



P.O. Box 2524, Portland, OR 97208-2524 [www.siyc.org](http://www.siyc.org) No. 413, January, 2022

**SIYC OFFICERS '21-'22**

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Secretary  
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Tim Hryciw

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**Membership Committee**  
Ray McCracken

Newsletter  
Barbara Johnston: [newsletter@siyc.org](mailto:newsletter@siyc.org)

Website  
Jay Kerr

**Monthly Membership Meeting**

January 7, 7:30 pm via Zoom

Speakers:

Sarah Laidlaw and Rob Martin  
"We Are Not Sailors: What we  
learned in our 1st year of cruising"



 **Portland  
Boat Show®**  


January 12-16

See the show!

Sign up for the SIYC Booth!

Full details next page

This month's cruising reports  
start on page 11.

## **Comments from the Commodore**



Happy New Year to all of you and your loved ones! We wish for your dreams to come true this year!

Our January member Zoom meeting speakers are members Rob Martin and Sarah Laidlaw (sv Mapache) from Mexico. We have continued to enjoy their cruising letters in past SIYC Newsletters. It will be great to catch up with their current activities and plans.

In addition, our January membership drive is upon us. Traditionally, the SIYC booth at this boat show has been a good source for prospective new club members, ensuring the future of the club. Please have a look at the following article and sign up to participate!

George Stonecliffe – SIYC Commodore

### **Portland Boat Show 2022** **January 12-16**

Coming up soon, the Portland Boat Show is the first sign of spring for the boating community. Here's your chance to have a look at new boating products, destinations and possibly save some money on "boat show specials".

As in the past, we will have an SIYC booth at the Portland Boat Show from January 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>. Members are encouraged to sign up for two-hour time slots for working the booth. If you

have photos of your boating activity, computer slide shows on your computer, or other information that you could share with people coming by the booth, we would encourage you to bring it with you.

Sign up by getting in touch with George Stonecliffe by email or telephone.

Focus first on Friday night, Saturday and Sunday as these times will have the most foot traffic past our booth. Thank you for your volunteering!!

Sign-up slots include: Wednesday, Jan 12: 11am-8pm; Thursday, Jan 13: 11am-8pm; Friday, Jan 14: 11am-8pm; Sat, Jan 15: 10am-8pm; Sun, Jan 16: 10-6pm (all are 2-hour time slots)

## **Seattle Boat Show 2022**

**February 4-12, 11:00 am - 6:00 pm.**

[The Seattle Boat Show, Indoors + Afloat](#), is the West Coast's Largest Boat Show. Vendor booths always make this show a beneficial start to a new year of boating. Talking to resources for sail makers, electronics, lighting, watermakers, dinghies, outboards, winches, and so forth help answer those important boating questions. Speaker presentations feed the dreams for regional and world travel as well.

Location is at the Lumen Field Event Center.

### **New members**

**Adrienne Palmer and Peter Petrik**  
**S/V Amazing Grace**

From time to time we like to feature articles about new SIYC members so you can get to know them a bit. Adrienne and Peter were inducted into the Club at the Halloween cruise.

### About Peter



Born and raised in a landlocked country, the Black Sea and waves were a luxury experienced only a handful of times throughout my upbringing. Yet, I've always been attracted by bodies of water. I enjoy swimming and being immersed, but I'm completely at peace being on the water. Combine that with the physics of

sailing, add on board systems - electrical, mechanical, plumbing - and the self-reliant, self-sustaining, off-grid attraction is complete.

### About Adrienne

I've always been at peace around water. The ocean soothes my soul. While I grew up in Florida, I only discovered sailing in my later adult life. Sailing, for me, is an activity and lifestyle full of constant learning and growth. It is challenge and grit. It is self-reliance. It is adventure and connection to nature. Sailing is a journey and an instigator of personal growth. And... there is nothing like the feeling of being propelled forward by only the wind, and the distance you can travel in harmony with nature.

### About Corina



I've been indoors from about 6 months of age when I chose my dad at the local shelter, until 12 years old. In Spring 2021, it was time to put on my brave adventurous personality and explore! This new home is much smaller compared to the land-based house, but it's cozy and I get to have my personal crew within a few steps every day. Makes it easier to communicate my requests for food or attention,

and I get to properly supervise the many activities aboard. We seem to be in the same house each day, though some days the floors aren't very stable. Often though we change the external scenery and I get to experience new smells, look at new views, and interact with other furry creatures. I take my newfound Admiral rank seriously.

### How and when did we start sailing?



When we met in 2014, Peter had some sailing experience on a friend's boat (a Hunter 45), and felt drawn to it, but his experience was limited and always as the "guest". Adrienne's sailing experience consisted of being lucky enough to receive a couple of invitations aboard friends' charters that included sipping champagne on the bow and having no idea what all the ropes and cables were about! We both had a lot to learn!

Peter had a gifted Chrysler Man-o-War dinghy (similar to a Sunfish) in his garage that he had never splashed. When we moved in together we needed a place to put the dinghy, so we joined the local Dallas sailing (racing) club and learned

together. We've been racing Flying Scots at that club ever since, and somewhere along the way decided that we want live-aboard sailing to be a part of our future together.

### Our Experience Aboard Amazing Grace

In Spring 2019 we bought Amazing Grace, a 1987 Southerly 115. Grace was in Portland when we found her, so that became our second home! She is 11.5 meters (37 feet) in length, center cockpit, aft stateroom, with a swing keel that can adjust draft from 6' 8" to 2' 3".

We were traveling on business internationally about half the time when we first bought the boat. We hoped to find enough time to spend aboard in our "floating vacation cottage". Then COVID happened. All travel got cancelled and we, like everyone, stayed home. After 6 months of hunkering down, we were getting restless.

In September 2020, we loaded up the car and headed west. Since that trip, we have spent more days aboard Grace than not, and with everything in the world converted to virtual, we can live aboard as much as we like. We have our Wi-Fi hotspot and "work from home" became "work from anywhere". We keep up with our work, engage with our communities, and we stay connected with old friends (although that part gets hard sometimes) while meeting new ones.

Since September 2020, we have sailed all of the Columbia River's navigable waters, from the Pacific Ocean (Cape Disappointment and Ilwaco) to the Tri-Cities (Kennewick, Pasco, and Richland). We also explored the navigable Snake River all the way to Lewiston, Idaho. We've soaked in the many varied landscapes, experienced intense wind conditions and currents, navigated the locks of the 8 dams along the rivers, explored the many towns and parks, and found some of the most peaceful anchorages along the way. We've been aboard in the icy cold winters, and in the 108-degree heat waves of summer.

It has proven to be great learning waters for our sailing skills, with the ocean-going marine traffic, tight maneuvering, wide variety of docking situations, strong reversing currents, and some dramatic tidal changes. We've also maintained, refurbished, or replaced many systems on the boat, and had our fair share of sweaty days in the boatyard.

We'll soon be ready to take on the open ocean and continue our exploration to our next sailing destinations! We plan to head to the Puget Sound in Summer 2022 and who knows where we will go from there.



## Joining SIYC

We are excited to be members of SIYC - a community of experienced cruisers where we can learn and share stories. We've enjoyed getting to know some of the members, and look forward to meeting more of you, hearing about your adventures, and learning from your wisdom! We'll be sharing our experience from our trip upstream to Idaho during our

presentation at the February 2022 SIYC meeting (Feb 4).

## Meeting Minutes



The only club business for December was transacted at the SIYC Christmas party on December 4, 2021. Here are our secretary, Debbie Khoja's notes from that meeting:

Gene Johnson was formally inducted as an SIYC member. He paid \$25 for 2021-22 dues and \$50 initiation fees. He received a reciprocal card and SIYC Burgee. He still needs name tags and a roster booklet. He also needs to complete an SIYC application form.

The group donated to the Oregon Food Bank in three different ways: (1) Cans and packages of food (2) Members' personal cash donations totalling \$320 and (3) A \$250 donation from the Club. Thanks to Dave Mery, who transported all these items to the Food Bank. (The individual canned and packaged items actually ended up at the Sunshine Division; the Food Bank had a restriction on accepting such donations during the Covid pandemic.)

Christmas Party Attendees: Gene Johnson, Barbara & Craig Johnston, George & Sue Stonecliffe, Cheryl & Tim, Hryciw, Dawn & Bill Schuldt, Dave & Penny Mery, Garry Weber, Anita Melbo & Richard Sandefur, Pierre & Marie Blouin, Debbie Khoja & Cliff Tannas.



## **Webinars of Note**

From time to time, winter webinars sponsored by other sailing organizations come to the attention of your newsletter editor, or other members of the club's leadership. We present two of those here.

The first is from the [Salty Dawg Sailing Association](#), based on the East Coast, and focused on sailing along that coast and cruising in the Caribbean. Nevertheless, many of the topics can be of interest to boaters everywhere: equipment, insurance, weather, safety at sea and medical care, to name just a few.

The second set of webinars is from the [Ocean Cruising Club](#), based in the south of the UK, but comprised of more than 3000 members from 86 countries around the globe. Not surprisingly, their webinars focus on global voyaging, including arctic latitudes and long passages, as well as the other issues mentioned above in connection with the Salty Dawg organization.

Salty Dawg webinars are free for members, and for others \$10 per webinar, or \$25 for an entire series; OCC webinars are free to members and non-members alike.

Salty Dawg webinars are live on the indicated date, and available for streaming after that; OCC webinars (also called "Lockdown lectures") were recorded during 2021 and are available from the club's [website](#).

### **Salty Dawg Webinars**

#### **January 2022**

- [Enroll in the entire January series](#)
- [January 7 - 2021 Caribbean Rally Weather Recap and possible future forecast trends with Chris Parker, MWXC](#)

- [January 11 - What to Look for in an Offshore Cruising Boat with Behan and Jamie Gifford, Sailing Totem](#)
- [January 13 - Cats Big and Small - Getting the Most from your Cat Offshore with Gino Morrelli, Morrelli Melvin Design & Engineering, Inc.](#)
- [January 18 - Sails - Your Boat's Engine with Dave Flynn, Quantum Sails](#)
- [January 20 - So You Want to Buy a Boat with Josh McLean, David Walters Yachts](#)
- [January 25 - Boat Insurance with Morgan Wells, Jack Martin Insurance](#)
- [January 27 - Ask the Experts: Open discussion with several of January's presenters](#)

#### **February 2022**

- [Enroll in the entire February series](#)
- [February 1, 2022 - A Look at the 2022 Homeward Bound Rally with Bob Osborn, Allen Roberts](#)
- [February 3, 2022 - Communications Between Ships and Us with USCG Aux/Hampton, VA SDSA Shoreside Coordinators and Emergency Response Team](#)
- [February 8, 2022 - Sat Comm at Sea with Ron Wright, Oceans, Inc.](#)
- [February 10, 2022 - Weather Routing - Tools and Techniques with Nick Olson, PredictWind](#)
- [February 15, 2022 - Lifejackets, EPIRBs, AIS and PLBs with Brian Flowers, LRSE](#)
- [February 17, 2022 - Slowing down - para anchors and drogues with Zach Smith, Fiorentino ParaAnchor](#)
- [February 22, 2022 - Power Management - latest updates on power sources, charging options and sizing with Lance Vickery, Victron Energy Canada/USA](#)
- [February 24, 2022 - Ask the Experts: Open discussion with several of February's presenters](#)

## [Ocean Cruising Club Webinars](#)

Traditional Boat Building from around the World

Ocean Science

Tasmania

Isles of Scilly

An Atlantic Circuit

Cooya's Circumnavigation

Building a replica of the James Caird

Sailing, Cycling and Climbing in the Canary Islands

Marine Pollution and Microplastics

Alaska

Single handing across the Atlantic in Covid Times

A voyage to Patagonia

Scotland to Northern Norway via the Faroe Islands

Hurricane Preparation and Avoidance

St. Petersburg to Tromsø via the White Sea

A passage from Europe to New Zealand

Do two "wrongs" make a right?  
(Geoengineering is the deliberate large-scale intervention in the Earth's natural systems to counteract climate change.)

Sailing, Ski Touring and Rock Climbing in the Lofoten Islands

Storms, Pirates and Unicorns – Stories from a Voyaging Life

Scottish Hebrides and St. Kilda

Sailing and Climbing in Greenland with the Wild Bunch

Indonesia

South Georgia

Sailing in the Arctic

"Travels with Tilman" (A high latitude voyage).

Nordic Odyssey (An account of a 5000 km circumnavigation of Norway by sail and ski in a 19ft open Cornish shrimper.)

Family Cruising in High Latitudes and During Covid-19

Figure of Eight (A continuous circumnavigation of the Antarctic and the Americas via the Northwest Passage).

Bahamas

Marquesas and Tuamotus

Cruising in Japan

Chilean Canals

Svalbard

A circumnavigation of New Zealand

High and Dry in Antarctica

## SIYC Cruising Boats

Boat Name	Owners' Names	Location
<i>Mapache</i>	Rob Martin & Sarah Laidlaw	Mazatlan, Mexico
<i>Pied-A-Mer III</i>	Eric & Pam Sellix	Alanya, Turkey
<i>Catspaw</i>	Rick & Cynthia Woldridge	Mazatlan, Mexico
<i>No Regrets</i>	Bruce & Lynette Bayne	Puerto Vallarta, Mexico
<i>CarolMarie</i>	Terry & Charing O'Shea	Honolulu
<i>Kaaluna</i>	Chris & Kim Taylor	Puerto Peñasco, Mexico



SIYC members at Puerto Peñasco, Mexico. L to R, Kim & Chris Taylor (S/V Kaaluna), Cynthia and Rick Woldridge (S/V Catspaw), Sarah Laidlaw and Rob Martin (S/V Mapache).

## 2021 -22 Calendar

GENERAL MEETINGS*		BOARD MEETINGS		CRUISES**	
Date/ theme	Location	Date	Location	Dates	Where/ theme
January 7	Zoom	January 4	Zoom		
February 4	TBD*	February 3		Feb 11-13	Coon Island, Valentine's Day Cruise
March 4	TBD*	March 3		March 11-13	Anchoring Cruise, TBD
April 1	TBD*	March 31		April 22-24	Navigation Cruise, TBD
May 6 – Annual mtg, dessert potluck	TBD*	May 5		May 14-15	Annual Race/Drift Cruise, Sand Island, St. Helens
June 4 Annual Picnic	TBD	June 2			

### Notes:

**\*General meetings:** All meetings begin at 7:30 pm, except as noted. We have traditionally met at Sauvie Island School. But for the first meetings of this year, we'll be meeting by Zoom. We don't yet know whether the school will be allowing us to meet there this year at all. So, the meeting may be held in another location and/or we may continue to use Zoom. (There is some consideration of using Zoom even when most of us meet in person, so that members who are out of the area or are cruising may be able to join us virtually).

**\*\*Cruises:** These dates and locations for cruises have been reserved for us with the Columbia River Yachting Association. A host will be announced for each cruise. If unable to attend by boat, you are invited to attend by car if the dock is accessible.

## Member Boat Websites

Amazing Grace	<a href="https://sailingamazinggrace.com/">https://sailingamazinggrace.com/</a>
By His Grace	<a href="http://www.sailblogs.com/member/byhisgrace/">http://www.sailblogs.com/member/byhisgrace/</a>
Julia Max	<a href="http://www.sailblogs.com/member/juliamax/">http://www.sailblogs.com/member/juliamax/</a>
Ma Makani	<a href="http://boatzo.com/sailingourdreams/">http://boatzo.com/sailingourdreams/</a>
Moonshadow	<a href="http://www.voyagemoonshadow.blogspot.com/">http://www.voyagemoonshadow.blogspot.com/</a>
Mapache	<a href="https://leakylittleboat.com/">https://leakylittleboat.com/</a>
Pied-a-Mer III	<a href="http://www.sailblogs.com/member/sesesail/">http://www.sailblogs.com/member/sesesail/</a>
Rowena	<a href="http://www.svrowena.com/">http://www.svrowena.com/</a>
Sequoia	<a href="https://www.sailblogs.com/member/svsequoia/">https://www.sailblogs.com/member/svsequoia/</a>

SIYC members: Do you have an active website or blog for your boat that isn't listed above? If so, please get the information to your trusty editor, Barbara Johnston, [newsletter@siyc.org](mailto:newsletter@siyc.org), 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.siyg.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, not to mention back issues of this newsletter.

<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.

<https://48north.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.

<https://www.noonsite.com/place/canada/formalities/#biosecurity-section>  
If you're cruising to Canada and want to know all the border crossing regulations during this time of pandemic, this website may have the best summary and multiple links.

<https://parks.state.wa.us/648/Moorage>  
Information about regulations and mooring permits required for **Washington State Parks** along the Columbia River and elsewhere.



Sint Maarten, Eastern Caribbean

## **CRUISING REPORTS**

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*This month we hear about Christmas celebrations. Pam and Eric (S/V Pied-a-Mer III) tell us about celebrating Christmas with Turkish and Canadian friends aboard in Alanya, Turkey. Kim and Chris (S/V Kaaluna) share some seasonal moments of joy from the Puerto Peñasco boatyard at the north end of the Sea of Cortez in Mexico. And finally, Sarah and Rob (S/V Mapache) share the experiences of a Christmas Eve night passage to Mazatlán, Mexico. (Rob and Sarah will be the speakers at our January membership meeting on January 7. Don't miss it!)*

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

December has been a month of changes, changes for Turkey, Covid and Pied-a-Mer.

Turkey is in an economic crisis. On December 16 the Turkish Lira plunged as much as 5.6% to a record low against the dollar. Price increases are being seen across the board—food, utilities, petrol etc. The other day we were talking to a local woman who said she had seen 4 price increases within a week on the same



item. To compensate for the currency crash, Turkish President Erdogan has announced a 50% increase in the minimum wage for 2022. This brings minimum wage to \$4,250 TL which at this writing converts to \$359.12 USD/ month. This is a

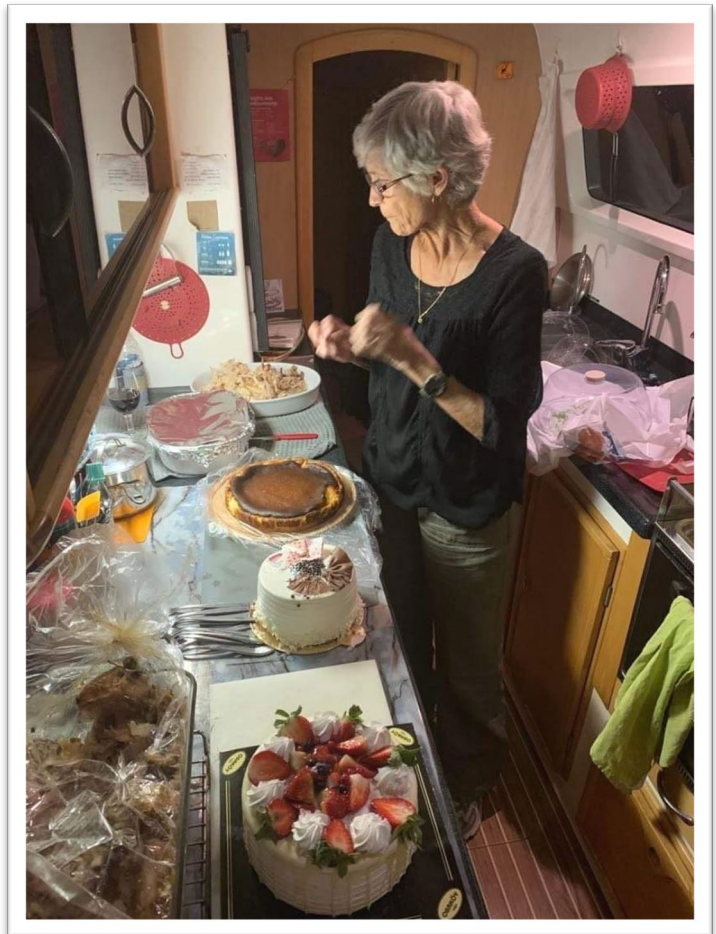
very challenging time for the 40% of the 84 million people in Turkey that are minimum wage earners.

This morning at the Bazar (open air produce market) the vendor that I was buying strawberries from apologized for the price increase from last week—the increase brought the kilo of beautiful berries up to 40TL (\$3.37 USD).

The Omicron variant is bringing worldwide another round of restrictions, country closures, overcrowded hospitals with overworked staff. Supposedly there have been only 6 cases of the new variant identified so far in Turkey but with the New Year celebrations approaching that will undoubtedly increase. Both Eric and I have had 2 Sinovac, 2 BioNTech and will have another BioNTech booster in January.

We have decided not to sail to the UK. Due to potential weather issues, taking the boat to England would add another year to our return to the Western Hemisphere. This coupled with severe Covid in England and potential country closures on the way to the UK, we have decided to fly during the summer, Covid willing. This will give us two extra months in the UK and hopefully a trip back to the US. This also gives us several extra months to bring in equipment, which has become difficult. Worldwide supply lines for parts for people to make equipment has almost completely halted. So we will renew our resident visa and be here through the winter into spring.

We had a festive Christmas with a Christmas Eve buffet at the marina, wonderful Turkish food. On Christmas we had three Canadian and two Turkish guests for Christmas dinner. We enjoyed roast turkey/dressing & gravy (the turkey



Look at all those Christmas desserts!

had been specially ordered), scalloped potatoes, maple glazed carrots, broccoli salad, Christmas green salad, fresh bread from the neighborhood bakers. Diane on SV Joana had visited Canada this spring and brought back cranberry sauce—a treat as there are no fresh cranberries here. Our Turkish guests brought beautifully decorated cakes, are a specialty here in Alanya.

I made my Secret Santa Gift, pictured here. It is a button bouquet from my “onboard button collection” in an Oregon myrtle wood vase. Myrtle wood was new to everyone. It was fun to share a piece of Oregon with Canadians and Turks.

Happy New Year! May 2022 bring health, happiness, and good sailing.

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

*From Chris & Kim Taylor, S/V Kaaluna*

## December 19

Well, I've let time get away from me once again. Sorry about the lack of updates, been wrapped up in life, a new place, boat work, meeting new friends, saying goodbye (hopefully temporarily) to new friends, adopting (for the duration) a couple of adorable guard dogs, domestic duties, more boat work, learning Spanish, etc., etc., etc.





We arrived here in Puerto Peñasco in early November. We got the boat moved to the work yard, next to the trailer (how convenient!) after a week or so and started in. Then we promptly headed to Yuma, Arizona for Thanksgiving with friends. Had a wonderful time! For me, heaven is having a big kitchen to play in with two adorable (and very attentive) black labs to spoil.

Then we came back to Peñasco for boat work and life. Almost every day we have watched new and old friends launch their boats and head out to sail. Our time will come. Today we will finish with the rigging and hank on the sails and then saunter down the road for tacos for dinner.

Happy early solstice everyone! I'll try to be better about updating.

## December 21

The last couple of days have been busy and fun. We've gotten the sails on and rigged; we've cleared a path through the boat. It is possible to conceive of a time when we can comfortably move back aboard.

Sunday night we got to watch Puerto Peñasco's version of the Christmas Ships. We had been



feeling rather boo boo faced over missing the annual celebration, but Sunday night helped.



Today was an epic shopping trip. I tried to stock up with enough groceries to get us through, or close to New Years. Not sure how much will be open between Christmas and New Years. Now I will start baking some cookies. Not on the scale of days of yore, but it isn't Christmas without cookies.

Tonight, we BBQ and have a fire pit to celebrate the solstice.

Joyeux Noel my friends! May this day bring you peace and light.

Chris & Kim Taylor, S/V Kaaluna

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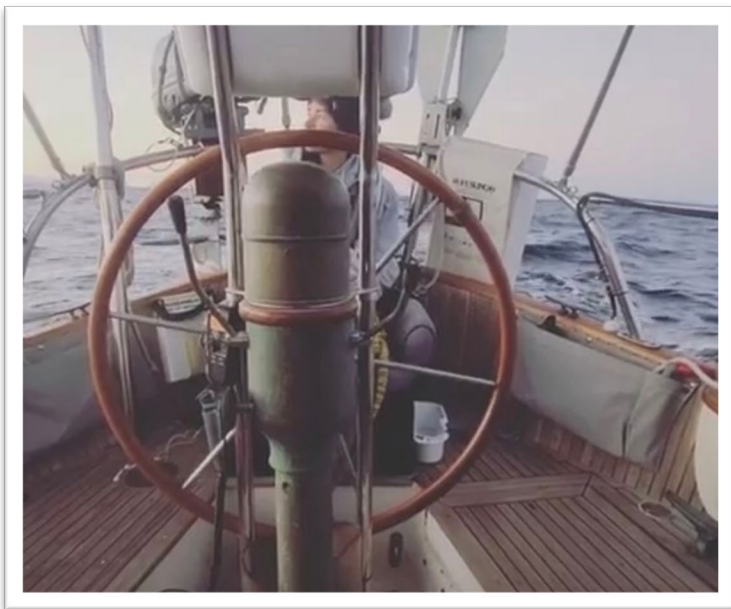
*From Sarah Laidlaw and Rob Martin – S/V Mapache*

## **Night Watch**

On December 23, we left the Baja coast and the Sea of Cortés for the final time. We crossed 238 miles of ocean to the Pacific coast of mainland Mexico. The trip took almost 38 hours, and we arrived just before midnight on December 24 in Mazatlán. Our friends, wearing Christmas hats, welcomed us by catching our dock lines and handing us beers.



## **Ocean Crossing at Night**



For overnight passages, we keep a watch schedule, allowing us to take turns sleeping. Rob prefers the evening and early-morning shifts, while I prefer the middle of the night. The ocean is different at night. It is both quieter and louder. It is lonelier but also more familiar. And, while usually peaceful, it always seems on the edge of releasing something terrifying.

This most recent night watch (December 23-24) was comfortable and sparkly. The water formed gently rolling hills, and the breeze pushed us (with the help of the motor) at 7 knots per hour (a brisk pace for our boat). After Rob retired to the settee (couch) inside of the boat at 1 a.m., I listened to a book from the captain's chair, keeping an eye on our radar screen for unexpected boats crossing our path, and occasionally standing up for a

direct look around. Those looks were futile, because the moon had set, making it nearly impossible to tell where the dark sky stopped and the black ocean began, let alone whether any pangas, longlines, or stray crab-traps lay in wait to interrupt our trip. But that same darkness allowed more stars to shine. The sky was filled with bright pinholes, and I watched several asteroids splash across the sky, while bright blue-white bioluminescence spiraled across the water as the boat stayed her course.

Sounds are much louder at night and the thud of the water hitting the hull was distinct, like a bass drum in a marching band. My tether's carabiner clanked against its attachment when I shifted my weight. And a pitch change in the motor's drone caused an immediate Pavlovian reaction, as I recalled our engine struggles over the past year. But the pitch change this trip was merely the alternator turning on to recharge the boat's batteries.

## Night Visitors



I thought about our last overnight passage from the Baja coast to mainland Mexico (that time, to Puerto Peñasco). On that trip, I started my first night watch at sunset. During that first shift, our radar screen showed a large blob eight miles ahead of us. The strange thing was the blob's size—it was 30 times the size of our friends' 38-foot boat, which the radar screen reassuringly showed three miles to our port (left). No land masses existed in front of us for 60

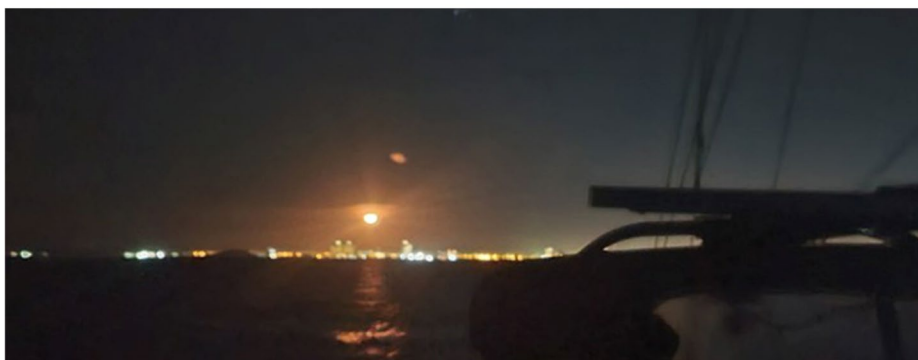
miles. I assumed the radar was faulty, possibly seeing a reflection from the water in the humid air, or a group of boats fishing close together. Still, I redirected our course to avoid the blob. Rob took over at the helm at 10 p.m. His shift brought us past the mystery location. The redirected course allowed our boat to pass half of a mile from the blob. As the boat passed, a massive glow of bioluminescence quickly rose from the depths underneath the boat. Rob braced for a collision with a whale, but nothing happened. Then he saw 10 other large glowing lights under the water. They all disappeared along with the blob on the radar screen. The image

that had maintained at a location for two hours completely disappeared from the screen as if it had never existed.

I took over for my second shift at 1 a.m. Rob described the glowing encounters before retiring to bed. I kept a pensive watch, half hoping I would see the large glows and maybe that they were giant Humboldt squid (which live in the area), and half hoping I would not. Then, streaks of bioluminescence shot through the water, like underwater missiles around us. Dolphins! I recognized the sound of their splash as they leapt around the boat. I whistled at them, and they responded with more leaps. On the lonely nightshifts, the sight and sound of dolphins are a welcome comfort. It feels as if they are looking out for us in the darkness, reassuring that we are going the right way and that no obstructions are in our path. The dolphins disappeared, leaving a trail of green glow behind. The air was heavy and sticky, it smelled warm almost like a campfire without the smoke. Just as with the most recent passage's night watch, Mapache and I floated along through space, with the stars above and bioluminescence below blending into one sparkling blackness.

## **New Day, New Year**

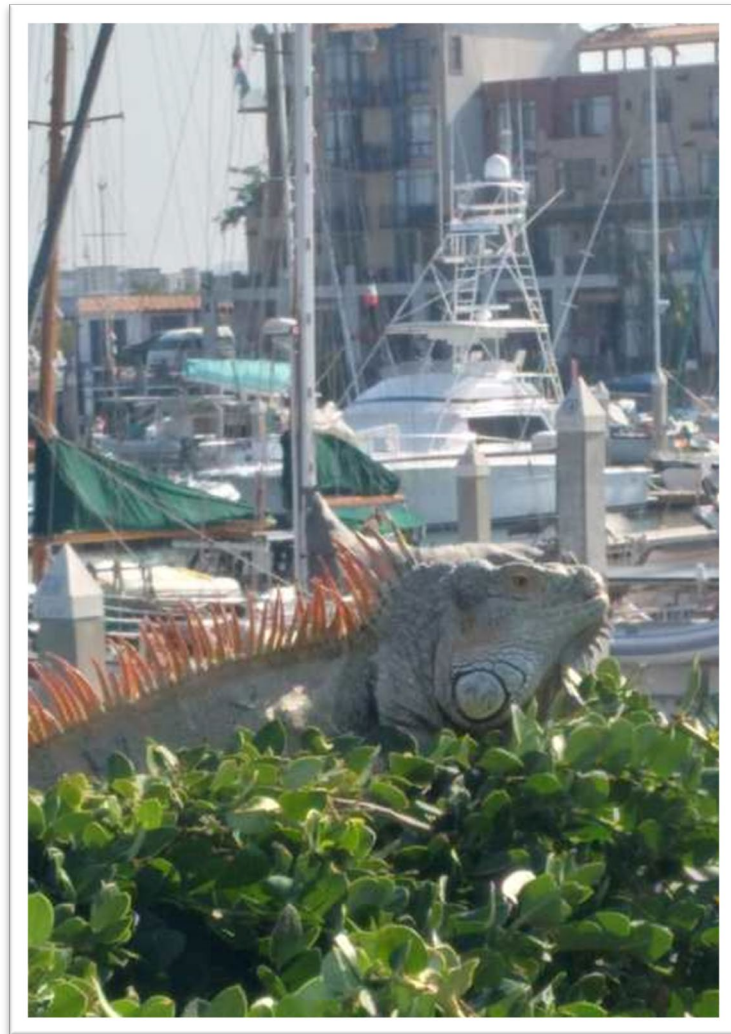
I always know that my night shift is nearing its end when I see the sky on the horizon softening. It starts an hour before dawn, and it looks like an eraser is smoothing and lightening the ocean, spreading from a single point on the horizon to circle the entire thing, and leaving stars and the dark sky in only the center, directly above me. The approaching sunrise burns orange into the horizon and the water changes from black to a silvery blue, like the body of a Bonita fish, which thrive in this Sea of Cortés. I hum the song that, as a kid, my dad would wake me with—



**Approaching Mazatlan on Christmas Eve**

“Here Comes the Sun.” Then, Rob walks up the companionway to take over, and I take a morning nap.

Now, after a week at a marina that is joined to a resort, where we have all the pool,



An iguana, sunning itself, in Mazatlan.

buffet, and spa amenities, it seems appropriate that it is a new year. We have had a relaxing (and luxurious) reset here. And this is the starting point for the next portion of our adventure—exploring the Pacific coast of Central America, as we track toward the Panama Canal. The trees, weather, animals, and food are already markedly different from our Baja experience. It’s tropical here. There are palm trees instead of cacti; humidity instead of the blow-dryer heat; slow green iguanas and soaring frigate birds instead of small sand-surfing lizards and stalking buzzards. The streets and plazas are lined with colorful colonial buildings and filled with vendors and people in search of those vendors’ wares and food. There is an energized pace here, as compared to the laid-back Baja vibes we enjoyed last year.

We loved Baja, but we are ready to experience this new part of the world, and we will do our best to bring you along in the boat log. Salud to 2022!

Rob & Sarah – S/V Mapache – [www.leakylittleboat.com](http://www.leakylittleboat.com)

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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.*

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SIYC Boats at a New Year's cruise to Coon Island, January 2017

## **Newsletter Contributions**

*Would you like to contribute to SIYC's monthly newsletter? Perhaps you have a cruising story you'd like to share. Technical information about sailing or systems? Your favorite recipe or picture? SIYC members are awaiting your input!*

*Send your contributions to Barbara Johnston, [newsletter@siyc.org](mailto:newsletter@siyc.org). We publish every month except July and August, a few days before the monthly membership meeting. The deadline for submissions is the 25<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.*

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