

**Schooner Cove Yacht Club
Annual General Meeting – November 21, 2023
Director's Reports**

Vice-Commodore – (vacant) Jim Dutton (acting)

Membership Numbers

As of October 31st, 2023 the Club memberships stood at:

Honorary Life 8

Regular 90

Social 16

Total 114

Temporary Withdrawal 3

Net change to total memberships from November 2022. -13

During the year the club gained six new memberships but during the same period the club lost members who resigned (5 regular, 8 social) and regular members transferred to social memberships (6).

Attracting new members to the club is a vital part of sustainability for SCYC, the incoming Executive is planning for a membership drive in the coming year.

Past Commodore – Peter Milne

Nothing to report

Rear Commodore – Doug Herchmer

There were major changes made to the cruising program this year with the elimination of cruising stations/agreements and the adoption of a member reimbursement policy for prepaid moorage. Members could stay at 15 selected marinas scattered from the Gulf Islands, Sunshine Coast and Desolation Sound to the Broughton's. There were no restrictions on overnight stays or consecutive nights but there was a cap of \$300/member. Eligible members are now required to register and pay beforehand and submit their moorage receipts along with a reimbursement form up until the end of September. The cruising season is now April 1- September 30. Cruising program usage was down considerably from previous years with only 101 overnight stays enjoyed by 32 members at a cost of \$ 8062 out of a budget of \$ 16,500.

Members were reimbursed via e-transfers from the Treasurer which appeared to work well for most. It is recommended that the existing list of Preferred Moorage Facilities be reviewed with the idea of adding a few more marinas and deleting some that were not utilized.

At a meeting between Fairwinds/SCYC in late January, the club was advised that our lease for the Afterdeck would not be renewed, and we would have to vacate the marina by September 1 of this year. A small committee was formed, and the facility was put up for sale in May. A farewell party was held in late June and the contents removed to offsite storage while a few of the major items were sold to members. Only 2 bids were received with the highest one at \$ 3300 and the lowest at \$ 1000. The successful bidder towed the building away on August 28 and it is now anchored off Deep Bay and for sale on Craig's List for \$ 60,000.

The Council of BC Yacht Clubs and its' associated organization, the BC Marine Parks Forever Society continues its' stellar representation of yacht clubs and recreational boaters across BC. During the past year, the COBCYC revamped their website to reflect current issues and past accomplishments in an attempt to gain more awareness and recognition among the boating public. A major issue that was flagged to the Council involves the Community Marina at Ladysmith Maritime Society, which has been a cruising station for many years and is one of our premier go-to marinas included in our revamped cruising program. The Town of Ladysmith has issued an eviction notice to LMS and to cease operations by December 31 of this year. It is a very complicated situation involving the Province, the Stz'uminus First Nation, Ladysmith and LMS. It concerns the Reconciliation Agreement signed between the Province and SFN in 2022 and involves the transfer of the marina lease from the Town of Ladysmith to the SFN without meaningful discussion with the LMS. Consequently, our club has written letters of support to the Province and the Town of Ladysmith urging them to intervene and help facilitate talks between the SFN and LMS.

There is a concern that unfavourable precedents may be set for other water lot tenures at some of the major marinas on the Coast.

The stern-tie advisory committee of the MPFS was busy this summer and along with BC Parks Staff and the Facility Operator for Jedidiah Island were able to replace the chains and shackles on 18 existing stern ties and added high visibility markers to make them more easily seen from the water. Other prospective stern tie sites within BC Marine Parks have been identified and are awaiting approval from local First Nations (Harmony Islands, Sabine Channel, Gulf Islands NPR). New mooring buoys at D'Arcy Island have been successfully installed in conjunction with Parks Canada and they have shown renewed interest in the stern-tie program within the Gulf Islands NPR.

Peter Stockdill (former SCYC member) continues to review new and existing Water Use License Applications up and down the coast as they relate to boating especially how they might impact anchoring, water and foreshore rights, marine park expansion proposals and environmental issues concerning aquaculture operations.

The "Connected Coast Project" which is being undertaken by BC Crown Lands. continues along the BC Coast and is mostly completed but with many problems of cable breakage. This is a massive project involving the installation of fibre optic submarine cables for the North Coast, Sunshine Coast, and the East and West Coast of

Vancouver Island. Concerns involve the laying of cables in recognized anchorages and landing locations without proper warning signs.

After 4 years in the position of Rear Commodore and previously 2 as Staff Captain, I have decided to step aside and retire from the Board of Directors. It has been an enjoyable and rewarding experience and I thank all the club members and Board Directors for their support over these years.

Staff Captain – Helen Chapman

Spring Cruises

Two Spring Cruises to Newcastle (Saysutshun) and Jedediah Island were plagued by bad weather and an over full schedule which saw multiple events happening on the same day. We will try again in 2024 to cruise to these beautiful places.

Summer Cruises

July Vancouver Rowing Club:

The July cruise to the Vancouver Rowing Club was a huge success. Friday night saw the group gather for dinner on the deck at the Carver Lounge. We were joined by family and friends of some of SCYC members which made for a lively evening. On Saturday most of us went to the show Million Dollar Quartet followed by dinner at Bridges Restaurant on Granville Island. An added bonus was the Festival of Lights; we were able to enjoy the fireworks from the deck of one of our boats. The only activity planned for Sunday was dinner in the evening at the Stanley Park Brew Pub. A forecast of very strong winds for the Monday prompted a couple of boats, ourselves included to head home on the Sunday. It was a lovely cruise home and the right decision as the conditions 24 hours later looked very different.

A huge shout out to Vancouver Rowing Club, the staff were very helpful in arranging the moorage for our boats and the members very welcoming; within a short time of arriving we had been invited to a dock party on the Friday night.

August Thetis Island Rendezvous:

11 boats, 2 seadoos and 5 people by other means attended the Rendezvous, making the numbers significantly down from 2022. That said everyone who attended had a good time. In a change to previous years we had pizza and ice cream on Friday evening, both were sourced locally.

Saturday and Sunday Morning Coffee and Muffins was hosted by John and Andy Vallis; a big thank you to them for that. The baked goods from the Marina were outstanding. There were no formal games in the afternoon, so we variously enjoyed the sunshine, explored the island or caught up with friends old and new.

Sunday evening Pig Roast was once again much enjoyed by everyone. This will have to be the last year for the Pig Roast as our decreased numbers meant we were way below the minimum number required. As an added bonus one of the deck hands serenaded us while we ate. His Elvis impersonation was memorable to say the least!

On Sunday the Blindfold Dingy race was kindly organized by Jim Dutton and won in a photo finish. Sunday dinner was at the pub. Telegraph Harbour Marina is under new management and the new owners couldn't have been more helpful.

Thank you to everyone who helped out, I look forward to working with you again next year.

2024 Cruises

As well as shorter cruises to Newcastle and Jedediah in the Spring I am planning a cruise to Desolation Sound in June. In August we will return to Thetis for the rendezvous.

Fleet Captain – (vacant) Jim Dutton reporting

Although the club did not have a designated Fleet Captain during the year the activities of the sailing fleet were in no way diminished. Eric Young presided over the Northwest Bay Race, the Nanoose Bay Race, the Fleet Regatta, as well as setting some challenging courses for the various Rally Series. A big thank you to Eric for doing this and also for stepping up to fill the position of Fleet Captain on the 2024 Executive. A big thanks goes to John Collins and the Lasqueti Regatta team for making this year's Regatta a huge success.

Wednesday Night Racing continued from May through to September and thanks goes to Wally Clark and John Collins for looking after this series.

We are looking forward to having full schedule of events in the coming year. As always it is our fantastic volunteers who make these events happen, so please don't be shy in stepping up to help.

Communications Director – Guy Gauvin

The major change to the position of Communications Director in 2024 lies in the fact that I, Guy Gauvin, will be retiring from my position. Linda Watson has agreed to have her name stand as a nominee.

It has been my pleasure and honour to serve SCYC as Communication's Director in 2022 and 2023. Thank you for entrusting me with this important responsibility.

The focus of this year's work on the SCYC website has been to keep abreast of a prolific year of club activities, to issue regular Scylines and timely reminders and to

populate the club photo gallery. I thank all SCYC members who submitted their photos to share with other club members. We now have a nearly complete gallery of photos spanning from 2021 through 2023.

The 2023 Yearbook was compiled by the Yearbook Committee, with Janette Brown (Editor), Kathy Swangard (Assistant Editor), Valerie Gunn (Assistant Editor), Claudia Hand (Advertising) and Scott Brady (Reciprocals). There was also considerable input from the Executive and other volunteers. Thanks to the entire team for their excellent work which resulted in a stunning 2023 Yearbook. The 2024 Yearbook Committee is already on alert and Valerie Gunn has volunteered to serve as Editor, Scot Brady (Reciprocals) and Claudia Hand (Advertising). Thank you, Valerie, Claudia, and Scot., Please report any changes to your contact or boat information to the new Vice Commodore before December 31st for the changes to be reflected in the 2024 Yearbook.

The 2024 Lasqueti Island Regatta Committee will soon be starting up again. The working arrangements are still unclear, but we hope that Claudia Hand will again offer to oversee the website and registration, and Kathy Swangard continue with overall communications with other yacht clubs, press releases, etc. The 2023 Regatta, held in June, was a great success again this year.

We have emailed uninterrupted monthly **Scyline** newsletters informing our member of forthcoming club events. We have strived to send timely reminders of events to our members using the AcyMailing™ component of our WordPress™ platform. We have also strived to make use of Gravity Forms™, another component of WordPress, to facilitate registration for some of our events, BMW Lasqueti Island Regatta, Sail Past and Commodore's Ball for example.

Many thanks to Linda Watson who covered for me during the fall of 2023 by issuing the October and November Scyline on my behalf while Valerie and I travelled in Europe.

Social Director – Grace Norman

We had a successful year of events with good attendance. Social members attended a few events, and it was nice to have them there. I am hoping that with some additional and varied events, more social members will be tempted to attend. Look for events such as Music Bingo, Pub Trivia Night, and Social Nights. I am always open to suggestions for new events. Please email me at my social@scyc.ca email address to give me your ideas.

Along with a few added events in the coming year, look for the familiar ones as well. Also note that this coming year will see more events with a registration page attached. Registration pages will also give information to the executive automatically.

Restaurants want to know in advance, how many will attend and in some cases they would also like a reduced menu to better serve the customers and manage their limited staff. Please be patient with any restaurant staff as they work to provide high levels of service with less-than-ideal staff numbers.

Commodore's Ball is coming up. Registration is now closed. At the time of writing this report, it is not known how many will attend.

This will be my last year as Social Director. Time for a change. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time on the executive and would love to have someone come forward so I can pass the baton. It is a very enjoyable position with a lot of satisfaction from planned events and working with the Executive. Email me at the address above if you are interested, or know someone who would be fabulous!

Director at Large – Mark Doucette

How many times recently have we started with a statement (it has certainly been a year of change)? Well it apparently continues! While I have tried to support the Commodore and club initiatives it has been somewhat limited.

The past winter and spring talks / presentations were well attended, albeit summer, my own absence out of town has limited any fall talks which I hope to resume in January.

Men's lunches have been well attended and I thank Doug for arranging this in my absence. These continue to be held at the Rod and Gun and unless those who regularly attend wish to change the venue we will continue. I am now entering my third year on the executive and this will be my final one. That being said I would be pleased to mentor or assist anyone who would like to step forward into the position.