



SAUVIE ISLAND YACHT CLUB NEWSLETTER

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

www.siyc.org

No. 348, March, 2014

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*Happy St. Patrick's Day to all
SIYC Members, near and far!*



April Membership Meeting

Friday, April 4, 2014

(First Friday of each month at Sauvie Island Academy)

7:30 Business meeting

7:45 Raffle

8:00 Refreshments

8:15: Program - John Colby (*S/V Iris*) on cruising destinations Fiji, Vanuatu and Tasmania. Details inside, page 2.



March Anchoring Cruise

March 15-16

Swan Island Basin (Willamette River)

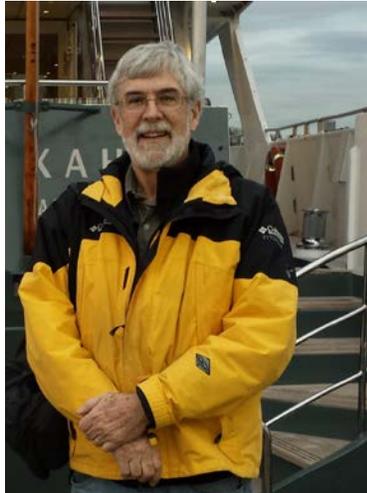
Theme: St. Patrick's Day - Irish food, green food and "Pot o' Gold!" Co-hosted by the Stonecliffes (503-352-9414) and the Johnstons (503-543-0945). Call Sue, George, Barbara or Craig with your questions. Details inside, page 3.

This month's cruising reports
start on page 13.

Commodore's Comments Cruising Into the Warmth

- Craig Johnston

As we get past the coldest part of the winter our thoughts naturally turn to being on the water, hopefully wearing a few less layers of fleece. The Anchoring Cruise (Swan Island Basin, this coming weekend), the Nav Cruise in April and the Race/Drift



Cruise in May are all part of our traditional schedule. Some of our members are planning longer jaunts: George and Sue are taking *Julia Max* to Alaska, Barbara and I will cruise *Sequoia* to Desolation Sound, and Ray and Alicia aboard *Rowena* are planning making the big left turn at Astoria at the end of the summer, to name a few.

The prospect of a local cruise during the warm weather has appeal, particularly for those who can't manage weeks or months away. (When the subject was raised at the last meeting, a dozen members showed an interest.)

I propose we plan a cruise in July, allowing for a long weekend to get us a little farther from home. And since the other local yacht clubs have busy summer schedules, here are a few alternatives that dovetail with their previously announced dates and locations:

July 12 -13, Cathlamet. This would be a cruise to the nice Elochoman Marina early enough in the summer so that deeper draft vessels will still have enough water to get in. The Marina has reasonable rates, nice shore facilities and is close to interesting lower Columbia cruising grounds. The distance to Cathlamet means

this is probably at least a 3 or 4 day trip for most boats.

July 19-20, Martin Slough. This unusual anchorage is much closer, just 6nm south of St. Helens. A more bucolic anchorage (but more crowded with small watercraft) is to be found just 3nm down and across the river at Sandy Island. These would be anchoring cruises with no shore facilities.

July 19-20, Beacon Rock. This would be a cruise up the river to a popular Washington State park, which has limited shore facilities but is accessible by car and has great local hikes. Strong currents in the river make the trip up slow, particularly in the last dozen miles or so, and a Washington State Discover Pass and moorage fees would apply. For boats berthed on the Channel, this is at least a four day trip.

Each of these cruises would get us onto the river during the warm weather and may be new destinations for our more recent Club members. I propose we choose one or two and put them on the calendar. Please let me know what you think in the next month, as we need to get our choices on the CRYA calendar.

Raffle and More Tales of Circumnavigation: The April General Meeting 7:30 pm, Sauvie Island Academy Friday, April 4, 2014

April's meeting features a fundraiser raffle, our excellent club refreshments and a world cruising report. But first things first – We'll start with a brief business meeting to talk about upcoming elections and possible summer cruises (see Commodore's Comments above).

Following that, it's an SIYC Raffle! Bring your boating white elephants – new or lightly used items that have outgrown their usefulness for

you, but might be a treasure for another member. Fenders, oil lamps, cruising guides, DVDs, a bottle of wine or a freshly made plate of brownies have all been hits in past raffles. We're raising money for the club, in an effort to keep membership dues down. **Bring your raffle donations** to include in this always entertaining event.

Last month's circumnavigation talk by Richard Sandefur and Anita Melbo was the feature event of one of the most well-attended meetings in recent club history. You obviously want to know more about circumnavigation, and our next speaker is glad to oblige.



We'll hear John Colby of *S/V Iris* tell us about his circumnavigation, recently completed. John's presentation will focus on Fiji and Vanuatu in the South Pacific, and the Australian island/province of

Tasmania. These destinations are probably part of the cruising dreams of many members – don't miss this presentation, certain to inspire your dreams!

Anchoring Cruise March 15-16

Once a year we feature the art of anchoring – something essential for all cruisers – in our monthly event. It has been several years since we have met up in the Swan Island basin, and it's time to do it again. We'll organize one or several rafts of boats so



that we can easily visit from boat-to-boat even without a dock. If you have a dinghy, bring it too, for assistance in placing anchors, or moving from raft to raft.



There will be potluck dinner Saturday and breakfast Sunday aboard one or two of the boats. The theme this year is based on St. Patrick's Day: bring something Irish, something green, or something that calls to mind the "Pot o' Gold." The Stonecliffes and the Johnstons will jointly be your hosts. If you have questions, call Craig or Barbara at 503-543-0945 or George or Sue at 503-352-9414.

Annual Dues Reminder

Your annual dues will be payable on April 1st. 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.

New roster coming: Is your listing up to date?

The SIYC Roster for 2014-2015 will be going to the printer on April 1st. If you have any changes to the personal information included in last year's roster, please let me know by e-mailing the changes to George Stonecliffe at georgestonecliffe@gmail.com before the end of March. New members will automatically be added to the new Roster. Those who didn't pay last year's dues will automatically be dropped. New rosters will be distributed in the latter part of April to all members. Currently we have 42 members, and holding steady!

Cruise report: SIYC's February Valentine Cruise

Nasty weather threatened the Valentine's cruise this year, but seven boats braved the elements and came to Coon Island for this fun annual event. *Rowena, Hawksbill, Cambria, Julia Max, Sequoia, Moonshadow*, and guest *Penelope* braved the weather, and partook in dinner aboard *Sequoia*, and breakfast aboard *Penelope*. Dinner dishes (themes: red and chocolate) included soup, spaghetti, pizza, beets, beet salad, chicken, chocolate/raspberry cake and cherry pie. Breakfast included scrambled egg dishes, bacon, biscuits, a

potato dish, fruit, juice,...etc. As usual, no one starved! Thank you all for participating.

--- George and Sue, sv Julia Max



Former members, and (we hope) soon to be returning members Susan and Peter Gierga joined us at the Valentine cruise, and Susan offered us the following report for publication in the SIYC newsletter.

At zero eight hundred, Robin Smith arrived at our boat ready to join Peter and me for a weekend cruise to Coon Island. It was the day after Valentine's Day and the Sauvie Island Yacht Club was gathering for their annual Valentine's Cruise. The protocol was red food and chocolate.

Robin's foul weather gear, sleeping bag, pillow and paper bags of food became soaked between her car, parked in McCuddy's parking lot, and "F" dock where our boat, *Penelope*, waited. It was a dark, gray day and it didn't look like the rain intended to subside. We are all seasoned sailors, though, and with no reason for concern and an efficient furnace down below we pulled out of our slip just before 9 am.

The trip would take approximately four hours. We would travel down the Columbia River, thru the railroad bridge, past Kelly Point, up the Willamette River for a short stretch and again downstream on the Multnomah Channel along the west side of Sauvie Island.

Robin had seldom travelled this route and despite the heavy rain splashing into the cockpit and the winter chill in the air, she bundled up in layers of fleece and passed the hours on deck ogling over occasional eagles and experiencing the shoreline from this unique perspective. I've travelled this stretch of river at least 100 times over the past seven years. We lived at McCuddy's Marina in Scappoose for three years and the Multnomah Channel was our weekend playground. I was grateful for Robin's enthusiasm and her willingness to endure the inclement weather while I lounged below periodically supplying sustenance in the form of grilled cheese sandwiches and hot chocolate to the stalwart Captain and his crew.

According to the Ship's Log, we arrived at the west dock of Coon Island at approximately 1:25 pm. A number of member vessels had already arrived and Ray from *Rowena* and Richard from *Moonshadow* appeared on the dock prepared to lend a hand to secure us bow and stern. I willingly handed the mooring line to Ray, trusting he would promptly tie the line to a cleat to secure *Penelope* against the robust current which might otherwise easily wrestle her out of his reach.



Once secured, the driving rain and wind enticed everyone back to their respective refuges. "See you at 6:00. Dinner is on *Sequoia*."

As we entered our arrival into the Log Book, Peter noticed the barometer had fallen from 1004 millibars to 994 millibars in less than 5 hours. He described this as a substantial decrease indicating an extreme area of low pressure had developed. Peter predicted increasing winds. We pulled up official weather intelligence which confirmed predictions of 70 to 80 mph gusts on the coast and 30 to 40 mph gusts inland. While Peter headed out to enlist a couple of extra mooring lines, I stretched out on the settee and pulled up a quilt for a short Saturday afternoon siesta. By 6:00 pm the wind was howling up the channel. The southwesterly blew the water ahead of the prevailing current and white caps were visible as large billowy clouds tumbled past a full moon.



Dinner on *Sequoia* was particularly festive as Sue Stonecliffe was celebrating a birthday. Like all our SIYC cruises, the food was glorious



if not heavy on heart shaped beets and chocolate cake.

In bed by 9:00 pm, the wind continued to howl with crescendoing and diminishing gusts that seemed to ebb and flow like a symphony. Our tiny vessel rocked to and fro sometimes fore and aft while a soft rain fell upon the cabin top.

Sunday morning the storm had passed, the barometer was back up to 1008 millibars and the sun shone in through the east facing portals. Twelve hungry sailors boarded *Penelope* at 9:00 am sharp. We each found a place at the table or along the settee and rather than move around to fetch a second serving the various egg dishes, turkey bacon, fruit salads, biscuits and butter made their way around the table.

Each person remained riveted to their seat while multiple conversations developed. With twelve people speaking at once the volume of the voices on board was both deafening and heartening. I recently read an article describing four anti-aging behaviors. Recommendation No. 1: *Be Social*. I am certain this weekend took years off my age.

- Susan Gierga

SIYC Clothing & Accessories For 2013 to 2014

Port Authority
Competitor Jacket.....\$42.00
Wind and water resistant
Adult JP54
Sport Tek
Fleece 1/4 Zip Pullover.....\$46.00
F247
Ladies Tech Fleece Full-Zip
Hooded Jacket.....\$48.00
L248

Call Sarah for color choices: [503-774-3381](tel: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: Thom Kha Gai

- Taunya Coutts



During my stint on the tall sailing vessel *Corwith Cramer*, each of us crew were assigned to spend one day working with the galley steward. I immensely enjoyed my day – and

perused the supplies for what creative meal I could make to share with the rest of our crew. I noticed limes, coconut milk, fish sauce, and red curry – and thought we had enough ingredients to create Thom Kha – a Thai coconut soup.

The original recipe:

**Thom Kha Gai
(Chicken Coconut curry soup)**
1 lb chicken parts – I prefer thighs
1 tbsp chopped lemon grass
1-2 limes - juiced
4-5 kaffir lime leaves
1-2" sliced galangal root (ginger can be substituted)
1 onion
1-2 cups button mushrooms
2 cups/cans coconut cream
1-2 tbsp tom yum curry paste
1/8 cup fish sauce
3-4 tbsp brown sugar
½ bunch Cilantro – chopped

Cover chicken parts with water and bring to a boil, adding lemon grass, lime juice, leaves and galangal. Cut onion in half and cut into large diced pieces, add half to the pot. Simmer on medium until chicken is tender – about an hour (this time can be cut short if you have/use a pressure cooker). Remove chicken and when cooled to touch – discard skin and bones.

Skim fat from the broth and add coconut cream (coconut milk can be substituted). Depending on size of mushrooms, halve, quarter or leave whole, and add the rest of the onion. Simmer about ten minutes, until onions and mushrooms are tender. While the mushrooms and onions are cooking adjust flavor by adding fish sauce and sugar until it has a rich salty sweet flavor (soy sauce or salt can be substituted for fish sauce). Add tom yum paste (red curry paste can be substituted) to taste, more will increase spiciness. When onions and mushrooms are done and seasonings are correct, add chicken and top with cilantro – serve.

My resulting efforts:

This recipe highlights how to be creative in the galley. At home, I follow this recipe to the letter and rarely substitute anything. On board *Cramer*, I had to scramble to find ingredients and *I* knew the resulting dish would be a pale comparison to the original.

On the *Cramer*, there were no kaffir lime leaves, no galangal, no lemon grass and only a small amount of lime juice. This soup has a strong citrusy component – and I didn't even have lemons to try and make up for my lack of ingredients. The steward indicated what they did have, was some sweetened lime sour mix for mixed drinks. Since the soup was sweet anyway – I opted to use it and only momentarily lamented the loss of my more exotic ingredients. Galangal is a root related to ginger... it tastes different, but they are close. Since there was not even root ginger on board, I substituted some powdered ginger to give the soup similar complexity of flavor.

There was fish sauce, but not enough to include in this dish, so I opted to use a combination of salt and soy sauce. Soy sauce has a unique flavor of its own which could have overpowered my dish, so I kept it to a minimum. The brown sugar was under a bunk of a crew mate who was off watch and sleeping, so we had to make our own using white sugar and molasses. Of course, there was no tom yum paste, but I had noted the red curry paste, which is similar, so I used that instead. I didn't bother to skim the fat from the broth; it was too difficult on a heaving ship. Besides, I didn't have coconut cream, but only lower fat coconut milk. The mushrooms had seen better days – but that probably just enhanced the flavor. I skipped the cilantro entirely. Fresh caught fish could easily be used instead of chicken, cooking briefly and using bouillon to give a more flavorful broth. You can also add to this soup, broccoli, cabbage and/or tomatoes – I've seen all these variations in different restaurants though I tend to prefer the simple chicken mushroom and onion.



No, this wasn't the tom kha that I was used to, and it did taste significantly different.

But it was

still excellent with most of the crew exclaiming over it and asking what it was and how it was made. It was incredibly satisfying to create something rather gourmet using substitutions that kept the spirit of the dish at heart with a very pleasing result.

If you like to cook, please send us your favorite recipe, suitable for preparation aboard, for inclusion as a future recipe of the month!

New Members: Terry & Charing O'Shea

From time to time we feature articles about some of our newer members, so that you can get to know them a bit better. This month we feature Terry and Charing O'Shea, who were inducted as new members in January 2014.



The *CarolMarie* is a dream-come-true for Terry and Charing. Their Hans Christian 38 keeps them focused on the future with travels planned for Hawaii and elsewhere in the Pacific! While in Portland, they are having the best time restoring the *CarolMarie*, learning from others, being involved in community activities and cruising up and down the rivers with friends and family.

Terry has been sailing since the age of 12, starting on an AMF Sunfish. As years past, he never lost his passion for being in the water. Nearly 20 years ago, Terry campaigned a Catalina 16 in the Vancouver Lake Sailing Club along with a good friend he met through work. Following his first winter regatta in the Northwest, he purchased a Capri 25! He was hooked! He soon realized that the Capri 25 was a bit too small for his family, so he moved up to a Nor'Sea 27. This boat was amazing. Terry, along with his son and daughter sailed up and down the Oregon and Washington coasts every chance they could. Lots of cruises and overnights stays. When the family moved to Ireland for three years beginning in 2006, they sold the Nor'Sea.

Once returning from Ireland, Terry and Charing quickly purchased a Catalina 30 which was a perfect beginning to their new marriage. Like all families, they grew – hence they sold the Catalina and found their lovely *CarolMarie* – which by the way is named after their mothers (Carol is Terry's mom, Marie is Charing's mom. Yep, you guessed it... the Mother Ship!)

Although Charing is new to sailing she's been actively learning maritime skills as a member of OWSA (Oregon Women's Sailing Association). Charing grew up on the island of Oahu, and has been drawn to the water all her life; one of her first jobs was renting surfboards on the beach in Waikiki. Since 1995 she has worked for Intel, and currently she manages communications for the company's Health and Life Sciences Group. Terry is a lead technologist at HP, working on wearable computers and smart home devices. They reside in Portland with their son Isaac and two dogs, Bindi and Kona. They also have a daughter Katie who is a freshman at University of Oregon, and another daughter Rochelle who lives in Hawaii with her two sons (Terry's and Charing's grandsons!), Quinton and Ezekiel.

To learn more about the adventures with the *CarolMarie*, visit, www.svcarolmarie.com



Club Business SIYC Membership Meeting March 7, 2014 Sauvie Island Academy

This meeting attended by 34 members and guests was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Rear Commodore George Stonecliffe. Other officers

present were Vice Commodore Mark Nerczuk, and Secretary Sue Stonecliffe.

Guests:

Carol Baker (took membership application)
Lynda Davis (education chair for OWSA)
Briggs Niman
Dave King
Diane and John Clark
Kirk Brown
Ruth Helsley
Peter and Pam Hayes

Cliff Tannas was inducted into SIYC membership by Ed Daugherty.

Treasurer's Report: Dues are due April 1st for fiscal year 2014-15: \$50 full members, \$20 post members, \$20 cruise members, \$0 life members.

Newsletter: Alicia Watkins will be sailing south this fall and won't be able to continue the Newsletter cruising letters after that point. Taunya Coutts can help but can't take on the whole job.

Website: Mark has added an SIYC Facebook account.

Refreshments: April meeting will be hosted by Susan Fichter and Rudy Marchesi.

Programs: April: John Colby will present a program on his recent circumnavigation.

Cruises: The Valentines Cruise was attended by 7 boats in spite of pouring rain.

March cruise: St. Patrick's Anchoring Cruise to Swan Island March 15-16. No host.

Old Business: Richard Sandefur has been nominated for Vice Commodore. Terry O'Shea has agreed to help George Stonecliffe as co-Treasurer. Sue enlisted volunteers to help for the May and September meetings as well as refreshments. Craig agreed to be Commodore one more year.

New Business: Birthdays and anniversaries have been eliminated from future rosters. Due to George's cruising plans, the roster will be printed in April instead of May. Please send changes to the roster database to George.

Sue announced that Carol Hasse's Sail Repair classes are full for 2014.

Gabrielle Dowding announced the upcoming OWSA-sponsored Leukemia Cup September 20-21, 2014. SIYC has been asked to participate with our cruising boats.

There will be no meeting at West Marine this year.

There was much interest expressed in a summer cruise.

Terry O'Shea and Jim Noval were congratulated on passing the exam for the 100-ton Coast Guard Masters Certificate.

Please bring items to be raffled off at the next membership meeting as a fundraiser for the club. Tickets will be \$1 each.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m. followed by Richard and Anita's wonderful slides of their cruising through the Mediterranean Sea.

Board meeting, March 5, 2014

The SIYC Board met at the home of Sue and George Stonecliffe attended by Commodore Craig Johnston, Vice Commodore Mark Nerczuk, Treasurer George Stonecliffe, Secretary Sue Stonecliffe, and Newsletter Editor Barbara Johnston.

Kimberly Winkler of Columbia Marine Exchange was given a membership application by Ed Daugherty. Although our By-Laws require 2 members to sponsor each new member, these sponsorships are very easy to obtain. No one felt a need to eliminate that requirement for membership although it hasn't been practiced for some time.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sue Stonecliffe, Secretary

SIYC's New Facebook Page



If you like to use social media, you should check out SIYC's new [Facebook page](#).

This was set up for us by SIYC's webmaster, Mark

Nerczuk, and it's all ready to go. If we can all be active in "liking" the page, and posting our own photos and stories to the page, it can become a wonderful resource for Portland area sailors to find us, and perhaps join us.

Boat US Benefits

SIYC has membership with Boat U.S. There are more than 26 benefits and services

available to you as members of a Cooperating Group, namely SIYC. Included are on-the-water and on-the-road towing service, low cost marine insurance, discounts at West Marine and discounts on fuel, repairs and transient slips at over 900 marinas. You are able to receive a 50% discount on Boat U.S. membership dues, namely the discounted price of \$15. Our Group Number is GA81077Y. Be sure that this Group Number is on your membership account with them. Call 1-800-395-2628 for more info.

For Sale

As a service to its members, SIYC will publish newsletter "for sale" notices for members' nautical items. Please contact your newsletter editor, Barbara Johnston, cellolaw@gmail.com or 504-543-0945, if you'd like to take advantage of this service.



Breakfast gathering aboard S/V Penelope during SIYC's Valentine's Day cruise

2013-2014 CALENDAR

GENERAL MEETINGS		BOARD MEETINGS		CRUISES	
March 7	Sauvie Island Academy	March 5	TBD	March 15-16	Anchoring Cruise
April 4	Sauvie Island Academy	April 2	TBD	April 26-27	Navigation Cruise
May 2	Sauvie Island Academy	April 30	TBD	May 17-18	Annual Race/Drift Cruise (Sand Island)
June 7	Annual picnic, location TBD				

SIYC CRUISING BOATS – Locations outside of the Pacific Northwest

Boat Name	Owners' Names	Location
<i>Adagio</i>	Jeff & Jane Woodward	Bahia Tenacatita, Mexico
<i>Casita</i>	Devon Quinn & Rowan Madix	Alameda, CA
<i>LunaSea</i>	Frank & RaeAnn Haynes	Long Beach, CA
<i>Nashira</i>	Mike Floyd	San Jose del Cabo, BCS, Mexico
<i>Perpetua</i>	Pat & Susan Canniff	Mazatlan, Mexico
<i>Pied-A-Mer III</i>	Eric & Pam Sellix	Sea of Cortez, Mexico
<i>Silvergirl</i>	Bob Hulegard & Robin Fouche	Newport Beach, CA

Member Websites

Adagio:	http://sailblogs.com/member/turningleft/
CarolMarie:	http://www.svcarolmarie.com/
Julia Max:	http://www.sailblogs.com/member/juliamax/
Perpetua blog:	http://www.sailblogs.com/member/our_journeys/
Perpetua Pictures:	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/
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, Barbara Johnston, cellolaw@gmail.com, and we'll make sure your website or blog is included in future issues of the newsletter.

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.

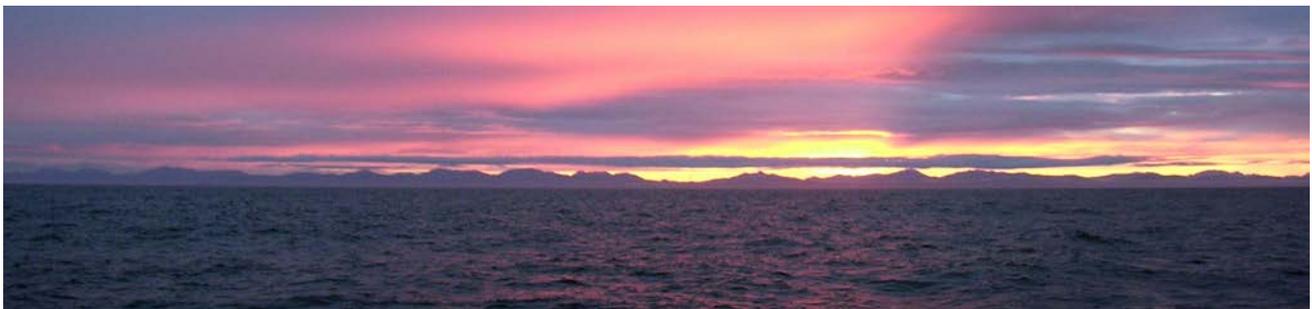
<http://www.webnautica.us/CRYA/>: **Columbia River Yachting Association** – This is the umbrella organization for Yacht Clubs along the Columbia River – SIYC is a member. See especially their links to all the other yacht clubs' websites, and their calendar of club cruises.

<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://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.

<http://www.noonsite.com/> A website with worldwide coverage of countries where you might cruise. It was originally a follow-up to Jimmy Cornell's books (World Cruising Handbook and World Cruising Routes), but is now greatly expanded. Includes information about customs and immigration, marine facilities, local practices and political situations and is indispensable to international cruising sailors.



Sunset in the San Juans – Photo by Garry Weber

CRUISING REPORTS

From Jeff & Janie Woodward, S/V Adagio

Hi Everybody

We are having a great time. The boat is moored at the marina in the Grand Bay Resort. This is a fabulous place. There must be over a thousand rooms in the complex and it is stunningly beautiful. There are three fresh water swimming pools connected by water slides and little streams with arched bridges over them. Also a salt water swimming area, and lots of eatery choices both indoors and out.

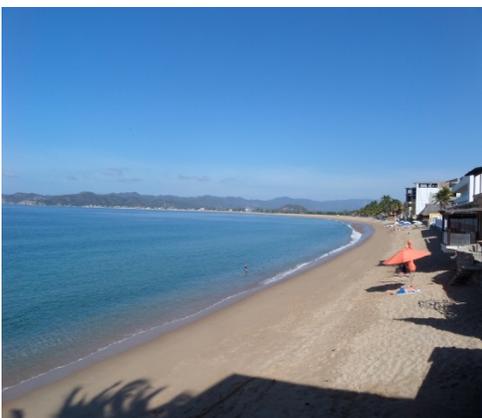
We had been out on the hook in various places for almost a month.

We needed fuel, laundry services, had garbage to get rid of, needed to get to a working ATM machine, and we wanted to get an air card for the computer and also wanted to activate our Mexican phone. The air card and phone seems to be working for other cruisers here on the mainland of Mexico where there are more cell towers than there are on the Baja coast.



We stopped off at the fuel dock on our way into the marina. We successfully used the ATM machine in the hotel lobby. The garbage was taken care of at the marina basin. Today's adventure, after dropping off the laundry, was to take the water taxi from the resort across the bay to the town of Barra de Navidad. We found a TelCell office in town, but they could not do what we needed done. We were told there was a chance we could get our business accomplished in the next town, Melaque. It is only a few miles between Barra and Melaque. The busses run every 15 minutes or so and cost just 7 pesos per person (about 50 cents).

When we got off the bus and started asking for directions to the TelCell office we were told that there was not one in Melaque and that we would have to go 60 miles south to Manzanillo, but persistence paid off. After walking a few blocks we found a small office with a TelCell sign out front. The lady there spoke pretty good English and we were able to get all our business completed there. It took about an hour and we were constantly interrupted by other customers with routine business.



After getting the air card and the cell phone working we strolled along the beach for a while before settling on a nice palapa restaurant for lunch. I had a fish filet cooked in butter and garlic. Janie had a fajita wrap.

We just missed the first bus back to Barra, but that gave us time to do a little shopping where we found some treasures, a set of a beautifully decorated bowl and plate. The next bus was just a few minutes wait. It dropped us off near the ice cream store and so we stopped for a cone apiece. Janie had Rocky Road. I had banana with nuts. Yumm! We got to the water taxi stand, paid our 10 pesos each (85 cents) and were dropped off at our boat. I walked over to the lavanderia and picked up our freshly laundered clothes, sheets, towels, etc.

We changed into our swimsuits and got to one of the pools a little before closing time. When we were done at the pool a group playing soft Latin jazz was just starting up. There was lead acoustic guitar, bass guitar, wood flute and drums. Their music floated across the grounds and out to the boats in the marina. There was a soft warm breeze and the stars were beginning to sparkle in the darkening sky. So we took the bean bags up to the cabin top to enjoy the mellow sounds and the nice vibe.

We hope this finds you happy and healthy.

Jeff and Janie
S/V *Adagio*
Barra de Navidad, Mexico



More from Jeff & Janie

Hello Everyone,

It is about 0815. The sun is over the mangroves and climbing into a calm blue sky. We have paid our marina fee and are now transforming *Adagio* from a dock boat into a traveling boat. We need to unplug the dock cord and the water hose, stow all the loose stuff on deck and inside the cabin and get on the road before the wind starts and before the tide starts to drop.

Our next stop is Ensenada Carrizal. 19°06 N / 104° 26 W. About 20 miles away. 3 or 4 hours. We have never been there, but the guide book says it is beautiful. No town or even houses. No beach either. Steep rocks right down to the water. Pretty small, just room enough for a couple of boats. We hope to do some snorkeling there and are looking forward to a bit of decompression after the busy hotel/marina scene.

We don't know if we will have internet through the air card or if our HAM radio will work in the steep cove. The tall rock cliffs can sometimes block radio signals. So if you do not hear from us for a few days, not to worry.

Love to you all,

Jeff and Janie
S/V *Adagio*
Barra de Navidad, Mexico



More from Jeff & Janie

Hi Everybody,

We stopped off at Carrizal yesterday afternoon. First time we have been here. 19°05.9 N / 104°26.2 W. In a couple of days we will go around the corner to Santiago. I think that will be our turn around point this year. We did not take any time to see the Sea at all on our way south, so we want to save a little time to spend a day or two in some of our favorite anchorages before getting to San Carlos for the decommission. We are also looking at Mazatlan for a visit on the way back north. We have not spent any time in the old city for several years. We are not fond of the hucksterism there. Time share sales people, etc. But we really like old town, the craft shops and colonial era buildings. We have talked about getting there for Carnival, but we are not sure we want to subject ourselves to that much Mexican fiesta.

We are sharing this little anchorage with two other boats. The M/V Caribbean Soul and the S/V Paragon. Caribbean Soul was here first. Paragon just arrived and dropped their hook almost on the foredeck of Caribbean Soul. If I were Caribbean Soul I'd have pitched a fit. But not my fight, so I'll just keep an eye out and see how things work out. I checked on my radar VRM. The two boats are just 80 feet apart in 30 feet of water.

After breakfast we took the dink to go snorkeling. Lots of coral, the most I've seen in Mexico, and lots of colorful reef fish. Very pretty! When I was down in deeper water (20' or so) I could hear whales singing. Nothing fancy, they sounded pretty far away. But there was a repetitious deep bass sound. Whooooo! To hear it you had to be quite still. On the surface there was too much wave sounds and that overpowered the whale sound. But once under water the sound would come every 15 seconds or so. Cool!!

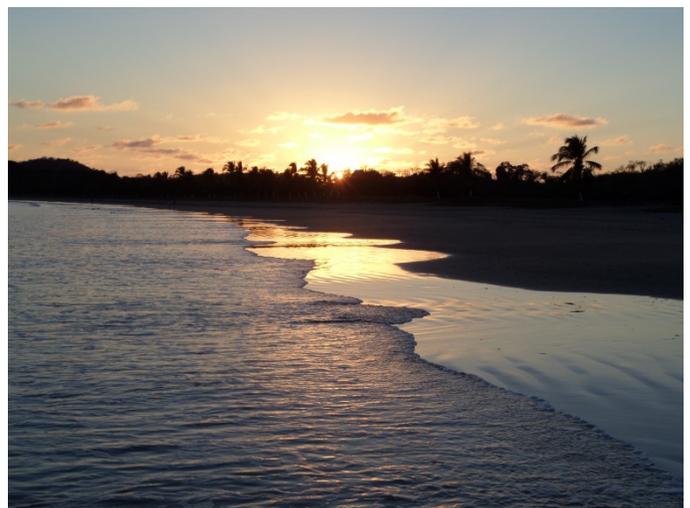
Just as we were swimming back to the dink, a Navy patrol boat came in and conducted beach drills. The patrol boat put out a stern anchor then ran right up to the beach. The beach was pretty steep so the prop was probably in 5 or 6 feet of water with the bow right against the steep pebble and cobble stone beach. The boat was probably 85' and it looked to be powered by jet nozzles. It looked almost new, painted in grey, green and tan dazzle point camouflage. I'd guess a little more than a half dozen black uniformed guys went into the surf and scrambled up the beach. They spent about a half hour combing the beach and the jungle growth just behind the beach. (Searching for signs of drug smuggling???)

Then they pulled back out of the surf line and conducted drills. Guys were getting into and out of the water and back to the boat. Then they pulled out and left the bay heading toward Manzanillo.

And that's about the gist of the goings on aboard Adagio.

All our best to you and yours,

Jeff and Janie
S/V *Adagio*
Carrizal, Mexico



More from Jeff & Janie

Hi Everybody,

We woke up this morning a little bleary eyed. The palapa restaurants on the beach had some sort of party going on yesterday. The music started around noon and continued until 0100 this morning. I'm sure the musical experience at the party was better than the experience out here on the boat.

Because it is so warm and humid we sleep with all the hatches and ports wide open. Combine that with the way sound travels across water, and it felt like the drums and tubas and accordions were right here in the boat with us as we were struggling to get a little shut eye.



The morning coffee helped. Then a quick bowl of cereal and it was time to get the dink ready to go ashore. We dropped the dink into the water from where she hangs off a halyard at night. Unlocked the bike cable securing the dink to a stanchion, then scooted the dink back under the outboard lift and dropped the engine onto the dink's transom. In a few minutes we were off to the beach landing. Just outside the surf line we dropped the dinghy wheels and locked them into place. We caught a small wave and rode it to shore. Managed to hop out of the dink and run it up the beach on its wheels ahead of the surf before we shipped any water.

We chucked our garbage sack into the can on the beach, then we walked to the hotel on the hill at the far end of the beach. It was an interesting walk. We watched some tourists on stand up paddle boards enter the lagoon from sea. They were going under us as we crossed the walking bridge over the little waterway that connects the



lagoon with the ocean. The path up to the hotel was pretty steep, but the gardens were beautifully tended, so we slowed our pace and enjoyed the sights. When we got to the pool there were some long term guests to chat with.

This would be a great place for guests to meet the boat. The anchorage is in sight. There are a dozen or more palapa restaurants on the beach. Great snorkeling is nearby. Good sailing in the bay. The Manzanillo airport is only 30 minutes away. The marina at Barra de Navidad is just 4 hours by boat to the north.

By the time we left the hotel we were a little sweaty and disheveled. Today is Debbie's birthday, she is on one of the boats here in the anchorage. The party was scheduled for 1300 at one of the palapa restaurants. So we headed back to Adagio for a shower and a change into clean clothes. It was a great party. Strolling mariachi bands stopped to play. The beer was cold. The food was good. About 10 boats attended. Lots of good talk. Singing and dancing. We shared the left over cake with some of the local kids. A good time was had by all.

Around 1700 we said our goodbyes and headed off for our dink. We watched a few sets of waves come in, and when we thought we had the rhythm figured out, we made our move. We waited for a big one to clean out the small waves. Rolled the dink down the beach into the water. Hopped aboard. And got the engine started. We just made it past the break zone in time to stay dry. Once out of the break zone we killed the engine. Brought the wheels out of the water and continued on our way home to Adagio. Where we are settling into another comfortable evening aboard.



Local kids enjoying the cake (above)

We hope this finds you all healthy and happy,

Jeff and Janie

S/V Adagio

At anchor Bahia Santiago, Mexico

More from Jeff & Janie

Hi Everybody,

We spent the morning breaking down the dink and stuffing her into her bag. She's now stowed for passage making. When we started the job there was not enough wind in the anchorage to make the boats point. So all the boats fell into the trough and were rolling to beat the band. There is nothing quite like the fun of dancing on a rolling cabin top as you hoist over a hundred pounds of dinghy and associated equipment over the life lines and coaxing it around the shrouds, etc. to land on the cabin top. Of course if the cabin top is rolling, the top of the mast and all attached to it including a dink on the spare genoa halyard is really moving. So we had a fun filled morning.

We have a good weather window for getting around Cabo Corrientes (Cape of Currents) tomorrow. We plan leaving Bahia Tenacatita around 0600 tomorrow morning. If we maintain 6 knots, we will arrive at the Cape around 2100 (9PM), and into La Cruz (just north of Puerto Vallarta) by dawn on Wednesday, March 5th. We have not been to La Cruz in a couple of years so we are looking forward to a few days there. But we think it will be a relatively short visit, four or five days.

From La Cruz we plan to keep moving north. Chacala (43 miles up the coast), than San Blas (just a 23 mile hop further north), followed by an overnight push to Mazatlan (130 miles/22 hours up the coast). When we leave

Mazatlan we need to decide if we will cross over to the Baja, or keep on the mainland side. I suppose that will depend on the weather. If we get a couple of good long windows we might run up the mainland coast to Topolobampo (about 200 miles/35 hours), and from there all the way to San Carlos (another 200 miles/35 hours). If we do make the run up the mainland side, that will be a first for us. Our goal is to be in San Carlos by April Fool's Day to start decommissioning the boat.

So far this email lacks any of the fun stuff we have been enjoying. So I'd better include a bit about waking up to whale songs the other morning. It was still dark and both Janie and I were still dozing when we each realized that we were hearing the whales singing. So we scooted over to where we could place our ears against something connected to the hull. Of course the singing whales are underwater and so the sound travels through water rather than through air. It was loud enough that we could hear them without putting our ears against the boat's hull, but it was much better listening with ears against the boat's side. Sometimes the sound was high pitched, similar to the sound of elk bugling. Sometimes it was more like the low drone of a didgeridoo. So we spent the wee hours of the morning listening to whales singing, dozing back to sleep, then waking again to listen some more. I'm not sure why, but it is always a special feeling when you are reminded that you are sharing the world with such huge and gentle creatures.

We hope this finds you all well and happy,

All our best,

Jeff and Janie
S/V *Adagio*
At anchor Bahia Tenacatita

From Eric & Pam Sellix, S/V Pied-A-Mer III

Hola to all SIYC members,

Time is passing quickly and we still have so much to do in preparation for the Pacific Puddle Jump! Since our arrival in La Cruz de Huanacaxtle, the end of November, we have been busy attending seminars, adding spare boat parts, making alterations on the spinnaker sox, bringing aboard numerous medications, practicing with the SSB radio, SAT phone, checking and rechecking rigging and sails, studying charts and books on French Polynesia (and beyond), trying out powdered eggs and even powdered peanut butter and making lots of new friends.



Most of the two hour seminars have been in Nuevo Vallarta at The Vallarta Yacht Club in Paradise Village. We are anchored in La Cruz which means we bring the dinghy down, motor into the marina and tie up, walk up through La Cruz to the bus stop, take the correct bus through Bucerias and Mescales to the Marlin Restaurant, get off the bus walk a couple of blocks and get on another bus which takes us to the Vallarta Yacht Club.

After the seminars we repeat this process-----needless to say we allow quite a bit of time for these adventures, and we love adventures. The seminars pretty much cover all of the major topics that we will, might or hopefully won't experience on our approximately three week passage to French Polynesia. Topics have included sinking and safety, medical and dental, electrical, water makers, weather, celestial navigation, SSB radios, SAT phones, provisioning and more.

We have two crew who will be with us on the passage, Jack and Dani. Jack is from Washington state and we first met him mid-November at the fuel dock in La Paz and here we are three months later, the three of us in La Cruz and he will be going with us. Dani, a writer, lives in La Cruz, is very involved in community projects but she is taking a month off to sail with us. The cruising community is certainly an amazing group of folks. The four of us have raced together in the Vallarta Cup races and done some day sailing together. We're not telling how we did racing!

The saddest issue we have to deal with is our wonderful boat cat Rose. She is almost 17 and has lived on Pied-a-Mer since we moved aboard in the spring of 2012. Rose is very comfortable when underway, prefers sailing to motoring (who doesn't?), likes watching the ripples in the water and could care less when fish are caught. Both Australia and New Zealand have very strict regulations concerning bringing pets into the country, so we have decided to leave her behind. We are hoping to board her with our daughter in Vancouver, WA



All our best,

Eric and Pam
S/V *Pied-A-Mer III*
La Cruz, Mexico

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.



Panorama of Melaque Bay – Photo by Jeff Woodward of S/V Adagio