



*Photo Contest Winner*

**Barbara Lyall**

*Barbara took the photo when we were about 60 miles off the Washington/Oregon State border. A 32 knot squall came up when we had both the Genoa and the Cutter sail up while reefed about 3. The boat surged to about 11 knots in the gusts.*

*Quite the ride.*



# Currents

August 2021

## Table Of Contents

<b>From The Commodore's Desk</b> .....	3
<b>Return of the August Rendezvous</b> .....	5
<b>Foul-logging the Leader</b> .....	15
<b>UPDATE: Vancouver Virtual Club Night - The Lure of the Distant and Difficult</b> .....	19
<b>VI (Mid and South) Club Night: Cruising Home From Croatia</b> .....	21
<b>Practical Wisdom Q &amp; A – You're Buying What, Where?</b> .....	22

## From The Commodore's Desk

<https://currents.bluewatercruising.org/articles/from-the-commodores-desk-4/>



In my last communiqué I said, “May we all be rafted soon! I look forward to your stories, songs, sharing food and drink, and mostly, your faces.”

Well! We have done that! It was truly amazing to see so many of you at our Bluewater Cruising Association Rendezvous. I believe those who attended were filled with a joy and a sense of connection that was way overdue. Well done to the BCA Vancouver Chapter for a job very well done! I cannot thank you enough.

As time passes and COVID-19 restrictions begin to lift, our chapter watches continue to look at ways to provide our community with hybrid club nights. Some of our watchkeepers have trialed the concept and are ready to put the format into action as soon as our provincial health providers give the thumbs up. Until we are able to safely provide inside face-to-face/hybrid club nights, we will continue to use the Zoom platform to host our monthly club nights.

I am excited to see that many of you were able to get out on the water this summer and enjoy time with

your boats. Some are even looking at re-starting their offshore dreams. Although COVID uncertainties may delay some of us from taking the leap for another year, it is inspiring to see the planning begin again.

I continue to encourage all to reach out and connect with one of our BCA family members and say hi, ask how they are doing, show you care, and that they are valued. Join in on the virtual BURPs, club nights, and participate in the social aspects before and after the presentations. If you have found a strategy that works for you, please share it.

It is so awesome to be out on our boats again! Have fun!

Yours aye,

David Mitchell

## **About The Author**

### **David Mitchell**

#### **Salt - Island Packet 40**

David is a dreamer who is planning to begin his offshore adventures in 2024. However, he is no stranger to the sea. His career in the Royal Canadian Navy reached 34 years in March 2021. Upon retirement, David and his partner in life and adventure, Trina Holt, plan on cruising the world. Time will not be rushed for this couple as they, likely, make their way through the many local spots and up to Alaska. Eventually, SALT will carry David and Trina south and onward with the winds.

David's volunteerism within BCA started quite quickly. He had committed himself to the position of Vancouver Island Vice Commodore prior to the end of his first year as a BCA member. After cutting his teeth in the VI Chapter he took on the role of Bluewater Cruising Association's Commodore, where he sits today. David often states, "It is never too early to take on a position within BCA. In fact, it enhances the experience and increases your level of preparedness for offshore sailing."

David and Trina are extremely happy living on SALT, which they purchased in February of 2020.

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## Return of the August Rendezvous

<https://currents.bluewatercruising.org/articles/return-of-the-august-rendezvous/>



The 2021 August long-weekend marked the first official BCA rendezvous since October 2019. Forty boats gathered at North Pender Island, bringing 91 people to participate in the activities centered at Port Browning Marina. A plethora of pooches were also present.

This rendezvous was not quite as chockablock with activities as some but there did not seem to be a shortfall of entertainment and eating opportunities, whether organized or not. While I can't speak to all that people did during the unscheduled time, there was some indication that the liquor store and the *Sea Star Estate Vineyard and Winery* received a visitor or two.

Each morning gave members a chance to increase their calorie and caffeine consumption in good company. Saturday's tasty cinnamon buns were baked by Gord Wolfe from the Vancouver Island Chapter and the Marina provided the Sunday and Monday pastries, fresh fruit, and hot drinks.

The long dry spell of live BCA interactions created a backlog of socializing energy, leading to many animated conversations throughout the weekend, but seemed especially noticeable during the Saturday

evening happy hour, which was the first gathering for many just arriving that day. Many folks ended up with late dinners that night – there was a lot to catch up on!



On Sunday morning, after we'd had our fill of breakfast treats, Paul Petrie, with the *South Pender Island Historical Society*, took us back in time to 4500 years ago when there were thriving Indigenous communities on the island known as **Sʔéyʔs** in the SENʔOʔEN (Saanich) language. These were not temporary summer spots but long-standing permanent habitations, which were disrupted by colonization. Paul's self-deprecating humour, as he slowly drew his finger across his neck to represent how badly he was murdering the Indigenous language, provided good role-modelling of a willingness to make an effort to speak the original place names. As a group, we were encouraged to learn more about the history of the Islands that we so enjoy sailing around, even if we do pronounce the original names wrong! To that end, he recommended the book [\*Saltwater People\*](#). Another resource that readers might be interested in is this [Pronunciation Guide to First Nations in British Columbia](#).



## **Floating Lunch**

Gathering in rafted dinghies, floating or tied to a mooring ball to enjoy delicious finger food and bevies has become a staple of the BCA August Rendevous. Deemed a COVID-19 safe event, the floating lunch was welcomed by newbies and veterans alike this year!



At lunch time, a few dinghies gathered in the bay, tied to a dubious mooring ball, while everyone enjoyed their own food, as well as some scrumptiously delicious plums from Sue and Cliff’s yard (of **Catherine J**). Everyone was happy to “just be” and catch up with new and old friends.

## Dinghy Race

For those who wanted excitement, 12 boats competed in the blindfolded dinghy race, a.k.a. the “where-the-heck-am-I-going?” and “NO!-your-other-starboard!” race. The winning team was from **Indigo Wave**. Cheryl effectively directed Glen around the course in a wooden dinghy which had been souped-up (well, he says *modified*) by the skilled oarsman. They were generously rewarded for their efforts with wine and a picnic backpack, courtesy of [Calibre Yacht Sales](#). Some of the lazier folks expressed regret at their own lack of participation upon learning wine had been on the line! An honourable mention goes to the impressive team from the inflatable dinghy (a.k.a. rows-like-a-pig) class of vessels. Eye-witnesses report that excellent communication by Rosario (of **Counting Stars**) and sheer hard work by Tanya (of **Seadra**) combined to propel them across the finish line in second place, well ahead of similar lumbering craft. And arriving third was the team of the two eldest youngsters, Victoria and Johnathon of Max and Elizabeth Shaw, live-aboards on **Fluenta**. So full of youthful exuberance, especially when their youngest, Benjamin, was presented with the prized \$20 bill to buy ice cream cones the next day!



## Renaming of Golden Girl

Wanting to appease Neptune and the Wind Gods, Nancy Hancock asked long-time friend, Dick Towson, to be the Master of the Ceremony for the renaming of her vessel, which he did beautifully. All present wished Nancy and the newly anointed *Golden Girl* fair winds and following seas.



The traditional sharing of food on Sunday evening was modified due to COVID-19 protocols. Instead, folks were encouraged to bring their own dinners and eat together. Those who wanted to avoid the complication of keeping their dinner hot chose to eat onboard and join in later for presentations and entertainment. Many gathered around to sing with musicians Blake Williams (*Sea Fever*) on the bodhran, Peter McMartin (*Cookie Cutter*) on guitar, and Daragh Nagle (*Chantey V*) on mandolin. Naturally, traditional sea shanties were part of the repertoire, but this year also brought us a new shanty which all agreed with wholeheartedly: “Farewell to COVID-19”.

## **Presentations**

### **Off-shore Awards**

Dick Towson of *Full and By*, received his **Offshore Skipper’s Award**, for his journeys from Mexico to French Polynesia, Hawai’i and then back to Vancouver Island.



Roger Bragg, one of the loyal crew members of *Full and By*, was presented with his **Offshore Crew Award**.

It is also worth noting that Dick and crew had a lot of shore-side support from Anne Woodson, who had been unable to join them in the South Pacific when a Covid pox descended upon the world.

**Other notable celebrity sightings:** While too recently-returned from their passage for their off-shore awards to be organized, the crew of *Seadra* (Tanya and Ed) were also at the rendezvous, fresh from their (ridiculous) 2 week quarantine meant to ensure no COVID bugs had survived the 23 day passage from Hawai'i to Vancouver Island.

### **Bon Voyage Packages**

Two Bon Voyage (a.k.a. leavers') packages were presented. While any passage off-shore requires a certain leap of faith, there is no doubt that one has to leap a little farther in these unpredictable times. Rob and Chris Raymond of *Azura Kai*, from Vancouver, were set to go last year but COVID put a crimp into those plans. They were determined they would not be stopped this year, trusting in their ability to adapt to circumstances as needed.



Paul Reshaur of *Red Surge*, a retired RCMP officer from Vancouver Island, and his dog are also heading off into the great unknown. (I wonder, did their leaver's package include chew toys?)



## **Gratitude**

Bravo Zulu and huge thank yous to Blake Williams on his boat *Sea Fever* and Sally Holland, crewing aboard *Arahura II*, for successfully organizing our first rendezvous in almost two years.



Photos of the event are available at the [BCA Shutterfly site](#).

## **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.

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## Foul-losing the Leader

<https://currents.bluewatercruising.org/articles/foul-losing-the-leader/>



As we followed *Counting Stars* into Malaspina Inlet this summer, we ended up counting our lucky stars. The flood was favourable with 1-1/2 knots pushing us along the entrance, *Counting Stars* leading the way and *Antares* next. *Saracen* brought up the rear as we headed into another joyous night rafted to BCA boats, of which we had encountered many over the past two months from Vancouver to the mid-coast and back. It had been an otherwise uneventful trip. I had noticed a couple of prawn trap buoys to port ahead at the edge of the fairway and left them some distance to port. Almost past them I heard a sudden clunk-clunk under the boat and on reflex kicked the engine gear shift into neutral .



*Saracen* and *Antares* merrily sailing up Malaspina Inlet

Looking behind, I noticed some chopped up Styrofoam and a red shadow a half meter under the surface. I drifted for a while to assess and could not see anything floating out astern other than the Styrofoam bits. Eventually, I gently shifted into reverse to back off anything that might have been tied to the foam. Then after a length or so, I shifted into forward at an idle for a few seconds before drifting again, watching carefully on all sides. Seeing nothing, I contemplated having a cup of tea, but when another sailboat came up astern, I waved them over and asked if they could carefully drift past and see what they could see that might have gone clunk-clunk. Sure enough, they saw a line pulling down from behind our keel and into the deep. There was no sign of anything else. I tried backing up a few seconds and drifting, then forward a couple of seconds to drift and suddenly the engine stopped. OK, let's try a very brief reverse to untangle anything that might have caught the prop. The engine was even faster to stop this time.

We had radioed ahead to our leader in the distance that we would be delayed; they turned back to offer help, but were a fair distance in front. Then we called out to the sailboat that was about to pass to port between us and the two prawn trap buoys, to ask if they might pass us a line so the current would not pull us onto the nearby lee shore on the other side of the buoys. Instead, *Atalanta* rafted alongside as we sorted out what foul fisher might have dropped traps in the middle of a narrow throughway.



*Saracen* and *Atalanta* rafter together and Mike freeing *Saracen*'s prop.

Thankfully, it was a warm day for swimming and we debated playing rock-paper-scissors to see who would go swimming with the scissors. Although I have scuba dived for many years, I'm not a strong swimmer, but I reluctantly offered to jump in. Leslie was keen to get wet and started going for her mask and fins. Mike from *Atalanta* said, "Wait, I just did this four days ago." Now that's a fine sailor who will offer to dive your boat to untangle your foul mishap. Some people just love to swim in the brine. We cut our engines and drifted in the current as he made numerous breath hold dives under us. Just as he came up the fourth time, we noticed we were drifting close to shore and would have to start the engines soon. He announced he had it clear and jumped back on his boat. I hauled in the line, which should have been attached to the buoy but wasn't, and then thought we might get lucky with lots of prawns for dinner.

Unfortunately after hauling in over 100 meters of foul rope, including about 40 feet of a hitch to shorten the line and an extra 30 meters of yacht braid tied at the end, I found a ratty rip at the end of the line with no trap or shrimp or any buoy at all, not even floating in the current. Quickly I started the engine and backed off the shore a distance. We exchanged thanks and contact info with our new friends Mike and Gail from *Atalanta*, promising to reconnect back at home. Parting company, we continued on to follow our leader, who had come back to take pictures and observe the un-fouling and pleasantries.

Later that evening, with *Saracen* and *Counting Stars* comfortably rafted together, we were comparing

thoughts on the day's adventures and planning dinner when a boat came out of the rainy mist into our bay. It was *Atalanta*! We quickly called them over, and 30 minutes later Gail and Mike joined us for dinner, bringing along (you guessed it!) prawns from their own trap, and a foul souvenir!

After thirty some years of sailing, there are still new experiences to encounter, and this year I found strings in my prop and stringy stuff in my head (but that's a story for another time).

## **About The Author**

### **Don Chandler**

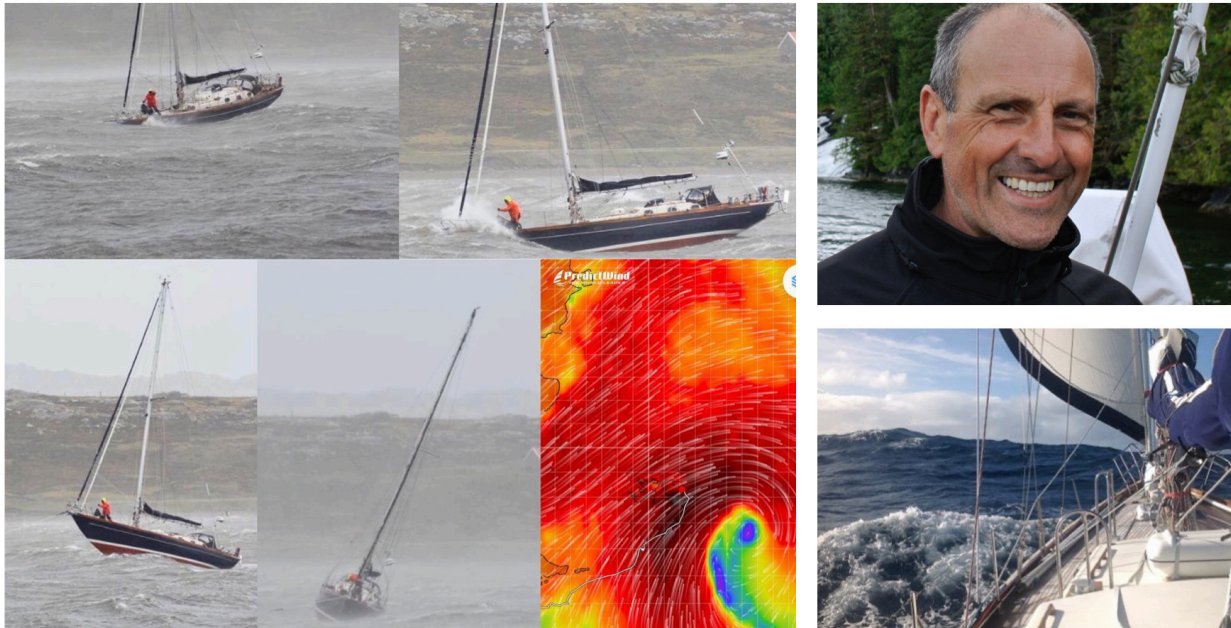
#### **Saracen - Martin 32**

Don Chandler learned to sail in English Bay racing around the buoys for a decade before doing Vic-Maui in 2000 and sailing to Glacier Bay a decade ago. After meeting Leslie 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 us to Glacier Bay, Haida Gwaii and the mid coast most years.

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## UPDATE: Vancouver Virtual Club Night - The Lure of the Distant and Difficult

<https://currents.bluewatercruising.org/events/vancouver-virtual-club-night-seaburban-around-alone-the-lure-of-the-distant-and-difficult/>



*UPDATE: Although we were all looking forward to finally visiting face-to-face at this month's club night, the Vancouver Watch has decided that an in-person meeting will have to wait a little longer. After a careful review of the most recent provincial COVID regulations for indoor gatherings (social distancing, masking, limited circulation etc), it is the Watch's feeling that they are too restrictive to be able to offer the social experience we were all looking forward to. The good news is that we can still gather via Zoom, so on September 8 please tune in and enjoy Bert's presentation "Seaburban Around Alone – The Lure of the Distant and Difficult."*

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On July 18, 2020 Bert terHart arrived back in Victoria after having spent 265 days at sea alone, becoming the first North American to sail non-stop around the world, using only traditional navigational tools.

What does a mind-bending, near suicidal attempt at the very nearly impossible have to do with anything other than crazy? Discover what it takes, and means, to adventure into the most remote, extreme, and hostile marine environment on the planet.

Bert terHart has had a lifelong passion for the oceans and oceanography. With advanced degrees in math, physics, and physical oceanography, he has studied the role the world's oceans and coastal seas play in moderating and regulating climate, nutrient productivity, and pollution distributions, and salmon migration.

His passion for the oceans has translated into over 45,000 miles sailed aboard *Seaburban* and a keen advocacy for the citizen scientist in all of us. The extraordinary voyages of early Spanish, Dutch, French, and British sailors and mapmakers are a constant motivator and inspiration. Bert is an enthusiastic proponent of utilizing traditional navigational skills and techniques while voyaging.

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*This will be a Virtual Club Night, on the Zoom platform. All BCA members will receive an invitation with links to the Zoom meeting and login details. If you are not a member (or if you did not receive the email) and would like to attend please email the [Vancouver Speakers Watchkeeper](#) for details.*

## **About The Author**

### **Heather Marshall**

**Mischief - Catalina 27**

Bluewater BCA member Heather Marshall first fell in love with sailing as a teenager. She sailed to the Mediterranean and back aboard a Bavaria 38 sloop, 'Sea Otter of Canada', with her former husband. Heather single-hands 'Mischief' to destinations in the Salish Sea.

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## **VI (Mid and South) Club Night: Cruising Home From Croatia**

<https://currents.bluewatercruising.org/events/vi-mid-and-south-club-night-cruising-home-from-croatia/>



Jason and Roberta Bowman had a plan to take a year off work and go sailing. They called it their freedom 50 for a year. Life took a bit of a turn for them and they saw the opportunity about 5 years earlier. So they decided to go to Europe, buy a boat, and sail it home, a bit of an undertaking, but they did it.

Join Jason and Roberta as they share their two year journey home with us, traveling 17,000 nautical miles from Split, Croatia to Vancouver, Canada, throughout the Med, across the Atlantic Ocean, throughout the Caribbean, through the Panama Canal, down to the Galápagos Islands, north to the USA, and then hopping up the coast, and finally reaching Vancouver.

Please join us for Vancouver Island's first (virtual) club night of the 2021–2022 season; the event will be held on Zoom on Tuesday, September 21. The Zoom room opens at 7pm with a brief meeting at 7:30, with the presentation immediately to follow. All BCA members will receive a link to join in their emails in the coming days. Others interested should email [VI Communications Watchkeeper Dani](#) to request the link.

## Practical Wisdom Q & A – You’re Buying What, Where?

<https://currents.bluewatercruising.org/events/practical-wisdom-q-a-youre-buying-what-where/>



Are you ready to make your cruising dreams come true? Buying in a foreign country to get exactly the boat you want? Join our panel discussion and Q&A to find out what your broker doesn't always know or doesn't tell you.

Our panelists, both of whom purchased boats overseas – Rod Morris purchased his Leopard 40 catamaran in Grenada and Kit Griffin purchased his Pacific Seacraft 34 in Tahiti – look forward to sharing the

wisdom gained from their respective experiences.

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**Currents Bluewater Cruising**

**The Bluewater Cruising Association**

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