



# SAUVIE ISLAND YACHT CLUB NEWSLETTER

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

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

May 2019 No. 394

## SIYC OFFICERS

### Commodore

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### Vice Commodore

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### Rear Commodore

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## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

### Membership

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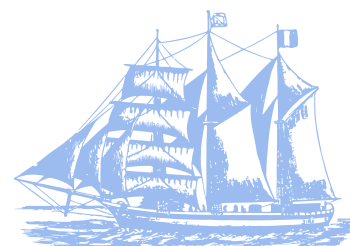
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**End of Season Event:**  
**SIYC June Membership**  
**BBQ, Potluck & Raffle**  
**Saturday, June 1, 2019**  
**4-8 p.m.**  
**Island Marina**



## SIYC Commodore's Comments

Dear Friends,

We have reached the end of our 2018-2019 SIYC year, and it is time to hand over the helm to a new board. I wanted to say thank you for all who have helped make it a great year! It has been my pleasure to serve as your commodore the last two years. I know the new board will steadily steer the club into another great season.



We had an exciting race/drift cruise with winds up to 15 knots, what fun! It's always a great time to take our cruising boats out for a sail. June 1, 2019 was our annual SIYC picnic, raffle, and changing of the guard. It is always a great social event and fundraiser for the yacht club.

Thank you for the pleasure of being your commodore.

Fair winds and following seas,

Ray McCracken  
Commodore  
Sauvie Island Yacht Club



## May Birthdays

Penny Mery	5/9
Mike Ashbridge	5/12
Rose Zehner	5/14
Jim Noval	5/20
Mike Cannady	5/21
Pat Canniff	5/25

“Let us never know what old age is. Let us know the happiness time brings, not count the years.”

Ausonius

## Member Websites

<b>CarolMarie:</b>	<a href="http://www.svcarolmarie.com/">http://www.svcarolmarie.com/</a>
<b>Julia Max:</b>	<a href="http://www.sailblogs.com/member/juliamax/">http://www.sailblogs.com/member/juliamax/</a>
<b>Penelope:</b>	<a href="http://cruisingwithcaptainpeterandtheadmiral.com/">http://cruisingwithcaptainpeterandtheadmiral.com/</a>
<b>Moonshadow:</b>	<a href="http://www.voyagemoonshadow.blogspot.com/">http://www.voyagemoonshadow.blogspot.com/</a>
<b>Moontide:</b>	<a href="http://www.svmoontide.com/">http://www.svmoontide.com/</a>
<b>On the Bright Side:</b>	<a href="http://www.svonthebrightside.wordpress.com">http://www.svonthebrightside.wordpress.com</a>
<b>Pied-a-Mer III:</b>	<a href="http://www.sailblogs.com/member/sesesail/">http://www.sailblogs.com/member/sesesail/</a>
<b>Ranidan:</b>	<a href="http://persimmonsky.wordpress.com/">http://persimmonsky.wordpress.com/</a>
<b>Rowena:</b>	<a href="http://www.sailblogs.com/member/rowena/">http://www.sailblogs.com/member/rowena/</a>
<b>Sequoia:</b>	<a href="https://www.sailblogs.com/member/svsequoia/">https://www.sailblogs.com/member/svsequoia/</a>

## Minutes of SIYC General Membership Meeting May 3, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Commodore Ray McCracken. The other officers present were Vice Commodore Alicia, Secretary Kim and Treasurer Jenny Bruning.

Penny Mery has taken over the Membership duties for the next year. Many thanks to Penny for volunteering.

The membership voted and agreed to award the SIYC Blue Water Cruising Award for this year to Craig and Barbara Johnston.

Officers were voted on and the new(ish) slate of officers is as follows:

- David Mery ..... Commodore
- Dawn McClard..... Vice Commodore
- George Fetzer..... Treasurer
- Monica Fetzer..... Secretary

Ray McCracken will continue to help us as Rear Commodore. Penny Mery has volunteered to continue as head of the Membership Committee. Kim Taylor will continue as Database Editor but we will need someone to step up for that before next March. Dawn McClard, Muki Kerr, and Sarah Laidlaw will take care of the Newsletter. And Jay Kerr will take over as Website Manager. We really need to have someone step up to cover arranging the refreshments for the general meetings. If you want to help out with any of the committees, please contact the committee chair. Please think about volunteering.

**SIYC Annual Dues are Due. If you have not yet paid, please send \$50.00 to SIYC Treasurer.**

The Treasurer’s report was read out at \$2,954.53. In addition, Jenny pointed out that the SIYC Annual Dues are Due. If you have not yet paid, please send \$50.00 to:

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

The Board announced the Race Cruise for May 18 & 19 as being hosted by Garry Weber and Dennis & Robin Simensen.

Mark Krajcar talked about the Navigation Cruise. Four boats attended with more people coming by land. A good time was had by all.

Please think about next season’s cruises and whether you would like to host one. We particularly need someone to host the September cruise. The host gets to choose the location and theme.

The next meeting was announced as the Annual Picnic on June 1 at Island Marina. The Board will provide burgers, hot dogs, vegetarian options, the buns, and usual condiments. The Board asked members to bring a side dish, any other beverage you might want, and the usual implements of destruction. In addition, it recommended that members bring any tables, chairs, and, it being Oregon, if it looks like rain, any easy-ups you might have. At that picnic, there will be a raffle and silent auction. The Board requested that members bring any (vaguely) boat related items that they would like to donate for either the raffle or for the silent auction.

In addition, Ray brought up that we need to find a home for several boxes of SIYC stuff. If any of you have some extra space in your garage or storage area, please contact Ray.

The meeting was a dessert potluck and upon closing of the business part of the meeting, we all ate yummy treats and had some great conversations. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kim Taylor  
Secretary

## 2018-2019 Planning Calendar

General Meetings		Board Meetings		Cruises	
General club meetings, <b>7:30 p.m.</b> , usually on the 1st Friday of the month.		<b>7:00 p.m.</b> , usually on Tuesday before a club meeting.		Sign-up to help plan. We need some new places to go cruising.	
Date/Theme	Location	Date	Location	Dates	Where/Theme
September 7 <i>Potluck and first meeting of fall</i>	Sauvie Island Academy	Sept 4, 2018	Big Island Marina	Sept 15-16 2018	<b>First Fall Cruise</b> Hadley's Landing
October 5: <i>"Outfitting a Moore 24' to do the Pacific Cup"</i>	Sauvie Island Academy	October 2, 2018	Big Island Marina	Oct. 27-28 2018	<b>A Halloween Cruise</b> (East Dock, Government Island) Hosts: Ray & Alicia <i>S/V Rowena</i>
November 2 <i>Cliff Hunter Lee Sails</i>	Sauvie Island Academy	October 30, 2018	Big Island Marina	Nov. 17-18 2018	<b>Thanksgiving Cruise</b> (Hadley's Landing) Hosts: Rick & Cynthia Woldridge <i>S/V Catspaw</i>
December 1 <i>Christmas Party</i>	Montinore Vineyards	Dec 1- Board meets while setting up for Christmas party	Montinore Vineyards	Dec 29-30 2018	<b>New Year's Cruise</b> (Coon Island, East) Jay Kerr <i>S/V Betty Lou</i>
January 4 <i>Sean Knighton</i>	Sauvie Island Academy	January 2, 2019	Big Island Marina		
February 1 <i>Ian Weedman Professional Rigger</i>	Sauvie Island Academy	January 29, 2019	Island Marina	Feb. 9-10, 2019	<b>Valentine Cruise</b> (Coon Island East Dock) Chris & Kim Taylor <i>S/V Kaaluna</i>
March 1 <i>Jeremiah Pyle NOAA Weather</i>	Sauvie Island Academy	Feb 26, 2019	Island Marina	March 16-17 2019	<b>Anchoring Cruise</b> (Grandma's Cove) <i>S/V Cambria</i>
April 5 <i>Dan Pietz &amp; Tammy Kimball Cruise the Pacific</i>	Sauvie Island Academy	April 2, 2019	Island Marina	April 13-14 2019	<b>Navigation Cruise</b> (Riverplace) <i>Mark Krajcar</i>
May 3 <i>Annual Meeting, Elections, &amp; Dessert Potluck</i>	Sauvie Island Academy	April 30, 2019	Island Marina	May 18-19, 2019	<b>Race Cruise</b> (Sand Island) <i>S/V Cambria &amp; S/V Robin's Nest</i>
June 1 <i>Annual SIYC Picnic</i>	Big Island Marina	May 28, 2019	Island Marina		

## SIYC Cruising Boats

Boat Name	Owners' Names	Location
<i>Adagio</i>	Jeff & Jane Woodward	Bahia Tenacatita, Mexico
<i>Casita</i>	Devon Quinn & Rowan Madix	Alameda, California
<i>Julia Max</i>	George & Sue Stonecliffe	Western Caribbean
<i>Nashira</i>	Mike Floyd	San Diego, California
<i>Pied-A-Mer III</i>	Eric & Pam Sellix	Kingdom of Tonga
<i>Sequoia</i>	Craig & Barbara Johnston	Caribbean Sea

# SIYC CRUISING REPORT

## Craig and Barbara Johnston S/V Sequoia

### Panama / Costa Rica

Hello to all our SIYC friends – you'll soon see us in person – perhaps even at the SIYC picnic! But in the meantime, here's a taste of what we've been doing. I'll pick our cruising tales up as we approach the Easter weekend.

We and fellow SIYC members George and Sue Stonecliffe aboard *Julia Max* had been cruising separately through Panama's western islands after transiting the Canal, and we planned to meet up in Golfito, Costa Rica. We'd been staying in touch via Sailmail and satellite phone. (Cell phone and wifi connectivity is almost completely unavailable in that area). George and Sue were a bit ahead of us and were giving us good reports on what they found and didn't find.

Easter weekend is, of course, a BIG DEAL in Panama as in many Latin American countries. We knew the government offices would be closed on Good Friday and through the weekend. What George and Sue found, and communicated to us by Sailmail, was that government offices actually close for the Easter weekend at noon on Thursday. So their efforts to get checked out of Panama, through the government offices in Puerto Armuelles, had failed. They were stuck there, and we were able to catch up to them.

Puerto Armuelles used to have a big banana export business, and their big and only dock (the "bananero") was used to load ships with bananas. But apparently the local banana crop became diseased, the business went away, and the bananero is following as fast as it can. It used to

Bananero Puerto Armuelles



be that cruising boats could tie their dinghy to the dock and climb a ladder to reach shore. But the last ladder blew away in a storm last month,



Left to right: George & Sue Stonecliffe and Craig & Barbara Johnston at Casa Bonita

sheet metal is hanging by a thread, and the dock is falling apart in so many other ways. The only way to get ashore is by doing a beach landing. George and Sue took their dinghy ashore that first morning, getting wet and sandy on both the landing and the re-launching. But it turns out that some of the local fishermen operate as water taxis on an unpredictable, ad hoc basis. They know the waters and the waves, so are able to get passengers to shore without a dunking. If you're lucky, they come by when you need them, or you have a phone number to call. If not, you might wait a long time!

The anchorage at Puerto Armuelles is an open roadstead, and when the south wind rises in the afternoon, there's a lot of rocking and rolling going on. Fortunately, at night the air is completely calm, so it's a pretty good overnight anchorage.

Some of the locals ride bikes or walk out to the end of the dilapidated dock and fish with hand lines while hanging out with friends from dawn to dusk. The fishermen anchor their little boats close to the dock and climb up ropes or parts of ladders pieced together with ropes. At one point on Sunday afternoon, a man walked out on the dock to near where we were anchored and shouted questions at us. It turned out he was the person in charge of the whole customs and immigration process, and he wanted to know whether we needed to check in or

## *S/V Sequoia* (continued)

check out, even though it was Easter Sunday and excessive fees are charged. I got the gist of it and assured him that Monday would be fine.

George and Sue had arranged transportation with one of the fishermen/water taxis for 9 am



Puerto Armuelles transport

Monday morning. Unexpectedly, the little boat arrived at 8:30, and it was a mad scramble to get our papers together and our heads screwed on straight. The beach landing was straightforward and we proceeded to the first office. There was a lot of waiting around, and then we visited at least four other offices in succession, including immigration, customs, health/quarantine and merchant marine. Some of the offices were in a very old building with high ceilings and cool interior temperatures. Others had icy air conditioning and were filled with government employees who had clean desks and seemingly nothing to do except look at the screens of their phones. The man who had accosted us from the bananero dock on Sunday was in charge of the whole process. He took us to each office in succession and helped with communications. We had heard some fairly negative things about clearing out in Puerto Armuelles, but that's not what we found. Only the anchorage and the need to use local transportation to get ashore should give other cruisers pause.

After clearing customs, *Julia Max* and *Sequoia* departed immediately for Costa Rica. A long peninsula juts southward and the border between Panama and Costa Rica runs down the spine of the peninsula. We headed south, rounded the tip of the peninsula and then anchored in a big, shallow bight (unnamed) just north of the tip. We had a terrible time getting the anchor to catch – instead it would just drag across what felt like a field of bowling balls. There wasn't much wind, and not much was predicted, so we finally just decided to accept a less than optimum hold.

We finally got an adequate set about a half mile away from *Julia Max*. George reported they had good holding with their anchor. We set the anchor alarm and hoped for the best.

The water motion was gentle throughout the evening, but at about midnight a giant wave struck. George reported that he felt a sudden wind, saw a large wave approaching, and then *Julia Max* was pitched up at a 45 degree angle. The wave washed over the boat, in through open ports and onto a berth and the cabin sole. It threw Sue across the cabin, putting a gash in her forehead.

*Sequoia* must have been at a different angle to the wave. We experienced extreme rolling, but

**“...we finally just decided to accept a less than optimum hold... we set the anchor alarm and hoped for the best.”**

no wave came over the boat. The giant wave came back every few minutes. We got up and re-stowed or cushioned things that were making a loud clatter. And fortunately, the anchor held.

It's a mystery what it was. After a few hours the waves stopped, and we were back to a calm night with just gentle rolls. Was it a tsunami? A rogue wave? We searched Google for any report of an earthquake that might have generated a tsunami. None found. We'll never know.

The next morning we continued north into Golfo Dulce and then into Golfito. It's a beautiful tropical bay, but beastly hot. Some days there is lightning in the hills and some days a heavy rain shower.

We're here in Golfito to await the arrival of the *MV Kraszewski*, which will load up *Sequoia* and *Julia Max* and deliver the two boats to Victoria, BC.

So, you may ask, why aren't we sailing *Sequoia* all the way home? We had intended to sail to Hawaii, and from Hawaii to Portland. But the more we thought about the 30-day passage between here and Hawaii, the less we wanted to do it. Going northwest along the Central American, Mexican, California and Oregon coasts is not really an option because there are almost always very strong winds blowing in the

## SIYC CRUISING REPORT

opposite direction for much of the trip. It's a bash that beats the stuffing out of sailors and their boats. It can be done but it doesn't meet our definition of fun (and this is supposed to be a fun trip). Additionally, we've been having serious issues with our only-two-years-old electronic instruments which we are not wanting to test against the Pacific Ocean.

Then, of course there is the attraction of spending the summer in the Pacific Northwest, something I don't need to explain to any of our SIYC friends.

After a few days in Golfito, Costa Rica, jumping through the necessary immigration hoops, we began the process of preparing Sequoia for shipping. We watched the messages from SevenStar Shipping, which have come on a nearly-daily basis, with a prediction of when we might expect the MV Kraszewski in Golfito. The date keeps slipping, so as of this writing they've changed the arrival of the ship to a window of the 17th-19th of May. They've also changed ships, and the new one (the Kraszewski) is evidently much bigger, much deeper draft, and the loading will take place 14 miles away from our marina. (Previously they were to load within a mile of where we are). The weather is slipping into the rainy season, and nearly every afternoon there is rain, sometimes heavy, and sometimes accompanied by several hours of thunder and lightning. We're wondering whether they will continue with loading in such weather, or whether that will occasion additional delays. And of course, we can't purchase our return flights to Portland until we know for sure that we really can leave on that date!

So we're living in a state of uncertainty, and, damn, the weather is unbearably hot! Most days the temperature climbs over 90°F and the humidity over 70%. We have begun to look forward to the rain, because it does have somewhat of a cooling effect. We try to do one strenuous boat chore at 6:00 or 6:30 am each day, before the sun hits the boat.

The best strategy to beat the heat has been to leave Golfito for a road trip. We first spent 4 nights in San Vito, 3000 feet up in the mountains, inland from Golfito and near the Panama border. We joined with George and Sue to rent an SUV and stayed in a bed & breakfast called Casa Botania. I can unreservedly say this is one of the best lodgings I've ever stayed

in. (Mountain Home Lodge in Leavenworth, WA would be a close second). It's almost a matter of a psychological vibe that suffuses the place. They've done a beautiful job of landscaping

with gorgeous tropical plants – many in bloom – wild ginger, Chinese ginger, palms of many sorts, bananas, “poor man's orchid” (not sure what that actually is, but very pretty), amaryllis, bougainvillea, bromeliad and so many more whose names are unknown to me. Lots of birds are attracted, most notably many hummingbirds and kites. George and Sue were in a constant state of excitement about all the birds (known to them, as longtime



Golfito egret

birders) they were seeing. A wonderful breakfast every morning including fresh eggs from hens in a forest enclosure on the property, lots of fresh fruit and amazing homemade bread. One evening we had a delicious Costa Rican/Belgian dinner (the proprietors, Pepe and Kathleen, are a Costa Rican/Belgian couple). Two other evenings we put together dinners from a San Vito grocery store, and the staff very kindly put out all the dishes and utensils we would need, together with a loaf of their homemade bread.



Rain in San Vito



Parakeets at Wilson Botanical Gardens

## SIYC CRUISING REPORT

From Casa Botania we made a couple of excursions to the Wilson Botanical Gardens, a 50+ year old enclosure with tropical plants from around the world and supporting research through a consortium of 52 different universities operating as the Organization for Tropical Studies. Needless to say there is a vast bird population attracted by the gardens.

We also visited a group of coffee farms and observed many aspects of their operations (although no harvest happens now and for the next several months). They sell most of their product to Illy, the Italian coffee company, but they do sell a small amount locally, and we bought a couple of bags to take home. At the end of the tour we participated in a tasting, being invited to comment on “acidity, fruitiness, body, balance...” and some other characteristics that I can’t remember and couldn’t really understand. It was quite an experience. (See George & Sue’s blog post about the coffee plantation here: <https://www.sailblogs.com/member/juliamax/462347>)

We were back to the boat for 48 hours, while George and Sue took the car to another mountainous area. It was again beastly hot in Golfito, and we took off on Tuesday for what we believed was a beach resort with air conditioning.

When we got to the place, though, it was a right turn off the road (away from the ocean) and about a mile up a steep, rutted grade. Never mind, this resort is also a lovely place, with Toucans and Fiery Billed



Fiery bill Aracari at Villas Alturas

Aricaras in frequent close-up view, a swimming pool, beautiful view, lower temperatures than the beach, and an adjacent wildlife sanctuary. Although the vibe doesn’t quite live up to the Casa Botania, I can also heartily recommend this place. We found it to be cool enough that we didn’t need the air conditioning. One afternoon I had a massage out on the deck of our “villa”. There is really nothing more relaxing than a massage to the sound of rain and frogs and birds in a pleasantly warm climate.

Well, today it’s back to Golfito to launch in on further necessary preparations. I won’t write about those in this post, so that we can retain the lovely relaxed feeling of these two beautiful retreats.

Craig & Barbara Johnston  
SV *Sequoia*

*Sequoia and Julia Max* Golfito sunset

