

BLUE WATER LOG

Commodore's Column

Commodore, Merrill Feldman



Your Bridge Officers and Board of Governors (BOG) have had a fairly productive year so far in the conduct of the business of the Blue Water Sailing Club. This is an opportune time to bring you up to date on some of the more notable decisions and actions that have occurred since the Annual Meeting in November.

First of all, Vice President Sue LaVoie did a remarkable job in getting all cruise chairpersons on board by the BOG February meeting as did Tom Devins the Rear Commodore in setting up the Seminars and Annual Dinner meetings. This obviously was accomplished by the willingness of certain members to volunteer to lead these activities, especially when asked. However, the need for a much broader participation by the membership in volunteering to run cruises and other Club events is unfortunately a recurring perennial challenge. To help in trying to deal with this problem, a more integrated, comprehensive policy was adopted for both new and established members. An outline of this policy is as follows:

1. An expectation that new applicants for membership will be informed by their sponsors and the Membership Committee that the BWSC is a volunteer organization and everyone is asked to pull their weight by volunteering to run cruises or events especially by 2 years of membership.

2. A reinforcing letter of welcome from the Secretary as well as a telephone call from the Commodore emphasizing the volunteer philosophy of the BWSC and the expectation that the new members will assist the designated cruise or event chairpersons within 2 years as trainees or co-chairs.

*The benefits to the new member are considered to be:

Immediate immersion into BWSC tradition, culture and history.

Immediate recognition through participation.

New friends and new bonding with established members.

Experience and firsthand observation in cruise or event planning.

The benefits to the Club are:

More resources for future experienced and younger members

An earlier and more active integration into Club activities.

More candidates for Leadership in the BOG or Bridge.

*(ref. Peter MacDonald – Membership Development)

3. A letter from the BOG along with the mailing of the preliminary Calendar of Events in December reminding the entire membership of the need for volunteers to implement that calendar. This converts the calendar to a program.

4. Appropriate recognition of all event Chairpersons at the Annual Fall Meeting.

5. Active participation by teams of the BOG with the Rear and Vice Commodore in recruiting volunteers not only for the calendar year but for the next 2 years.

BY LAWS

The recommendation of a By Law amendment recognizing the Safety and Long Range Planning Committees as Standing Committees. This is in keeping with the evolving role of the BWSC in education, safety at sea and other timely subjects as well as the need to plan for the changing interests of our membership i.e. more offshore, less structured cruises, sail to power boating, young family activities, etc. The chairpersons will be members of the BOG and therefore have more input into the decision making process. Some other housekeeping amendments will also be circulated for a vote at the Annual Meeting.

MARION BERMUDA RACE

Expanded communication and other liaison with the Marion-Bermuda Cruising Yacht Race Association, Inc. at the invitation of the Chairman of the Board of Trustees by the appointment of the BWSC Rear and Vice Commodores to the Executive Committee. This will supplement the traditional role of the BWSC Offshore Committee and its Chairpersons and provide future BWSC Bridge Officers with appropriate familiarity with both the membership and policies of the governance of the MBCYRA. The Race Symposium will continue to be one of the key responsibilities of the MBCYRA but has usually been organized by a member of the BWSC. Paul Lavoie is the Symposium Director along with his committee – John Quarles, Paul Goldberg, and Eric Pierce.

The BWSC joined cyberspace with the development and adoption by the BOG of www.bluewatersc.com thanks to the efforts of Dan Gingras, Bill Hammer, Jack May and Catherine

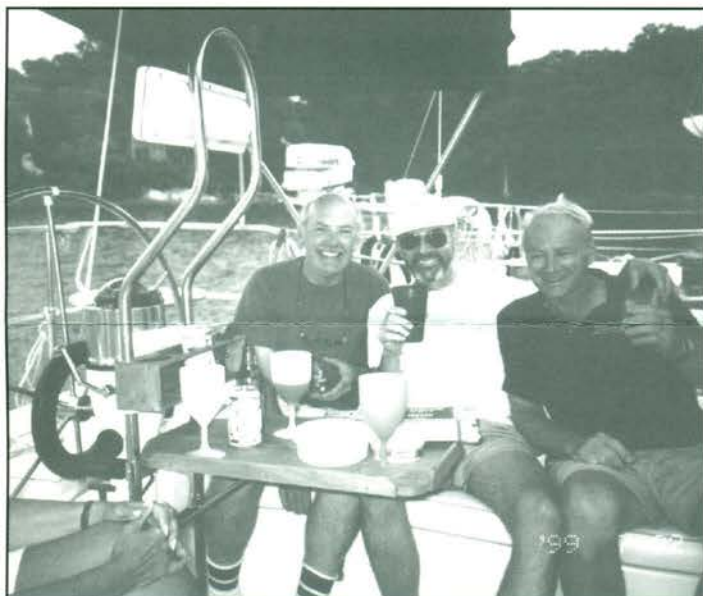
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Vineyard Mini-Cruise / July 23-26, 1999

Cruise Chairpersons: Harry and June Pasquier

A great turn out of 10 boats! It was a great opportunity to meet some new members on this trip. The kick-off was lunch at the Black Duck. Followed by a tour of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Exhibit Center followed by a group dinner that evening at a local restaurant. Cocktail Hour that eve aboard the GYPSY was scrapped since a downpour on the bewitching hour of cocktails occurred. However, a lovely dinner in town was enjoyed by all!

The next day, all boats set sail for a race to Edgartown. There was a lay day in the afternoon.



Our evening beach party barbeque was changed to a rafted get together. The eve was of great interest. We had three boats raft in Katumet Bay for a evening cocktail party, and pot luck dinner. Chuck Mitchell of CARPE DIEM, a new member pitched in with Grill and boat to accommodate the Kerns of SEA HAWK, for the pot luck raft. The rain and thunder storms held off while we enjoyed ourselves having dinner and conversation. At 0200 a severe thunder and lightning storm hit for an hour. Details not known, but the three boats rafted in Katumet had to deal with a bad storm and undo the raft. A severe lightning storm and gusts of 50 kts. struck the area.

The next day, we went to Vineyard Haven, the highlight of this port was going to the **Vineyard Haven Playhouse**. It was a real treat and a lovely playhouse!! We saw the play "The Passion of Henry David Thoreau". Well done, I might add.

The new members enjoyed the idea of "cruising in company". It was SHAMAN and the Sullivans, first Bluewater Cruise to the islands, the challenging weather conditions and distance to come assured them that they are bluewater cruisers. The Greens on AURORA, throughout the Blue Water cruise – acted as if they had been cruising a long, long time. Thanks to Joe Green, we found a new spot in Hadley Harbor.

It was a joy to have met Hannah, of INFINITY. Peter, Deb and Hannah Dragonas joined us this year as well. Hannah and I did a little shopping in town. Chuck Mitchell of CARPE DIEM, participated in the raft with great enthusiasm. We regret that Lanqueduc and Second Wind who registered could not join us. PRESTO AND SEA HAWK joined in the fun as well. SEA HAWK, I am sure has a story to tell about the raft breakup. As always, it was a pleasure to have ESSENCE join us for the entire trip. They have been long time cruisers and were laid back as usual.





Blue Water Sailing Club French Riviera Cruise

By Cathryn Griffith, 15 March 2000

Cannes, Nice, Maraeille, San Tropez, Monaco – the names evoke images of glamour and seediness, ancient history and the latest films, movie stars, royalty and drug dealers. The twenty-eight Blue Water members who cruised the waters of the French Riviera and Provence last October discovered many things not found in guide books. We sailed under majestic cliffs rising high above the Mediterranean Sea, sipped local wine in waterfront cafés, mastered complicated docking systems, and were photographed by a nimble French captain who shinned up the mast at anchor one evening.

John Dieselman organized the trip in which six charter boats cruised the Mediterranean for two weeks, visiting small fishing ports and remote islands as well as the major yachting centers. Each morning John and our French captain, Brice, held a skipper's meeting to review charts and plan the day's itinerary. We would buy freshly baked bread for the day, visit an outdoor market if possible, then cast off the lines and head to sea for another adventure. Winds generally were light, although we did experience the famous Mistral, a fierce wind which originates in Siberia and blows down the Rhone Valley



Social hour at anchor



John and Pat Dieselman



Village at Eze

to the sea. The rain gods were kind – we had mostly sunny days, ideal weather for strolling ashore, exploring backroads on bicycles or swimming in a picturesque Calaque.

On laydays, the group toured Monanco, Eze, Marseille and Aix-en-Provence and rode a private train to the medieval perched village of Grimaud. We learned that Provence was settled thousands of years ago, even before Greeks and Romans arrived and set up trading posts. A land of white mountains, blue seas, hot summers, good wines and distinctive cuisine, Provence has hosted peasants, Popes, painters and tourists over many centuries.

We easily fell into French habitats of leisurely meals, cooked to order and beautifully presented. Who can forget the elegant midday meal at Cafe de Paris near the famed casino of Monte Carlo, or the seafood lunch in Vallon des Auffres, a small fishing port in Marseille? Our farewell dinner was at a waterside restaurant in Port Grimaud, where the entire group sat at tables curving around the trunk of a giant shade tree. Wonderful camaraderie developed during the cruise, so it was a bittersweet evening as we prepared to leave our boats and end the cruise.



Vallon des Aufres, Marseille



Brice, our French captain



John Dieselman



Fleet at anchor, island of Port Cros



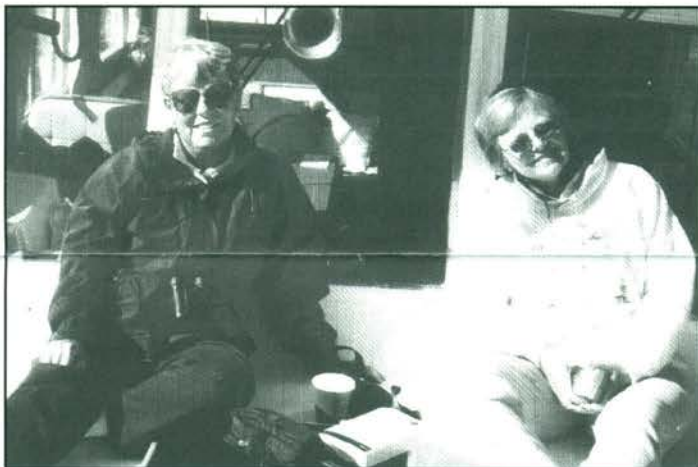
Willem Vanker, Sandy and Irwin Macey, Elsbeth Vanker, Betty and Stuart Lehman

Pacific Northwest Charter, September 10-24, 1999

By Carol and Jules Siegel

For two weeks starting September 10th, 1999, Jules and I chartered a Grand Banks 36 Trawler out of Bellingham, Washington. Along with good friends Mort and Gwen Kotler, we had splendid weather, spectacular scenery, a well appointed and maintained boat and great companionship and camaraderie.

Our trip included stops in the American San Juan Islands, as well as the Canadian Gulf Islands, a trip northward by 160 miles to Desolation Sound and the fantastic side trip up a fjord to Chatterbox Falls. Top this off with a couple of days in Victoria, the Provincial Capital of British Columbia and then 5 more days after the cruise ended in beautiful Vancouver, and you have one of the best cruising trips of a lifetime!



Carol and Gwen Kotler – mornings were cool, days warm!

The San Juans are comprised of hundreds of islands ranging from small rocky outcrops to large forest-clad and mountainous masses. The waters are rich with seafood, reflected in the menus of shore side restaurants and markets. Wildlife abounds on the land, although we saw the most at Spencer Spit where wild rabbits seem to have taken over the island! Here it is more civilized and probably quite crowded in summer but in September, we had many places to ourselves or shared them with a small handful of other boats. Although further North we saw few sailboats, there were many sailing about in the San Juan Islands.

North of the San Juans, protected in the lee of Vancouver Island, lie the Gulf Islands. This is an enchanting group of more than 200 islands and islets whose tranquil waterways and gentle landscape contrast with the ruggedness of the open Pacific Ocean coastline not many miles to the west. We made tracks for this area almost immediately, wanting to have time for the journey to Desolation Sound and Princess Louisa Inlet. Those areas are a dream come true for the cruising yachtsman. Beyond the "sunshine coast", the area is a majestic forested land accentu-

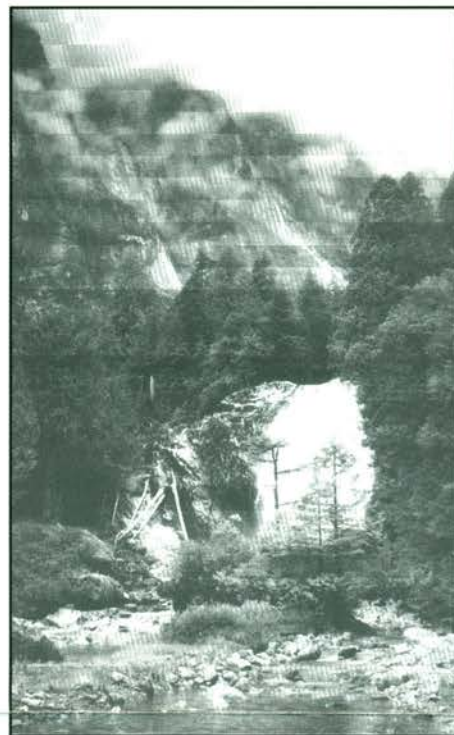
ated by cascading waterfalls and giant glacial peaks. Nature abounds here. We saw soaring eagles, Harbor Seals, porpoises but never were able to confirm an Orca sighting as they stay mainly off the west coast of Vancouver Island.

One highlight of the voyage further North was a stop in Prideaux Haven, an enclosed paradise of a harbor at the start of Desolation Sound. Our night in Prideaux was really the highlight of the whole cruise for me. The

entrance, difficult to see until rounding a rock outcropping, is a narrow slit between two rock ledges. Once inside, one finds a beautiful spot surrounded by steep tree covered cliffs, gurgling sounds of a waterfall, and above it all, the view of spectacular mountains in every direction just beyond the cove. We read that this area is wall-to-wall boats in the summer and I believe it but we shared it that night with just one other boat. The water was teeming with jelly fish. At night with a new moon, every star in the sky seemed visible and the water all around the boat pulsed with violet bioluminescence from the jellyfish. It was like being in fairyland. I will never forget the experience!

Victoria, a 90 minute ferry ride from Vancouver, is British Columbia's capital and it's second largest city. Unlike the bustling Vancouver metropolis, Victoria is a quaint, picturesque seaport on the southeastern tip of Vancouver Island. It's rich history includes tales of whaling ships and fur traders with strong Scottish roots. There was a huge Chinese population here at the turn of the century that still has a strong cultural influence. Workers came to build the railroads and stayed and sent for wives from the mainland. Once enormous, the Chinatown with it's outdoor markets, schools and cultural center, still remain, but like every other prospering ethnic immigrant group, many Chinese now live in the more commodious suburbs.

This was a wonderful charter cruise. We recommend this one for everyone!



View of Chatterbox Falls with mountain behind.

Commodore's Column continued

Griffin.

Charter cruises in Turkey, the Virgin Islands, and the French Mediterranean have been eminently successful and a new cruise in the Italian Mediterranean is now planned for October, 2001 under the leadership of Carol and Jule Siegel and Joe and Rhoda Fantasia. We must also design off shore cruises that are structured for our more adventurous and seasoned members who desire more distant destinations with a less restrictive itinerary. The Long Range Planning Committee, Steve Ricci – Chairman, is looking into this. Anyone interested in leading this type of cruise should contact the Vice Commodore.

Skiing in the Winter continues to be a favorite BWSC activity. Stu and Betty Lehman lead a very successful trip to Salt Lake City and the weekend at Loon Mt. run by the Lavoies, Wryes, and Michauds was a lot of fun.

In summary, the state of the BWSC is excellent. It continues to grow and to adapt to the needs of its membership and the times. The past Nominating Committee did the Club proud by recruiting an outstanding BOG many whom I hope will continue on to the Bridge and other Leadership positions. Wendy Goldberg, Joe Ribaud, Irwin Macey and Cathryn Griffin deserve special mention for the work they do as Communications Officer, Treasurer, Secretary and Clerk respectively. Wally Feldman

continues in his devoted services to the BWSC by publishing the Yearbook, managing the database and updating our cyberspace communication. We all look forward to the coming summer and to see you on the water and at our many scheduled events.

As a reminder – if you belong to Boats/US, BWSC members are entitled to a 50% reduction in the annual dues. With best regards and wishes for safe, happy boating.

Sailing Club on the French Riviera



The group in front of the casino of Monte Carlo.

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