all you can about all the



systems in your boat. Collect as much technical literature on all those systems as possible. Keep them on board in an accessible and organized fashion. You want parts manuals, work shop manuals, blow up diagrams - everything you can get your hands on. Also have spare parts and any special tools required. You will be a big part of any maintenance and repair that needs to be done while you are "out there." The local pros will help, but there is a lot you can do to help the pros.

Our saga started off as routine scheduled maintenance and quickly spun out of control. It was time to replace the serpentine timing belt. Because our engine lives under our salon table, any engine work involves taking

the table apart. This gives us enviable access to all parts of the engine, but the down-side is that whenever any engine work is underway the boat becomes unlivable. We bought a new timing belt while we were home

during the off-season. As soon as we returned to San Carlos and took Adagio out of storage, we started in on changing the timing belt. We thought it would be a one day project, but it quickly spun out of control.



Here's another bit of advice: Before you undertake ANY work on your engine, start it up first and make sure it's running OK. If I had done that I could have saved myself an enormous amount of work.

We changed out the timing belt as soon as we took the boat out of storage. Then tried to start the engine to prove our work. And it did not start. After a few fruitless attempts, we lead ourselves astray trying to find a reason for the engine not starting. Like I said earlier, if we had started the engine prior to changing out the timing belt, we would have known that whatever the problem was, it was caused by what we did with the timing belt. But we didn't do that. And we got to thinking. We had taken the injectors out at the end of last season, and had not really run the engine to prove them. We had turned the key and the engine came to life, but we were on the hard. And we were lazy, and didn't bother to run a hose to the raw water strainer. We just heard the engine bark then shut

her down and put the boat to bed for the summer. So perhaps there was something wrong with the injectors.

So we took the injectors out and took them back to the injector shop. They tested OK. So what else could be wrong? The injector pump? So we took the injector pump out. Had it rebuilt. Put it back in. And still the engine would not start.

After several frustrating days and sleepless nights, we went back to injector timing and eventually came up with the winning combination.

The moral of the story: keep it simple. Deal with one thing at a time. If we had had confidence in the injectors and injector pump, we would have kept our focus on timing. And we could have skipped all those blind alleys.

We hope this finds you all healthy and happy. Merry Christmas and Happy 2013.

Jeff and Janie  
Adagio  
San Carlos, Mexico

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*We heard from Jeff and Janie twice this month. Here's their January letter – Ed.*

5 January 2013, Marina San Carlos, San Carlos, Mexico

Dear SIYC Friends,

We hope you all had wonderful holidays and we hope your 2013 is full of happy adventures.

In this month's request for Cruiser's Reports, Barbara suggested describing what our holidays were like here in San Carlos, Mexico. So here goes. The pictures are of San Carlos' Christmas Fleet and one of Janie and me at the San Carlos Yacht Club Christmas dinner. [See previous page for the picture of Jeff & Janie. –Ed.]

On Christmas Eve, just after sunset, decorated boats parade out of the harbor and make a tour of the bay where they can be viewed by the waterfront restaurants, homes and beaches. This is the third or fourth year of the lighted boats parade. Each year the tradition grows with more excitement and more participants. We counted



over a dozen boats this year. Besides lights, most boats have holiday music playing through their loud systems. The music genre runs the spectrum from Latin Techno to Classical Hymns. Some of the loud systems are pretty sophisticated. Mexicans LOVE LOUD music!

*Island Time*, a 45' trawler, and one of the lighted parade boats hosted a group of over a dozen school kids from poor families for the ride. This year the kids provided their own band, complete with a full drum set on the flying bridge. Days later, Dan, the owner and skipper, said his ears were still ringing.

San Carlos Marina is a popular destination for Mexicans during the holidays. It is not

unusual to see whole families - three or four generations worth - all dressed up for the holidays strolling the malecon (boardwalk) surrounding the marina. Little girls will have red or green velour dresses fringed in faux fur, Santa elf hats, or colorful bows in their hair. The abuelitas (grandmothers) wear beautiful dresses, shawls, fancy shoes and old fashioned jewelry. Cowboy hats, boots, and fancy silver belt buckles, with pressed Wrangler jeans and narrow ribbon bow ties are popular with the men and boys. When they see a boat they like, they will often stop and pose for cell phone pictures with that boat in the background. The malecon is lined with businesses. Huichol bead artists, sport fishing charters, restaurants, bars, jewelry shops, etc. All of them are decorated for the holidays, and most are playing some sort of holiday music. It's very festive. There are lots of smiles. Everyone is greeting each other with Feliz Navidad, and Feliz Año Nuevo! Nice!

Because we rent an apartment for the commissioning and de-commissioning part of our cruising season it has become our tradition to host Thanksgiving dinner. We have more room than our friends who live on their boats or in their RVs while their boat is on the hard in the work yard. This year our guests were the *Rosebud's* and the *Luna-C's*. *Rosebud* came down the coast at the same time we did back in 2007 and we have become fast friends. We met *Luna-C* just last year on the docks here in San Carlos. They are organic apple growers from New Mexico. The cruising community is a close knit family. We share common goals and interests, are far from our families and hometown friends, so new friends are made easily and old friends are cherished.

On Christmas Day we had dinner at the San Carlos Yacht Club with about 200 other guests. The main course is prepared by the owner and staff of a local sandwich shop, Barracuda Bob's. The salads, desserts, and side courses are pot luck donations from attending cruisers and local residents of San Carlos. The bar is no host. All the proceeds go to Cast Away Kids, a program to help support and educate local orphans and poor children. Two of the scholarship recipients attended the dinner and stood to tell us, "thank you", and to let us know a little about themselves. They are both very pretty young ladies. I'd guess they are about 16. Both are serious students, maintaining close to a 4.0 GPA. They have plans to take advantage of their education. One student plans to become a grade school teacher, the other wants to be a nurse. Their smiles and thank you's were genuine and charming. These are the young people who will make a better future for Mexico.

Our understanding of the Mexican education system needs improvement, but we think this is pretty close to accurate. Compulsory education only goes to 6th grade. It is free at the public schools, but families who can afford it, send their kids to Catholic or other private schools. What we call middle school is called "secundo" here, and covers 7th to 9th grade. That costs about \$300 per year in tuition and books. In many of the smaller villages, the children must attend boarding school or live with relatives or friends to attend secundo. High school and college is only available in cities, and the families must pay tuition and boarding costs. There is a tiny fishing village on an island named El Partido. It lies half way between the uninhabited islands of San Jose and San Francisco, about 25 miles north of La Paz. There, the kids must cross the San Jose Channel twice a day in open pangas to get to school in the village of San Evaristo nine miles away. On their way to school they carry empty water jugs. On their way home from school they carry full water jugs filled at the San Evaristo municipal water maker, the only source of water for the El Partido village.

Sadly, we must confess that we were way beyond negligent in the ringing-in-the-New-Year department. Our friends on *Rosebud* and *Begone* came by for dinner, drinks, and a game of Mexican Train Domino's. Around 5 PM, our time, we heard a countdown, and some cheering for New Year's at Greenwich, but we failed to keep our eyes open long enough to be aware of when the ball dropped in Times Square. Cruisers Midnight is 2000 hrs - 8 PM. We got that far, but by 9 our eyes were drooping. The domino's got put back in the box. Feliz Año Nuevos were exchanged, and the Sand Man came to visit. Next day we heard tales of fireworks. Our Mexican friends told of chains of fiestas going to the wee hours for days on end. But we passed into 2013 safely in the arms of Morpheus (the god of sleep).



However you greeted 2013, we hope the year is good to you and yours.

Your Amigos in San Carlos,

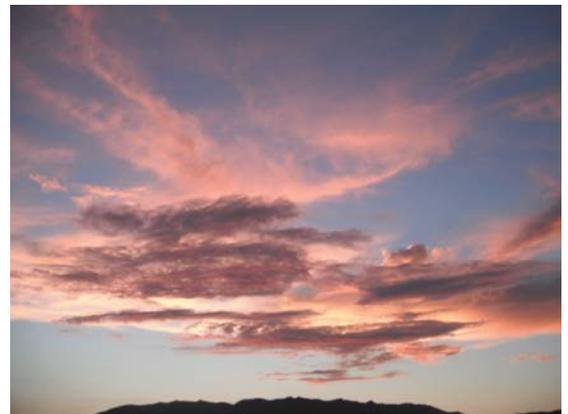
Jeff and Janie  
*Adagio*

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*From Dan Finkelstein and Kathy Mitchell,  
S/V Lungta*

Hi SIYC-ers,

So we've passed our one year anniversary since starting this adventure. This time last year we'd left Portland and traveled down the California coast. We crossed over the border into Mexico in late November and spent New Year's Eve in Mazatlan on the



Pacific Coast. We were excited and nervous and waiting to see how the cruising life would play out for us. Some of that edge has worn off, but we're still excited - and occasionally nervous. So far, the cruising life has offered an amazing combination of experiences, and we're still happily curious about what lies around the next corner. In some ways we feel far more experienced than we were a year ago (and not without reason), but we also recognize that there's still a lot for us to learn: about sailing, boat repair, weather, radios, fishing, Spanish, and the list goes on.

One thing that's a bit of a surprise is the balance that cruising strikes between being on vacation and living an everyday life. Cruising offers us the opportunity to live in some amazingly beautiful places, and to change the location periodically and spontaneously. We get to see wondrous natural events, and have the time to notice the wonders that are always happening around us. We have been lucky to have a number of visits from people that we care about, and when they come they are undoubtedly on vacation. We share that vacation mindset and spend a bigger part of our time "playing", which usually means snorkeling, kayaking, hiking, and fishing.



The other side of the coin is "everyday life", which apparently creeps up on one no matter where you live or what you do. You still have to deal with taking care of your body (eating, sleeping), your home (laundry, shopping), your possessions (maintenance, repair, new purchases). These activities can take more time and energy (and money!) when you're in unfamiliar places and don't know your way

around, don't have "regular" sources, don't have a personal vehicle, don't speak the local language, etc. But that's also part of the fun, not knowing how it will all play out. I've probably already mentioned the boater's quip that the definition of cruising is "boat repair in exotic locations", but it's definitely a fact of life. When we have guests come to visit, we invariably ask them to bring a replacement part or two, and if it's critical then we'll spend part of the time they're with us getting it installed! Every time something needs to be repaired, though, it makes us appreciate the role that it plays in keeping up the life that we are choosing to live.



Every day presents this contrast between luxurious leisure and mundane maintenance. Perhaps that is just what we wanted to experience when we left. The relationship between the work we do and our quality of life is so much clearer than it was when we worked in cubicles. We still have to make choices but we are choosing between various labors of love. Do we go skin diving and get dinner or do we replace a fraying mizzen sheet or just lay on the deck with a good book? Either way our life is richer as a result. Vacation or "everyday life"? The lines are blurring deliciously.

No matter where you go, a frequent topic of conversation seems to be the weather. That's certainly true of the cruising world as well. This summer has been the wettest they've seen in the Sea for several years. The climax to the season was Hurricane Paul, which came barreling through the area in the middle of a visit with friends from Colorado. Although the forecast kept showing a predicted track that turned north and then northwest before hitting the Baja peninsula, each time they updated the forecast the track was a little bit further east - and closer to us! We'd hung around Loreto, and inched closer to Puerto Escondido for a few days, but on the day it was due to come through, we decided to run the last couple of miles for cover, arriving less than an hour before the winds kicked up. It was kind of odd, running directly towards the storm, but that's what we needed to do in order to get through the tiny entrance to the hurricane hole. We got in safe and sound, and sat out a few hours of gusty winds and sporadic rain.



Lungta handled it beautifully, increasing our confidence in the vessel we've chosen to keep us and others we love safe and sound. Eventually patches of blue sky appeared, and we wondered if this was the eye of the storm. As it turned out, the storm hit just a little bit north of us and then turned to the left as expected. We got some of its edge, but didn't get winds much more than 35 knots. It was an exciting experience, and we come out of it somewhat more knowledgeable and confident that we know what to expect and to do, but all-in-all we've come to think of it as "the hurricane that wasn't".

The weather has changed here, as with the rest of the northern hemisphere, rapidly turning from summer to fall and now winter. The hurricane season is over, and the temps have cooled into the 70's at night –

we've finally put a blanket back on the bed. The water temperature has also dropped notably in the last few weeks and we're swimming far less often. The change of season brings about a new chapter in our travels. We're now on Mexico's Pacific Coast, having crossed the Sea of Cortez in November. We started out with a great wind, so we decided to go directly from La Paz to La Cruz, rather than our previous path where we headed east across the Sea to Mazatlan and then came down the coast in a few hops. The first two days of our travels went according to plan, and we sailed along beautifully day and night. As expected we made it halfway across in the first 48 hours. However, the winds petered out after those first two days, and we bobbed along slowly for the next five days, occasionally getting an hour or two of nice breeze. This provided a nice opportunity to reflect on the contrasting perspectives of life as a journey or as a race to reach a goal. As we had hoped, our relationship with time is changing and evolving.

We spent a few days in La Cruz, installing a couple more solar panels. It turns out we didn't have quite enough to keep up with our power demands when up in the warmer waters of the Sea of Cortez (mostly because of our large refrigerator and freezer: life is full of trade-offs!) It seems you can never have enough power... We took a couple of weeks for a quick visit to Dan's family in New York at Thanksgiving, and now we're heading down

the coast towards Zihuatanejo, visiting places we've heard about for years but never yet been. Hope your New Year also brings you the delight of new-found places and friends!

Kathy & Dan, S/V Lungta

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### *From Eric and Pam Sellix, S/V Pied-A-Mer III*

*Eric and Pam wrote us twice in the past month, the first time about their Christmas celebration aboard Pied-A-Mer III. –Ed.*



This is what a Christmas Tree in Mexico looks like when you had planned on being in the Pacific Northwest for the holidays. The recipe for the tree is as follows: 1 empty Starbucks cup filled 2/3 with kitty litter (unused), one branch snatched from the hedge at Marina Riviera Nayarit in La Cruz, egg carton ornaments purchased for 6 pesos at the La Cruz Sunday Market and two strands of decorative beads which were given out at the Baja HaHa. The tree worked quite well and a Merry Christmas was had by us, our two daughters and their families.

*Eric and Pam's second email described the celebration of El Dia de los Reyes, January 6, commemorating the arrival of the Three Kings. – Ed.*



This was such a heartwarming event. The kids wrote letters to Father Christmas and cruisers chose one or two kids to "make something on their list come true". The piñatas were a big hit because they don't have candy at the orphanage. There were a lot of smiles, lots of laughter and many hugs of "thanks". This was a memorable end to the holiday season.

Pam Sellix



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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.*



*S/V Adagio at anchor, Aqua Verde, Sea of Cortez, Mexico*