

Brownsville Yacht Club's

# Nautical Lines

August 2020

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(360) 447-8715 - <http://www.brownsvilleyachtclub.org>

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## Summer Vacation! No August Meeting!



BVYC's social calendar is temporarily suspended due to Covid-19 restrictions. Please check your email for updates.



## Commodore's Report

Midsummer Greetings,

During a normal August, members would be cruising the waters of the Puget Sound and enjoying the best places to be out on a vessel. Hopefully many of you are still getting out and about albeit with fewer choices for destinations. Sometimes an outing for us is just going to the marina for a dockside refreshment and a look at the water. The only normal part of August 2020 is that we do not have a general meeting since most folks take advantage of the shank of the summer to go cruising. This year is a different theme, but still no general meeting.

The Executive Board will meet this month for general business as well as discussion of topics concerning reciprocals, elections, and any other issues the members may wish to submit for consideration. Please feel free to contact any of the EXB members.

While doing projects and expanding our to do lists during these uncertain times, we stay busy but miss our family and our great family of friends. I'm not sure what "normal" will look like when this

shakes out, but business as usual would be a welcome relief. We may have to come up with some creative ideas for gatherings in the future.

Please submit your summer activity photos or share stories for a segment we will be adding to our web site category “What I Did During the Summer of 2020”. Of course there will be some kind of prize and bragging rights.

Thanks to all of you who renewed your membership to Brownsville Yacht Club. Your support is greatly appreciated. My best wishes to all of you for your health and well being. Take care of yourselves until we can share our stories in person.

Cordially,

☆☆☆ Charlene Holmes, Commodore, M/V *Miss Marlene*

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## Vice Commodore's Report

Hello Everyone,

The long and beautiful days of Summer are finally here! I hope you all can enjoy some time on the water, enjoying the sun and smooth seas. I am looking forward to seeing you all again when safe.

Get out there and enjoy all that we do have, wave when you go by.

☆☆ Jim Holmes, Vice Commodore, M/V *Miss Marlene*

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## Rear Commodore's Report

Looking forward to hearing from Laurie next month.

☆ Laurie Irvin, Rear Commodore, M/V *Emerald Isle*



## Fleet Report

The cruise committee was informed that Olympia cancelled the cruise due to Covid restrictions, so the fleet committee cancelled the Labor Day Weekend cruise. Sorry about that folks.

 Travis Carpenter, Fleet Committee, M/V *Alegria*



!?!?!?



## Duckless in Seattle Or “I Can’t See the Front of the Boat!”



*from the desk of*  
**Senior Staff Writer J.R.**

Well, the bad news is we didn't win a Duck boat. The good news is we didn't win a Duck boat. Not sure how good an idea that really was. Though I was looking forward to putting a tent on it and using it as a camper. Would look pretty cool floating on a buoy at Illahee!

Ok. Now on to the topic at hand: [NAVIGATING IN THE FOG](#). I don't go out intentionally in the fog, but sometimes you look around and there it is. So how does one mitigate the risks associated with operating in reduced visibility?

A couple years ago we were heading over to Everett. We were halfway across the Sound when I looked at my radar; the display looked like a Lunar eclipse ending. The whole bottom was greened out and starting to slowly green out the complete screen. I looked behind us and saw an incredible squall downpour. Within a few minutes the screen was completely blanked out. The wind was shoving us sideways and we could barely see the front of the boat.

As I looked at the knobs and buttons on the radar control I thought... "Whatever do those buttons and knobs do?" Anticlutler, interference rejection, etc. I really had no idea what they did.

Life lessons #1. Learn what the buttons and knobs do BEFORE you need them!! Be familiar with your equipment. I normally run the radar during the day so I can correlate what I see outside with what the radar shows. It helps for when you are relying on the radar to have an idea of what a mile looks like on it and what a mile looks like through the window. When we got to our destination I saw a newspaper from the day before that said they expected thunderstorms of Biblical proportions... if I had seen that we would not have left that day.

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## WHO IS OUT THERE???

There are some other tools out there that can help should you be socked in. Listen to Vessel Traffic Services VTS on ch 14. You can hear when ferries are leaving so you have that data point. If you are crossing over, go ahead and check in with them. They are very helpful. It's what they do.

An example might be: "Traffic, this is the yacht *Sea Hound*. I'm eastbound from Blakely Rock at 7 knots for Elliot Bay Marina. Do you have any traffic for me?"

Their response will either be: "*Sea Hound*, Traffic. I have no traffic of concern for you. Please let us know when you are at your destination." Or, they may come back with: "*Sea Hound*, Traffic. I have the bulk carrier *Toys Are Us* at Alki Point headed for sea at 20 kts."

So I know that there is a large merchant doing 20 kts that is in my general area. Good to know.

Automatic information system (AIS) is a ship/land based VHF system. In a nutshell, it's a tracking system that you can put on your boat that sends out your position, speed, boat name and course to AIS receivers. So they would see on their chart plotter an icon where you are. It can help you with your contact management. It can be helpful knowing that before you commit to going through Rich Passage if you know the *Kalakala* is on its way to Bremerton!

You can have a receiver which will show other boats that are transmitting AIS. If you don't have an AIS receiver, leverage the power of your smart phone. There is an application called "Marine Traffic." It will show vessels with AIS transmitters from all over the globe. They have thousands of land-based receivers they use to construct a global picture. Look it up on your confuser. Kind of fun to zoom in on the Panama Canal and see all the dots milling about smartly then lining up like ducks to get through the ditch!

And since we are talking about leveraging technology... WEBCAMS. You are getting ready to leave Brownsville; the fog is just starting to lift. But you want to know what's around the corner of University Point. Is it also lifting? Use the many webcams around here on the water to help with your ISR. There is an Illahee community webcam down on the water pointed southeast. You could look at it and see if you are clear to Rich Passage. If your destination is on the other side, go to the Space Needle webcam. Gives you a very good view up and down the Sound. Ferry loading dock webcams, while they don't show the water, you can at least get a sense of what the visibility is by the water.

Ok, hope this was helpful. See you out there!



## This Summer, EPA Isn't Making It Any Easier for Boaters to Choose the Right Fuel for their Boats

**Harris Poll: Only 22% of consumers know that 'regular 88' fuel has more engine-harming ethanol than 87 octane fuel**

*Photo Caption: E15 gasoline is illegal for use in boats, many other vehicles, and power equipment. Can you spot any effective warning label indicating the increased 15% ethanol content in the "regular 88" fuel? (credit: National Marine Manufacturers Association)*

SPRINGFIELD, Va., July 14, 2020 – With summer boating season in full swing, it's now common to see recreational boats being filled up at gas stations across the country. However, making sure the right fuel gets in the boat's tank isn't always assured: 54% of consumers in a recent Harris Poll believed that the small orange E15 fuel warning label on a gas station pump isn't good enough to protect consumers. Poll respondents believe the label, about the size of a pack of gum, needs to be larger, clearer and mandatory on all gas station fuel-dispensing pumps. E15 (fuel containing 15% ethanol) is prohibited by federal law for use in recreational boat engines and voids many marine engine warranties.

"It's clear that the Environmental Protection Agency has not done enough to protect boat owners and a range of consumers," said Boat Owners Association of The United States ([BoatUS](#)) Manager of Government Affairs David Kennedy. "Some fuels are being marketed and sold to consumers as low-cost alternatives but without having the necessary clear warnings on the pump that highlight increased ethanol content. 'Regular 88' fuel, typically the cheapest choice at the pump, contains 15% ethanol (E15), enough to harm a vessel's motor and void the engine manufacturer's warranty. Only 22% of consumers in the Harris Poll correctly identified the fuel as E15."

"We are cautioning our members this summer that they may find badly labeled fuel choices at the pump and inadequate education around ethanol-blended fuels that were never intended for recreational vessels," Kennedy added. Boaters have no love for ethanol in their gas due to the [proven damage it causes to boat engines](#) and fuel systems.

BoatUS, along with additional stakeholders, is asking why, after consistent urging, EPA has not done a better job warning boaters, those with gasoline-powered equipment, and vehicle owners not warranted for fuels above E10 to stay away from this new generation of higher ethanol fuels intended to increase America's consumption of [government-subsidized corn-based ethanol](#).

In comments filed June 29 by BoatUS and its partners on EPA's proposed Fuels Regulatory Streamlining rulemaking provisions on mitigating misfueling with 10.5% to 15% ethanol (E15) fuels, the group of consumer and industry associations said, "As EPA has worked to broaden the availability of E15 in the U.S., including most recently in last year's repeal of seasonal restrictions on the sale of higher-blend ethanol fuels, our organizations have consistently urged EPA to implement a more effective Misfueling Mitigation Program. ... The misfueling of marine engines and vessels, off-road vehicles, motorcycles, and outdoor power equipment places significant burdens on both the American consumer and product manufacturers. Risks outlined for consumers include potential product damage and/or compromised performance, economic loss and potentially unsafe products."

The partners urge public education efforts; improvement to the ethanol content warning label type, size and pump location; evaluating the adoption of different fuel pump nozzle sizes; ceasing misleading marketing of ethanol fuels; evaluating the use of physical barriers and keypad systems; and offering a dedicated pump for E0 (0% ethanol) fuel.



*Photo Caption: This little orange E15 warning label on a gas pump could be all that separates boaters from misfueling their boat, says BoatUS. However, it might not be that easy to see on the gas pump.*



## Golden Anniversary and Officer Elections

Hello fellow yacht club members! Summer is finally here and good weather has arrived as well. Nancy and I spent a couple of weeks out in the boat just going where we pleased by anchoring out. It mostly went well but we did have a couple interesting boo-boos that I won't go into now...I don't want to embarrass anyone! Hope that you are or will be getting out in your boat as well.

In 2021, Brownsville Yacht Club will reach a real milestone....in June of 2021, the club becomes 50 years old! With the effects of the virus lock-down and social distancing still in effect, it may be difficult to organize a suitable celebration to commemorate this awesome milestone. Hopefully social distancing will ease up before then and we can all gather to have a great BVYC birthday party next year. If you have ideas on ways to celebrate, please bring them to the attention of the club officers. Your input is valued and appreciated.

On another note, once again, due to the social distancing requirements, the club has not been able to hold officer elections as required by the by-laws. The current bridge has done a great job guiding the club through the challenges of the last couple years but their terms are almost over. One of the tasks I took on as junior past commodore is to go out and forage amongst the members in good standing to seek out potential candidates for office. Needless to say, the Covid-19 lockdown and social distancing has made this a very difficult job. Please consider taking on one of the officer or appointed roles so that BVYC can roll into its 50<sup>th</sup> year with a full and operational bridge. Yes, there are challenges that need to be met, but taking on the job as an officer is also very rewarding, especially by being an officer in the special year ahead of us. The positions that I am seeking to fill are commodore, vice-commodore, rear-commodore or possibly one of the appointed positions such as fleet captain, secretary, or executive board member. If you are interested in any elected or appointed position, please contact me or any club officer. Let's roll into our 50<sup>th</sup> year with a full and active bridge.

Thanks,  
Bob Bale, Junior Past Commodore, M/V *Just Play'n Nuts*

## 2020 BVYC Cruises

	Sep 4-7	<i>CANCELLED</i>	<i>CANCELLED</i>
	Oct 9-12	Port of Kingston	Columbus/Indigenous Day
	Nov 20-22	Bell Harbor Marina	Shop Til You Drop



  
**KEEP CALM  
AND  
PAY YOUR DUES**

### Dues Duly Due Really *DO* Become Due

It's that time again! Dues really **were** due as of June 1<sup>st</sup> for the 2020-2021 yacht club year. Dues are \$100 annually for individuals, \$200 annually for family.

There are several ways to pay:

**Mail** payment to: BVYC, 9790 Ogle Rd NE, Bremerton, WA 98311. Or **drop off** your payment in the locked dropbox inside the club. Or **pay online** at our secure website [brownsville yacht club](#) and make your payment there.

**Avoid "Doo-Doo" by paying your Dues!!!**



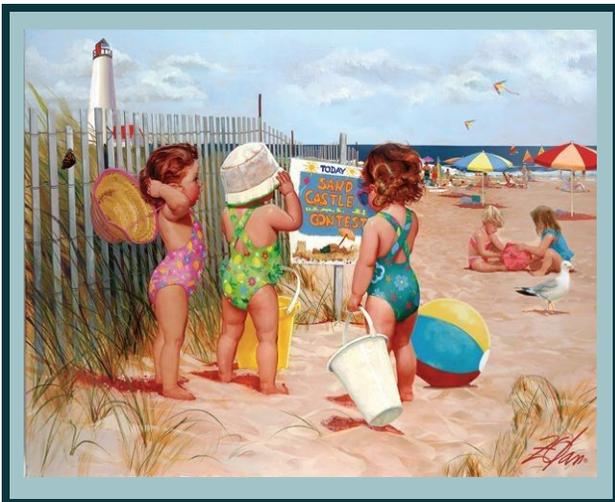
### Volunteer Opportunities

BVYC is seeking help for many volunteer opportunities. Please contact one of the officers for a chance to serve our great club and the community.



While anchoring out near Lakebay in *M/V Scottish Mist*, Rich and Taffy took this beautiful photo of Mount Rainier

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## Contact Information

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