



Photo Contest Winner

Shawn Wright

Sunset on a peaceful night at Sidney Spit, June 26, 2019. Soon after we bought our first keelboat, Callisto, in June, Sidney Spit became a favourite spot for an easy overnight anchorage. Beautiful sunsets and sunrises are common, and it well situated for our journeys between our slip at the CFSA in Esquimalt, a friend's mooring in Mill Bay, and the many other wonderful places to explore in the souther Gulf Islands.



Currents

April — December 2020

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Ahoy BCA membership!

https://currents.bluewatercruising.org/?post_type=news_post&p=12462

Ahoy BCA membership!

This note is to explain what happened to Currents in 2020 and to apologize for the 10-month hiatus. You deserve an explanation as no communication was sent out during this period, and Currents simply stopped... no articles were published, the monthly digests were no longer... and emails went unanswered.

To cut a long story short, when the pandemic hit at the beginning of March, I was overwhelmed with work literally overnight, which prevented me from dedicating any time to my volunteer commitments. That meant all work on Currents, including checking the email account, was put on hold. I thought that kind of workload was going to be short-lived, and boy was I wrong! The pressure continued over the Spring and Summer and well into the Fall. "Work is levelling off now, and with tremendous encouragement from Jennifer Handley and Leslie Hansen (both Past Commodores), and with amazing support from Sally Holland, our faithful proof-reader, and Barb Peck and Nancy Carlman, the new additions to the editing team, I feel that I can once again take the helm of our wonderful newsletter! Needless to say, I hope you will accept my most sincere apologies; I am just starting to shake off the deep sense of guilt...

And with that said, this brief issue of Currents aims to wrap-up the challenging year that was 2020. From now on, we will get back to our regular publication schedule. I am still sorting through emails, and I see that there are a bunch of articles waiting, so bear with me a little while longer while I prepare them for publishing.

Your COVID Stories

In the meantime, I would like to ask all of you to think back to 2020 and send me your own COVID-19 experiences as they relate to your sailing plans. I know for a fact that many Dreamers put their plans on hold, and many Doers faced unimaginable challenges as rules changed almost daily and they tried to stay safe and legal in foreign lands. I also know that many of you enjoyed beautiful coastal sailing in our own BC waters, in spite of smaller communities being "closed". So, dig back into your memories and send me an account of your experiences, along with some photos (high resolution, landscape orientation). You can send these stories to me by email, or better yet, submit them online.

Before I sign-off, I would like to thank Jennifer for managing the publishing of social and education events while my head was under water with work, and the education, communication and speakers watchkeepers who never gave up and kept uploading information about all the events. You are awesome!

I hope that you are all coping with this new normal that our lives have become, and I wish you a 2021 full

of hope, good health and sailing dreams fulfilled!

With much gratitude,

Rosario Passos (your Currents Managing Editor)

So Much for a Clean Wake

<https://currents.bluewatercruising.org/articles/so-much-for-a-clean-wake/>



Clean Wake: *A concept amongst cruising sailors that stresses the impact than individual behaviour has on the group. Bad actions will reflect upon those who follow and potentially poison perceptions for generations.*

Twenty years ago, being an unemployed recent graduate searching for a purpose, I read a book that changed my life. Jon Krakauer’s “Into Thin Air” is the story of a man’s battle with Mount Everest during the deadliest year the mountain has seen. It is a story of adventure, loss, and overcoming challenges. After reading it, it inspired me to find an epic adventure of my own, something that challenged me and opened me up to a life lived to its fullest. And so, I read other adventure memoirs landing solidly among the published works of circumnavigating sailors like Lyn & Larry Pardey and Liza Copeland. Their books opened up a world of far off South Pacific Islands where visitors were rare and local customs still prevailed. Their ethos was to embrace the differences between us all and adapt to their surroundings. Their sensitivity was such that they never failed to remind their reader that sailors, as visitors, must respect local customs and law even when it seems strange and always leave a clean wake.

Fast forward 20 years. By the time we embarked upon *Maple* and our world cruise, the number of sailboats traversing the globe had grown into the tens of thousands. What had been a small community of voyagers seeking a simple life different from that which they could find at home had become an annual migration of sailors transplanting their western lifestyle to their floating homes.

A growing community of sailors has also led to an increase in the numbers of those who apparently feel that rules do not apply to them. Across the globe we have met sailors who think nothing of failing to clear into a country, anchoring where there are restrictions, picking fruit from trees that don't appear to belong to anyone, going ashore on private land or leaving recycling/garbage in the wrong areas.

In the time of COVID-19 and increased restrictions on activities and movement, the flaunting of rules has become even more clear. As we sit in French Polynesia, waiting for borders to open I see daily Facebook posts from misinformed, entitled, or deliberately obtuse sailors that offend the concept of leaving a clean wake. Comments like "we're the only tourists they have, they should be grateful..." and "it is the law of the sea, they need to provide safe anchorage for sailors..." and "we know the borders are closed, but we heard that a boat was checked in so we're leaving today bound for French Polynesia..." It seems as though the levels of entitlement and lack of respect for local laws are reaching an all-time high and its little wonder that locals in nations along the traditional cruising route are tired of hosting us and unwelcoming.

But then I am reminded that for every self-absorbed soul who sets sail – even though 95% of national borders are closed and the island nations they are bound for are the least well equipped to deal with a pandemic – there are dozens of kind souls who remember the concept of leaving a clean wake and implore the selfish among us to stay put, wait for borders to open and respect local restrictions.

As a world traveler, there are some things that have become increasingly clear to me in the last 5 years. Technology is making the world smaller, people are more alike than they are different, most of us are good, considerate and decent, but above all, those of us who travel are visitors in the lands we venture to, and as visitors are tolerated and even welcomed, but we simply must respect the local customs and rules or those who follow will bear the consequences. COVID-19 has shown that borders can be closed easily. If we want them to be open to us as travelers, we need to demonstrate we are worthy of their hospitality.

Feature Photo: *Maple* at anchor in Bocas del Toro, Panama

Photo Credit: Damien Privé, Manwë

About The Author

Janet & Darryl Lapaire

SV Maple - Leopard 384 Catamaran

Janet is a rookie sailor. After taking some CYA lessons and countless BCA workshops, Janet, her husband, Darryl and their two daughters, Ella (then 8) and Iris (then 5), sold their house and nearly all their possessions, purchased a Leopard 384 Catamaran in Greece and set sail in July 2015. Cruising full-time on s/v Maple, they are currently in French Polynesia (2020).

BCA AGM and Awards Gala

<https://currents.bluewatercruising.org/events/bca-annual-general-meeting-and-awards-gala/>



All BCA members in good standing are invited to attend the **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** on **December 9, 2020** at **1930h**.

The AGM and election of offices for 2021 will be followed by an All-Chapters Awards Ceremony recognizing members' cruising achievements and service to BCA. We will also celebrate our connections and the wonderful support provided by BCA volunteers to each other, whether here in home port or cruising in distant waters. More to come on what will be a fun and celebratory evening!

BCA's Board of Directors looks forward to hosting the evening; if you have any questions about the AGM, please contact [Leslie Hansen](#), BCA Past Commodore.

Image attribution: [Dimitris Siskopoulos CC BY 2.0](#)

Time to Update your Membership Profile(s) for the 2021 BCA Member Directory

<https://currents.bluewatercruising.org/news/time-to-update-your-membership-profiles-for-the-2021-bca-member-directory/>



Need something to distract you from Covid-19 updates and the realization that most of us aren't going anywhere anytime soon? This project won't take a lot of your time, but will make the work done by the coordinators of the 2021 BCA Member Directory much, much easier. We need all members to review and update their personal profiles, along with those of their partner/spouse and/or boat(s).

Here's how to do that:

- Go to the [Bluewater Cruising Association website](https://www.bluewatercruising.org/) and log in
- Click on **Manage Profile** (upper right rail)
- Click on **Edit Bio** (found under "Information & Settings")
- Review / update the information and save changes (bottom of page); we will specifically be looking for your:

- Name
- Email
- Partner/spouse's name
- Mailing address
- Home and mobile phone number(s) and area code(s)
- Cruising/sailing website or blog address
- Yacht club membership
- HAM call sign

Once that's done, if you are the *primary* member (the one who pays for the membership), click on and update the **Sub-accounts** associated with your membership, i.e. your partner/spouse (the *associate member*) and/or your boat (also found under "Information & Settings"). Please make sure the following are updated:

Partner/Spouse Sub-Account:

- Partner/spouse's name
- Partner/spouse's email
- Partner/spouse's home and mobile phone numbers
- Partner/spouse's HAM call sign

Boat Sub-Account Info:

- Boat name (upper case)
- Boat type and LOA
- Yacht club (please match the info provided in your profile)
- SSB call sign
- Where Moored or Currently Cruising info

Contact [BCA's Administrator, Vimmy](#), if you have any problems or questions such as:

- You do not remember your username and/or password
- Your partner/spouse and/or boat(s) are not listed as sub-accounts and you have problems creating them
- Your sub-accounts are not linked to your account
- You have any other questions about updating your profile
- You want to renew your membership

Thanks for your updates and for making our work much easier!

About The Author

Jennifer Handley

Camdeboo - Lavranos 50 Cutter-Rigged Sloop

Jennifer Handley and Campbell Good sailed Camdeboo to the South Pacific in 2006 with their two daughters, a niece, nephew and Jennifer's brother. By the time Camdeboo returned to Victoria in 2011, she had 25,000nm under her keel, visited 14 countries and 27 people had come aboard as crew. Jennifer served as BCA Commodore 2014-2016 and Past Commodore from 2017-2019.

Making and Storing Power at Sea

<https://currents.bluewatercruising.org/events/making-and-storing-power-at-sea/>



Join our enormously popular instructor Bjarne Hansen for an evening of talk about the various ways to generate power and how best to store it. After a bit about safety, a quick “here’s how electricity works” intro, and some tool-talk, he’ll go on to discuss:

- solar panels,
- wind generators,
- towed generators, and
- fossil-fuelled generators.

Bjarne will help you understand:

- lead-acid batteries,
- lithium batteries,
- how to charge them in a way that maximizes their life,
- charge controllers, and

- battery monitors.

Finally, he'll help you troubleshoot. Electricity and water? What could possibly go wrong? Bjarne is here to help you do it right.

Rigging Pre-Season Inspection

<https://currents.bluewatercruising.org/events/rigging-pre-season-inspection/>



During this two hour online course Steve White will cover the following subjects:

- how to undertake a pre-season inspection of your rigging
- preparation for a long cruise including what to look for and how to be proactive
- upgrades needed to ensure smooth sailing; and
- repair supplies that are essential to handle the unexpected

He will also address rigging maintenance, including furling, standing and running rigging, as well as winches.

Steve is one of the most skilled and respected yacht riggers in the Pacific Northwest; [Steve White Rigging](#) was launched in 2005.

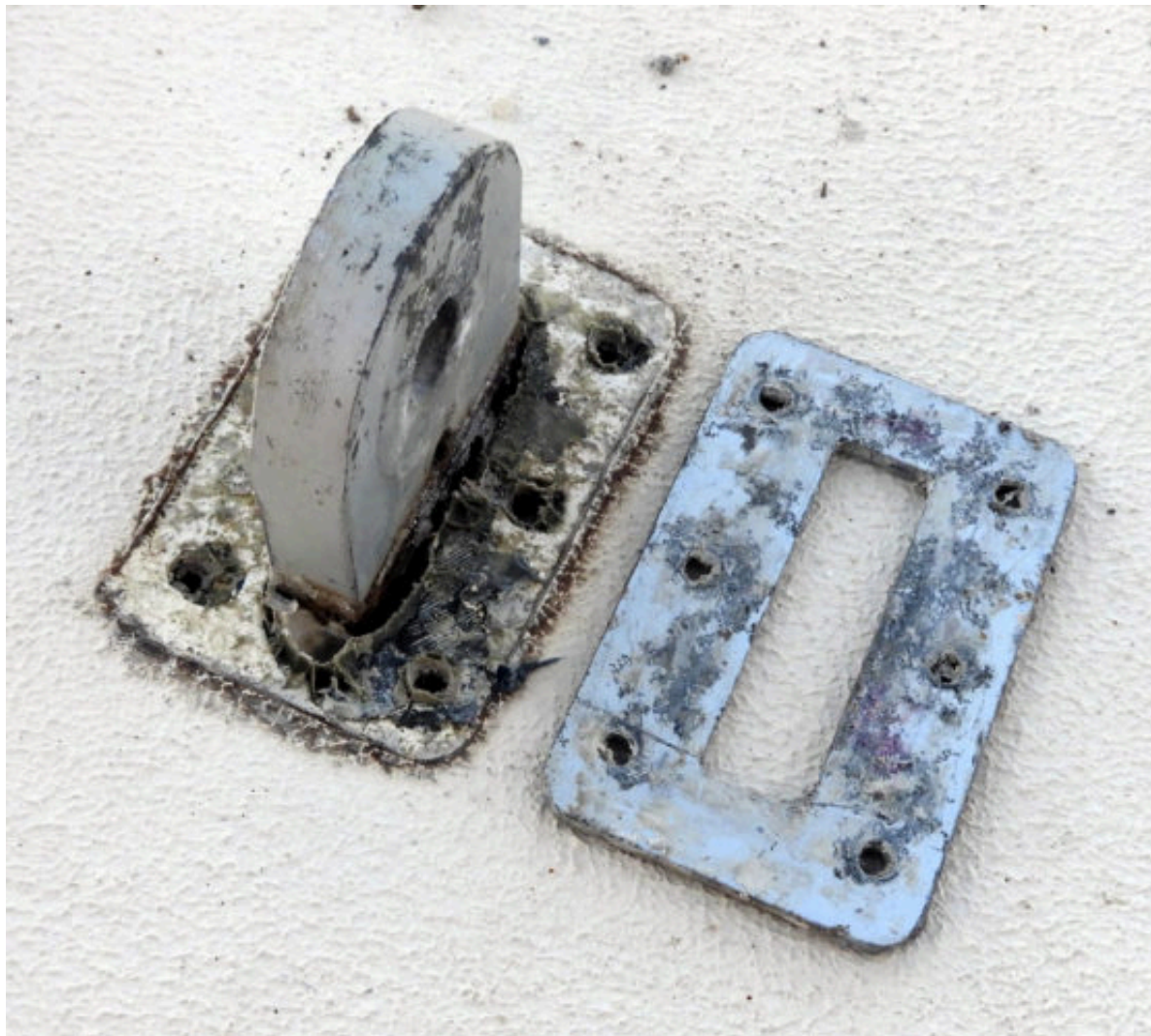
A New Way Of Caulking

<https://currents.bluewatercruising.org/articles/a-new-way-of-caulking/>



Why open this article with a photo of a crocodile? Two reasons – first, I wanted your attention. Launching right into a discussion of our leaky chainplates doesn't capture the eyes nearly as well. I promise to be brief, and not to digress further.

We used several select sailor words earlier this year during a tropical rainstorm. The rain itself, though unusual in Bahia Banderas in January, didn't irritate us. Rather, it was the devilish drips landing on books perched on our library shelf. That sneaky water made its way inside where our chainplates penetrate the deck. A few years ago we had removed and inspected those chainplates, and rebbed them with butyl caulking (a grayish-white sticky substance with the consistency of putty). The advantage of using butyl caulking for such a job is that it can tolerate a lot more joint movement than caulking that cures (e.g. 3M4200), and the chainplates can be pulled out for future inspections without using sharp knives and block-and-tackle. No water got past them for the first couple years of sporty sailing and rainstorms, and we figured they ought to have remained watertight for another 5 or 10. What went wrong?



Leaky

chainplate due to failed caulking

We pulled the deck cover off one chainplate. In the photo you can see dark dust stuck to the surface of the butyl caulking, but there is also a large gap between the deck and the chainplate. This gap used to be filled with caulking; where did it vanish to?



Chainplate with
Butyl caulking drip

This interior photo solves the mystery of the missing caulking. But what caused such a putty-like material to run? I think two reasons: high temperatures, and a wide gap. Summers in the Guaymas boatyard can exceed 40 C, and sun hitting aluminum will further boost the temperature. Butyl caulking, because it doesn't 'set', thins out as it gets hotter. The fairly wide 5 mm gap between the chainplate and the deck then allowed the butyl to flow down and out of the gap.

How to keep the leak from happening again? I didn't want to fill the entire gap with a curing caulk, as then future removal becomes arduous. But if a bead of cured caulking were applied at the bottom of the hole, it would keep the butyl from running out the next time it softened in the sun. However, our butyl supply was low so I pondered alternatives. We carry plumbers' wax, used for sealing toilets to the floor flange, for use in emergencies; we have in the past applied it to portlights leaking on passage, when one doesn't have the opportunity for a more thorough fix. It's very inexpensive, sticks well to everything yet cleans off with turpentine, applies easily, flexes with the joint, and is of course waterproof.

I decided to make a barrier at the bottom of the deck hole with 3M4200, and then fill the remainder of the hole with plumbers' wax. By melting it in a salsa tin and pouring it into the hole, all crevices were filled fully and quickly. I then reinstalled the deck plate, reattached the shroud, and was done. In the future if it

gets hot enough to melt the wax, the 3M4200 should keep it contained. Time will reveal how well this caulking technique works.



The second reason I started with a crocodile? Perhaps it's a metaphor for boat problems that creep up on you slowly, and then suddenly bite you in the bum? This particular crocodile is one we saw in Bahia Banderas, Mexico, while walking a trail at an estuary reserve in Puerto Vallarta. Cruising isn't *always* work.

About The Author

Barb Peck & Bjarne Hansen

Hoku Pa'a - Niagara 35

From 2004-2006 Barb and Bjarne sailed the South Pacific on Freya, their 30' Hunter-Vogel. Upon returning to Victoria they participated in the VI Watch and supported fleet members preparing to go offshore. After some wonderful local cruising they headed south again in 2015 on Hoku Pa'a, their Niagara 35. Once damage from an unfortunate encounter with Hurricane Newton was repaired, Barb and Bjarne continued their exploration of Mexico. Plans for French Polynesia were revised in response to the global pandemic; they sailed Hoku Pa'a back to Canada via the old clipper route and are looking forward

to reconnecting with the beauty of BC.

Vancouver Virtual Club Night - Diving with Sharks

<https://currents.bluewatercruising.org/events/vancouver-virtual-club-night-diving-with-sharks/>



A Fifteen Month Circumnavigation: Part 1

Glen Wilson has been a member of BCA for more than 15 years and served as the VI Vice Commodore for four years. With his wife, Mary, he purchased a catamaran in Turkey and named her **Danica**, meaning early morning light in Slovenian.

A trip around the world is no small feat and required Glen and Mary to overcome some major obstacles, but what an adventure it was! The voyage started in Turkey and led to St Lucia where they joined the World ARC in January 2019. They visited 27 countries and had many adventures. This is the first of a two part presentation, and will cover some of the highs and lows between Turkey to Fiji.

This will be a Virtual Club Night, on the Zoom platform. An invitation with links to the Zoom meeting and login details will be sent to all Vancouver Chapter members. BCA members from other chapters and non-members are also welcome to attend. If you would like to attend please send an email to [Heather](#) to receive an invitation.

BCA Member Directory Needs Your 2020 Photos!

<https://currents.bluewatercruising.org/articles/bca-member-directory-needs-your-2020-photos/>



In a ‘normal’ year, the BCA Member Directory coordinators have hundreds of photos to sift through before a select few dozen are chosen for publication in the Directory. If you flip through the pages of your 2020 Directory, you will see a wide variety of images that collectively capture the essence of BCA. There are photos of BCA rendezvous, education and Fleet activities, awards presentations, member departures and home-comings and from far-flung members who are pursuing their dreams around the world. Most reflect BCA’s core values:

- Community: Friends on a journey; we are not alone.
- Sharing: The open exchange of experiences, because no one knows all the answers.
- Adventure: The lure of what awaits beyond the horizon.
- Inspiration: Fueling your dream.

2020, of course, has been completely different with all in-person activities shut down and with many cruisers safely waiting out the COVID storm at home. As a result we sadly have very few photos in our collection to look through. And those that we do have are often screen shots from a Zoom meeting...

Thus this appeal to all BCA members: please submit the best of your 2020 BCA-related photos to us for consideration. Donna, Jennifer and Rhonda (this year's coordinators) are looking for high resolution photos (vertical or landscape orientation), jpeg format, suitable for publication. What are we looking for? Here are a few ideas:

- People doing 'boat stuff' – BCA members, families and their boats, working, playing and having fun together
- Sailing/Cruising – at home and abroad
- Boat Preparation/Maintenance – work being done to prepare your boat for cruising, work being done to safely leave your boat in a foreign port
- BCA in the midst of a pandemic

Photos should be submitted, as a separate attachment, by email to [Rosario](mailto:currents@bluewatercruising.org), Currents Managing Editor (currents@bluewatercruising.org). Deadline for submission is **February 28, 2021**.

Thanks for your help!

About The Author

Jennifer Handley

Camdeboo - Lavranos 50 Cutter-Rigged Sloop

Jennifer Handley and Campbell Good sailed Camdeboo to the South Pacific in 2006 with their two daughters, a niece, nephew and Jennifer's brother. By the time Camdeboo returned to Victoria in 2011, she had 25,000nm under her keel, visited 14 countries and 27 people had come aboard as crew. Jennifer served as BCA Commodore 2014-2016 and Past Commodore from 2017-2019.

2020 BCA Service, Cruising and Perpetual Awards

<https://currents.bluewatercruising.org/articles/2020-bca-service-cruising-and-perpetual-awards/>



Every December, Bluewater Cruising Association honours the achievements of its members by presenting dozens of awards in different categories. The ceremonial presentation to skipper and crew of a vessel, upon their return from offshore, has its roots in the nautical tradition of “paying out” the crew on their return to home port. The awards are intended to be a formal recognition of members’ achievements: a celebration of those achievements by the membership at large; an inspiration to our *Dreamers*; an incentive for the *Doers* to maintain their membership until they return from offshore and then – having been suitably honoured – to share their offshore experiences and knowledge as *Doners* through Club Nights and the Education and Fleet programs.

2020 was a year that whirled everyone's expectations upside down and inside out; even so, there were awards to present and journeys to celebrate. Although unable to do our usual in-person presentations, and missing our usual (and fantastic) pot luck feasts, we were still able to come together as a community online to share a wonderful evening. Awards were announced, stories told, thoughts shared, and even a few tears were shed.

BCA Service Awards

We had two long serving watch-keepers step down from their positions this year, and want to take the opportunity to recognize and thank them:

- **Rudy Witt**

Webmaster 2015-2019

After five years of providing our watch-keepers and members with responsive and much appreciated support for our website and backend systems, VI Chapter member Rudy Witt as passed the webmaster torch on to a new and soon-to-be-announced candidate. Rudy continues to serve as System Administrator, for which we are very grateful.

- **Jennifer Handley**

VI secretary 2005-2006, 2007-2009, VI Vice Commodore 2010, BCA Vice Commodore 2011-2013, BCA Commodore 2014-2016, BCA Past Commodore 2017-2019, VI Membership 2019-2020, BCA Directory co-coordinator 2018-present

I could say that Jennifer needs no introduction, but that would be unfair to those of you who haven't yet met her. Jennifer has been an important part of BCA from the time she first joined the

Vancouver Island Watch and hasn't really stopped. She has taken on many different roles, and is a seemingly inexhaustible source of information and positive energy, very much appreciated by those who work with her and follow in her footsteps.

Rudi Siefert Keeper of the Light Award

Named after the late Rudi Seifert, this service award is presented from time to time to a deserving member whose significant and often behind the scenes contributions to BCA reflect and support the spirit of the Association. There were no nominations for this award this year.



Keeper of the Light award

The BCA Cruising Awards

These awards recognize specific achievements in passage-making and acknowledge the contribution that BCA made to the journey. Congratulations to all Award recipients. We look forward to many happy hours listening to your stories and learning from your experiences.



BCA cruising and service awards

Coastal 999

This award recognizes a non-commercial coastal (harbour-hopping) voyage outside Canadian territorial waters where straightest short-line charted distance between starting and ending port is minimum 999 nautical miles.

- **Mike Duff, *Anestina***: Bamfield – Cabo San Lucas, Mexico (2267 nm)
- **Jeff Clark and Astrid Weiss, Hayley, Dillon**, *MV Maggie*: Victoria – La Cruz, Mexico; (5038 nm round trip)
- **Brent Alley and Barb Lyall, *Pegasus II***: Victoria – La Cruz, Mexico (2923 nm)
- **Tim and Linda Rann, *Starlight Express***: Victoria – La Paz, Mexico (2,750 nm)

Offshore Crew

This award recognizes the completion of an offshore passage outside Canadian territorial waters while actively engaged in ongoing operation of the vessel as unpaid crew where straightest short-line charted distance between starting and ending port is minimum 999 nautical miles

- **Spencer Gordon, *Sooner***: Victoria – La Paz – Hawaii – Victoria
- **Roger Bragg, *Full and By***: Mexico – Marquesas – Hawaii – Vancouver

Offshore (Owners)

This award recognizes the completion of an offshore passage in your own non-commercial boat outside Canadian territorial waters where straightest short-line charted distance between starting and ending port is minimum 999 nautical miles without putting into port before completing 999 nm. This award comes with BCA *Doner* pins and confers ‘bluewater member’ designation.

- **Rob Gordon and Jennifer MacGillivray, *Sooner***: Victoria – La Paz – Hawaii – Victoria (crew:

Spencer Gordon)

- **Brian Short**, *Carpe Ventus* (single-hander): La Cruz, Mexico – Hilo, Hawaii – Victoria
- **Dick Towson**, *Full and By*: Mexico – Marquesas – Hawaii – Vancouver (crew: Ken Robertson, Roger Bragg)
- **David Vanderhoek and Margaret Cormie**, *Heart and Soul*: Nanaimo – Mexico – Galapagos – Chile – Cape Horn – Marquesas – French Polynesia – Hawaii – Nanaimo (2013 – 2019)

Cape Horn Award

This award is presented to those who have qualified for an Offshore Award and have rounded Cape Horn in their own boat.

- **David Vanderhoek and Margaret Cormie**, *Heart and Soul*: 5 day Cape Horn circumnavigation, March 2017
- **William (Bill) Norrie**, *Pixie*: rounded the Horn at 10:00am local time, Dec 20, 2019

Circumnavigation Award

- **Glen Wilson and Marija Wilson**, *Danica I*: 2019 – 2020; 27 countries, 27,000 miles, crossing the Mediterranean, North Atlantic, Panama Canal, South Pacific, Indian Ocean, South Atlantic. (Glen will be presenting stories and photos of their trip for BCA members and friends in January 2021.)

2020 – A Year of Great Challenges

From a nomination letter submitted by Peter McMartin: “ *I think it’s really important to recognize the bravery and determination of all who sailed their boats home to Canada regardless of which specific award they might get....!*”

When the pandemic heated up in the Spring of 2020, BCA members in many parts of the world were affected. Some were in home port in British Columbia Canada, finalizing their plans to cast off and start a new adventure. Some had left in 2019 or early 2020, and had to decide whether to stay put where they were (if that was even possible) or to come home to Canada. Some had been cruising for years and, like everyone, were trying to figure out where it was safe to be.

As the weeks and months went by and the situation became more serious, plans were changed, and changed again, and in many cases had to be adapted day by day. One thing was evident almost from the start: it is impossible to overstate the importance and the strength both of the cruising community we are part of, and the communities we move among.

Time and again we heard stories of people trying to find information where there was confusion, trying to find a way to resupply or plan a passage to a safer place when the normal support and supply sources were not available. By reaching out, whether through contact via the BCA Fleets or other members, or to nearby boaters in similar situations and those who support them, eventually they worked together to find answers to the problems experienced and they safe harbour they needed.

It's impossible to recognize each individual story right now, although I will highlight a few. And as we move into 2021 and as we sift through our memories of the past stressful and chaotic year, as we reflect on exactly what did happen and when, I'm certain more stories of courage and compassion will come to light. I hope you will share them with each other, and perhaps in December next year, when the award season comes around again, we can lift a few up to remember, acknowledge and respect.

To start with, this year we created a special award to be presented to a marina manager in Panama who provided significant support for cruisers trapped there as the pandemic's ever changing and consistently confusing rules closed in. I'll send out more details in a future news item once we have everything setup.

Some 2020 Passages of Interest

- **Bjarne Hansen and Barb Peck, *Hoku Pa'a***: Mexico – Victoria, without landfall

“Due to port closures, and a strong desire to not become ill at sea, this first stage had us anchoring but avoiding going ashore. That meant our water, provisions and fuel had to last from April 20 when we left Puerto Escondido until we got home. . . . By the morning of 31 May 2020 we were tied up at the Victoria Customs Dock. We covered 3404 miles from Puerto Escondido and were happy to be back, albeit in an unnecessary additional 2 weeks of quarantine!”

- **Nora Thös, *Candine***: Single-handing unexpectedly, for the first time, from Panama to Ecuador after being stranded alone by border closures at the start of the 2020 pandemic

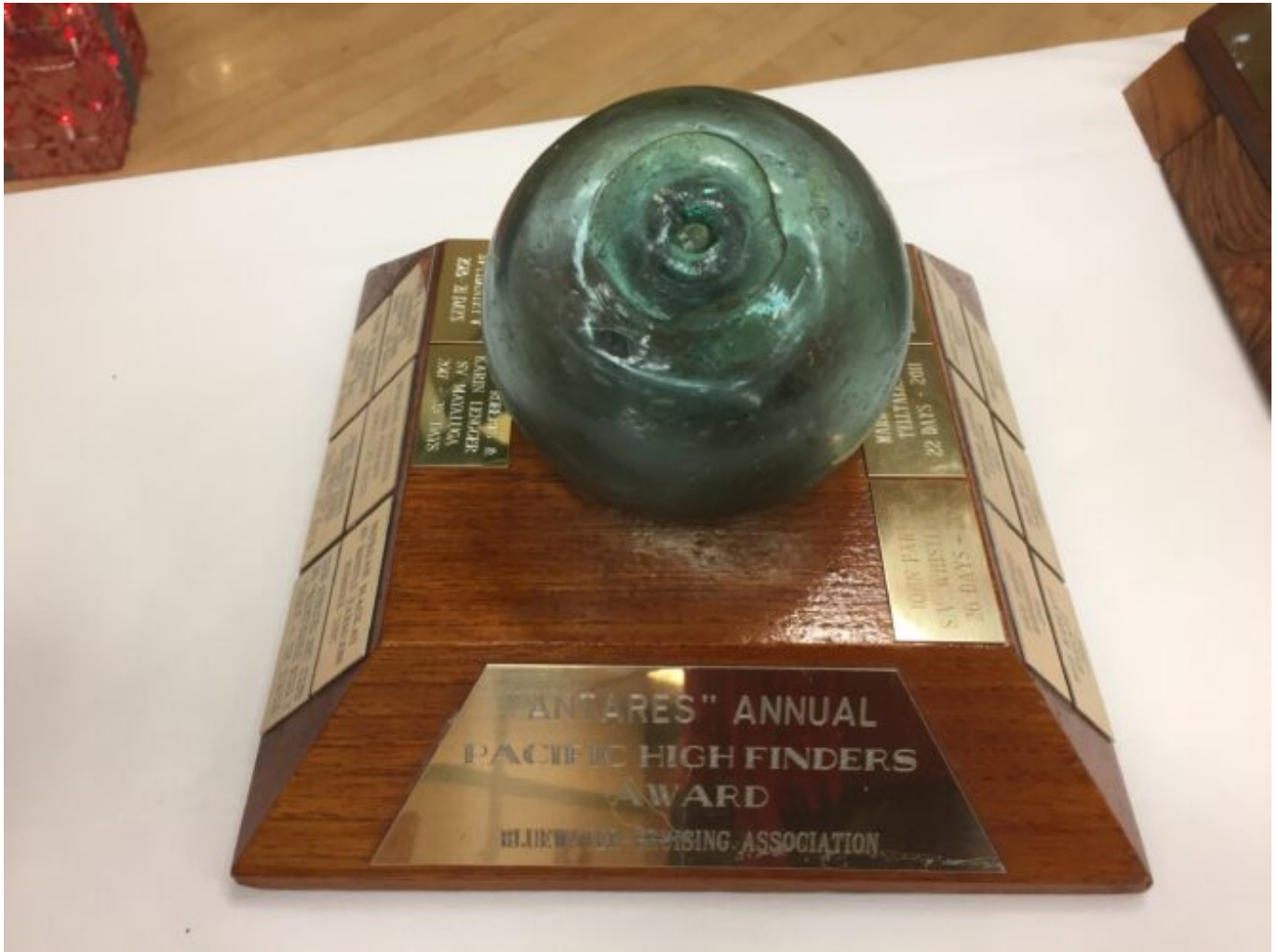
“After 3 weeks of Panamanian burauca-silly and trying to get the boat ready in very remote area, I was finally able to exit Panama on April 10. One hour after I departed Boca Chica I anchored near Isla Parida where I disassembled and cleaned our L&S electric autopilot pumps. Both had just stopped working with no alternative for self-steering in a single handed situation. After repairing both (my first time disassembling a pump like this) and finally sailing northbound, I encountered intense lightning storms and watched the squalls envelop me on all sides over the next 3 days! . . . I made landfall in Puerto Chiapas on the morning of April 23. Total distance was 850 nm.”

The BCA Perpetual Awards

While not necessarily awarded every year, the BCA Perpetual Awards recognize significant achievements of our members in various ways.

Antares Pacific High Finders' Award

Awarded annually to the member(s) who log the longest time Hawaii-Victoria passage (in either direction); the glass Japanese net float, donated by Past Commodore Blake Williams, came from his personal collection accumulated during a twenty-five day passage in 1981.



- **Richard (Dick) Towson**, *Full and By*: 23 days. A number of boats travelled this familiar Pacific passage in 2020. Three were nominated for this award; Dick takes the float home.

Doug Mitchell Memorial Single Hander's Award

Presented to members who have made a significant singled-handed voyage. Named after the late Doug Mitchell whose seamanship during a fierce storm off Vancouver Island in 1991 was an inspiration to intrepid BCA sailors.

There were a number of significant single-handed voyages this year, and after consideration the Doug Mitchell award was presented to:

- **William (Bill) Norrie**, *Pixie*, for his single-handed circumnavigation through the Southern Ocean via the Five Great Capes. This was Bill's second circumnavigation; he completed his first time round on *Terrwyn* with wife and beloved partner Cathy in 2016. (Bill will be sharing stories of his adventures for BCA members and friends in February 2021.)

Ben Rusi Seamanship

Recognizes outstanding acts of seamanship by individuals or groups, for single, multiple, or extended feats demonstrating a level of courage, determination, citizenship and discipline to which all Bluewater cruisers should aspire.



- **William (Bill) Norrie**, *Pixie*, for his solo circumnavigation through the Southern Ocean via the Five Great Capes. Again – impossible to do justice to in an article, but this [letter of nomination](#) provides some insight into the challenges he faced.

Of all the voyages made by mariners, circumnavigation stands as a pinnacle, dreamed of by many but achieved by few. There are many ways to circumnavigate but few are as risky and as awe-inspiring as going south of the equator, into the dragon-filled waters of the Southern Ocean, and rounding the Five Great Capes at the bottom of the continents. Given the high aspirations and commitment of BCA members, it is no surprise that we have a number of circumnavigators among our midst, and at this year's ceremony we were honoured to have Guy Druce with us. Like Bill, Guy received the Doug Mitchell Single Hander's award for his 247-day non-stop solo circumnavigation via the Five Great Capes aboard *Floating Point* in 1998 and that same year he was also the first recipient of the prestigious Ben Rusi award.

Peter Doherty Goodwill Ambassador Award

Awarded from time to time to the member(s) who exemplify while cruising outstanding commitment to further the cruising lifestyle and camaraderie and providing assistance.



The Ambassador Award was established by BCA in 2005 to honour Peter Doherty, long-time BCA member and Past Commodore, for his dedication and generosity to the sailing community. It was first awarded to Jackie & Malcom Holt, *Aeolus XC*, in 2005 for their humanitarian efforts to rebuild and coordinate efforts in a small village in El Salvador, following a massive earthquake in January 2001. I suspect we will find some strong nominations for this worthwhile award in 2021.

Ted Long Award

Awarded for outstanding personal contribution to BCA. Recipients are bestowed with Lifetime membership; named after the late Ted Long, in recognition of his service as Education watchkeeper extraordinaire.



Jennifer Handley, recipient of the Ted Long Award, 2020

This year, I'm pleased to announce that the Ted Long award was awarded to Jennifer Handley. Through her years with BCA and continuing though today, Jennifer continually demonstrates BCA's vision and every one of BCA's values as much any single person can. No matter what role she is in, or what work she is doing, Jennifer provides leadership if needed and thoughtful support always. Congratulations, Jennifer, and a warm thank you from your many friends and supporters.

And finally...

The Hill-Padwick Award (Bent Mast)

There were two entrants for the Bent Mast "Boo-Boo of the Year" Award this year. By popular acclaim, the award went to VI member and loyal watchkeeper Daragh Nagle. We'll leave it to him tell you his story, but let's just say it's pretty briny, although not really that deep!

To review previous years' award recipients, please check out the [lists on the BCA website](#). Lists of perpetual award winners can also be reviewed [here](#) (scroll down the page to find the link for each individual award).

To conclude, I'd like to extend a heartfelt 'Thank You' to the volunteers, watchkeepers and board members who worked so hard to make the time we spent together on December 8, 2020 so enjoyable. Our watchkeepers and volunteers are the heart, muscles, brains, hands and feet of BCA; and if watchkeepers and volunteers are the body of this organization, the dreams and voyages of our members are its soul. Please join me in acknowledging and celebrating this years award recipients as we move into whatever challenges and adventures the New Year brings. Wishing you all a happy and healthy 2021, wherever it takes you!

About The Author

Leslie Hansen

Saracen - Martin 32

Leslie has been sailing with Don for a while now. After meeting him on the water in a kayak taking surfing lessons, they found a common interest in sailing and bought the Martin 32 Saracen. They have been following Plan A the past six years: leave when the boat is ready, sail north, turn around before the fog. So far Plan A has gotten them to Glacier Bay, Haida Gwaii and the mid coast most years.

2020 AGM and Awards Gala

<https://currents.bluewatercruising.org/articles/2020-agm-and-awards-gala/>



On December 9, Bluewater Cruising Association held its 2020 Annual General meeting, as required by the BC Societies Act. This year we were unable to have an in-person December meeting and potluck, so both the AGM and the Awards Presentation that followed were held online for the first time. With the help of watchkeepers from Vancouver and Vancouver Island managing the registration and voting processes, the AGM was a great success. With BCA members signing in from multiple geographic areas we exceeded our quorum requirements and had wonderful representation from all three chapters.

AGM business was handled quickly and efficiently, including the approval of the proposed bylaw changes as sent out prior to the meeting. We finished up with the election of the 2021 Board of Directors. Thank you to the following for stepping forward (or remaining!) into these leadership roles:

- **Commodore:** David Mitchell
- **Secretary:** Katrina Barnes
- **Treasurer:** Don Brown
- **Vancouver Vice-Commodore:** Stephen Carlman
- **Vancouver Island Vice Commodore:** Scott Crawshaw
- **Calgary Vice-Commodore:** John Kortbeek

The Board says goodbye and thank you to Debbie Warren who is passing the torch of VI Vice-Commodore to Scott Crawshaw, and a warm welcome to Scott. BCA Vice Commodore position remains available: if you are interested or would like more information, please contact [Leslie Hansen](#), Past Commodore.

The AGM was followed by the first ever [online BCA awards presentation](#) ceremony. Although we dearly missed being present in person to celebrate, the online format brought an unexpected bonus: many who might not have been able to attend in person were able to join in the celebration of the voyages and accomplishments being recognized, including many distinguished long term members and past award winners. The list of awards is [available on the BCA website](#).

Thank you to the volunteers, watchkeepers and board members who worked so hard to make this a success, with a very special 'Thank You' to Al Kitchen, John Oliver, Heather Marshall and Vimmy Dhillon who guided us through the logistics and technology needed to make both the AGM and the Awards night run so smoothly. And finally, a big thank you to all the members who took the time to join us and make the evening a such a smashing success!

About The Author

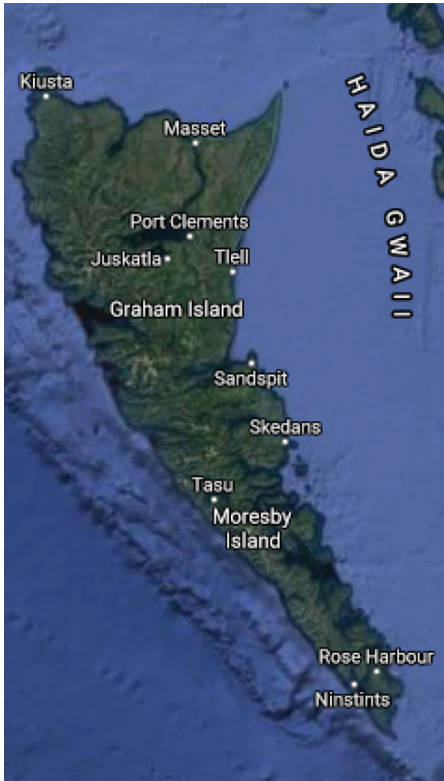
Katrina Barnes

Miss Zelda -

Katrina currently sails the waters from Puget Sound to Desolation Sound with her husband Spencer, with aspirations to voyage further on continued adventures!

VI South Virtual Club Night - Cruising to Haida Gwaii

<https://currents.bluewatercruising.org/events/vi-south-virtual-club-night-cruising-to-haida-gwaii/>



Rita and Vaughan Balaam went on a two month trip along the BC central coast to Haida Gwaii in 2019. They spent twenty days exploring Haida Gwaii, an archipelago of 150 rocky islands, aboard their lovely Rhodes 48 ketch *Baraka Bashad*. Nicknamed Canada's Galapagos for the diverse plant and animal life, the islands boast some of the world's richest heritage treasures with more than 500 archeological sites. They also spent many days on the Central Coast with visits to Butedale, Shearwater and Ocean Falls.

Experienced cruisers, Rita and Vaughan have prepared a photo diary of their trip, sure to engage and delight BCA members who are either planning to visit the area in the future, are looking to reminisce on their own past journeys, or are simply interested in this beautiful and fascinating region of BC.

All BCA members are invited to join us at this, VI South's first virtual club night of the year. BCA VI members will receive Zoom link via email in the days leading up to the event, and BCA members from other chapters are invited to contact [Dani](#) for the link.

BCA-Wide Virtual Club Night - The Best of 9 Years, 9 Months and 9 Days!

<https://currents.bluewatercruising.org/events/vi-mid-island-virtual-club-night-the-best-of-9-years-9-months-and-9-days/>



Join us for this special Zoom presentation!

Jordan and Judy Mills left Victoria in September, 2009 on their 35 ft. cutter, *Sea Turtle IV*, for what they expected to be a five year west-about circumnavigation. Nearly 10 years later, in July, 2019, Jordan and Judy finished their 50,000nm+ circumnavigation and arrived back in Victoria Harbour to a warm welcome by many BCA members and friends.

We are pleased to have Jordan and Judy return to VI Mid-Island to present their best photos and a summary of 'the best' of their travels from Victoria to the Mediterranean as well as an overview of the last leg of their circumnavigation. They will share stories of their great journey, including the many 'off boat' adventures, as well nautical ones.

The Zoom Room will open at 7:00 pm and presentation will begin at 7:30 pm. Come early to enjoy conversation and camaraderie.

Presenters' Background

Jordan and Judy last presented to VI Mid-Island in March of 2018 after 8 years and 40,000 miles took them as far as the Mediterranean. During that presentation, 'Fire and Ice', they discussed their journey from Victoria to South America, the South Pacific and South-East Asia.

Judy and Jordan are taking some time away from BCA for other activities though they look forward to more cruising adventures in a couple of years. So we encourage all BCA members who have not seen their "Best of 9 Years..." presentation to join with us in sharing time with them as well as their circumnavigation.

This will be a Virtual Club Night, on the Zoom platform. An invitation with links to the Zoom meeting and login details will be sent to all BCA members. Non-members are also welcome to attend. If you would like to attend or did not receive an email invitation please send an email to nanaimo@bluewatercruising.org to receive one.

Currents Bluewater Cruising

The Bluewater Cruising Association

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